

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.

Favors four-day week

To the Editor:

I am in favor of the four-day week. It gives my children the time and opportunity to do some things they would not otherwise be able to do, such as "Hands on Science," tumbling and dance. If we did not have the four-day week and the help of the Morrow County Arts Council and Willow Creek Park District, we would have to drive to Hermiston or Pendleton to be able to do any of this. Many of us work and are not able to do that. I feel that these activities are just as important to our students as going and sitting in a classroom on that day. I admit, I like the four-day week for selfish reasons; I am able to spend more time with my kids on that day watching them learn new things.

I believe the four-day week benefits the high school students with sports being on that day. Someone in an earlier letter stated that a lot of the younger kids are taken out to follow their older siblings who are in sports. I can see how the five-day week would benefit the elementary students, but, aren't social skills, learning to follow directions and staying on tasks a part of what we teach our kids in elementary school?

I find it interesting that a lot of the people wanting to make the decision for our kids on a four or five day week do not have kids in our schools anymore.

(s) Terri Palmateer
Ione

Oops

To the Editor:

Oops. You inadvertently omitted the last line of my letter to you last week. That line read: "Our children K-12 need the fifth school day." It was my punch line and the statement my entire letter sought to support.

However, I can forgive you if you will print this.

(s) Jane Rawlins
Heppner

Students getting wrong message

To the Editor:

Petitions in favor of a five-day school week will be submitted to the Morrow County School Board, Monday, Feb. 10, at Sam Boardman Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. The petitions were placed in circulation because there are those in our communities that reject the administrations' contention that the taxpaying voters in the county have no right in decision-making that affects their schools.

Our generation has a responsibility to not only prepare its children for the future, but to also give them the necessary work ethic to survive in a stressful workplace.

Our students are getting the wrong message from Morrow County's educational system.

Come to the meeting at Sam Boardman Elementary, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.

(s) Meg Murray
Ione

Rethink four-day week

To the Editor:

I wish to issue a plea to the good citizens of Morrow County to do some rethinking and reconsideration of an issue of great importance. Two and a half years ago, our school board made the decision to implement a four-day school week. At the time, a very real financial crisis was at hand. It must be remembered that this was the only purpose for the change at the time. It must also be noted that it has never been an unanimous decision on the board's part; the vote has always been split.

Over this time, it has become clear that the savings have been minimal and relatively insignificant in the grand scheme of things. It has always been of question in my mind that of all the areas that were available to be cut, the area chosen was that which most directly affected the children's time and exposure to the learning environment and their teachers.

think we should as long as we don't spill anything or stick gum on the seats. I hope you work on this because the rules are too strict.

Sincerely,
(s) Jessica Krieger

To the Editor:

My name is Kory Waterland and I'm a fifth grader at Heppner Middle School. I would like to talk to you about Colt basketball. There are about 80 girls and boys in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades playing Colt basketball this year. I think it would be a good idea if you could write a few articles on the Colt games and maybe show the scores.

Sincerely,
(s) Kory Waterland

To the Editor:

Hi. My name is Kiel Nairns and I'm a fifth grader at Heppner Middle School. The fifth and sixth grade students have begun a reading program called "Time Out For Reading." Each week they have to read an hour and a half to move to the next week.

By the end of this program, every student has a chance to earn a prize. The students have held a bake sale and opened the concession stand at Colt basketball games to raise money to purchase the prizes.

Sincerely,
(s) Kiel Nairns

To the Editor:

I'm a sixth grader from Heppner Middle School. I would like to have a longer recess, also basketballs, footballs and basketball nets. We also need some more playground equipment.

(s) Tony Looney

To the Editor:

Hi. My name is Tanner Britt and I am in the fifth grade at Heppner Middle School. I am writing about the band program.

Mr. Werner is our band teacher. He has been working with the kids very well. The kids have been having more fun and they've been learning more.

Speaking for myself and the rest of the kids, I hope band continues for a long time. We are proud of the way that we are improving.

Sincerely,
(s) Tanner Britt

To the Editor:

I am a fifth grade student at Heppner Middle School.

I would like to talk about the four-day school week. I know it's a touchy subject, but it's a really good idea. The teachers like it and so do the kids. I personally think the kids are learning the same as kids with the five-day week. Please think carefully about this and don't make snappy decisions.

Sincerely,
(s) Chantea Macaulay

To the Editor:

I'm a sixth grader from Heppner Middle School. I want to complain about loose dogs around town. I have to pick up garbage almost every day and so do my mom and dad because of those dogs. They are nice, but they tear up everything. Please keep your dogs on your own property. Neighbors should be more considerate.

Sincerely,
(s) Chris Dilley

To the Editor:

My name is Brooke Rust and I'm a fifth grader at Heppner Middle School. I would like to encourage all parents to help out at the elementary or our building (the middle school). Not that the teachers can't handle us, but some teachers need help doing little chores to make it so they will have more time to correct.

