

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
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Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit.

Taxpayers fed up with waste

To the Editor:
The newspapers lately have contained a great deal of comment by government officials lamenting the passage of Measure 47 and the failure of other tax bonds. There are many beneficial services currently being supported and others that are needed. However, the tax-paying voter is fed up. Fed up with the waste and the perception that elected officials are interested only in their pocket-books and doing as little work as possible.

At the state level, we see wasteful spending everywhere, from the transportation department to school funding. Do they really think we're blind to the fact that in every department there is wasteful spending? Is it any wonder that the voters would like these employees to pay for some of their retirement like the rest of us? Aren't they servants of the people?

Education must be the priority. Our state and county school administrators continue to make cuts that affect our children but they wouldn't dream of working a little harder and getting a lower pay increase. Our schools are being run at the convenience of the administrators and the Oregon Education Association. We continue to see cuts at every level of education, including time. We put up with a four-day school week, time is wasted teaching Spanish, students are excused for sports and other extracurricular activities, and they wonder why the students' scores in math, reading and writing continue to drop. The taxpaying voters won't forget these things when it comes to electing a new school board and deciding on school bond issues.

The state must begin to fund schools in a fair and more efficient manner. The American system calls for education being the right of every citizen, not the responsibility of a few to support. Education should be funded in a manner that makes every citizen responsible and not just the landowner.

There is nothing worse than standing in the grocery line behind a mother with four school-age children, paying for her steak with food stamps. She pulls out a \$50 bill and buys lottery scratch tickets. Meanwhile, I'm behind her with my hotdogs. I don't dare waste money on scratch tickets because my property taxes are due next week. She also rents a home twice the size of the one I own and never pays property taxes, never supports schools funds an always votes "yes" on the property tax hikes. This is fair? The taxpaying voters have said "no." Fund schools with income taxes, a sales tax, and/or lottery funds. But make it fair.

The transportation departments want more money for train services and road improvements. All worthy of consideration. But what about the thousands of dollars spent on traffic warning boards along I-84 and Highway 207? Even in the worst ice storms, the boards on 207 at the Boardman and

Echo turnoffs have remained dark and silent. I drive this route three-five times per week even in the worst of weather and have never seen these boards operational. They are of no use.

At the county level, perception is everything. There are many, many hard-working people who never forget that they are there to serve the citizens that pay their salaries. There are others who don't seem to care and hang around like parasites, infecting even the better public servants.

I haven't supported a county bond issue for six years. This is because of the perception of county government which I developed at that time. I had business at the courthouse and went up around 2 p.m., a time of day when most people are working and these offices are open. When I entered the department of this elected official and approached the counter, I saw three people at desks, one reading a magazine, one painting her fingernails and the third reading a newspaper. None of them rose from their desks to wait on me. The one reading the magazine looked up and apathetically said, "What ya want?"

It was at this same time the county was begging for more operating money just to keep these offices open. The bond finally passed and the county bought new cars. What happened to cutting waste? I saw three salaries that could be cut at very little loss of services. I was sorry to interrupt their work. If they were on a break, they should not be at their desks. Perception is everything. We desperately need a county jail, but as long as taxpaying voters perceive this kind of waste, there will be no increase in funds.

Why isn't it clear to our state and county servants that the taxpaying voter isn't stupid? We see the waste, the self-serving lack of priorities and inefficiency. We remember the inconsistencies and take all of this to the voting booth with us. They must work harder to make government work for the people.

(s) Lori Straley Heppner

Arts Council plans holiday activities

The Morrow County Arts Council has planned several upcoming weekend events.

On Friday, Dec. 6, a dance class recital by the students of Cheri Westphal will be held at the Heppner Middle School gym (not the high school) at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, the bus traveling to the yuletide "consort" by Sabella Consort will load at Heppner Elementary School at 5 p.m. and will leave promptly at 5:15. The bus will stop at Lexington at the Morrow County School District office, with loading at 5:30 p.m. The bus will leave Lexington at 5:45. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon.

The events are free to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

Students need five day week

To the Editor:
One hears repeated that our students learn as much in four days as they did in five. But our elementary students need repetition to learn, and direct instruction. Additionally, they need to learn good work habits, such as going to school and work daily.

I was visiting with Ron Daniels quite some time ago and he said the Blue Mountain Community College diesel mechanics program was threatened because the incoming

students could not read the instruction book. Surely we cannot wish this upon any of our children.

If you feel our schools need five day teaching time, please mail a postcard to the following school board members:

- Scott Bauska 481-7047
318 Willow Fork Drive
Boardman, OR 97818
- Dwayne Carroll 567-5757
Rt. 1, Box 1816
Hermiston, OR 97838
- Bill Doherty 989-8113
P. O. Box 4125
Lexington, OR 97839

Health Dept.

