

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

## Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES

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## Engagement McElligott — Tevault

Martha McElligott of Portland and Scott Tevault of Seattle announce their engagement to be married.

Martha is the daughter of C.R. and Loa McElligott of Ione. She will graduate from the University of Portland this spring.

Scott is the son of Dick and Ida Mae Tevault of Poulsbo, Washington. He is a graduate of the University of Washington.

The couple plan a May wedding in Portland, and will make their home in Seattle.

## Letters to the Editor

### Work together to improve schools

To the Editor:

For two years now the four-day week has kept sharp sand in my shoes. For lack of funding, drastic cuts had to be made. We had to accept that. To retain extra-curricular activities, a recreation district was formed and we voted taxes to support mainly sports (\$380,000 of a total of around \$416,000).

When news came of state support of over \$800,000, I was delighted, knowing that we could now return to a five-day week and restore art, music and living skills courses to the curriculum.

But, no; I read in the GT that the board had voted four to three to keep the four-day week.

At the April meeting, a group of us went, hoping to change the mind of just one board member who had opposed the five-day week. We were told to be brief. I pled there for kindergarten through third graders, that crucial time that determines success in school at the higher levels. The statement that a kindergartner or first grader who boards a bus at 6:30 a.m. and doesn't get home until almost 5 p.m. is doing "just fine" seems to me wishful thinking. The stress that child is subjected to may damage health, learning behavior and attitude toward learning, not to mention attaining initial basic skills. Surely finance couldn't be the reason because changing to the four-day had saved only \$150,000, no colossal amount.

Also in this time of unstable family life, don't teachers need time for parenting for some children to prepare them for readiness to learn?

Others reported an increase in homework, an increase in shoplifting and that a serious ramification of the four-day week without music and art classes has been the possible loss of two doctors who have done so much for health care here. Would other doctors or educated people with children want to come here?

Those in favor of four days most often mention time for athletics on Friday, time for recreation with the family or more time for teachers to do their homework. Parents say they can't always help their child with the increased homework and need teachers' help.

So it goes. Parents fault teachers; teachers fault parents; some fault administrators or the board. It seems that everyone wants to blame someone else.

They are both right and wrong. True responsibility rests with everyone in the district working together. I say all because all children are our children. The purpose of education is to teach the concepts

of the culture to our young. This means we must focus on children, on every individual child. Our schools will be as good as we want them to be.

Let's get real. We must give more time and attention to our schools, become informed, attend board and budget meetings, communicate and listen to each other and seek answers to questions such as:

1. What happens to our children on Fridays? We know two churches have sponsored "Friday School" from 9-3, with Dr. Jeanne Berretta assisting with music and singing, but they can serve only a fraction of the children.

2. On Mondays, is more reviewing and reteaching needed?

3. Exactly what was in the survey that favored the four days, to whom was it circulated and how was it evaluated?

4. What are the basic skills requirements for high school graduation?

5. Is our academic program damaged by over-balanced emphasis on sports?

6. Why do we need three more administrators?

In short, we must cooperate in setting standards of expectation and in requiring them. If we do this and do it well, our children will have the opportunity to reach their potential.

Apathy, ignorance and blaming others will not do it.

(s) Jane Rawlins  
Heppner

## Off the Wall

By Marilyn Robinson

So it's the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rat. Surely this doesn't have any connection to this presidential election year. Yet from now through November, we'll continue to see politicians shoot themselves and others in the foot.

Presently the ratty issue is the on-and-off again spring weather. Cold nights don't encourage early garden produce unless you have a greenhouse. And speaking of cold, like some other folks, for over two weeks I suspected that what little gray matter I had upstairs was surely leaking out through my nose. It's difficult to accomplish anything when one hand is busy wiping the nozzle.

Better late than never, a new farm bill has finally been signed into law which seems to have some gray areas also. But the new legislation does provide production flexibility and a declining scale of contract payments to grain growers. Wheat will be subsidized at approximately 92 cents in 1996, declining on a sliding basis to around 46 cents in the year 2002.

Right now with a worldwide shortage of wheat, prices are high. Some people predict that should wheat prices once again drop due to a worldwide glut, the lack of a viable safety net would put some farmers out of business.

Yes, everyone would like to have a guaranteed livable wage, good benefits and pursue the occupation of their choice. Risk takers in food production seldom have such guarantees. Fruit crops, particularly cherries, have been hit by hard freezes and vegetable growers are experiencing a loss of contracts due to a backlog of frozen veggies.

Although as a nation, we enjoy a cheap food policy, meat at the supermarket hasn't taken a nose dive in accordance with the price of live cattle. Some blame overproduction. Yet the meat packers have a stranglehold on the market through pricing by contract and formula selling, and are making big profits. Meanwhile, the producer and feedlot operators are holding on by their teeth.

