

HEPPNER

# 50¢ Gazette times

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## Larry Lutchter new dryland crops agent

A new Extension agent is on the job at the Morrow County OSU Extension office in Heppner.

Larry Lutchter, 39, replaces Kathryn Kettel as dryland crops agent for Morrow County. Kettel is now working with OSU in Corvallis. Lutchter began work in Morrow County on August 31.

Because his father was in the Army, Lutchter lived "all over" as a child, including Oregon and Washington. He spent nine years at Evans, Georgia, where he graduated from high school. Most of Lutchter's relatives, except his parents who are still in Georgia, live in Eastern Oregon. He fondly recalls spending summers helping with harvest and other farm and ranch chores. In fact, he says his experiences on the farm influenced his career choice.

Lutchter received a bachelor of science degree in crop management at the University of Idaho at Moscow in 1983 and his master's degree in soil fertility at UI in 1987. Lutchter, who worked all the way through school, left school in 1991 before completing his Ph.D. to work in Montana



Larry Lutchter

and at a ranch outside Shaniko.

He completed his Ph.D., also in soil fertility, in 1987 while working in a position similar to an Extension agent on an Indian reservation in northern Idaho.

After obtaining his Ph.D., Lutchter worked for five years as a consulting agronomist on a dryland wheat ranch at Lewiston, Idaho. Around 60 percent of this time was spent in consulting,

with the remaining 40 percent spent working on the ranch, fertilizing, spraying or harvesting.

"My job (in Morrow County) is to make their (the farmers') bottom line more profitable," said Lutchter. "The specific way I will do that, the direction I take, will be determined by the county producers."

"I've got a lot of ideas that might be helpful. Variety testing is always a big one," Lutchter continued. "We need new varieties that will satisfy new niche markets. Nutrient management is another important issue and pest control is always a problem. Again, the specific path I take will be determined by the producers in the county."

Lutchter said that one of his first priorities is getting out and meeting people in the area.

Lutchter, his wife of 16 years, Roberta, and their two children, Dillon, 10, a fourth grader at Heppner Elementary, and Will, 2-1/2, make their home in Heppner.

Lutchter enjoys hunting, fishing, reading and working in the yard. He says that Roberta, a full-time mom, enjoys being with her family, reading and collecting certain types of antiques.

## Senior Center to hold flea market

St. Patrick's Senior Center is sponsoring a flea market on Oct. 13-14 which will be held at the center. Tables are \$10 apiece. For more information or to sign up for a table, contact Tom Wilson at 676-5813.

## Candidates, issues forum slated

A candidates and issues forum will be held on Wednesday, October 18, at 7 p.m. at the Heppner High School cafeteria.

## HHS homecoming festivities planned next week

Homecoming festivities will get underway next week at Heppner High School.

A bonfire will be held Wednesday, October 18, at 7 p.m. at the football field.

On Friday, October 20, the homecoming parade will start downtown at 11 a.m.

That evening the HHS football game vs. Sherman County will begin at 7:30 p.m. with the homecoming dance to follow from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the HHS cafeteria.

## School board approves Irrigon high school

The Morrow County School Board, at their Monday night meeting, approved siting a high school in Irrigon. The approval, however, came along with a big "if" and was hinged on a list of conditions that the board says must be met in order for an Irrigon high school to become a reality.

In a two-hour work session prior to the 7:30 p.m. board meeting, the MCSB compiled a six-point list of stipulations as follows:

1. That the funding levels currently established are maintained by the state with a cost of living adjustment.

2. That the proposed ballot measures 91, 88, 8 and 93 do not pass. Any measure or legislative action which severely curtails school funding would make the establishment of an additional high school unfeasible.

3. That instruction programs at Riverside High School would not be eliminated or reduced as a result of establishing a new high school. This does not preclude a minor adjustment in program to accommodate schedule or shifting of resources within elective offerings.

4. That enrollment between the communities of Boardman and Irrigon continue to increase at the five percent average as in the past five years.

5. That the district establish a separate fund during the transition period, using revenues from student growth.

6. That the new high school would be phased in over a period of three years beginning in no later than the year following the opening of the new elementary school in Irrigon, so space is available for sixth graders.

