

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.

For Advertising advertising deadline is Tuesday at noon. Cost for a display ad is \$4.50 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 40¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$5 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$5.10 per column inch.

For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be required at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

On the HEPPNER WEBSITE: www.heppner.net

- Start or Change a Subscription
- Place a Classified Ad • Submit a News Story
- View Real Estate for Sale • City Council & Planning Minutes
- Local Businesses • County Park • Willow Creek Park Reservations
- Free Digital Postcards • Senior Housing • and more!

## School bond election from page one

costing them a lot of money," he said.

Paying off the bond will require a tax levy of \$1.37 per thousand valuation, a good deal for tax payers because most of the property valuation in the county is carried by utilities (the coal fired plant at Boardman) at 55.7 percent, Anderson says. Residential valuation is 14 percent of the county valuation, agriculture, 14.6 percent, industrial 11.3 percent and commercial 3.1 percent. Twenty percent of the valuation of the district is located in south county, and 80 percent is located in north county.

Total dollar amounts spent at each school for all projects are as follows:

Ione \$3,678,001;  
Heppner \$4,644,872;  
Boardman \$6,270,945;  
Irrigon: \$7,156,182  
and \$250,000 district wide for high speed internet access.

The school bond issue is a mail in ballot, and ballots are expected to be mailed out April 27. They must be returned by May 15.

### Irrigon high school stipulations

Even if the upcoming school construction bond levy is approved by voters, it will not guarantee a new high school in Irrigon, the school board has

## Musicians, singers to present concert

Inland Northwest Musicians and Willow Creek Singers, under the direction of R. Lee Friese, will present a free concert, "Songs of the Spirit" on Saturday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m. at Lexington Baptist Church. Everyone is invited to attend.

The combined chorus will perform songs that range from the spiritual "I Am Alive," to the reflective "Go Ye Now in Peace." Other selections in the program include "Heavenly Light," a staple of Russian Church liturgy and the "Last Words of David," as well as

said.

Money for construction of two new grade schools, one in Boardman and one in Irrigon is included in the bond issue. Money is also included to convert Columbia Middle School into a high school, however, five conditions must be met before the high school will be opened the board said.

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

2. That instructional 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 program to accommodate scheduling or shifting of resources within elective offerings.

3. That enrollment between the communities of Boardman and Irrigon continues to increase at the 5 percent average as in the past five years.

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

5. 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.

traditional favorites such as "Amazing Grace," and "Simple Gifts," among others.

Local performers singing in the concert are Shirley Palmer, Jennifer Palmer, Ellen Rollis, Loren Unruh, Kathryn Unruh, Emily Unruh and Sandra VanLiew.

The concert is sponsored by the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Morrow County Grain Growers and Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative.

For more information, contact Loren Unruh, 676-9873, or the Pendleton office of Inland Northwest Musicians at 966-6649.

## 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.)

### US on course of 'belligerent nationalism'

To the Editor:

A reprieve, since President Bush has entered the international scene, to relate the third component of a philosophy of a system of government that (1) advocates or exercises a dictatorship of the extreme right, (2) typically through the merging of state and business leadership, (3) together with an ideology of belligerent nationalism.

Let's look at the ideology of belligerent nationalism -- the idea that one nation should have more power than any other nation. Since this always touches international relations, my reader is asked to put himself in the place of other countries and to find what they may be thinking of the U.S. right now (one good method of resolving conflict).

The numbers are for what they (the other countries) know. The "response" is for their comments.

1. Pres. Bush lost the popular vote but won through an "Electoral College" process. Response: We thought that in democracies, the one with the most votes decides (the laws, officials etc.) We can't understand this "electoral college" business and wonder if you do.

