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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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David Sykes Publisher
April Hilton-Sykes Editor

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.

Opposes health district action

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter as member of the Morrow County Health District Board and as a citizen. My opinion does not necessarily represent that of the entire Board. I am writing to let the public know what occurred during executive session at the district board meeting September 14, 1998.

The board was presented by the administration with several options to handle the current financial situation of the district generally, and of Pioneer Memorial Hospital specifically.

From my perspective all the options presented would result in the closure of Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home, which I am adamantly against. I believe other options may be available which are going unexplored by the current administration. I also believe that no drastic action should be taken until there is a full public disclosure of the options and all reasonable suggestions of the board and the public are explored.

The administration and the board have not taken time to explain to the Morrow County community the problem and the options being considered. The administration and the board have not prepared the community for what might

happen nor taken into consideration the health care needs of the community.

I have lost faith in the ability of administration so far removed from the people it serves to make adequate recommendations regarding the care of the people it is supposed to be serving. Pioneer Memorial Hospital represents decades of self sacrifice and community effort to meet a need the community has recognized has to be met.

The administration seems to be writing its own agenda and justifications. No action should be taken until the board takes all these issues to the public and collects both public input and input of community leaders. The board should seek advice from outside the administration and know that its decision is the best that can be made under the circumstances. We have not reached the point where we need to make the drastic decisions proposed at the September 14 meeting.

The district does not have substantial debt to serve. That Adventist West hired a bankruptcy lawyer to assail the board in an illegal executive session with only their preferred options deeply offends me.

(s) Meg Murray
Ione

Ione Booster Club holds meeting

The Ione Booster Club met Thursday, September 10, at Beecher's Cafe. New head girls' basketball coach Chris Davis was introduced. He reported new red uniforms have been ordered for the girls.

Athletic director Dean Robinson noted a change in the high school volleyball schedule. The Wheeler game will be Thursday, October 8, instead of October 9 as stated on the schedule. He explained the league is working hard to avoid students traveling long distances for matches on school nights. Some teams will therefore have more than one league match on Saturdays. Robinson also reported he is checking on the middle school getting new track uniforms this year. Robinson and Betty Gray will find volunteers to make steps and a railing for the football bleachers.

The club voted to provide concessions for the home games that high school classes haven't taken. Those games will be September 18 (Prescott football), September 22 and 24 (Heppner and Helix volleyball), and October 24 (Echo and Wheeler volleyball). Debbie Morgan is concessions chairperson.

A Booster Club Community Night will be held Thursday, September 22, at approximately 6:30 p.m. Hamburgers, buns, condiments, dinnerware, and drinks will be provided by the club. The community is asked to bring a salad or dessert. Kerry Reitmunn is in charge of publicity.

The December 11 and 12 basketball tournament in Ione was discussed. The teams invited are Klickitat, Enterprise, and Spray. The club will be in charge of concessions. Debbie Morgan will seek needed housing for the visitors. Jeri McElligott is in charge of finding a name for the tournament.

John Reitmunn stressed the importance of publicizing the upcoming Morrow County Unified Recreation District advisory vote on November 3. Duane Neiffer is part of a group forming a political action committee. The club voted to donate \$300 to that group.

Combining the Cardinal Club with the booster club and electing new officers are on the agenda for the October 8 meeting.

Oregon Tourism Committee to meet

The Oregonian Tourism Commission will meet Thursday, Sept. 17, at 9:30 a.m. at the Pendleton City Council chambers, 500 S.W. Dorion. Commission chair Gerry Frank will preside over the meeting. The public meeting will be preceded by a work session at 8:30 a.m.

The commission will review the preliminary results of two research projects recently conducted by Longwoods International. The first is a study of the

commission's advertising program and its influence on travel to Oregon. The second is a comprehensive study of visitor characteristics and preferences. The agenda also includes reports on the commission's quality service initiative, a sustainable tourism development program, the Governor's Task Force on Cultural Development and the Oregon Passenger Rail Program.

For more information, contact Sharyl LaFleur at 503-986-000.

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Musicians audition for youth orchestra

Around 30 musicians from Morrow and Umatilla counties, ranging in age from eight to adult, auditioned Sept. 8 for the opportunity to play in the newly formed Preparatory/Youth Orchestra of Oregon East Symphony (OES).

