

**gym/cafeateria proposed at junior high** continued from page one

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

**Heppner  
GAZETTE-TIMES**  
U.S.P.S. 240-420

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David Sykes ..... Publisher  
April Hilton-Sykes ..... Editor

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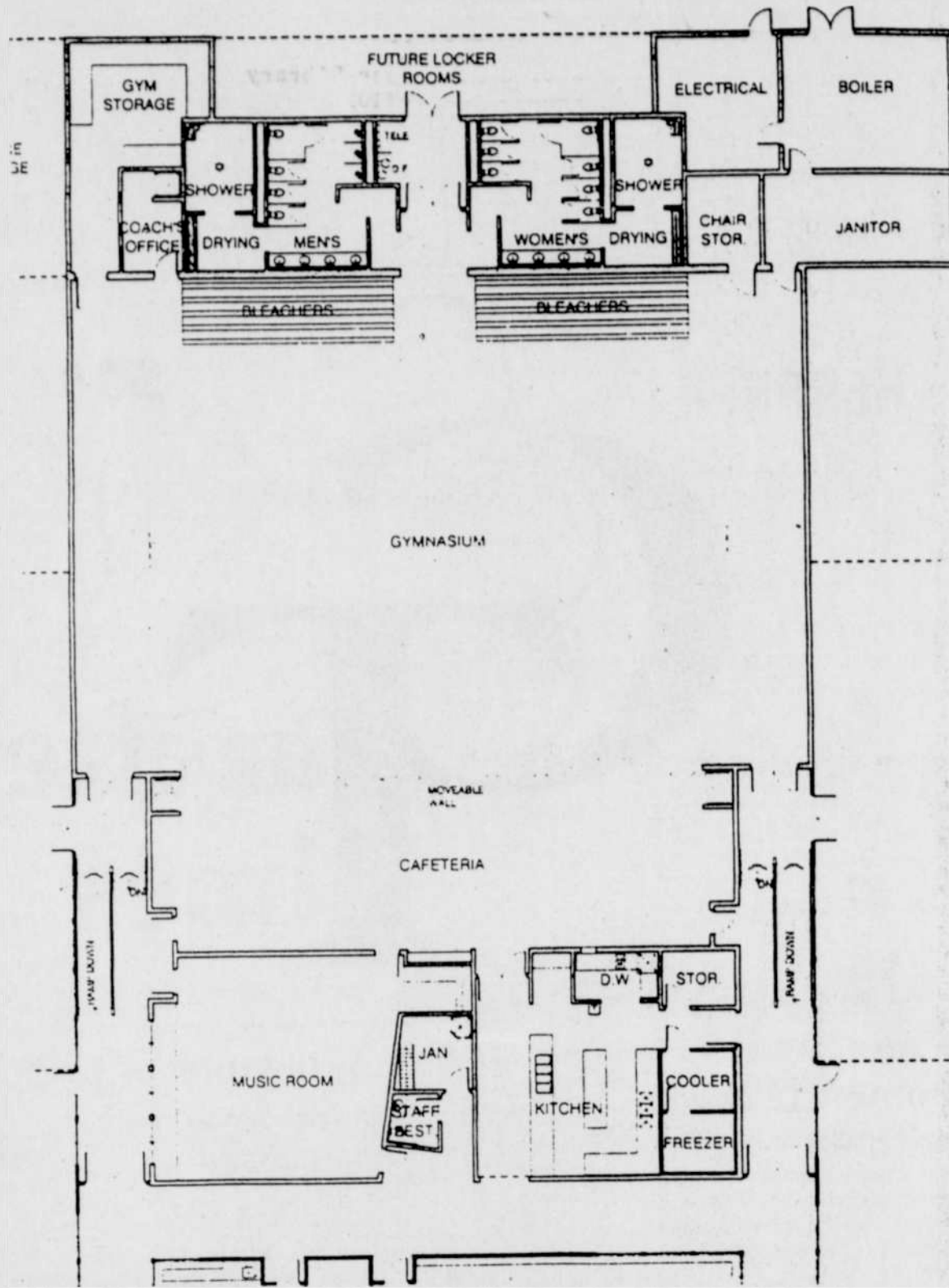
men's and women's locker rooms, a coach's office, gym storage, boiler room, janitor's room, electrical room, chair storage and possibly future locker rooms would be located at the other end.

