

The Official Newspaper
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

Published weekly and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: gt@heppner.net or gt@rapidserve.net. Web site: www.heppner.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$22 in Morrow County; \$16 senior rate (in Morrow County only; 62 years or older); \$29 elsewhere.

David Sykes Publisher
April Hilton-Sykes Editor

News deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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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.)

Time to build road between Ione and Boardman

To the Editor:
It's time to build the road between Ione and Boardman.
During WWII, the area between Willow Creek and the north Lexington road to the freeway was taken and established as a bombing range. After the war, the bombing range was made smaller with the west part becoming a state administrated area under contract to Boeing for a proposed space-age development. It never happened.
Later the state and Boeing established a large corporate farming operation rather than develop farming with smaller private-owned

units. These entities were all outside Morrow County and blocked the building of this road as they could care less about Ione.

The Boardman area has continued to grow with more job opportunities, and still no road. All this time any excuse has been used to block the road and now environmental groups, away from Morrow County, have joined the effort to block the road.

The road should have been built many years ago and certainly should be now, as these would be more positive results than negative.

(s) Don Peterson
Ione

Levy ensures schools ready for future

To the Editor:
The Morrow County School Board, after receiving input from all communities, seeks a bond to build new schools where needed, and replace and/or update other facilities.

The growth in the Irrigon and Boardman area is projected at 25-30 percent. Two new elementary schools will provide for that growth. Existing facilities in Ione and Heppner need to be replaced. The elementary school in Ione was built in 1924. The old elementary gym in Heppner was built in 1917. These buildings are unable to be renovated and must be replaced to make them

safe and cost-effective.
Other facilities throughout the county need to be updated and repaired. Heating and cooling systems, energy-efficient windows, replacement of roofs and replacement of asbestos floor tiles are all necessary projects in order to extend the life of the buildings and make them safe for our children.

Passing the school bond levy ensures that our schools will be ready for the future. Please join me in voting yes for the future of Morrow County. Vote yes for the May 15 Morrow County School Bond Levy.

(s) Nancy Snider
Ione

Bond approval now will result in saving

To the Editor:
The voters of Morrow County are being called upon to provide approval for a \$22 million school bond measure.

The large size of the measure requires the voters to give serious consideration to the proposals and their cost.

From the perspective of long-time school district employees, we are of the opinion that the proposals are carefully studied and well conceived. They represent what must be done to provide suitable and safe school facilities for our county's children.

The cost of replacing obsolete buildings, repairing existing

W.C.C.C. Golf

WCCC Ladies' Play
Tuesday, April 10
Low gross of the field: Pat Edmundson, 39.

Low net of the field: Jan Paustian and Dana Reid, 29.

Least putts of the field: Carol Norris, 13.

Flight A: low gross Eva Kilkenny, 45; low net Pat Anderson, 33; least putts Donna Morgan, 18.

Flight B: low gross Bernice Lott and Betty Christman, 51; low net Joyce Dinkins, 37.

Flight C: low gross Joanne Barbee, 51; low net Barb Gilbert, 35; least putts Loa Henderson, 21.

Chip in: Jan Paustian, #10.
Birdie: Jan Paustian #10.

On opening day, April 3, Joanne Barbee had a chip in on #6.

Need is critical

To the Editor:
I am writing to encourage voters of Morrow County to vote yes on the upcoming school bond election. The vote-by mail ballots will be mailed April 27 and must be returned to Morrow County Elections Office and received by 8 p.m. on May 15- ballots may also be deposited at the Irrigon Justice Court office on 3rd Street.

Passing this bond is crucial to our young people and the Morrow County School Board has worked diligently to prepare a bond that will take care of our needs for years to come and yet remain affordable.

Continued rapid growth in North Morrow County necessitates new elementary schools, one in Boardman and one in Irrigon. Also, schools in South Morrow County are in need of repairs including roofing, replacement of asbestos floor tile, energy-efficient windows, replacement of some buildings and remodeling of others.

It should be noted that restoring a high school to Irrigon does not involve a new building; Columbia Middle School was designed to house a 7-12 configuration, and Riverside High School would provide adequate space for a 7-12 configuration in Boardman. The 7-12 configuration is widely used by towns in our area, including Umatilla, Stanfield, Heppner and Ione. One principal commented to me that this is especially beneficial for seventh and eighth grades, as it provides them the opportunity of specialized teachers in the various fields.

