

The Official Newspaper of the
City of Heppner and the
County of Morrow

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
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Letter to the Editor

Vote yes for school bond levy

To the Editor:
Ballots being mailed within the next week will give residents an opportunity to help determine the future of education in Morrow County. This third bond levy proposal has been cut drastically from the previous two. For example, even though there is a need for a second gym at Riverside High School, it has been eliminated in order to reach the smaller \$13,290,000 bond levy figure.

Having recently retired as an educator in Morrow County School District after 34 years, I have experienced the steady growth of the district and the accompanying need for classrooms. Education suffers when teachers are forced to share a classroom because of limited space as is now the practice at some schools in the district. Schools in Boardman and Irigun are not too far away from the conditions of the late 70's when the lack of classroom space resulted in as many as 42 students in one elementary classroom.

Passage of the bond levy would allow some much needed maintenance projects such as the roof repair at Columbia Junior High, to occur without having to come from the regular budget. In turn, this would allow the retention of some of the teachers slated to be cut because of lack of funding in the district budget which is limited as a result of

Measure 5. Measure 5 cuts the tax rate for schools by another \$2.50 per \$1,000 in 95-96. The projected increase in the tax rate for this bond levy is \$1.96 per \$1,000. Passage of the bond levy would still result in a net decrease of \$5.54 per \$1,000. With only 11 percent of the property tax in Morrow County paid by residential homeowners, this sounds like a pretty good investment in our future.

The other issues addressed by the levy, updating technology opportunities and meeting requirements for disabled access and asbestos removal, are certainly important and merit approval. However, the critical issues relate to providing adequate classroom space for children to learn, staff to teach and the maintenance of valuable property are of utmost importance and deserve the vote of Morrow County residents.

We often feel that local control of our schools is a thing of the past and we are the dog being wagged by the tail in Salem, but this is an opportunity for Morrow County residents to determine what kind of education we want for our children. Please join me in voting yes on the bond issue to ensure we have the best opportunities possible for the students of Morrow County.

(s) Mick Tolar
Boardman

Seeks information on relative

To the Editor:
I hope this letter has reached the proper person. I do not know very much about your part of the country and I really don't know who I should write to.

I am working on my family tree and one of my relatives left Carroll County, VA. and is said to have settled in the Heppner area of Oregon. I would like for you to place an article in your newspaper asking for help in contacting some descendant or anyone who might have any

information about Richard Hardy "Hard" Smith and his wife Mary. I would like to learn their birth and death dates and the name of the cemetery where they are buried. I doubt if any of their children are still alive but they might have living grandchildren.

Anything you can do for me will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,
(s) Buford C. Wilson
Rt. 6 Box 50
Galax, VA. 24333

BE READY!

Lawn & Garden

Coast to Coast
Heppner WE CAN HELP YOU 676-9961

Support school bond levy

To the Editor:
Please vote for the Morrow County School bond levy. Your support is needed.

(s) Bill Brown
Mayor of Boardman
Boardman

Approve the bond levy

To the Editor:
Morrow County voters have a history of sound decisions regarding education. In the 70's when the north end of the county needed new schools because of the economic development and influx of new families, the total county supported bonds to pay for construction of new schools. When Measure 5 was presented to voters, Morrow County voted against it.

Measure 5 and current equalization policies have allowed Portland and the populated areas of the Willamette Valley to take tax money from Morrow County, money that could have supported construction of new classrooms, improved access to technology, programs important to the development of well-rounded citizens, extracurricular programs that cement community bonds at the same time that they allow individuals to develop their special interests, compliance with laws for access for the disabled, and repairs that have had to be postponed or completed by using money that

Invest in the future

To the Editor:

Much has been written about school bond levies such as the one Morrow County voters will consider March 28, 1995. Educational leaders threaten more cuts in programs, others warn about the future impacts on society, should school funding be reduced any further. And, all of us are concerned about how much in taxes we pay for schools and other government services. What seems to be missing here is recognizing just where our priorities really are.

Remember the education, including extra curricular activities, we were fortunate enough to receive 30 or more years ago? Was a well-rounded education valued more highly back then? The answer is yes, as indicated by the with holding of our tax dollars from education measured after inflation in recent years?

Our priorities must include investing in not just our future, but that of our children and their children as well. The best way we can do that is to prepare them for the world they will face tomorrow. This includes their learning necessary skills, knowing how our society came to be where it is today, and what they must do to make tomorrow even better. This is what schools and education is all about.

I ask each of you in Morrow County to remember what your education was like. Then compare that to what we provide our children now. Then vote yes on the bond levy March 28 to make education better today, so they can help make a better tomorrow.

Very truly yours,
(s) Berry L. Scruggs
Boardman

Save community education system

To the Editor:

It is great to see the number of people becoming involved with the education of our children in Morrow County. Thank you for stepping forward.

