

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

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
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Letters to the Editor

Support county levy, school bond issues

To the Editor:
Ballot Measure 25-15, the Morrow County School District bond levy, is a critical issue for Morrow County schools. The funds will update school facilities with added classrooms where needed and repairs and remodeling in other areas. It will also add current computer technology which is vital in the rapid paced information age we are in.

Ballot Measure 25-17, the Morrow County Operating Levy, deserves favorable voter

consideration. We feel the county budget committee has done an excellent job of putting together a levy that is less than last year when you consider the pressures of inflation and a growing county population that puts additional demands on county services.

Please join us in voting yes for 25-15, the Morrow County school District Bond Measure, yes for 25-17, The Morrow County Operating Levy.

Yours truly
(s) Larry and Betty Mills

Supports pool construction

To the Editor:
I would like to encourage support for the construction and operation of a swimming pool facility in South Morrow County. Not only will it provide recreational benefits to residents of Morrow County but it will also provide an additional avenue for increasing our physical fitness level. Most of us who are interested in exercising can achieve our goals through an aerobic program consisting of walking, jogging or cycling. But for many residents of Morrow County, such as those with arthritis, these activities only aggravate and increase their joint pain and disability. Swimming, or "water walking" on the other hand eliminates the stress and weight bearing through the joints and allows for muscle strengthening and cardio-

vascular conditioning. There has been some opposition to the swimming pool facility due to a misunderstanding of what all is entailed in the term "therapy". The majority of "therapeutic" uses for the pool involves private individuals exercising at their leisure. If in the future, needs and services develop that would involve "patient treatment" by professional staff, these treatments would occur only during scheduled times and would not interfere with recreational swimming.

For many residents of Morrow County an aerobic exercise program is not an option at this time but through your support of Measure 25-13 and 25-14 it can be.

Sincerely,
(s) Sharla Erich, P.T.

Vote for school, pool issues

To the Editor:
Please consider the impact of your vote on the School Bond and Swimming Pool measures in the upcoming mail-in election. If the school bond measure fails the Heppner (and surrounding) communities will be drastically affected. Even more classes and programs will be cut, many teaching positions will be eliminated. Don't we believe that our children are our most precious "natural resource"? Do we realize how the loss of jobs and people moving to other communities will have a negative domino effect on our town and local economy? We love our town and are proud of Heppner

when we drive through other rural towns in eastern Oregon. We have heard negative comments about the proposed swimming pool. What people need to realize is that the ballot measures will fund a basic pool; additional money/grants will be raised to bring the project to completion. If this pool is voted down we lose the Kinzua money (\$45,000 donation) and we don't get a second chance.

Please consider how these measures would not only benefit our youth, but continue to make Heppner a great place to live.

(s) Ann and John Murray

Now time to make space for kids

To the Editor:
Many of Morrow County are aware of the impacts of population on all aspects the fabric of our communities, while there remain those who would prefer to ignore the changes that are already here. Among the most critical is the adverse impact on all of us of failure to "see to" our children and youth.

The state of Oregon has been working toward equitable funding for schools and related activities. In order to create a "one size fits all" approach, the state limits local options regarding how we may use the money that we wish to dedicate for education. One area remaining in which we may direct local funds is the school building itself. And do we need school buildings in Morrow County.

In the years since many of us attended elementary or high school, many changes have occurred, one of which is overcrowding. We have laws which require attendance. Also common sense says we would rather have our older students in school rather than roaming. Yet only we local people can provide the space required.

I don't know what would occur should inadequate space be

provided for our explosive youth population. I do know history has shown that if people do not provide that which the state and federal governments require, governments, sometimes through the courts, may direct actions that can offend the local people who could have voted in a better solution. I recall vividly the bussing conflicts, and would hate to see a method such as that imposed upon Morrow County.

With the forthcoming bond levy, Morrow County can continue to have a say in the destiny of the education of its youth. People are even attempting to locate other funding sources to provide for activities that most of us took "for granted" in earlier years.

Regardless of some of the disputes of today which will be forgotten tomorrow, now is the time to begin preparation of adequate space for our youth, if for no other reason than to demonstrate our ability to run our own affairs. If we do not, others stand willing to direct our efforts and they will probably not help pay, merely tell us what to do.

(s) Jack Palmer
Boardman

Pool bond provides just the basics

To the Editor:
We have been asked the following question in regard to the upcoming swimming pool bond and operating levy.

"Why are they going to build such a fancy pool? If it was going to be a basic pool, I'd be for it, but we don't need a 'Cadillac' pool."

First, we must respond that the proposed pool is not, absolutely not, going to be a "fancy" pool. The bond issue of \$975,000 provides only for a basic 25-meter pool, a zero depth fan for small children in lieu of a separate wading pool and for handicapped access, dressing rooms and rest rooms. That's all.