(i.e., bond passes in Spring 2001; new elementary school completed in December 2002; move sixth grade students to new elementary school in January 2003; eighth graders that are promoted in 2003 would stay as the first freshmen in fall 2003. The next year, fall 2004, would have freshmen and sophomores at Irrigon High School and the fall of 2005 a full-blown high school. The freshman class of 2002 would graduate from Riverside High School.)

Prior to making a decision, the board opened up the meeting to the public for comment.

The majority of Irrigon residents commenting favored siting a high school in Irrigon, while Boardman residents and current Riverside High School students were generally not in favor of splitting the school.

Comments in favor of an Irrigon High School included: establishing a greater sense of community pride in Irrigon; keeping children in the community where they live; smaller class sizes; less distance for parents and students to attend school activities; and less distance traveled by parents and students for high school sporting events, because the split would move the schools down to the 2A level.

School officials said, however, that if a high school is established in Irrigon and the schools drop to 2A levels, it would take only three to four years for an Irrigon high school to reach 3A status and Riverside only six to eight years, because of the rapid growth in the north end of the county.

Those against the split argued that the schools would not have the class offerings that Riverside currently has and consequently students would not be as adequately prepared for college; that there is not enough money in the school district budget to staff another high school; and worried about the possible adverse effects of having younger students attend school with high schoolers in a seven-12 school configuration.

Board members Gary

Frederickson, John Rietmann, Julie Weikel and Pat McNamee voted in favor establishing a high school in Irrigon, most citing the tremendous growth in the north end as the deciding factor. Members Barney Lindsay, Dwayne Carroll and Keith Lewis voted against the resolution, generally citing budget constraints.

The board also approved a prioritized list of bond levy items and instructed the administration to put a dollar amount on construction and repair items.

Lindsay was the sole nay vote. He later said that he voted against approving the bond list because an amendment to the resolution removed the specification that the bond levy be held at the May election. The board subsequently unanimously approved a May bond election.

The bond priority list includes the following items as determined by advisory committees:

### Irrigon-Boardman Advisory Committee

1. New intermediate-grade elementary classroom space in Irrigon and Boardman.

(If the board decides to have high schools in Irrigon and Boardman, also included as priority one are-Columbia Middle School shop facility; gymnasium with locker rooms big enough for secondary use at the new elementary buildings in Irrigon and Boardman; upgrade of CMS sports facilities; additional CMS parking.)

2. Replace roof on old part of A.C. Houghton Elementary School building; replace roofing on flat part of building and shop area at RHS.

3. Construct new fire exit from existing CMS gymnasium.

4. Electrical upgrade in older part of ACH building; replace lighting controls at RHS auditorium; upgrade RHS electrical.

5. Replace HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) in old part of building at ACH and Sam Boardman Elementary School; upgrade HVAC at CMS and RHS-capacity problems.

6. Replace single pane windows at ACH with multi-pane, energy conservation; replace wood exterior doors and frames with energy efficient systems.

7. Remodel older classrooms at ACH and SBE to install separate storage/coat spaces; put small restrooms in kindergarten rooms.

