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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

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Ione students complete web design project

Ione's eighth grade technology students and the high school students in the web design class have nearly finished the community project they have been working on. The students in teacher Darlene Marquardt's classes have created a web page for the city of Ione. The initial page was done by Marquardt while the students wrote the rest. They have also made links to other web pages for businesses, organizations and individuals in Ione.

"This project was done as a community service project as well as a learning assignment for the students," said Marquardt. "The students do not use software such as Frontpage or Hotdog to design their pages, but rather have to learn the html codes and write the pages from scratch. The students also took

and manipulated their own digital pictures."

The City of Ione web page may be accessed two ways. Either go to <http://ioneoregon.com> or go to <http://ihs.morrow.k12.or.us/virtual-ione.city.html>.

The Ione students also help Marquardt maintain the school's web page which may be found at <http://ihs.morrow.k12.or.us>. Other student works may be found at <http://ihs.morrow.k12.or.us/student-links.html>.

Marquardt says they welcome readers to let them know about any Ione web pages (businesses, organizations, or personal) as they would like to link it to their site. Let them know by e-mailing Marquardt at marquard@morrow.k12.or.us.



This is a "take it from those in the know" composite of the following could be labeled a "believe it or not" column. Your choice probably depends on which part of the state you call home.

Portland mayor Vera Katz, "aka Meathead," proclaims meatless days to save the environment from an overpopulation of those messy cows that dump on the land and pollute the water. Meanwhile, a power failure knocked out a pump causing four million gallons of raw Portland sewage to dump in the Willamette River. That insignificant little blip was barely mentioned on a back page of The Oregonian, since during winter months Portland sewage overflows typically run as high as 2.8 million gallons.

Seems strange that Portland received only a \$14,000 fine by the EPA while an Eastern Oregon cattle rancher was fined \$50,000 for his cattle accessing the Wallowa River. Portland sewage must be cleaner or somehow doesn't affect fish because Willamette Valley people who fish or stick their fingers in the water were told to "wash their hands" after coming in contact with that river water.

Sage scientists are debating the amount of water to be spilled this spring from dams on the Columbia River to help migrating salmon as the Northwest faces a drought situation. Barging of fish is ludicrous they say. How about this fall when the water situation becomes even more critical, not only for fish but for hydroelectric power? Never mind that the number of returning salmon have greatly increased this year. If we don't run out of high-priced, imported fuel perhaps they'll have to barge water upstream this fall, replacing those spilled gallons, to aid fish or human summer survivors.

As to a new daylight savings time proposal, supposedly to save electricity, it's suggested that in May the clocks be again moved forward one more hour. The "clock watchers" prefer to mess with clocks every year, as it appears it is impossible to change business hours. Perhaps that would be too much of a mental strain if one had to get up at four a.m. instead of at six in order to be on time for work. However candles could be an early morning energy saver, cause who needs good lighting for enhancing the current "messy is better" hairstyles. A commentator suggested that the best way to achieve that look is to use hair spray when you first get out of bed.

People, particularly children, aren't getting enough sunshine or exercise, it's reported. So a health-minded, energy-saving decision could be turning off TV and forcing youngsters outside to breathe a city's polluted air. Too, it's claimed that sitting for long periods clogs arteries in the legs. Like seat belts, perhaps we need a law to protect people from themselves, requiring sitters to jump up every hour and run around their building. There's also the problem with airline passengers sitting too long in cramped positions. Perhaps, along with serving cocktails, there needs to be a requirement that passengers rotate seats frequently and kick-box in the aisles while changing seats.

Too, I worry about prisoners whose rights are being violated by being locked up in sunless places as they spend several hours a day on computers trying to figure out sentencing appeals as a way out. They are also required to sit motionlessly in front of television sets to improve their minds as a form of rehabilitation.

For more noteworthy decisions, it's about time they inducted "Silly Putty" into the national toy hall of fame. This World War II accidental creation has bounced off many a wall. There has never been a more "conveniently-toted" small toy with so many uses. It not only bounces and stretches but also can be used to lift images from things like newspaper comics. Our children even tried using it for facemasks. As a long-time chauffeur of children, it's hard to describe that feeling when this cold, gooey stuff slides down one's neck. It is definitely less messy than play dough, especially in a vehicle. Too, it was less threatening to an endangered driver than having a secretly pocketed frog suddenly progress downward underneath a person's shirt collar.

