

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

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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David Sykes Publisher
April Hilton-Sykes Editor

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student exchange from page one

Gresham," said Rick. The bowling alley is a little small and you have to add up the points yourself."

Rick also commented on the size of the schools. "It's a lot smaller here. Heppner has only two hallways. We have six, and there are only two grades at Centennial and six here. There's no difference in classes, other than they're smaller."

"The kids here are mostly the same, but they seem a little more mature here, more sure of themselves," said Rick.

His only problem? Ticks. "I have to worry about ticks more, I've never had a tick."

Rick lives with his parents, Rick, a doctor, and Patricia, a homemaker, three brothers, Jeffrey, six, Bradley, nine, and Danny, 12, and sister, Kacey, 15.

While Centennial teacher-coordinator **Bruce Collins** is not new to the program, it is his first year heading it up without Dave Olcott, creator and coordinator of the program until he stepped down last year.

Collins has coordinated the program on the Centennial end, because he is a history teacher, always lead the historical walking tour.

While in Heppner Collins has stayed with Sally and

Ralph Walker.

"It's just like being in another world," Collins said of the Heppner area. "It's an opportunity to be away from the pace in the city. In a lot of ways people are the same, but you know you're not in Portland. The landscape is pleasant to the eye and the people are just super supportive of the program."

Collins said that he is always surprised at how well the students from the very different schools get along.

"It always surprises me how they (students) have preconceived notions. But it doesn't take them long to warm up to each other. The bonding process is just amazing."

"I know Dave will be missed because he was a yearly institution. I just hope I can be half as dynamic as Dave," said Collins.

He said that they plan to rotate younger people into the program, with some coming up to help out and observe for just a day.

"We have plans to keep the program as long as we can," he said.

Collins said that 110 students at Centennial Middle School applied for the exchange program which can accommodate around 27.

**St. Patrick's Senior Center
BULLETIN BOARD**

By Liz Straley

The week started off on Monday and Thursday with residents folding, stapling and addressing bulletins for The Extension office. The residents do this out of "good will" twice a month, which is about four hours, give or take, and not considered RSVP hours.

Exercise class was held on Tuesday morning. There were two card tables of players during which coffee and cookies were shared by Bud Lundell, Irene Ahorn, Velma Wight and Sylvia McDaniel of the "Puzzle Corner." Daisy Collins, a card player, brought in a video tapes she had made of the devastating flood. It was watched by all and a discussion was held after.

There were 100 diners and take-outs on Wednesday, including out-of-state visitors with Walter Joyce of Heppner; a family reunion including Denise and John Crowder of Seattle, Wash.; Vera Bertran of Absorokee, Mont., and Lloyd Dougherty and friends Jess and Fort from Azle, Texas. The meal servers were Virginia Peck and Melba Mitchell from the Willow Creek Baptist Church, plus the volunteer kitchen help.

A short talk was given by Larry Mills on the coming school construction bond vote on May 15.

Exercise class was held on Thursday and a lunch of homemade chicken-vegetable soup (like Mama used to make) with fruit salad, rolls, cake and beverage was enjoyed. The classic movie "Mr. Roberts" was watched after.

The past few balmy, warm days were enjoyed by the male residents and passersby sitting on the bench in front of the center. They chat and catch a few rays from the sun. It's great to see how the trees, new and old, and the flowers in bloom are thriving. We appreciate those in charge of the care of them.

Friday, the coffeepot was on and goodies enjoyed with only one table of card players, a lot of people in and out with food and help in the dining room for the Wenberg reception. Our heartfelt sympathy for the family.

We are sorry to say that the Sunday potluck dinners will be put on hold until further notice.

The menu for Wednesday, May 2 was spaghetti with meat sauce, spinach salad, chilled pears with cheese, french bread, cobbler and the usual beverages.

NURSING ASSISTANT CLASS

Class starts Monday, May 14th
at Pioneer Memorial Hospital
No Registration Fee
Sign Up By Thursday, May 10th

(There is a limited number of students so call early)

Call Tammy Henderson
676-9133 ext. 2926



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.)

Local doctor gift to county

To the Editor:

This one is for Dr. Sam Datta, my doctor in this recent illness. He's the kind of doctor, when asked to read a blood test report ordered by another clinic doctor that had not reported three weeks later, not only read the report, but brought in and went through my clinic record. Amazing.