The facility would have to be modified to include additional public restrooms and could possibly be enlarged somewhat to include a double gym for additional practice space, depending on monies available.

Combining the stage, cafeteria and gym into one facility would save space and ultimately save limited construction monies. The preliminary plans include 18,304 square feet for the entire facility, comprised of 7,300 for the gymnasium, 1,700 for the locker rooms, 600 for the kitchen, 250 for the walk-in cooler/freezer, 200 for dry storage, 2,400 for the cafeteria, 654 for the stage, 1,000 for the music room and an additional 200 for storage.

The budget (released by the Morrow County School District as of 10-1) for the project is as follows: Replace gym-\$2,056,832; Site improvements-\$500,000; Contracted services-\$1,000; Supplies-\$10,000; Demolition-\$150,000; Furnishings and equipment-\$125,000; and New roof boiler room-\$4,221.

A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, at Heppner Elementary School to consider the issue.



Sample gymnasium/cafeateria plan

**Guest Editorial**

**We need a school board we can trust**

We have a system by which we have chosen to govern ourselves. This system, designed by an unmatched collection of great Americans, contains many checks and balances in order to protect the rights and liberties of the people. This system, when properly implemented, ensures that our governing bodies are responsive to our needs and desires. This system guarantees that the power in our country rests with the people. This system grants our elected representatives temporary custody of authority in order to do the people's work. Stewardship of this authority is a responsibility not to be taken lightly. In Oregon, most of our elected representatives in various governmental bodies are volunteers. The rest, at least in the legislative bodies, are woefully underpaid. There is but one reason that this can occur. That reason is that the election to these positions of authority is viewed as a civic duty which brings a great deal of honor to those that hold them. In no way are financial concerns a reason for seeking elected office.

In order for the system to be successful, a bond of trust must exist between the governed and the governors. It is a trust that can only be developed with the earnest application by a governing body of truth and honesty. It requires that decisions be made in open meetings. It requires that those in authority respect the rights of those governed and honor our form of government. In the case of the Morrow County School Board, this is not so.

The school board has violated our open meeting laws. It has made important decisions without regard to the peoples' right to have their input considered. How many times do the people need to attend school board meetings, give hours of testimony and then be rebuffed by members who have made their decision in a previously held illegal meeting? Can we trust school board members who state that the district is delivering an excellent product when they know, or should know, that Morrow County has one of the highest drop out rates in the state?

This school board decided to cut programs and teaching positions in February, 2000. It stated that the only choice it had was to accept the recommendation of the superintendent. The board did not explore any other options for budget reduction. Due to adverse economic conditions in our state, the district may very well be making tough financial decisions again next May. This board has shown that it does not possess the judgment necessary to render appropriate decisions. This is the board that would rather cut teachers than cut perks to administrators. This board voted to provide district owned automobiles for the use of administrative staff. The staff uses these cars to commute to and from work and to conduct other personal business on the way. No other school district in the state spends tax dollars in order to provide this generous benefit.

Finally, at some unspecified time in the future, our school board will be making a decision to hire a new superintendent. Considering their track record, do you trust these individuals to make the right decision?

We all know people in these school board zones who would better serve the people of Morrow County. We have too much at stake. We only get one shot at educating our children. We need a school board which will once again point the district in the right direction. We need a school board that we can trust. We need to take back our schools. Please join me in voting to replace Morrow County School Board Directors John Rietmann, Gary Frederickson and Pat McNamee.

