

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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Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes

As I rounded the corner three miles out of Heppner this morning, I was surprised to see a cloud had dropped over Heppner, better know as fog. You could see the hills above and all of Heppner was socked in. Just a bit gray everywhere! It's difficult for many people to be either black or white, given the issues we are all facing in our everyday lives: education, health, safety, senior citizens, economy, and world peace. Could be that we may have to think as our ancestors did a few hundred years ago and become more active rather than passive? "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

What exactly does that mean for the Heppner Chamber of Commerce and our community? What direction do we want for Heppner in 2003? Think about some slogans: Heppner, the place to be in 2003; Heppner, it's you and me; Heppner, whatever will be will be; Heppner, You Hold The Key. One theme is apathetic and doesn't give solutions, nor does it solve problems. When we choose to do nothing, that in itself is a choice.

The Heppner Chamber during the past membership meeting and Board of Directors meeting voted to encourage support of Measure 28. Measure 28 is a band-aid solution at best, but it could save a few teachers, state troopers, senior services, and businesses until "surgery" can be scheduled and the root of the problem addressed. If it helps the Heppner community in these tough times, then the "band-aid" is worth a try. Whatever the decision, we then must do all the research, communicating, and working together to find solutions and make our voices heard. We cannot be a "whatever will be" community.

The idea is to realize that it's all of us (parents, grandparents, businesses, citizens of Heppner, Lexington, and Ione) who have to pull together, come to the table, and be heard to make the needed difference no matter what the outcome of Measure 28. When we lose teachers, health care, state police, there's a huge trickle down: empty houses, fewer jobs, less business, smaller schools, loss of our basic needs, fewer to carry the load.

Let's make Heppner the place to be in 2003, bring visitors, show people how great it is here, continue to work toward more jobs, tighten our belts, support our local businesses. We need to come out of the fog, leave our nests, our TVs, our coziness and pull together. We need to go to Salem, voice our needs with one solid message repeated over and over. Nothing that makes a difference is ever easy! Heppner...we are the key in 2003.

See you at Town and Country this Thursday, Jan. 16. Tickets available at Klamath First, the Bank of Eastern Oregon and Murray Drugs. Treat yourself to a good time of visiting, humor and celebration. You deserve it. Then back to the drawing board!

P.S. That fog turned into much needed rain, so sunshine can't be far behind.

Matteson resigns as Heppner's basketball head coach

Chuck Matteson, Heppner's boys' basketball coach made a decision to step down from his head coach position, effective immediately. Matteson made this decision due to health concerns and lack of parental support.

Matteson, coach of the Mustang's boys' team since 1998 has had trouble with high blood pressure, and the demands that have been mounting as a result of his being coach have not helped the already tough task of

maintaining a healthy blood pressure.

Along with his health, the non-support from parents, who have not been happy with the amount of playing time their children get, made resigning the best option for Matteson.

Matteson will continue supporting the boys from the stands and is planning on taking the time to enjoy watching his daughter, Lacey, play on the girls' team.

Ken Eckman, formerly the assistant coach, has been promoted to the head coach position and the Morrow County School Board announced their approval of his promotion at their meeting, Jan. 13.

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Heppner Gazette-Times
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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 \$7.)

Relatives express thoughts on Jack Little

To the Editor:
To the friends and neighbors of Jack Little,

The loss of our brother and your friend and neighbor came with little warning but it was merciful in that he was not condemned to suffer long and for that we can be grateful.

Jack was not one who wanted his death to be an occasion for ceremony. He lived his life without the need of it and would not welcome it now.

He was a simple man who relished his privacy, his hunting and fishing, time spent in the forests and on the hillsides from the days spent in the logging industry to his later years building fences, riding after cattle, feeding stock in the midst of winter or helping to bring the newborn into the world once spring arrived.

As we respected his right to live his life as he wished

so do we grant him the right to choose how he would celebrate eternity in a place he loved best—in the forests that have always been home to him.