The Morrow County Health Dept. lists the following monthly schedule for blood pressures and immunizations:

Thursday, Dec. 5-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 9-blood pressures and immunizations, Irrigon annex, 1-4 p.m.;

Tuesday, Dec. 10-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman office, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;

Thursday, Dec. 12-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 16-blood pressures and immunizations, Ione City Hall, 2-4 p.m.;

Tuesday, Dec. 17-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman office, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;

Thursday, Dec. 19-blood pressures and immunizations, Heppner office, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 31-blood pressures and immunizations, Boardman office, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

To contact the public health nurse on call (for public health emergencies) during Dec. 23-27, call 676-5317 or 1-800-460-8027 (Morrow County Sheriff's office).

- Gary Frederickson 481-6225
Rt. 1, Box 73-D
Boardman, OR 97818
- Scott Johnson 922-5131
Rt. 2, Box 72
Irrigon, OR 97844
- Russell Morgan 676-5582
P.O. Box 628
Heppner, OR 97836
- John Rietmann 422-7123
P. O. Box 313
Ione, OR 97843

(s) Meg Murray Ione

Weather Report
By City of Heppner

For the month of October			
	High	Low	Precip.
11/1	51	29	.00
11/2	53	28	.00
11/3	54	33	.00
11/4	52	34	.02
11/5	54	31	T
11/6	54	29	.00
11/7	57	34	.00
11/8	52	36	.00
11/9	63	34	.00
11/10	63	31	.00
11/11	55	32	.00
11/12	55	34	.00
11/13	61	38	.14
11/14	57	42	.04
11/15	48	38	T
11/16	51	34	.04
11/17	50	42	.03
11/18	55	34	.38
11/19	54	32	1.70
11/20	64	29	.42
11/21	48	27	.02
11/22	34	28	.11
11/23	36	30	.00
11/24	32	25	.04
11/25	40	25	.08
11/26	49	24	.00
11/27	49	24	T
11/28	56	37	.13
11/29	49	30	.00
11/30	47	42	.00

We Print
Business Cards
Gazette-Times
676-9228

Methodist Church plans dedication

The United Methodist Church in Heppner will dedicate its new stained glass window beginning at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 8 during its regular second Sunday of Advent worship. The dedication ceremony will be led by the Reverend Sue Owen-Bofferding, district superintendent.

The stained glass window is a gift given to the church by the

Reverend Grace Drake, retired, and her family. Receiving the gift will be Rita Hedman, who is the chair of the Board of Trustees.

The message for this Sunday will be presented by the Reverend Al Trachsel, pastor of the church. His message is titled, "What Do We Need For Christmas." All are welcome to attend the dedication ceremony and service.

Dec. 5: Memorial Services. It will also be Ladies Night. No bingo.

Dec. 12: Decorate the Lodge Night, starting at 6 p.m. Lodge to follow.

Dec. 13: Dinner for a Toy Night. Bring in a toy for the Giving Tree and receive a free dinner.

Dec. 14: Condon Annual.

Dec. 19: Lodge Night.

Dec. 25: Christmas Day. Lori and I and our children wish you a happy and safe holiday.
-Exalted Ruler

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve. Food and music at the Lodge.

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



LUNCH WITH SANTA
Sunday, Dec. 15
12-1:30 p.m.

Have lunch and talk with Santa!
Santa arrives at 12:15 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Club

CENEX SALE DATES DECEMBER 1-21 1996

Cash In On Cenex Values During Our Holiday Sale!

Get through the winter with lubricants and fluids from Cenex!

Platinum D Synthetic Motor Oil 3.99 per quart	QUWELIFT UNIVERSAL FLUID IN 2.5 GALLONS \$5.79 per gallon in 2-1/2 gallon jugs	Kerosene Can Wedco \$8.29 5 gallon (4748X)
Platinum D Synthetic Motor Oil Outperforms conventional oils for engines in cars and light trucks.	VIKING LUBRICITY ENHANCER \$6.79 per quart	Fast Start Premium Starting Fluid YOUR CHOICE 7.2oz (206748) or 10.5 oz (206172) \$1.19
GOLDEAGLE STABIL \$5.29 16 oz (272719)	Acrylic Express \$4.19 202414	POWER FLOW DIESEL FUEL SUPPLEMENT \$2.89 202293
Keeps stored gas fresh indefinitely No need to drain For easy starting next season Protects engines in storage For gasoline and diesel	Monitors and detects carbon monoxide or propane gas in your home and sounds an alarm when a potentially harmful level is reached CO400 Carbon Monoxide Detector 120V Plug-In \$36.95 (275733)	LP200 Propane Gas Detector 120V Plug-In \$47.75 (275717)

Because of location, size of facilities or other factors, some items and services advertised in this ad may not be available at all participating cooperatives. Merchandise may be ordered but pricing may be somewhat higher on these special orders. Cenex/Land O Lakes is not responsible for any typographical or pictorial errors.

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