Dr. Datta moved fast to do everything to make plans for Kadlec, from a Columbian trained oncologist etc. there and had us on our way in less than three hours, keeping touch with doctors there, sending me messages in ICU for seven days. He shows me that he is thorough, efficient, dedicated, and listens to

his patients.

This patient feels his concern for me as a person, at every appointment giving me his hand and can give a hug for an old lady when she needed it most and really listening and discussing my decisions.

Moreover, knowing I enjoy dishes from other countries, he will make a dish from his native India and his family will come to my house for dinner. I hope I'm still here. I invited him, not as a doctor-patient relationship, but to become friends.

Just wanted to share that I feel Dr. Sam Datta is a gift to our county.

(s) Jane Rawlins
Heppner

Vote yes for Morrow County schools

To the Editor:

It is exciting to finally receive the mail-in ballot, which gives all Morrow County voters an opportunity to vote "yes" for a long overdue school bond. It will provide all kids a safe, handicap accessible, energy efficient, uncrowded facility plus countywide high speed energy access.

The many advantages are not to be overlooked. It is an ideal time, when interest rates are low and construction costs are within reason. The average tax payer will only pay \$1.37 per thousand on assessed value on residential property, for 14.6 percent of the total; land owners will be responsible for 15.2 percent; commercial property about 3.1 percent; industrial at 11.2 percent;

and utilities at 55.7 percent. The bond rate is much lower than those of surrounding school districts.

The committee involved has worked many hours to plan replacement of two aging and unsafe buildings, to build two new badly needed schools to relieve overcrowding and to provide major maintenance to all schools. If this is accomplished school budgets will not have to include major items and thus devote their dollars to existing school programs.

Our kids are our most important product. Your vote is most important. Please join me in voting "yes" for Morrow County schools.

(s) Katherine Lindstrom
Ione

Pin the tail on the donkey

To the Editor:

Let's play pin the tail on the donkey.

One party favorite is: gay, black, women, poor, earth first environmentalists, single parent families, anti-life abortionists, anti-creation evolutionists, anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-prayer, sexual freedom, no absolute right and wrong except within the confines of a selective double standard; these and many others seem to be the favorites of one U.S. political party.

The other party's favorites: anti-perversion, no favorite color or sex, stamp out poverty by encouraging the work ethic, God first - people second - earth third, in the beginning

God, pro-life, limit taxation and spend wisely, two parent families, pro-God, pro-Christ, pro-prayer, abstinence before marriage and a lot of sex in marriage, absolute right and wrong; these and others seem to be the favorites of this political party who talk a good talk but don't always walk the walk.

Now see if you can pin the right tail on the donkey.

P.S. Another fun game is trying to tell the difference between a trunk and a tail. Elephants have both but sometimes it's hard to tell the difference, especially when the elephant is walking backwards.

(s) A. LaVerne Filan
Waitsburg, Wash.

Enthusiastic for county bond measure

To the Editor:

The apparent labor of the Morrow County School Board and our local citizens has encouraged great enthusiasm for the May 15 vote on the Morrow County School Bond Measure.

Our school board has worked with contractors and advisors to do the very best for our schools at this time of expansion. They have adequately informed the public with a mail out pamphlet that listed all necessary changes and the cost for these improvements to our schools. Irrigon will certainly benefit with support to the bond measure because

it will bring back our high school students to our community. The return of these students will be the fiber needed to restore to the community much that has been lost in the past 40 years.

Now is the time to make all listed school improvements from the mailed pamphlet. We need to move forward on the needed construction and we have the vote to make it happen, at a reasonable cost to the county.

We support the Morrow County School Bond Measure and will vote for it on May 15.

(s) Dan and Jean Creamer
Irrigon

School system needs, deserves support

To the Editor:

The Morrow County School system needs and deserves the support of the voters of Morrow County. Through the proposed school bond measure, the school district seeks to relieve overcrowding in the Boardman and Irrigon schools and replace and/or update older facilities throughout the school district. Passage of the bond measure will restore the high school in Irrigon which is something that should have been done years ago.

It is our understanding that new businesses locating in the enterprise

zone around Boardman have agreed to pay their share of property taxes for this and future school bond measures. Because of this, homeowners will pay only about \$1.37 per \$1000 of assessed value. That equates to about 37.5 cents a day on a \$100,000.00 home. Less than half of the cost of a cold drink.

Passage of this measure is as affordable as it is necessary. It is doubtful that interest rates will be as favorable as they are now for many years to come. Vote yes on your ballot to pass this measure.