These are some of the many sage conclusions affecting our day-to-day lives. You have to get up early to stay in tune with such note-worthy proclamations. Or it might be better to stay in bed and catch up on your sleep-deprived soul, a hazard that is said to be affecting both the body and the mind--or perhaps it just affects those making "mindless" decisions.

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. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$5.)

No vote only penalizes our children

To the Editor:
The upcoming bond election for Morrow County Schools will replace the grade school gym in Heppner, and the grade school in Ione. Both of these facilities were built over 75 years ago and are not feasible to renovate.

The levy would provide facilities in the Boardman and Irigon area to accommodate future growth.

One of the most important things the levy will do is maintenance on existing buildings.

The levy will replace failing roofs in needed areas and remove and replace asbestos floor tiles in all schools. It will also update heating and cooling systems and install energy efficient windows where needed to reduce energy costs for the district.

These maintenance items have been delayed in an effort to maintain classroom programs. If we do not pass the bond levy these items will have to be done from operation funding, which will again cut in to educational programs at our schools.

We all need to set aside our differences over board and administrative decisions that we may not agree with.

We need to remember that a no vote on this bond issue does not penalize the school board or the administrators. It only penalizes our most important asset, the children of our communities.

Please join us in voting "Yes For Kids" on the bond levy.

(s) Larry & Betty Mills
Heppner

Land sale detrimental to county transportation

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my concerns of a land transaction involving R.D. Offitt Co. and the State of Oregon. I feel this land sale which involves a total of 93,000 acres, of which includes a 23,000 acre tract, that is a long band approximately 20 miles long by two miles wide to be held by the Nature Conservancy is cutting Morrow County in half and is detrimental to long-term Morrow County transportation. We are asking for a road easement across a small section of this property. Preventing this easement is the ODFW's listing of the Washington ground squirrel as an endangered species. The land in question has been bombed, farmed, gazed, hunted and has had several private and county roads on it in the past and present. The squirrels are still presently flourishing. This is really a common sense issue.

ODFW must use a reasonable and common sense approach in the implementation of this "hard stand" they seem to be taking, on an issue that could involve the closing of schools and the senseless demise of a community. It is ludicrous to think that 2 1/2 miles of road, just 18 acres or (.08 percent) of 23,000 acres, across a thin section of land is going to affect the squirrel population or any wildlife in the slightest manner.

Not having a road easement to link the fast-growing north end job availability (i.e. Offutt, Tillamook, PGE, racetrack, Port of Morrow, etc ...), at a reasonable distance with a

south end work force deters growth and stability of economy in south Morrow County.

There were roads here prior to WWII before the bombing range was created; there are roads here now and there should be a road here in the future. The time is now for common sense to take heed and not let rural Oregon to be held hostage by extreme environmental groups from the west side of the state.

The Ione and Heppner communities have excellent schools, as rated by the State of Oregon. Currently shrinking enrollments, resulting from the closing of a mill, poor agriculture economy and ever increasing farm size jeopardizes our great school system. These communities provide excellent livability. They just need access to available employment.

We do not want to stop the land sale. We do not want an "in lieu of" proposal. We do not want funding. We do not want a road built. What we do want is an easement for a 2 1/2 mile road, that does not break up or harm anything, which would give access to a possible 1200 future jobs. This is a sensible request from a small community concerned for its schools and rural way of life.

Twenty-two thousand, nine hundred and eighty-two acres for squirrels.

Eighteen acres for schools and community.

Very simple.
(s) Darrin Padberg
Ione

Vote yes for our community, children and our future

To the Editor:

As a taxpayer, parent and community member, I would like to thank the Morrow County School Board for developing the bond measure to go before the voters on the May 15 ballot. The board members have come up with solid, sensible solutions for our aging, overcrowded schools and managed to maximize our taxpayer dollars.

In Boardman and Irigon, student enrollment has increased 25 percent in the last five years and is expected to increase another 25 percent in the next five years. The current number of kindergartners in Irigon is 82 with 72 in Boardman. A new elementary school in both Boardman and Irigon shows sensible planning for the future of our children.