2. Bush's policy has changed from the past president. He has promised to reform the military and has appointed as top officials generals, defense secretary and others known for their work in the Gulf War. He repeats that his purpose is to "win wars." Response: Is the U.S. planning to fight wars? Who will be the enemies? You've been working the past eight years on bringing peace between age-old enemies like Ireland, Israel-Palestine, Pakistan-India and others and visiting other countries to touch their leaders and people not visited by other presidents. We remember that unprecedented nine-minute standing ovation we gave the past president at the U.N. National Assembly. Maybe we'd better get together and produce some more weapons to be able to keep them (the U.S.) from winning these wars Bush is talking about. Anyone of our countries could do it. The genie is out of the bottle on that... The U.S. turned it out at Hiroshima.

3. Iraq: Bush soon ordered bombing outside the containment "no-fly" zone. U.S. Secretary of State (the general who did not want to go on to Baghdad and take Saddam out at the end of the end of the Gulf War) now says that Saddam has plenty of money to help his people if he would use it for that. Response: The U.S. has a big surplus. Are you using it to house your homeless? Are you using it to help the 25 percent of your children under age five who live in poverty? (For Oregon, see "Portrait of Poverty in Oregon" published by OSU.) Aren't you leaving those children behind?

4. Russia: Bush sent 50 Russian diplomats home after finding an American citizen guilty of espionage. He also asked Russia not to sell weapons to Iran. Response: They sold the information to us. We are equally guilty. We are sending 50 of your diplomats home. Also, why can't we sell to Iran? You did. We also know the U.S. is the biggest arms distributor in the world and you sell where you want to. Why can't we?

5. ABM (it's been called by many names. Let's use "Star Wars") worked on by several presidents but was abandoned because it didn't work. Bush broke the ABM treaty with Russia and will go U.S. unilaterally. Response: The U.S. doesn't keep promises and are obviously flexing their military muscles. Traditional European allies oppose it, even Tony Blair (UK) did not nod assent on the meeting with W.

6. North Korea: Secretary Powell said that Clinton's unfinished persuasion of that state to give up its long-range missile threat had left "some promising elements on the table and we do plan to engage with North Korea." Bush, however, after talking with the president of South Korea who wants to continue North-South Korea contacts (and won the 2000 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on it) abruptly rejected any further diplomatic consultation with North Korea. Response: Why? Does he need another "rogue state" to justify his spending more billions

on his "Star Wars?"

7. Bosnia and Kosovo: the United Nations have engaged there in a hot spot, not for oil, but for preventing brutal murders and ethnic cleansing. During his campaign Bush said he wanted to bring home our military now abroad. Asked how he would handle Bosnia and Kosovo, W. answered that he would let the European countries do their part. Response: That man is obviously ignorant of the fact that 80 percent of the U.N. forces here are European and other countries. We haven't settled our age-old rivalries, but we feel safer when U.N. forces are here and are afraid that if the U.S.'s 20 percent pulls out, the rest will be too. Most of us want you to stay, and we are not killing your soldiers.

8. Israel-Palestine: Bush has taken a hands-off policy, telling the Palestinians (who have mostly rocks to throw) to "stop the violence" and Israel (to whom we provide sophisticated weapons and lots of dollars) to "use restraint." Response: We Arab states in the region held a summit conference and sent Mubarak of Egypt to talk to Bush. We've heard nothing more about it. What happened in Washington? Meanwhile, the Lebanon border is firing and Syria is standing by.

9. Global warming: Bush refused to sign the Kyoto Agreement of countries around the world joining together to prevent more rapid thinning of the ozone layer. Bush says he must refuse because it would hurt the U.S. economy. Response: Immediately, Japan, German, England, France and other countries objected, wondering if he knows that with four percent of world population, you put out 24 percent of gas emissions. To refuse to help because of the "U.S. economy" is blatant lack of responsibility.

10. China: Pres. W set the scheduled visit with a Chinese diplomat back to give the time to the Japanese one. He then changed the relationship with China from "strategic partner" to "strategic competitor." Then the surveillance plane incident when the U.S. refused to apologize and after days said they are sorry about the loss of the Chinese pilot, etc. The American press ratched up conflict by talk of refusing membership in WTO, sending the destroyers with IBMs to Taiwan, refusing the Olympic Games and others. Response: You do not realize how deeply personal losing face in our culture is, often resulting in suicide. Our languages are different so translations are inaccurate. What does "very" mean? We still wonder if you didn't intentionally bomb our embassy in Europe. Don't think you can threaten us. You have four percent of the world population; we have 25 percent. You have taught us technology, sending leading corporations to take advantage of cheap labor to bring profit to you. We are a rising power, long dormant, but on the move. If you press us into war now, you will lose.

