

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

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES
U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper
Published weekly and entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Second class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 West Willow Street. Telephone (503) 676-9228. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$18 in Morrow, Wheeler, Gilliam and Grant Counties; \$25 elsewhere.

April Hilton-Sykes News Editor
Stephanie Jensen Typesetting, Layout, Distribution
Monique Devin Advertising layout & Graphics
Penni Keersmaker Printer

David Sykes, Publisher

Scholarship applications available

The Morrow County School District is again accepting applications from high school seniors for the Troedson Grant Scholarship. Applications are available through the counselors at Heppner High School, Lone High School and Riverside High School. Deadline for application materials to be returned is Friday, April 19. Contact the above listed schools for the scholarship information.

Lone student athletes honored at awards program

By Kara Miller

Lone students participating in winter sports and contests were honored Tuesday evening, March 12, at a dessert and awards program. Athletic director, Del LaRue, opened the evening and commented that "the time, money and moral support provided by all the parents and fans was greatly appreciated by the athletes and the coaches. We especially appreciate your presence and encouragement at our games." He also thanked parents, fans and the Booster Club for the Cardinal white and black shirts given to every coach and player on the lone teams that went to Baker City for the State Tournament.

LaRue filled in for JV coach, Dean Robinson, who was unable to attend the event. After a summary of the team's season, junior varsity awards were presented with individual personal comments to Corey Ehrmantrout, Jerry Young, Jim Sullivan, John Doherty, Rob Crum and Nathan Rietmann.

Varsity players getting recognition were: Crum, Jory Crowell, Jake McElligott, Steve Allen, Petr Hybs, Joe Bacon, Marc Orem, Kelly Morgan, John Garrett, Luke Swanson and Jacob Taylor. Coach LaRue shared some memories from the district and state basketball tournaments and announced that Bacon and Orem were named to the Big Sky League honorable mention team, and Swanson, first team. He also stated that "the team worked very hard to get to Baker and they showed everyone there that they had a lot of heart."

Special awards were presented to several players: most

assists, Allen with 136; most rebounds to Bacon, with 177; and Hybs, most improved. The players themselves voted on and selected Bacon, most inspirational player and Swanson, most valuable player.

Girls junior varsity coach, Kelly Swarat, spoke of his team's accomplishments. "Even though there were only five to seven girls playing, they finished the year with an 11 win-one loss record." He commented that "once, the team had to complete a game while having only four players, but they managed to win it anyway." He also praised "the courage and team unity; the good attitudes of all the girls, on both the JV and varsity teams.

Junior varsity awards were presented to: freshmen-Nikki Sullivan and Tori Odinet; sophomores-Maci Childers and Kara Miller; and juniors-Dawn Boor and Brenda Holtz. Coach Swarat concluded by saying that every girl who finished the year, got the opportunity to participate in the district tournament in Hermiston and the state tournament.

Dana Heideman, girls varsity coach, had a long list of supporters to thank. He explained his philosophy of basketball, pointing out that it "is important for future ball players as well as those on this year's teams to appreciate what they have accomplished. To be a successful team, the players must be willing to learn, listen and be coached. All of the members on this team had a common goal even though each did not give up their individuality. They respected each other and their coaches

and they had the correct attitude to come to practice with." He said he was impressed that even though they started the year as a young team with little experience, "they had a confident attitude, they all had a lot of determination."

Coach Heideman shared several memories from the district and state tournaments. He then concluded by giving varsity awards to: N. Sullivan, Odinet, Childers, Miller, Holtz, Boor, Jenny Sullivan, Camie Crum, Laree Anderson, Stephanie Haguewood, Suzy Heideman, Angie Ball and Melissa McElligott.