The goal of this organization is to offer young and less experienced players the opportunity to perform in an orchestral ensemble. Conductor and music director R. Lee Frieze said he was pleased with the auditions.

Rehearsals will be held at Armand Larive Middle School in Hermiston from 6:30-8 p.m. every Tuesday, beginning Sept. 22. The ensemble's inaugural concert is planned for Sunday, Dec. 6.

Area musicians interested in joining the orchestra are invited to contact the OES office at 276-0320. An additional evening of auditions is planned for Thursday,

Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. at Armand Larive Middle School. For those unable to schedule an audition on Thursday, an audition may be set at a later date. The orchestra is still in need of violas, cellos, French horns and bassoons. To audition, musicians should be prepared to play a major scale, a short piece or excerpt of a piece and sight-read a short selection provided by the audition committee.

Financial support for this undertaking is provided part by grants from the Meyer Memorial Trust, The Collins Foundation and the Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust. In addition, businesses and community clubs are offering support in the form of program and concert sponsorship. The Express Personal Services has agreed to help sponsor the two concerts planned this season, said an OES news release.

Ecumenical worship service planned

The Rev. Dick Metz will preside at an ecumenical worship service Sunday, September 20, at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Heppner. Worship service will begin at 10 a.m. A potluck dinner will be served following worship service.

The service will include Hope Lutheran, Heppner; Vaiby Lutheran, Ione; and All

Saints' Episcopal. The congregations extend an invitation to anyone interested in joining them on Sept. 20. Holy Communion will be celebrated, all are welcomed at the Lord's Table, said Pastor Metz.

An ecumenical worship service at Vaiby Lutheran will be held in October. Further details will be announced at a later date.

OTPR winners announced

The Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo was held in Heppner August 21-23 with a grand total of payouts set at \$28,678.

OTPR winners are as follows: Barrel Racing: first-Katie McCain, 17.22 seconds, \$913; second, Terrie White, 17.23, \$794; third-Molly Swanson, 17.32, \$675; fourth-Dawn Gibson, 17.44, \$555; fifth-Randy Rae Britt, 17.60, \$436; sixth-Kelli Currin, 17.72, \$317; seventh/eighth-Bridgett Coleman and Rayna Prowitt, 17.74, \$138.

Bull Riding: first-Chad Eneas with a score of 83, \$1136; second-Ross Coleman, 81, \$852; third-Hank Reece, 80, \$568; fourth-Vince Stanton and Robert Bowers, 77, \$142.

Team Roping: first/second-Mike Fuller and Shain Sproul and Jason Stewart and Bucky Campbell, 5.0, \$1010; third-Charly Crawford and Brett McDowell, 5.1, \$577; fourth-Trent Walls and Cody Ohl, 5.2, \$288.

Saddle Bronc Riding #829 Jericho: first-Joe Slagowski, 88, \$1152; second-Denny Hay, 85, \$864; third-Glen O'Neill, 84, \$576; fourth-Dan Mortenson and

Chance Dixon, 83, \$144 each. Steer Wrestling: first/second-Tommy Cook and Jason Lahr, 4.1, \$1439; third/fourth/fifth-Lloyd Gilbert, Rod Lyman, and Kurt Goulding, 4.2, \$760; sixth-Brad Gleason, Rodney Burks and Tyler Woodland, 4.3, \$90.

Calf Roping: first-Cody Ohl, 8.4, \$1153; second-Blair Burk, 8.7, \$954; third-Fred Whitfield, 9.0, \$755; fourth-Kurt Goulding, 9.3, \$556; fifth/sixth-Steve Currinn and Ty Hays, 9.4, \$278.

Bareback Riding #844 Caribou Trail: first-Scotty Wright, 84, \$857; second-Jed McKinlay, 83, \$643; third-Clint Corey, 82, \$428; fourth-Ross Coleman, 79, \$214.

Stock contractor was Big Bend Rodeo. Judges were Doug Brown and Keith Garber. Timers were Ellen Pederson and Evie King and announcer was Steve Kenyon. Bert Davis was the clown and barrelman and Tim Vredenberg and Danny Newman, bull fighters. Brian Starkey was flankman and Deward Gill and Ricky Shannon were pickup men.

**September 24th - Thursday
HUNTERS' NIGHT**
Dinner at 6 p.m.-barbecue ribs
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