For those of you who feel a need for sharing his loss I can think of no more fitting way than to gather somewhere and over a cup or two of coffee, even a bottle or two of beer, share your memories with one another remembering other times and others days knowing that if he could join you he would be topping your tales with some of his own.

As his family we feel grateful that he had you as a friend, as a co-worker, as a neighbor and to us that is his most fitting memorial. He needs no other.

(s) Geraldine Carter Simon (sister)
(s) Roy Carter (brother)

An Ione resident's thoughts on community and government

To the Editor:

Well, we have a new year. The beginning of the fourth of the new millennium, and I offer to all, my best wishes for the coming year and beyond. I felt it was time to acknowledge those who cast their vote for me in the "02" primary election. Our new year will present us with the ordinary problems, and, those no so ordinary at the county level. Our schools countywide should take priority over any other problem because they seem to be the common denominator of each county community. Our schools are basically what mold our separate communities, yet "WE" are one!

Referring back to the "02" primary election; did you know that the State of Oregon is an initiative Petition state? Check the Oregon State Constitution. Also Oregon is one of the few states that is "Initiative Petition" simply means that our elected state Senators/Representatives are supposed by referendum ballot, any statewide affecting measure for voter approval/disapproval. A recent example is Measure 28, with ironically, a special election to be held on Jan. 28. Should this (Measure 28) be handled differently it would be Taxation without Representation; Taxation without

Representation would be "unconstitutional." The Initiative Petition Process is intended to let the people (voters) maintain control of their governmental destiny including the persons of elective positions, such as our County Court (Judge/2 commissioners); County Clerk; and County School Board. Each of these persons accepting the mandate of the vote becomes the Voice and Will of all the people wherefrom they were elected.

Our County Court is the safeguard and overseers of our entire county governmental systems, of which our schools/school board are very much a part of. Our schools are the very heart of our county. A school board is needed to manage the school system and work with our

County Court and keep the county citizens aware of the needs for our schools. The school board remains under the Will of the voters who elected them and should not in any way make decisions to close or geographically relocate any school facilities without the use of the "Initiative Petition Process."

The Morrow County Schools "PER SE" represent 100 years of history and from the north side to the south side of the County, have been solid and productive education facilities, turning out some outstanding students that have been a compliment wherever their lives have lead them. Has our generation evolved to a societal position of economics that we have put our schools in the same rationale as a corporate economic Bourgeois evaluation?

On the subject of "evolution" perhaps we should stand nude before a full-length mirror to see if there is a tail attached to our backside. Enough is enough! Ione needs their schools, Heppner needs their schools, Boardman needs their schools and Irrigon needs their high school back.

On the subject of "needing," our school board needs to make what we have "work" and so does our new county school Superintendent. Our school board wasn't elected to close, but to manage, likewise with the Superintendent.

(s) David L. Barnett
Ione

**Justice Court
Report**

Randall Lee Henrichs, 50, Heppner, Hunting a Bear Prohibited Method-to wit: 22 caliber pistol, fine \$187; and Hunting a Bear with No Valid Tag, fine \$331.

Joshua Lee Henrichs, 28, Heppner, Borrowed a Bear Tag, fine \$187; and Taking a Bear with No Valid Tag, fine \$331.

Ben Johnson, 70, Ione, No Operator's License and Failure to Drive within Lane, fine \$309.

Tony Allen Fox, 34, Heppner, Offensive Littering, fine \$111.

Ronald D. Mecham, 44, Heppner, No Seatbelt and Failure to Change Address on Driver's License, fine \$118.

Deborah Lavonne Wells, 39, Heppner, Driving while Suspended-5, fine \$297.

Fernando Madrigal Cervantes, 31, No Seatbelt on a Child, fine \$59.

**Site Council chair
voices opinion on
school budget cuts**

To the Editor:

To the Board Members and Superintendent Crippen,

The budget cuts made at the December Board meeting were based solely on income vs. expenditures between schools. We feel that they were not based on the educational interests of our district's children. The budget cuts present a potential loss of four to five teachers, and other staffing cuts at Heppner Elementary School.