Second, the proposed year-round therapy pool and general purpose room will be added if and only if, enough local donations and grants can be raised to pay for these features. These additions will be included only if they can be constructed at no cost to local tax-

payers. The details of paying for the operating costs of the therapy pool and general use room have not been specified by the Willow Creek Park District, but it is pretty safe to say that in the current economic climate of our area, we can anticipate that these facilities will be provided on a break-even, payment for use basis.

Third, this is our first, last and only opportunity to replace the unsafe and worn out old pool. There will not be a re-vote on a scaled down version of the pool. The proposed pool is already scaled down to a minimum basic facility. Even if a child drowns in the reservoir due to lack of a safe swimming pool facility, there will not be another proposal put forward.

This is it. Please join us and vote yes on the pool bond and operating levy.

Thank you.
(s) John and Pat Edmundson

Support passage of bonds

To the Editor:
Morrow County voters are apparently besieged with tax and bond issues. You will read that our taxes are higher than anyone else in the world, or be overwhelmed with enough mind numbing statistics to blow the fuses on the latest state of the art computer.

The long and the short of these "taxing issues" is that the millage rate used to compute your 1995-96 taxes will be less than this year if both of these issues are passed. If your property's assessed value remained constant, you will pay less in total property taxes next year than you did this year. The short explanation is a combination of \$2.50 per \$1,000 reduction in education related taxes, holding the line in general government (county) expenses, and an expected increase in total assessed valuation through new construction and increasing market valuations.

There are items in both of these issues that not everyone is wildly pleased with, including the undersigned, however, I wholeheartedly support the affirmative passage of both the county operating levy and the school bonds and would ask you to do the same.

If you are really that interested in the mind numbing details, please contact school board members or county commissioners.

Sincerely,
(s) John A Prag
Chairman
Morrow County School and County Budget Committees

Give youth a chance to compete

To the Editor:
Once again the voters of Morrow County School District have the opportunity to vote on the future of education for our young people. With passage of the bond levy in March, 45 new classrooms can be built for the school district, needed maintenance can be completed, accommodations to meet the American Disabilities Act accomplished and technology gained to help our youth enter the 21st Century and the "Information Superhighway".

New classrooms are desperately

needed at not only Riverside High School where several areas originally built as storage areas are now converted into classrooms, but at all other Morrow County schools as well.

The time is now to vote "yes" for our youth. Give them the chance to compete on a level playing field with others when they leave to participate in the game of life.

Sincerely,
(s) Frances Glenn
Boardman

CSpan educational

To the Editor:
We are glad that Heppner T.V. Inc., put C. Span on channel 26 as a trial.

This is a test to see if our customers like the program.

We thoroughly enjoyed this program while we were living in Salem. It gave us a better opportunity to see what our government in Washington, D.C., was doing.

Because there is a possibility of a change in our school programs, we feel this program could benefit, as a substitute for social studies.

Please be open minded and

Vote yes on pool measures

To the Editor:

We here in south Morrow County have the opportunity to vote for the construction and operation of a new pool complex to serve the Willow Creek Park District. This pool facility will be comprised of a lap pool with a zero depth fan and a deep pool for a plunge slide. In addition it will have a smaller indoor pool that will extend the swimming season for swimming lessons, therapy and exercise. The pool will be located in Hager Park in Heppner.

These decisions are the result of three years of input, committee work by private and government bodies and the assistance of professional engineers and planners. There will always be greater and lesser ideas for any project, but the people involved feel that this is the best solution for the least amount of funding that restores a much needed facility to the citizens of the community, both young and old alike. I urge you to vote yes on Measures 25-13 and 25-14.

Sincerely,
(s) Skip Matthews

watch channel 26.

This program is offered free of charge to all T.V. network.

Please call the Heppner T.V. office if you want to keep in on the air.

(s) Dee and Lowell Gribble

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Croup is Common in Young Children

The medical word for this common childhood respiratory problem is *laryngotracheobronchitis*. It is better known as the *croup*, a condition characterized by a barking cough and noisy, rapid breathing. The child also may have a runny nose and fever for a few days. Croup typically occurs in children under 3 years of age, but has been seen in children up to 10 years old. The cough and breathing problems are caused most often by a virus which results in inflammation, swelling, and narrowing or obstruction of the airway passages. Attacks of croup often occur at night. Children may awaken with loud, raspy breathing which is most noticeable as they inhale.

Holding the child in the bathroom near the steam of a hot water shower for 10 to 15 minutes may help reduce symptoms. A similar benefit may occur if the child is exposed to cooler outdoor air for a few minutes. A cold water vaporizer in the child's room may do the same thing. If fever is present, acetaminophen in an appropriate dose may be helpful. The child should be encouraged to drink as much water as they want. If the child does not respond, call your physician or take the child to a hospital emergency room. *Epinephrine* may be given to improve air flow. Some children are hospitalized, but the stay usually is brief and improvement is rapid.

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LARRY LINDSAY

Port Commissioner Position #5

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