(s) John and Linda Bristow
Ione

School district jumps the gun

To the Editor:

In this voter's opinion, the Morrow County School District jumped the gun on issuing the bond levy ballot.

It's obvious that the \$22 million levy is already inflated. Comments such as "option to reduce the debt with any money left over," and "Principal Mike Stuart and the architects will decide on 'specifics', after the passing of the bond."

Lastly, the question, "How long will it take for the bonds to be paid off?", asked in the "Yes For Kids" flyer, was not answered.

The school district and architects

have not completed their homework. Is that one reason why bond issues are, for the most, voted down in Morrow County?

I have no problem with the north end wanting to upgrade and beautify itself for further growth. That is "normal procedure".

Until the homework and the "specific details" are done, this voter has little option but to vote as he feels.

Gladys Hobbs stated, "Let's do it right this time." Agreed, but let's do everything right this time.

(s) Phil Kight
Heppner



That pre-Easter snowstorm camouflaged outside Easter egg decorations. Puzzled robins were looking for dry nesting places. The day after lawn-mowing, the daffodils were weighted down with wet snow as colorful bedding plants or blooming nursery stock all await planting. Mother Nature's wonders never cease.

One thing that should cease, however, is the purchase of anything made in China. Spy plane, my eye! That reconnaissance plane was flying in international airspace while keeping surveillance on a world that the U.S. is expected to protect. China finally agreed to release those heroic American crew members. They should never have been detained and interrogated in the first place while the Chinese dissembled that plane in search of military data and technical equipment. Many U.S. military and technical secrets have either been stolen by China or were sold to them by the past administration.

Sorry, yes! Apologize, I think not! President Bush took the right stance even though Chinese propaganda defined sorry as accepting responsibility for that accident. Their suicidal Chinese pilot is the one that kept buzzing the U.S. plane until he finally flew into it. That also brings to mind the accident with the American submarine and the Japanese fishing vessel. While Japan screamed that the boat and its crew should be recovered and that the U.S. should pay for that loss, I kept thinking that Japan never apologized for all the American servicemen killed and the sunken boats at Pearl Harbor that launched us into World War II.

That American pilot heroically managed to land that damaged plane and save all their lives. Americans hardly had time to file a fight plan and obtain a pre-approved landing permit prior to that 20-plus minute, rapid and scary descent that dropped them on Chinese soil. Repeated mayday calls from that plane weren't even acknowledged by the Chinese.

China's communist government continues to persecute its citizens; children work in sweatshops, people are put in prison or shot for no cause and women are subjected to unwanted abortions.

Why do we give these heartless dictators "favorite nation" status? The balance of trade with China tips heavily in their favor, while China can restrict any of our products with tariffs. We've let consumer goods produced by cheap labor in China and other countries displace the manufacture of commodities in this country that kept our workers employed. If we produced more of our own commodities and our own fuels, this country would be less vulnerable to the whims of foreign countries. No wonder our economy is slumping and industries are folding.

American citizens should read the book "The China Threat" and the revealing information about China, a country that is determined to become a superpower in Europe. Listening to a talk show on the radio, while traveling, I admired a caller for his stance. That truck driver said he would no longer pick up and transport Chinese merchandise from our West coast ports, even though it would probably cost him his livelihood. Another caller, who formerly lived in China, revealed some of China's "cutthroat" policies towards Americans.

It certainly wouldn't be such a big sacrifice if all American consumers boycotted products made in China, but it certainly would send them a message. I intend to look very closely at country of origin when buying a wanted item and even if "Made in China," is the best buy, I will not purchase anything from that country from here on.

So when it comes to this soapbox oratory, I now have to check the box origins and even the bars of soap recently purchased to make sure they were made in the U.S.A. Consumers can make a difference. This current situation with China is not much different than the cold war days with Russia. Communist countries cannot be trusted and it may be a long time before their people get the kind of government they deserve. I wouldn't trust either of those governments as far as I could sic my son's dog. While that dog is a working fool for his master, he looks at me as though I were the one that needed herding - maybe that dog has unusual perception.

You May Be
18
But You're Still
Our Baby!
Happy 18th!
(May 5, 2001)
Love, Mom, Dad
Chris, Andy & Allison

Pour Out Your Love.

Give Teleflora's Roses of Love Teapot Bouquet

We gathered a garland of perfect porcelain roses. Hand-painted and hand-applied, they've turned our exquisite Roses of Love Teapot into a true treasure. Filled with a profusion of spring flowers, it's a delightful way to show her how much you care. For delivery anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, call or visit our shop.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13

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