I would also like to talk about the rule of no food or drink on the bus. See, I get on the bus at 3:40 p.m. and get home at 5 p.m. I eat lunch at 12 noon and we can't eat during classes, and being on the bus for one hour and 40 minutes, I get hungry.

Sincerely,
(s) Brooke Rust

To the Editor:

My name is Aleshia Geer. I'm a sixth grade student at Heppner Middle School.

I think students should be able to eat on the bus. I get on the bus at 6:30 in the morning and get off at 5 at night. During that time, I eat once. For me and other friends, it is too long of a bus ride not to be

able to eat. I think kids would be better if they got to eat. And the parents could go over the rules to make sure kids pick up their own messes.

Sincerely,
(s) Aleshia Geer

To the Editor:

Hi, my name is Stacy Delveaux. I think the school should have a four-day school week (coming from a kid's opinion, since I am a kid), so we kids can spend more time at home with our families, and most parents work Saturdays. That makes just one day (Sunday) with our families. I especially think that is not enough time.

Sincerely,
(s) Stefanie Hanson

To the Editor:

My name is Cindy Gall and I am a sixth grader at Heppner Middle School. I am writing to you about our band class. We have a wonderful band class going, but some of the school's instruments are broken. It is going to take at least \$800-1000 to fix them.

I think we should have a fund raiser. It would be good for the community and the students to do something together. I think it would be fun to have a walk/jog-a-thon. If the community would support the school on this, when the instruments are fixed, they would be able to enjoy our music. My opinion is that it would just be fun for everyone and it benefits everybody who participates.

Sincerely,
(s) Cindy Gall

To the Editor:

My name is Ben Turrell and I ride the bus home every night. I'm on the bus from 3:40-4:30 p.m. I get really hungry, but we can't have any food on the bus. I understand kids get litter on the floor, but if we clean up after ourselves, I think we should have food on the bus.

Sincerely,
(s) Ben Turrell

To the Editor:

My name is Rachel Howard. I am in the sixth grade in Heppner Middle School. I think students should be able to eat and drink on the bus. I get on the bus at 3:33 p.m. and I get off at 4:15 p.m. During the bus ride, I get hungry, but food and drinks aren't allowed on the bus. I understand that they don't want any messes on the bus. If we are able to eat and drink on the bus, we should all be responsible for our messes. If the bus driver has to tell one person time and again to pick up his or her mess, then he or she won't be able to eat or drink on the bus anymore. I really know that a lot of kids want this. One way the parents could help is if we are able to eat and drink on the bus, the parents could go over the rules with their children and make sure they understand they need to clean up their messes.

(s) Rachel Howard

To the Editor:

My name is Zachary Skaggs. I'm a fifth grader at Heppner Elementary. I know every person doesn't wear a seat belt, but people should. So many people get in bad accidents and get hurt when they don't wear a seat belt. At this time of the year, the roads are icy and slick, so please wear your seat belts.

Sincerely,
(s) Zachary Skaggs

To the Editor:

My name is Sally Calvert of Heppner Elementary School. I am writing on account of the great growth of the five-six band. Last school year, our band was only 24 instrumentalists strong. This year, our band reached 31 last semester and 41 this semester, with 10 new instrumentalists. As band grows more popular, we need more instruments, but many need costly repairs which the school can't afford at this time. We are looking for small donations to fix the needed instruments.

Sincerely,
(s) Sally Calvert

To the Editor:

My name is Sibbea Jones. I am a sixth grade student at Heppner Middle School.

My opinion is that we should have a four-day week. The kids as well as the teachers can get more rest, spend more time with their families, have more time to do their homework and play more. The four-day week should stay as it is.

I also asked four people what their opinion is. The following contains the results: my sixth grade teacher, Jannie Allen, had the opinion of this, "I like it because every year the teachers are required to do more and the free Friday gives me time to keep up with all of the new requirements."

Then I asked three students. "I appreciate the four-day week because I enjoy having three days off," said fifth grade student Jessica Westberg.

Josh Winters, a sixth grade student, said, "I agree with the four-day week because it gives me more time with my family."

The last person I asked, Justin Botefuhr, said this, "I like it because you get more time on the weekend."

So, I hope you all can see that school is feasibly best without a five-day week.

(s) Sibbea Jones

To the Editor:

My name is LaRena Penturf. I am a student at Heppner Elementary School. I'm writing about the great growth of our fifth-sixth grade band class. Last year, we didn't have nearly as many students as we do this year. This year we have 41 kids and the most popular instrument is the trumpet. There are 12 trumpet players. Mr. Werner has done an awesome job of building up the band. Watch for us in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Sincerely,
(s) LaRena Penturf

To the Editor:

My name is Lacey Davis. I am a sixth grader at Heppner Middle School. I would like to keep having the four-day school week. It took us a long time to get adjusted to the four-day school week and it will take us forever to get adjusted to it being moved back to a five-day school week.