A big concern to property owners is, of course, the expense. While the bond amount, 22 million, sounds large, Morrow County is fortunate in having a large tax base, resulting in a bond rate of \$1.38 per thousand of assessed value. For example, if your house is assessed at \$100,000.00, this bond would cost you \$138 per year, or 37.5 cents per day. If your house is assessed at \$50,000.00, your annual tax would be \$69, or under .19 cents per day.

By contrast, the school bond recently passed by the City of Umatilla in the amount of 10.3 million, cost taxpayers in that city a bond rate of \$4.20 per thousand, more than three times the amount we would be paying. Stanfield's recent school bond in the amount of 5.4 million resulted in a bond rate of \$2.97 per thousand (more than double our rate) and Hermiston's school bond in the amount of 39.9 million resulted in a bond rate of \$2.83 (also more than double our rate).

No one enjoys paying taxes, but the need is here, it is critical and the bond is affordable. Let's support our schools and vote "Yes for Kids" on the May ballot.

(s) LaVelle Partlow
Irrigon

School renovations necessary

To the Editor:
I have a daughter in the fifth grade at Heppner Elementary and two grown sons that both graduated from Heppner High School. I graduated from Ione High School and my husband graduated from Heppner High School. We are proud to live in Morrow County.

We that live in Morrow County know that it is a great place to live. With the growth in the north end of the county and all the work that the Willow Creek Valley people are doing to bring jobs to that end of the county we need to encourage people to move here. If our schools

are not capable of supporting them they will choose to live outside our school district.

This bond measure covers a new elementary building in Boardman, a new elementary building at Irrigon, convert Columbia Middle school to Jr/Sr high, replace Ione Elementary School, replace the old gym at Heppner and other renovations. All these things are necessary to people living in our county.

Please join me in voting yes on May 15.

(s) Cindi Doherty
Heppner

Our children need adequate learning environment

To the Editor:
Morrow County residents will soon have an option to upgrade facilities and improve educational opportunities for our children. The Morrow County Schools Maintenance and Construction Bond ballot will soon be delivered to our homes. I urge residents to consider voting "yes" for our kids.

These monies will provide for additional classrooms and educational facilities throughout the county, along with much needed maintenance and repairs to existing facilities. We've taken quite a hit the past two years in operating funds -funds to provide for teachers and

educational materials. If monies have to be diverted from operations to provide for capital type maintenance and repairs, additional strains will be put on the "teaching" budget.

Over the next three to four years, older bond issues will be paid off. This allows for a very minimal increase in our annual property tax bills from this bond. Our children need an adequate learning environment to master the skills needed to prepare for tomorrow's workforce. Say "yes" for our kids.

(s) Tom Wolff
Heppner

High school rodeo visit Roseburg

Oregon High School Rodeo competitors traveled to Roseburg April 14-15 for the latest stop on the rodeo trail.

Heppner's Jerid Penturf claimed the bull riding championship with a 71-point ride. Penturf also placed ninth in the bareback riding with a score of 50. Ryan Matteson and Blake Knowles, both Heppner, claimed the team roping reserve championship with a 8.84 run. Knowles also claimed fifth in the steer wrestling with a 22.83. Chris and Joe Irzyk of Moro claimed second and fourth respectively in the steer wrestling. Chris had a 7.2 run while Joe turned in a 11.03.

On the girls' side, former Ione resident, Katie Bacon, placed in two events. She stopped the watches at 16.460 in the barrel racing for seventh place and 22.849 in the pole bending for ninth place. Lacey Matteson, Heppner, grabbed fourth in the barrel racing with a 16.124.

Jonie Nash, Pilot Rock, continued her domination of the barrel racing and pole bending, claiming the barrel racing title with a 15.916 and reserve in the poles with a 20.836. Liz Bowerman, Prineville, held on to seventh in the girls' cutting with


a 68.
Heppner will be the site of the rodeo action on April 20, 21 and 22. The cutting contest will feature a doubleheader, with competition for the Hermiston rodeo, which takes place the following week, combined with the Heppner competition.

Action will start at 6 p.m. on Friday. Rodeo performances will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, with slack at 8 a.m. on Sunday. Several local youth will be competing, giving their friends and neighbors a chance to see them in action.