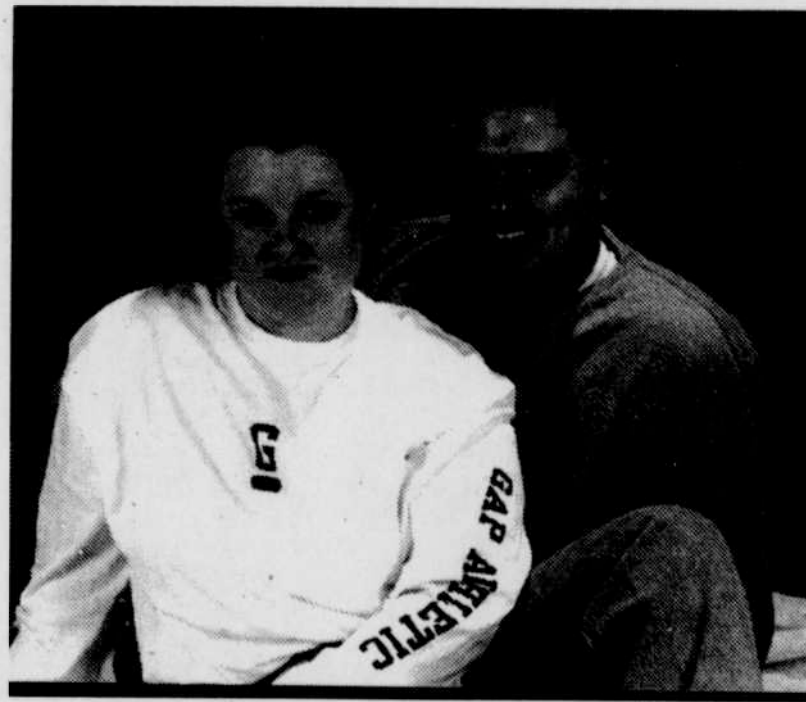
(s) Mike Armato, Heppner

**Marriage Licenses**

The Morrow County Clerk's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage license:

Oct. 5-Wayne Eugene Norlen, 74, Stanfield; and Albert M. Norlen, 65, Stanfield.

**Engagement  
Munkers - Helfrecht**



**Erin Helfrecht and Shane Munkers**  
Bob and Debbie Helfrecht of Pendleton and Gary and Martha Munkers of Lexington announce the engagement of their children, Erin Elizabeth Helfrecht and Shane William Munkers, both of Pendleton. The bride-elect graduated in 1995 from Pendleton High School, attended Blue Mountain Community College and is self-employed. Shane graduated in 1993 from Heppner High School, in 1996 from BMCC and in 1998 from Eastern Oregon University. He is currently employed as a relationship manager with U.S. Bank in Hermiston. They will be married Saturday, October 20, 2001, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pendleton. The couple would like to invite all friends and relatives to attend.

We Make **POSTERS**  
Heppner Gazette-Times

**Blue Basin hike offered**

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument will offer a free ranger-conducted hike into the Blue Basin fossil beds. This will be the last Blue Basin hike offered this year. The two-hour hike will feature the geologic landscape and fossil history of the basin. The tour will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13, beginning at the Blue Basin trailhead, located three miles north of the Sheep Rock Unit visitor center, along State Route 19. Participants should bring good hiking shoes, a sun hat, jacket, water bottle and a camera.

**"NAVIGATING THE TEEN YEARS"**

YES, WE HAVE TRAVELED THAT JOURNEY THROUGH THE TEEN'S CURVES. BUT NOW, AS PARENTS OF TEENS, WE OFTEN NEED A MAP!

Morrow County Children & Families Department  
invites Parents to

**"Navigating the Teen Years"**  
Presentation by Dr. Michael Leeds\*

**Wednesday, October 17**  
Light Buffet at 6:30 P.M.  
Door Prizes

Listen, Laugh, and Learn  
7:00 - 8:30

Heppner High School Cafeteria

\*Licensed family therapist, doctor of psychology, international consultant  
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**Third Annual  
LEWIS & CLARK HERITAGE DAY**  
Sunday, October 14, 2 p.m. at the Irrigon Marina Park  
**JOIN US FOR THIS FREE EVENT!**

Hear tales of October 19, 1805, the day Lewis & Clark, their Corps of Discovery, Sacagawea, her French trapper husband Charbonneau and their infant son Pomp visited and camped with native people on a sandy island just off shore from the Irrigon Marina Park. Historical Re-enactor Jerry Igo (as Sgt. Gass) will provide stories and activities of mountain men/fur trappers. Chief Jesse Jones of the Cayuse Tribe will bring a teepee, artifacts and regalia.

Old Time Music • Family Games • Quilt Display  
Exhibit by the Tamastalikt Cultural Institute  
Old Fashioned Pie Social • Children's Pumpkin Decorating Contest  
Plus, Columbia River History and the Morrow County Columbia River Heritage Trail connecting Irrigon and Boardman will be part of this event to unveil the Heritage Trail Sign.

Funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District  
Sponsored by North Morrow Community Foundation