Coach Heideman also presented trophies to this year's Miss Hustle award winner, Anderson, second leading free throw shooter and third leading scorer. Suzy Heideman was given the Miss Rebound award with a record of 173. McElligott, leading scorer, also got the leading assists award with 112. Boor was selected most improved. The team picked Suzy Heideman as their most inspirational player. A special award was presented to McElligott from Coach Heideman. A plaque listing her four year high school career statistics in 73 games won and 17 losses was given in "thanks for her competitive drive and basketball spirit."

The coaches were rewarded by the members of the teams who presented them with gifts and thanks for their hours of dedication.

Letters to the Editor

Who's Duping Who?

To the Editor:

In the recent North Morrow tabloid article by Ed Glenn, our business was attacked and our reputation damaged. His article, entitled "Health District Dupped (his spelling) on Dope-Buys Drugs at Retail Prices", implied that we were overcharging the district on pharmaceuticals to Pioneer Memorial Hospital (PMH). He is quoted as saying "by purchasing drugs from the State of Oregon, the district could save 40 percent." He further says that the district could save \$9,000 per year by shopping at Boardman Pharmacy from prices Ray Michael (Boardman Pharmacy owner) offers compared to prices off our hospital statement. This comparison was intentionally misleading by Mr. Glenn. By comparing our hospital prices to Boardman retail prices, we were made to look uncompetitive. We feel we must explain what we provide in our contract to PMH and why hospital contract buying (State of Oregon) does not prove feasible when a small number of prescriptions are involved.

In order for the hospital to purchase pharmaceuticals on a contract-price basis, PMH would have to stock an entire pharmacy inventory. Currently, Murray Drugs owns the inventory of medications used at PMH. We assume all costs of carrying the inventory and take the risk that medication may outdate or expire before any is used and this is frequently the case. Our estimation is that 90 percent of the medications used at PMH are in insufficient quantities to use up a stock size bottle prior to expiration. In this case, it doesn't matter how low a price was paid, when only a fraction was used. Currently, the hospital pays only for what medication is actually used by the patient. We privately bill and assume associated billing costs for hospital and nursing home respite care and Medicaid emergency room prescriptions at the request of the hospital because they were having difficulties getting reimbursement. We also provide on-call service 24-hours a day,

seven days a week, and live only two minutes from the hospital. We are members of the required Pharmacy and Therapeutics and Quality Assurance committees and complete all required paperwork for inspections to meet state and federal regulations. We also provide nursing home chart review of all patients on a monthly basis as required. For this service, Murray Drugs sells the medication at a price slightly higher than our walk-in retail price and \$50 per month (the fee has been \$50 for the past 20 years). There is no other reimbursement and the hospital does not have to hire a pharmacist or assume any other pharmacy responsibilities.

Murray Drugs has, and will continue to want the best for the Morrow County Health District and Pioneer Memorial Hospital. We welcome a review of the current medication procurement policy and will gladly meet with the board to further discuss this issue. If it can be shown that the hospital can save money by a new system of obtaining services, we are all for it. We would willingly participate in any professional audit the Health District may want to do on our past and present services.

Ed Glenn did not research both sides of this issue or even attempt to present the whole story. His private agenda and that of the small power-hungry group he runs with is the prime motivating force behind his literary blather. It is our opinion that Ed Glenn's philosophy is that "the end justifies the means". We challenge the North Morrow Times to publish this letter in its entirety as they have refused to publish any view which contradicts their own. If the actions of the 1995 Boardman Man of the Year, Ed Glenn, are cause for concern to the people of Morrow County, speak up now or live with the consequences of him as your spokesperson. We refuse to let him be ours.

(s) John Murray
(s) Ann Murray
Heppner

Board decision doesn't bode well

To the Editor:

March 11, I and numerous others listened as the seven member Morrow County School Board debated at length as to whether students were learning as much in four days as they had previously learned in five.