April 19th ~ Thursday
FISHERMAN'S NIGHT - Oysters, Catfish and Ham Dinner starting at 6 p.m. Drawings for a G Loomis pole and a chainsaw, plus many more prizes. Lodge starts at 8 p.m. For Elks members only.

BINGO BACK ON WEDNESDAYS STARTING AT 7:00 p.m.

HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main



School budget

Meetings of the Morrow County School District Budget Committee for consideration of the 2001-2002 budget will be held on Thursday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the school district office in Lexington and, if needed, on Tuesday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m. at Riverside High School in Boardman.

COLT VOLLEYBALL

SIGN-UPS FOR COLT VOLLEYBALL
REGISTRATION FOR NEXT FALL WILL BE:

- Tuesday, May 8th:
Heppner Neighborhood Center, 6-8 p.m.
- Thursday, May 10th:
Ione Fire Hall, 6-8 p.m.
- Saturday, May 12th:
Heppner Neighborhood Center, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be a release form for parents to fill out. We would appreciate if parents would be there for sign-ups so they can sign the release form. It does not cost anything; all you need to bring is a pen.

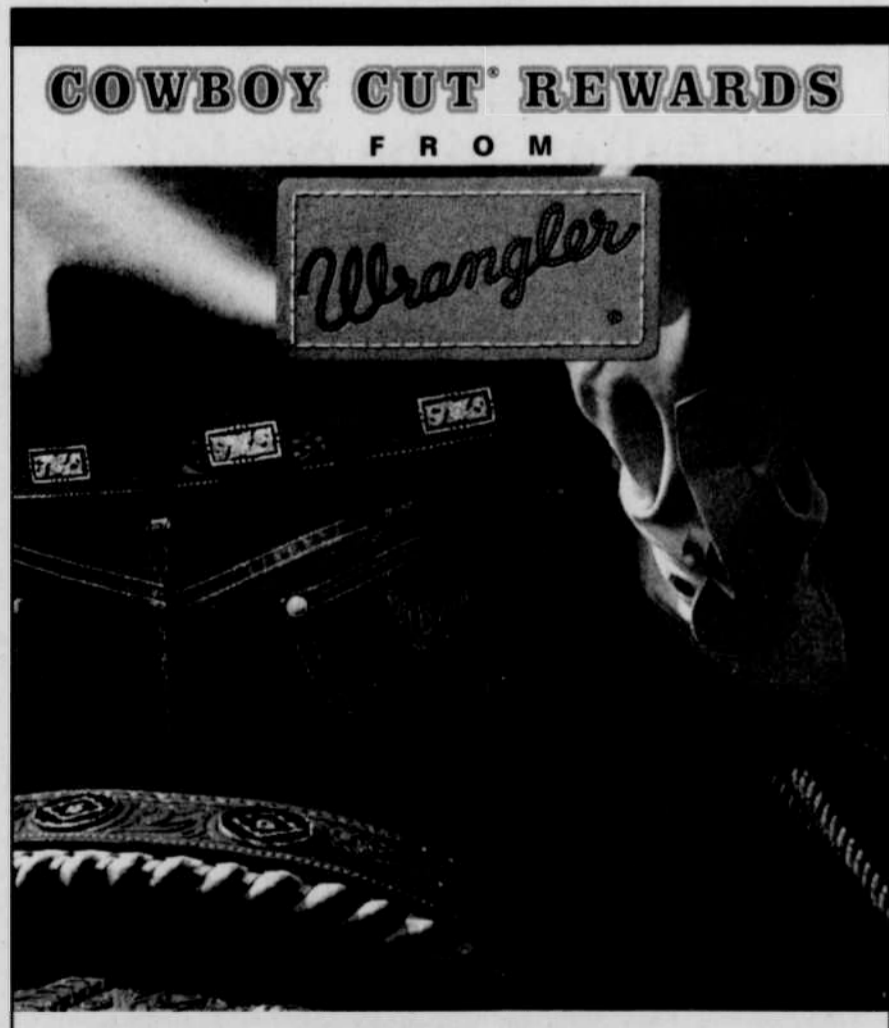
There will also be information about Colt Volleyball for next fall and a sign-up sheet for coaches and volunteers.

There may be a clinic in August that will be put on by the high school volleyball players. This will be included on the release form.

If you can't be there and would like to sign up, or for more information, contact Missy Cutsforth, 989-8104.

Sign-ups will be the same time and place as the soccer sign-ups.

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