

Students write letters to the Editor

Editor's note: The following letters to the Editor were submitted by Heppner Elementary School students in Jannie Allen's fifth-sixth grade language arts class.

To the Editor:

My name is Jessica Lee Westberg and I'm writing to you because the kids that ride the bus would like to have food and drinks on the bus. There are some kids that go a long way home on the bus. They are thirsty and hungry and want something to eat and drink.

I have friends that get home at 5 p.m. They have leftovers from cold lunch and they are starving for their leftovers, but they can't eat them. I wish Mid Columbia would change the policy on food and drink on the bus.

(s) Jessica Lee Westberg
Heppner

To the Editor:

My name is Calvin Farris. I go to Heppner Middle School. I am a band student and I would like to show appreciation to our band teacher, Mr. Werner. He is a real good band teacher and lots of fun. He taught me how to play the trombone. We will be performing at "Saint Patrick's Day" parade. We also have a spring concert coming up. Hope to see you there.

(s) Calvin Farris

To the Editor:

I think students should be able to eat food on the bus. It's about three and a half hours from lunch until school gets out. Plus there's about an hour to an hour and a half bus trip. That's four to five hours without food. If we were able to eat on the bus we will try not to make a mess. If we do we will clean it up. Maybe Mid Columbia Bus Company could make some exceptions. No pop or things that can make a big mess. Candy and leftover lunches could be acceptable. Juice would be nice too and fruit would be great. If the students get caught with messy food they shouldn't get a write-up, they should either have to throw it out or sit in the front seat until they finish their beverage.

Food is the main source of life and if we are prohibited from eating on the bus the students will not grow as well. We plead with you Mid Columbia Bus Company, please give us food.

(s) Conor Kilkenny

To the Editor:

I think we should have many more charter schools throughout Oregon. Right now we only have one. They have the potential to educate the students better and should be more efficient and cost effective than other schools. The reason they can do better is because they are run by the local people that start them.

Charter schools can also drop many of the worthless requirements that the state mandates for public schools. Examples include Outcome Based Education and the Certificates of Initial and Advanced Mastery. Since the CIM and CAM programs have come out several years ago the requirements have changed every year. Many teachers are frustrated and are still confused on how to meet these unstable requirements. The local boards who run these schools could then start teaching students how they see fit, to better prepare them for college or life.

(s) Daniel Jepsen

To the Editor:

My name is Mathew Young of the Heppner Middle School. We need more after-school activities, like swimming trips, painting classes and skiing trips. We really need to get more trips, but first we need more money. This is so kids in Heppner will learn that there are fun sports and activities that Heppner doesn't have to offer.

Sincerely,
(s) Mathew Young

To the Editor:

The Heppner Middle School band program is going great. We play at least 90 songs. There is a trumpet section, saxophone section, clarinet section, flute section, percussion section and a French horn. We have a great band teacher whose name is Mr. Werner. The band's favorite song is "Go Band Go."

This nine weeks, the band got eight new band members. They can play almost as many songs as the people who have been in band since the beginning of the school year. Well, I just wanted to tell you how great the Heppner Middle School band was going.

Sincerely,
(s) Kyler Lovgren

To the Editor:

Hi. My name is Chelsea Bredemeier and I'm going to talk about Hanford. I am a fifth grader in Heppner Elementary. When they let the chemicals out the first time, my mom was working on a farm. The chemicals went into the ground and my mom ate some of the food and got very sick. At first, the doctors didn't know what was wrong with her and then they found out. She has Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. The chemicals also gave my grandfather cancer.

Ten years later, my mom got married and had me. When I was six months old, the doctors found out that I had displaced hips. So I spent one year in a full body cast and a year and a half in a brace. Then when I was nine years old, the doctors said that I had Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, and I have been living with it since.

The people that work at Hanford are planning to burn more chemicals. I don't want what happened to me to happen to anyone else.

Sincerely,
(s) Chelsea Bredemeier

To the Editor:

My name is Brian Haguewood and I think we should have a four-day school week. My mom teaches fourth grade and I asked kids in her class why they like a four-day school week. They said because they can spend more time with their families.

Four-day school weeks are good because we have more time over the weekend to do more and harder homework.

Sincerely,
(s) Brian Haguewood

To the Editor:

Hi. My name is Courtney Nelson. I would like to talk about young children and their safety. Many young children die by sitting in the front seat of a car. In a second, a young child can die by an air bag because the air bag fills up with air so fast and so long that it can suffocate or can hurt a child. So don't let your young children sit in the front seat of the car. Be sure to buckle them in the back seat and in a child seat if they are small enough.

Sincerely,
(s) Courtney Nelson

To the Editor:

I'm a sixth grader from Heppner Middle School. I would like more playground equipment, like nets for the basketball hoops. Also new footballs and basketballs are needed to play with, plus new playground equipment because if you don't play football or basketball, you have nothing to do. I would like it if some people would donate

money for this to happen, or time to help build new equipment. The kids of our school would help in any way we can.

Sincerely,
(s) Josh Winters

To the Editor:

My name is Eva Chitty. I'm a fifth grader at Heppner Middle School. I think we should help our elders more. It's hard for them to get around in the winter. We should try to run errands for them like getting the paper or going to the store.

Sincerely,
(s) Eva Chitty

To the Editor:

My name is Kaitlyn Sagely. I go to Heppner Middle School and I think I am getting the same education as a kid going to a five-day school. I still want to learn and a kid that goes to a five-day school week that doesn't want to learn won't get a good education like me because I want to learn. The four-day school week has worked out well for my family and the teachers are very nice and work hard to make sure I get a good education.