In addition to overcrowded schools, the school board has addressed the issue of safety. Currently, Ione Elementary does not have a fire escape door in the library which is located

on the second floor of the building. Heppner Elementary students must cross the street for lunch during a busy traffic time. Improvements to these schools shows concern for the safety of our children.

As our facilities continue to age and deteriorate, normal maintenance and repair costs will go up. These costly repairs to our schools are paid out of the district's operating budget.

The operating budget is limited by the amount the state provides each year. As maintenance and repair costs go up, less money is available for educational programs. This bond measure, if approved, will maximize the funds available for operations and programs.

Please vote "yes" on May 15. It's the right thing to do for our community, our children and our future.

(s) Sandy Tallman
"Yes" For Kids chairman
Boardman

Ione Library receives new books

The Ione Public Library has received 120 new books, the base library for the book leasing plan. Many different types of books are covered in the core selection from popular fiction to nonfiction to self-help.

Also, the library has recently received a number of new books for its permanent collection, including many selections from the Oprah Book Club.

Regular hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3-5 p.m.

Think of children first

To the Editor:

Recently you published a letter by Meg Murray that was in opposition to the Morrow County School District bond for needed maintenance and for new grade schools. Mrs. Murray seems to think that the glass is always half empty. If Mrs. Murray's point of view were to be taken seriously, we should, in the interest of providing the best education possible for our children, build just one monster high school in Bend. This would give our children the most possible curriculum choices and therefore, if Mrs. Murray is correct, the best education. Also, Mrs. Murray seems to not be able to separate operating funding from a bond measure for buildings and maintenance.

The true story is that North Morrow County is growing rapidly and the number of children about to enter the grade schools both in Boardman and Irigon will overwhelm those schools. As I see it, if this bond fails, the school district will have two choices. First, they could load up buses and ship children around the county to locations that have the space and low teacher to student ratios to handle them. This, from a budget point of view, would be the most cost effective option since the state reimburses a large portion of transportation. However, this would be a truly poor choice for families and children.

The second option is to purchase temporary modular classrooms and put off major maintenance projects. The associated costs for this would come out of general funds and we all know that the majority of these cuts would have to come from South Morrow County. This would lead

to poor quality instruction. Plus we all know that temporary classrooms never really go away and that deferring needed maintenance usually results in more costly problems later.

We need to think of our children first and pass a bond now. If we pass the bond measure we will show some vision and prove we care about our children. This bond will result in major maintenance in every portion of the district and will free up operating funds this next year that can be used for better instruction for our children.

If you live in South Morrow County, you should support this balanced bond issue for the following reasons:

1) If we don't keep up with the real growth in North Morrow County, we will pay with even larger cuts to instructional programs in the South.

2) In Heppner, every day that your children cross the street to have lunch, the chance of a child being struck by a car goes up.

3) In Ione, would you want your child in that old grade school during an earthquake?

If you live in North Morrow County, you should support the bond issue for the following reasons:

1) You have the growth and we need to stay ahead of the curve.

2) Not all cuts would come from the South, the North could also face program cuts if we have to pay for all necessary maintenance projects and additional classroom space out of general operating funds.

Please vote "yes" for a balanced district-wide bond that will help all of our communities. Let's vote yes for all of our kids and fight about operating budgets some other day.

Jerry Rietmann
Ione

Vote yes on school construction bond

To the Editor:

Next month, the citizens of Morrow County will be voting by mail on a school district bond for construction of schools and maintenance of existing buildings.

In the north end of Morrow County, new buildings are needed to ease overcrowding to help the educational process. In the south end of Morrow County, we will be replacing two old buildings that have outlived their useful life.

In addition, there are a number of "maintenance" items, deferred maintenance, that will be done. They

include new roofs, asbestos removal, heating systems and energy-efficient windows.

If the construction bond doesn't pass, the board of directors will be forced to use operating funds to perform these maintenance items and operating funds will continue to be in short supply.

Public schools are the cornerstone of all our communities. Kids are the lifeblood of our future.

Please vote "yes" on the Morrow County school construction bond.
(s) George Koffler
Heppner

T-ball tryouts set April 12

Heppner Little League T-ball tryouts will be held this Thursday, April 12, at 4 p.m. at

the Shad Hisler field.
For more information, call Craig Gutierrez, 676-5160.

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Includes shop **\$165,000**

Contact David Sykes, Agent
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GRAND OPENING!
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