Under the determined guidance of Superintendent Starr and the threat of more program cuts, the majority on the board concluded they were learning very well. However, if it is truly possible as stated that teachers can pace the students to learn in four days the same material as previously learned in five, why are we not using the fifth day to forge at least even (if not ahead) of our foreign competition? All national tests show students in the USA far behind in academic ability than their contemporaries in the world. I question the willingness to put in just enough time to stay this same distance behind.

One board member brought up a valid point when he asked what sort of work habits we are establishing in our students. Will four days cut it on most jobs?

Our school district has somehow come up with \$800,000 that we were not expecting to have. With this money, Supt. Starr intends to hire, amongst others, two vice principals and one assistant superintendent for \$176,000. This additional administrative staffing comes at a time when it is being advocated elsewhere that administrators, counselors and librarians teach one class a day to stretch actual classroom time. And many people are most concerned about a lack of music and art in our schools.

Would it have been possible for Linus Pauling to have earned two Nobel prizes if he had played ball and watched t.v. Friday, Saturday and Sunday? He lived just next door. Do we have our priorities mixed?

We have already lost two professionals that value access to a good education above all else. How many more will pass up living in Morrow County for the same reason? Would you say this bodes well for our communities? Please contact the school board members and/or the budget committee members. This concerns everyone living here-not just the ones directly involved.

Sincerely,
(s) Meg Murray
Ione

Arts and Crafts Club meeting set

The Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts Club will meet on Wednesday, March 27 at 1 p.m. at the Heppner bowling alley for lunch. The meeting will follow at 1:30 p.m.

Guests are welcome to attend.

Parents Anonymous for your child's future

To the Editor:

Parents Anonymous is up and running here in the south end of Morrow County (as well as in Boardman). This parent support group is actively seeking all parents, dads, moms, significant others, grandparents and even day care providers, to come join us at Parents Anonymous. This is a parents-supporting-parents program. It runs every week on Thursday night from 7 to 9 p.m. Child care is provided.

Here we brainstorm on problem situations that we, as parents, may face on a day-to-day basis. This is also a time when we can download our frustrations rather than taking it out on our children. It's a great place to find humor in the trials and tribulations of parenting.

Taking just two hours a week to invest in your children in a non-threatening, relaxed environment will enhance your parenting skills. Sharing and caring is a special gift that you

Gun Club plans Jack and Jill

The Morrow County Gun Club will open at noon on Sunday, March 24, for their annual Jack and Jill trapshoot. Women will compete between themselves, then partner with men for buddy shoots and other "fun shoots".

Those attending should bring their own food and drink. A barbecue grill will be provided.

give, not only to your child's future, but to your community neighbors as well.

Please play a significant part in making your town healthy and strong. Come to Parents Anonymous. It does take a whole neighborhood to raise a child.


Call 481-2911, 481-2159 or 1-800-345-5044.

(s) Marilyn Bader-Nesse
Parent, and Prevention/Early Intervention specialist, Morrow County Mental Health

AMINE • LANDMASTER • BANVEL • BUTYL • NH*3 • AQUA • LIQUID & Dry

FOR SERVICE YOU CAN DEPEND ON

FERTILIZERS • ROUNDUP • CURTAIL • VITAVAX • WEEDMASTER • GLEAN • LEXONE



We Are The Team You Can Depend On For All Your Farm Chemical Needs!

• NH-3 • Aqua • Liquid & Dry Fertilizers
• Farm Chemicals • Variety of Application Systems

'WE NOT ONLY SELL THE PRODUCT—WE SERVICE IT TOO'

Morrow County Grain Growers
1-800-452-7396 350 Main
Lexington, Oregon 989-8221

FERTILIZERS • TORDAN • DRY FERTILIZERS • MIRAGE • LTZ SEED TREAT • SPREADER 90

LV6 • LEXONE • AMINE • LANDMASTER • BANVEL • BUTYL • NH*3 • AQUA

Miniature Clocks Quartz



Priced from \$15.95

Member Jewelers of America, Inc.
Peterson's Jewellers
Heppner 676-9200