Sincerely,
(s) Kaitlyn Sagely

Is this what we want?

To the editor:

Petitions for return to a five-day school week were placed in Morrow Co. towns recently with varying results. Some places threw them out, saying they didn't want to get involved. Yet one place in Boardman filled the only page I left in one day, and the young lady said, when I went to pick it up, that most people in that area wanted five days. This was not what I heard from an older person there.

In all, 387 persons' signatures were gathered which is a lot of people to very publicly put their name on the dotted line. Herewith are the original papers along with an alphabetized list made to invalidate any charge that duplicate names were counted.

Editor's note: Murray presented the signatures to the school board at their meeting Monday night.

The federal government promoted the Head Start program to give students a good send off for a successful education. Morrow County School District is eroding any such benefit.

Young people exposed to long days are tired. Their attention spans are such that any contention that they get rested on weekends and learn more is a fallacy. The theory that less produces more learning defies common sense.

To set the majority of these youngsters up for continued difficulty in school and life is unkind, selfish, and short-sighted. Is this what we want.

Meg Murray
Ione

HHS seniors to hold bake sale

HHS is holding a can and bottle drive Thursday Feb. 13 throughout Heppner and Lexington. The senior class is also holding a "Valentines Day Bake Sale" on February 14, in the Heppner Post Office. The proceeds will be donated to the Heppner High School "Drug and Alcohol Free" senior trip.

The Family of **MADGE B. THOMSON** would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the community of Heppner for surrounding us with your love and friendship and extending kindness and care to Madge, our wife and mother.

Special thanks to Dr. Atkins and the entire staff of Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home and Hospital. We appreciate the compassion and support given us the past several months.

We will be forever grateful to the Home Health staff for helping our mother be able to remain at home as long as possible.

We thank relatives, friends and neighbors for their outpouring of love and support and for the beautiful cards and flowers and generous gifts of delicious food.

These warm memories will remain with us always.

Lovingly,
Jim Thomson
Meredith Walters
Bernice Thomson
Bruce & Phyllis Thomson

Del LaRue's career spans 37 years

In a career that covered 37 years and many, many athletic events, Ione Head Basketball Coach Del LaRue is hanging up his whistle.

LaRue is not only retiring from coaching this year, but also leaving the teaching profession. LaRue's coaching career started in 1960 at Lostine High School. He was there for four years, stayed two more when it consolidated with Wallowa and then moved on to Fossil to coach and teach at Wheeler high.

Del came to Ione in the fall of 1971 and has been a familiar sight on the sidelines ever since. While at Ione LaRue has been head basketball and track coach and up to three years ago assistant football coach. He also coached baseball. In addition he coached basketball, track and football at the school previous to Ione.

LaRue was honored by the Ione booster club at his last home game recently, and presented with a golf putter and a year's membership to the Willow Creek



Ione Booster Club member Frank Halverson (r) honors Del LaRue at LaRue's last home game before retirement

Golf Club. He was also recognized at a recent away game at Fossil where he was presented a bouquet of balloons, with the proclamation that the fans there were not sorry to see him retire "because now we don't have to play against him anymore."

LaRue was recently honored for his 400 career basketball victory as a coach. But he says the best part of coaching and the part he will miss the most is of course "the kids". "I will miss being associated with them and working with them," LaRue said. He also said he will miss his relationship with the other coaches around the league. "And I will of course miss the game," he adds.

LaRue has taken teams to the state playoffs seven times, and has a chance for number eight this year.



Del LaRue, 1971, at Ione

He has been to the district playoffs 18 of the 26 years he has been in Ione. His highest placing at state was fourth place in 1991. "It's been really enjoyable, I've met some very special people and the community has been just great to us," says LaRue.

February 14: *Happy Valentine's Day*
100th Anniversary Celebration begins
Dining 6-9 p.m.

February 15:
Registration starts at 10 a.m. Ladies Champagne Tea at 1:30 p.m. Lodge, 2 p.m. Social time from 4-6 p.m. Dining—prime rib and shrimp—6-9 p.m. Music upstairs and downstairs, 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

February 16:
Breakfast 7:30-10 a.m. Recoup and rest refreshments.

Many thanks to all who made our 100th Year Celebration successful

Bingo every Wednesday night, 7:30 p.m.
Dining Friday-Saturday, 6-9 p.m.

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

Come Share With Us At
Willow Creek Baptist Church
Worship Service at 3 p.m.
Meeting in the 7th-day Adventist Church
560 North Minor

Pioneer Memorial Hospital Clinic will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17 for Presidents' Day

CELEBRATE VALENTINES DAY at YAW'S

MENU

Chicken Cordon Bleu or Earth & Turf
Parsley Buttered Potatoes
Asparagus topped w/ Herbed Cheese Sauce
Chocolate Mousse Carmel Crunch Cake
Complimentary Glass of Champagne
INCLUDE: SOUP & SALAD BREAD
RELISH TRAY
\$15.95

Telephone (541)676-9489

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon J. Herrick request the honour of your presence at the marriage of their daughter
Stacie Jean to Justin Chad Miller
on Saturday, February 22, 1997 at 1 o'clock
Thurston Christian Church
6680 Thurston Road, Springfield, OR
Reception following
Springfield Ch. 422-7014