8. Upgrade restrooms-flushers at CMS, RHS, SBE.

9. Re-do CMS sidewalk entrance with non-skid surface.

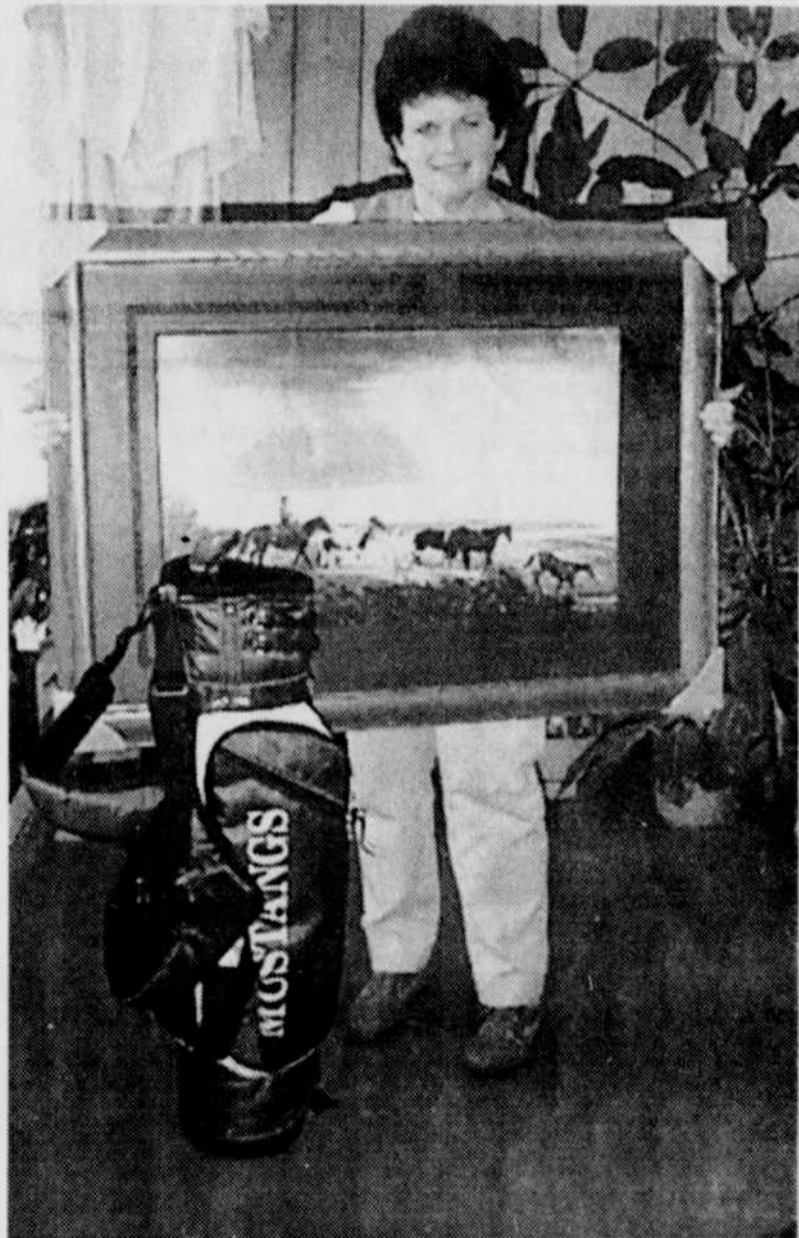
10. Enlarge SBE freezer space.

11. Replace pavement on ACH intermediate playground and pave southeast bus load area.

12. Carpet five classrooms at CMS and one classroom at RHS; replace tiles in older part of building at RHS-test for asbestos.

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## Booster Club Steak Feed & Auction this Saturday



Sandy Matthews displays booster Club Auction items.

The Heppner Booster Club's biggest fund raiser of the year, the steak feed and auction, will be held this Saturday, October 14, at the Heppner Elks Club.

Dinner, held from 6-8 p.m., will include a New York Steak, baked potato, salads, homemade bread and desserts.

Dinner tickets, at \$8 each, and raffle tickets are both available at the Shoe Box and Heppner Hardware.

The auction gets underway at 8 p.m. with the regular auction, a silent auction and raffle items.

Raffle items include a Remington Model 700 BDL 30-06, a 25 inch color TV, 50 gallons of gas and over 50 other items. You need not be present to

win raffle items.

The silent auction will feature over 50 items, including symphony, ballet, Shakespeare and Philharmonic tickets, hand-crafted items, custom golf clubs, a golf bag, fleece blankets, sports pictures and sports passes.

The auction will include a necklace, fishing and hunting trips, Blazer tickets and pennant, Portland Rose Garden tour packets, round-trip air line tickets, an Italian dinner, jet boat trip, holiday flowers, Mustang fleece blankets and a Black Hills Gold ring, just to name a few.

Check the Internet at [www.heppner.net](http://www.heppner.net) for auction item updates.



Rick Drake does his own version of a high-wire act as he repairs the steeple roof at the Heppner United Methodist Church this week.



Save During Our Big  
**TIRE SALE**  
Through Saturday, Oct. 14th  
Traction Mud & Snow • All Season • Retread Caps  
**MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS**  
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at [www.mcg.net](http://www.mcg.net)