In summary, all the items above could well be considered belligerent U.S. nationalism, or at least aggressive, causing antagonism toward us.

(s) Jane Rawlins  
Heppner

P.S.-How about an ideology of peace where we take down the "national fences" and live as God made us to be, caring for and sharing with each other the wonderful Earth He has given us?

### Irrigon could have a high school again

To the Editor:

We support the Morrow County School Bond. What a thrill! After 42 years Irrigon could have a high school again.

With the seven-12 configuration in Irrigon and Boardman, the students can stay in their own town to attend school.

The return of a high school in Irrigon will drastically change the growth pattern we have been experiencing in our community.

The tax dollar is small when spread over the whole school district.

Ballots will be mailed out 4-27-01 and need to be returned 5-15-01. Irrigon we need your "yes" vote.

(s) Billy and Samie Griffin  
Irrigon

## Vote "yes" on May 15

To the Editor:

Voters of Morrow County are being asked to pass a bond levy of 22 million dollars this May. The bond will provide funding for new schools and major improvements throughout Morrow County. Specifically included are a new elementary school in Ione, Irrigon, and Boardman. Heppner will receive a new elementary/middle school gymnasium.

The bond will take care of many maintenance issues that need addressed. Heating and ventilating systems will be updated, replaced or installed at Ione High School, Heppner High School, Riverside High School, Columbia Middle School and A.C. Houghton Elementary. As energy costs continue to escalate, having efficient systems becomes even more important.

Our District will continue to grow

over the next five years. The construction scheduled will take care of the growth and the additional major maintenance needs that should be fixed now. By passing this bond, we will not have to use our operating funds for maintenance so general fund dollars can be used to maintain quality educational programs for our students.

Interest costs continue to be at historical lows so timing for funding will never be better. The new businesses that are locating in the enterprise zone in Boardman have agreed to pay their share of property taxes for school bonds. This makes everyone's tax rate \$1.38 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the amount in this bond. I urge everyone in our district to look at the total benefit of passing this bond and vote "yes" on May 15.

(s) Gary Frederickson  
Boardman

## Schools desperately needed

To the Editor:

We are writing this letter in support of the Morrow County School bond for May 15. As you well know this bond will help update and build desperately needed new schools throughout Morrow County.

The fact is that our elementary schools are extremely overcrowded. To understand this and get a first hand view of this overcrowding just take some time out of your schedule and go visit A.C. Houghton in Irrigon, or Sam Boardman in Boardman. It won't take you long to realize that these two schools need help. Those are just two examples of what our county schools need. Heppner, Ione, Irrigon and Boardman schools are all in need of repairs, updates and rebuilding.

Right now there are over 80 kindergarten students at A.C. Houghton alone. There is not enough classrooms available for these kids to move from one grade to the next. They are even holding classes on the old stage at A.C. Houghton.

We have a great opportunity available to us right now to help ease our schools overcrowding. Our children are our future. They need the best to become the best, plain and simple.

Sure it's going to cost us some money. But if we don't do it now, it's going to cost us more in the future. It's got to be done and the longer we put it off, the more it is going to cost. Please look over the pamphlets being mailed to you from the "Yes For Kids" campaign very carefully. You will see that each community is getting what they need to educate their children for the future. No one community is getting all the money. If this bond isn't passed, more teachers and programs will be lost because they will be forced to use operational money to make repairs. So please join us in showing our children we care about their future by voting "yes" on May 15.

(s) Danny and Meredith Young  
Irrigon

## Bond levy a good deal for taxpayers

To the Editor:

This week Morrow County Voters will have a choice to approve a 22-million-dollar bond levy. This levy will provide much-needed facilities and improvements throughout Morrow County Schools. Volunteer citizen committees from each community in the county worked many hours with building administrators, faculty and staff to put together each line item included in the bond levy. Although the committees would have liked to include more for their communities, they each submitted a bare-bones list for the bond.