We wouldn't have as much time with our friends and family or to go on family vacations.

On Friday, I have time to do my homework and school projects. I am able to help do chores for my mom around the house and spend time with our animals.

This is why I think we should keep the four-day school week.

(s) Lacey Davis

To the Editor:

My name is Trevor Rhea from Heppner Middle School. I am on the Colt basketball team. I just wanted to say I appreciate all the coaches for giving their time and effort to help kids like me with their basketball skills. To learn it's just a game and to have fun is very important. We learn to stay in school and keep our grades up so we can play sports and get a job. I appreciate the coaches very much for their time.

Sincerely,
(s) Trevor Rhea

To the Editor:

My name is Lacey Matteson and I am a sixth grader at Heppner Middle School. There has been talk about changing our school week back to five days. Some people say that we aren't getting enough education because we don't go as many days as everyone else. The one thing these people don't look at is how many hours a day we go to school. I think I am getting as good an education as anyone else.

The four-day school week has been a great change. This way, with not having school on Fridays, I can go to the basketball games, spend more time with my friends, and also have time for other activities.

Sincerely,
(s) Lacey Matteson

To the Editor:

Hi, I'm Blake Allstott and I'm a fifth grader at Heppner Middle School. I think it would be nice if you would do something for the middle-aged kids.

It is a "Kids Corner" in the newspaper. You could put in the most

popular books of the month. Or the best singers. Or talk about Colt basketball, such as who won the most games or who they are playing.

I just thought you might want to do something for the middle-aged kids. I know the East Oregonian has the Mini-Page, but that is for little kids mostly. It also might sell a lot of papers.

Sincerely,
(s) Blake Allstott

To the Editor:

My name is Danielle Looslie. I live in Lexington, OR., and go to school at Heppner Elementary. I'm in the fifth grade.

I would like to tell you about the new music teacher. Her name is Heather Hacking. She is very good at the piano.

She has some very fun songs that we are going to sing at the spring program. They're called: "A Burger and an Order of Flies," "Music Brought Us Together," and "Pie Jesu."

I think she is very nice. Everyone seems to like her very well.

Sincerely,
(s) Danielle Looslie

To the Editor:

My name is Ariel Johnson and I'm a fifth grade student at Heppner Middle School. I would like to talk about littering. It's a serious problem that we're all involved in. Heppner is a very nice town. It has a nice park and nice people. But lately I've noticed pop cans or gum wrappers whenever I go outside. It upsets me to think people just throw their trash on the ground instead of disposing of it properly.

To solve this problem, maybe we need more trash cans. But whatever the case, I encourage everyone to throw away their trash so we can keep our community clean.

Sincerely,
(s) Ariel Johnson

To the Editor:

My name is Jerry Shank from Heppner Middle School.

I am writing you because the Heppner Middle School needs a new playground to play on. A couple months ago, the tower got shorter and now it is boring. We need sponsors so we can get the stuff we need. The Parents' Club also helps with this. Without them, none of this would be possible.

Sincerely,
(s) Jerry Shank

To the Editor:

My name is Lindsey Clough. I am a fifth grader at Heppner Middle School. Having the four-day school week is not a problem for me or my family. If we were going five days, my class periods would be shorter. Going four days gives me more time with my teachers.

My sister is in high school and plays sports. I get to go to all of her games and not miss any school because most of her games are on Fridays and Saturdays. I think we should stick with the four-day school week.

Sincerely,
(s) Lindsey Clough

To the Editor:

I am a fifth grader here at Heppner Elementary. I wish that they would have built the swimming pool last year, but I understand it takes a long time.

I hope that the prices to go swimming will be low enough so everyone can afford to go swimming.

Sincerely,
(s) Zachary Whalen

To the Editor:

My name is Nicole Wilson. I'm a sixth grader at Heppner Middle School. I think that we should keep the four-day school week. It took a long time for us to get to going four days a week. So if we go back to the five-day school week, it will be very hard.

I think I'm getting as good an education in four days as I was in five days. If you think about it, the three-day weekend is nice. So maybe you should think before choosing the four or five day school week.

(s) Nicole Wilson

To the Editor:

My name is Brad Adams and I am a sixth grader at Heppner Elementary School.

I think the "Time Out For Reading" program is a great way to encourage kids to read. Every week we have a meeting in the hallway. If we read at least 1 1/2 hours, we get a treat. At the end of the program, the one with the most time gets to pick out the first prize and so on from there until we run out of prizes.

Sincerely,
(s) Brad Adams

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