Now is the time to pull together and work to save the educational system in our communities. The first step will be to pass the Morrow County School District capital bond levy, which will be a mail-in election on March 28, 1995. If the bond fails, the loss of programs to our children will be devastating. Call me if you have concerns, I would love to talk to you.

Next, the Unified Park and Recreation District is working hard to put a measure on the ballot in May. As you have probably read, co-curricular activities will be cut at the budget committee level. Can you imagine what our small communities will be like without any athletics. I don't know about you, but to my family a night out is to load up and go to the football or basketball games. So beyond the effect these co-curricular activities have on students, we need to think about our communities also. One of the issues that has come up about the four-day week is students' activities outside of school. Without any co-curricular programs, just think what could happen to our children and communities?

If you have any questions about the rec. district, call one of the people involved. Greg Grant, Cyde Estes, Rick Minster, George Koffler or Jim Swanson are some of the local people working hard to get this project going.

Get priorities in right order

To the Editor:
I would like to say I could not agree more with Meg Murray's letter in last week's paper in support of the pool.

Along with that, the other letters on our school issues, etc., leave me with some mixed emotions to say the least. We seem to be able to come up with some grandiose ideas for spending for improvements to the fairgrounds with more to be added. A new museum complex. Ah, so we tell ourselves, we can get lottery monies and matching grant funds from Heaven only knows where. And here are our young people in sore need of just being assured of a decent education, starting with the three R's.

If what comes across to me is

right, my weak brain can't handle the scare tactics that seem to be floating around before the upcoming ballot measures again.

Isn't it time we get our priorities in the right order? Please think about our kids and where the monies in all our communities should be channeled. Listen to the kids, hear what they are saying. Some I see on the streets are really hanging out, and not in too great a way.

Thanks for your time. Please support the pool and try to help in some way the people on this committee.

Sincerely,
(s) Cork Norene
Jim Norene

Education should be high priority

To the Editor:

On March 28, 1995 Morrow County voters will decide a bond levy that will benefit all children in Morrow County. Building classrooms in the north end to house Morrow County students currently in school there with money from the bond levy will enable Morrow County School District to continue more programs paid for out of the general fund budget.

After spending 29 years as a coach, teacher and parent it gives me an opportunity to reflect back on all the positive

rewards during that time and remind ourselves that education should be a high priority: (1) parental commitment; (2) sports teams that have excelled at a very high level; (3) quality instruction and dedicated classified staff; (4) outstanding student achievement.

In spite of the efforts by the state legislature the voters have a choice to continue quality education in Morrow County schools. Vote yes in March.

(s) Jerry Martin
730 W Highland
Hermiston

Vote yes for students' future

To the Editor:

I would encourage all citizens of Morrow County to give serious consideration to the importance of passing the Morrow County School District bond. The bond proposal was drafted to allow for construction of new classrooms to reduce the over crowded conditions that currently exist, to make needed repairs and to improve technology education throughout the district.

As you are aware, our region has shown a significant population increase in the last few years. This has caused overcrowded conditions in many of our schools. If we expect to continue to be competitive in attracting quality business and

industry, our schools must meet the same expectations as other assets of our region.

The employment opportunities for our students in the future will depend upon technology skills developed today. Improvement of technology education across our district is essential for our graduates to be employable. It is our responsibility to provide our students with skills and opportunities for success.

Please join me in voting yes for the future of our students and communities.

Sincerely,
(s) Barbara L. Wetherell
President,
Sam Boardman Elementary
Parent-Teacher club

March 2nd: Ladies, PER and Old Timer's Nite

Jean Ann's BBQ chicken 6 p.m.
PER and Old Timer Recognition 8 p.m.
Ladies Bingo 8 p.m.

March 4th: OLCC Service Permit Training Course 10 a.m.
Sign up with Linda at the Lounge

Go Cardinals
at the State Basketball Tournament

Heppner Elks 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 N. Main

Court Street Market
111 N. Court Heppner 676-9643
GROCERIES - MEATS - PRODUCE
Prices good March 1st - 7th

Spring Fresh VALUES EVERY DAY

Beef Rib Steak \$3 ⁵⁹ lb.	Saran 100 ft. Plastic Wrap Reg. 2 ⁹⁹ \$1 ⁹⁹
Pork Shoulder Steak \$1 ⁵⁹ lb.	Red Delicious Apples 69¢ lb.
Pork Sausage \$1 ⁴⁹ lb.	Cucumbers 2 for 99¢
Western Family 12/3 1/2 oz. pkg Reg. 1.69 Microwave Popcorn 99¢	Green Peppers 3 for 99¢
Western Family 30 oz. Spaghetti Sauce Reg. 1 ⁹⁹ \$1 ²⁹	Carrots 2 lb. pkg. 69¢ pkg.
Kraft Velveta 12 oz. Shells & Cheese Reg. 2 ⁹⁹ \$1 ⁷⁹	EVERYTHING'S COMING UP VALUES