We would encourage you to vote for the approval of the bond. This is a vote for new buildings and capital improvements for aging facilities throughout the county. This is not a vote for your approval of the school board, superintendent, or any one employed by Morrow County School District; this is a vote for the improved education

and well being for all children in Morrow County Schools for many years to come.

This is a very good time for a bond, as interest and building costs are down. The breakdown of who pays the taxes if the bond is approved is as follows: Utilities 55.72 percent, Industrial 11.29 percent, Farm and Forest land 15.21 percent, Residential 14.64 percent, and Commercial 3.14 percent. As you can see, this is very good deal for the taxpayers in the county.

This is a great opportunity to fund new buildings and capital improvements with bond monies rather than monies from the operating budget. Please join us with your "yes" vote for the improvements to school facilities in each community and to the education of Morrow County students.

(s) Mark and Tami Rietmann  
Heppner

## Chamber supports bond measure

To the Editor:

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce encourages Morrow County voters to vote Yes for Kids and pass the school construction bond.

People looking at relocation to Heppner ask, "What are your schools like?" Heppner's decrease in population and Measure 5 have both brought about a decline in school funding. We need new families and new businesses, thus more funding. The answer we want to give those looking to move to Heppner is, "We have both good facilities and good education."

The cost of maintenance and new buildings will increase. Now is the time to upgrade. For Heppner, this means fixing leaky roofs and

inadequate heating; addressing safety issues; wiring for long distance learning and building a new cafeteria and gymnasium. Each community in Morrow County will benefit.

The chamber hopes that passage of the bond will aid in preserving existing programs and fulfilling educational needs. Education funds should not have to go toward maintenance. It's hard to know which comes first, the chicken or the egg, but one requires the other. Strong, healthy shells are needed to grow chickens and strong, healthy schools are needed to grow students, "Yes for Morrow County Kids"

(s) Claudia Hughes  
Executive Director  
Heppner Chamber of Commerce

## Let's do it right this time

To the Editor:

Morrow County residents have been well informed of the needs for the schools in their communities. All that is left to be determined, in my opinion, is whether or not Morrow County residents care enough about the education of the children in our schools, now and in the future, to make it possible for their needs to be provided.

Most people talk to me in terms of Irrigon. It seems that many people think that Irrigon is getting a big new high school. That is simply not true. We already have a school that will accommodate the high

school. We will, however, be getting a much needed new elementary school, as will Boardman.

Morrow County has a history of voting down bond levies. That means the bond levy will be resubmitted. This is a very costly process. I, for one, would rather spend my dollars providing for the needs of Morrow County students than for repeated elections.

Please. Let's do this right this time. Vote "yes" and mail your ballot.

(s) Gladys Hobbs  
Irrigon

**"Don't let summer sneak up on you. Join Weight Watchers now."**  
Now's the time. And new Winning Points is the way. Eat the foods you love, stay within your daily POINTS® range, and **NEW** lose! You'll stay satisfied and be ready for your best summer ever.



### FREE FIRST MEETING\*!

Join before May 5th and SAVE \$12.00!

Pay only the registration fee of \$20.00

- HEPPNER**  
Heppner Methodist Church • 175 W. Church  
Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
- HERMISTON**  
Senior Center • 435 W. Orchard • Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
- PENDELTON**  
United Methodist Church • 352 SE 2nd • Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- CONDON**  
Gilliam County Fairgrounds • 601 1st St., Exh. Hall 1, Mtg. Rm.  
Wednesdays (starting April 18), 6 p.m.

Join any meeting anytime! For more information call weekdays 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

**(503) 297-1021**

(or toll free 1-877-297-1021)

www.weightwatchers.com

\*Subsequent Weekly fees (\$12.00) apply.

Valid at participating locations for a limited time.

©2001 Weight Watchers International, Inc. owner of the WEIGHT WATCHERS trademarks. All rights reserved.