Now preservationists are roaming the halls of Congress telling our representatives that grazing on federal land jeopardizes wildlife conservation and habitat development. There's no mention that many wild animals survive each winter because of food they get off private land. It's been proven that wildlife habitat is enhanced through livestock grazing because big game avoids stagnant, old-growth grasses.

Then there's the clean water issue that will impact everyone. Managing our natural resources through the ballot box is a disturbing trend. Urbanites are hardly in a knowledgeable position to cast a 'best-interest' vote. And the population centers have the ability to out-vote rural areas.

There's also research concentrating on where windblown dust originates due to the 1990 Clean Air Act that regulates allowable concentration of pollutants. So don't throw that shovelful of dirt in the air or stir up the mud in the creeks, the air and water quality cops are sure to impose fines. Perhaps we need to pass legislation that requires everyone to wear dust masks.

## Zastrow appointed to committee



Anda Kay Zastrow

Anda Kay Zastrow of BEO Financial Services, a division of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, has been appointed to the Gilliam County Investment Advisory Committee, announced Leanne Durfey, court management assistant.

The appointment to the three-member committee took place at a regular court meeting held April 3. The other members of the committee are Doug Wilson and Dennis Bruneau, both of Condon.

"By state statute, each county must appoint a committee to

recommend how county funds should be invested," explained Cenia Byrd, Gilliam County treasurer. The committee will also be responsible for developing an investment policy for the county, Byrd said.

A native of Arlington, Zastrow has been employed as financial advisor for BEO Financial Services since June 1994.

## Missionaries speak at Nazarene

Dr. Dwight Swanson, and his wife Katherine, Nazarene missionaries in the Philippines, will speak at the Heppner Church of the Nazarene on Monday, April 22, at 7 p.m.

Dr. Swanson, the son of a Nazarene pastor, calls Colorado his home. He earned B.A. and M. Div. degrees from Nazarene institutions and a Ph.D. from Manchester University, England, in Dead Sea Schools studies.

Katherine Swanson, a native of Colorado, became a registered nurse in Manchester and worked in acute leukemia care.

The Swansons, who are on furlough this spring, pastored churches in Colorado and Kansas (the latter while in Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri) before moving to Manchester.

From 1981-91, Dr. Swanson served as a pastor of the College Church and later as visiting lecturer in Old Testament at Nazarene Theological College.

In January 1991, the Swansons were assigned to European Nazarene Bible College, in Busingen, Switzerland, where Dr. Swanson was the academic dean and lecturer in Bible and Mrs. Swanson was the college librarian.

Last August, the Swansons transferred to Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, where Dr. Swanson is an associate professor of Old Testament.

The Swansons have three children: Nicholas, Allison and Rachel.

Everyone is welcome to attend the program.

## Math contest winners announced

The 1996 Morrow County School District Elementary Math Contest was held Wednesday, April 10 at Sam Boardman Elementary School, with many county participants.

Fourth grade winner was Johnny Collins, from Ione Elementary School. Fifth grade winner was Doug Orwick, from Heppner Elementary School. Sixth grade winner was Shelley Rietmann, also from Heppner.

Following are the winners from each grade:

Fourth grade-first Johnny Collins, Ione Elementary (IES); second Lyndon Hirai, Sam Boardman Elementary (SBE); third Tony Hallock, A.C. Houghton Elementary (ACH); fourth Zach Baker and fifth Landi Busey, both SBE; sixth Jeff Grigsby, ACH; seventh

Luke Murray, Heppner Elementary (HES); eighth Natalie McElligott, IES; ninth Paul Neiffer, SBE; 10th, a tie between Erica Hancock, SBE, and Billy Gates, IES.

Fifth grade-first Doug Orwick and second Daniel Jepsen, both HES; third Nick Armstrong, fourth Sarah Miller and fifth Allyson Burns, all ACH; sixth David Harris and seventh Thomas Bauska, both SBE; eighth Sally Calvert, HES; ninth Tracy Griffith, IES; 10th Marcy Miller, HES.

Sixth grade-first Shelley Rietmann, second Jesse Gutierrez and third Jodi Carlson, all HES; fourth Colin McElligott, IES; fifth Olivia Sagely, sixth Julie Proctor and seventh Jon Bennett, all HES; eighth Salli McElligott, IES; ninth Meghan Bailey, HES; 10th Adam McCabe, IES.



Come Share With Us

at

## Willow Creek Baptist Church

Bible Study for all ages 2 p.m.

Worship Service 3 p.m.

Meeting in the

7th Day Adventist Church

560 North Minor



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