The Heppner Elementary Site Council would like to inform the Board of the probable effect these budget cuts will have on our school.

Class sizes will be extremely large, representing a considerable discrepancy between students to teacher ratios across the elementary schools in our district. With the staff cuts we may be forced to have only one teacher per grade level of students. The numbers of students in each class will likely be: kindergarten - 17; first grade - 20; second grade - 24; third grade - 35; fourth grade - 33; fifth grade - 28; sixth grade - 38.

As you are aware, research shows that, "Group size and ratio of children to adults should increase gradually through the primary grades, but one teacher with no more than 18 children or two adults with no more than 25 children is optimum." (1) Finding adequate time for individualized instruction is needed in order for our children to learn, as they should be allowed to learn.

-There could likely be no music teacher and no special reading teacher. You have already taken away our art teacher, our PE teacher, and our counselor.

-Testing for benchmarks will probably decrease with these class sizes. It is a current goal of Heppner Elementary to increase the scores for Benchmarks I and II by four percent in reading, math, writing, and math problem solving. We do not see this goal being obtainable.

We, as a site council of faculty and parents, will do all we can to implement the directive of the Board. We will exhaust ourselves with examining every idea presented and try to make them possible. But, the fact remains we may not have a successful school system with the cuts implemented. We will suffer educationally more than any other elementary school in our district.

The Board Goal is to have equity in funding for each individual school in the District, but where is the equity in students' educational needs? We do not see any equity in what is and should be important to the Board: our children.

(s) Cara Osmin, Chair
Heppner Elementary School Site Council

(1) National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the largest organization in the nation for educators of young children, from their book, Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs edited by Sue Bredekamp and Carol Copple, 1977, p. 24.

Births

Abigail Marie Prosser- a daughter, Abigail Marie, was born Jan. 7, 2003, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston to Jessica Pearl and William Herbert Prosser of Irrigon.

Julianna Marie Joyce- a daughter, Julianna Marie, was born Dec. 19, 2002 at Holy Rosary Medical Center in Ontario, OR, to Philip and Tina Joyce of Ontario. Julianna weighed 8 pounds and 6 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

Grandparents are Gary and Marcia Kemp of Lexington and Kitsie and the late Peter Joyce of Ontario.

Vote yes on 28

To the Editor:

Dear Morrow County Voters,

You have recently received a ballot in the mail to vote on a special tax measure, known as Measure 28. This measure protects education, health care/human services and public safety.

The question has recently been raised, "Should I vote in favor of Measure 28?" Although it may be tempting to mark no against Ballot Measure 28 to send the message to the Oregon Legislature that this is an inadequate "quick fix" to our State's funding problems, we encourage you to look at this Measure from a different perspective.

We are hopeful that the Oregon Legislature will solve the funding problems, but in the meantime our children's future in Morrow County Schools and across the State of Oregon has to be protected. Our only option at this point is to vote yes on Measure 28.

These extra monies will help offset some of the local cuts made because of equalization. Passage of Measure 28 will provide some additional tax money for the next three years.

We appreciate your support. Please realize that in addition to helping our schools, voting yes also helps our health providers and State Police locally.

Yes On 28...Keep Our Schools Great.

(s) Kay Fowler, President
Heppner Elementary School Parent-Teacher Club

**Friends and
Heppner will miss
Tom Sly**

To the Editor:

On Jan. 4, we lost a friend when Tom Sly died. On January 4, Heppner lost a friend, too.

Some people might not have known Tom by name, but he was hard to miss when involved in a project around town, the tall, white-haired fellow in the striped bib pants. Some people might not have known about Tom because so much of the civic-minded work he did, both physically and intellectually, he did quietly and without desire for public recognition. But this man who joined the community eight years ago instantly believed in it, adopted it and worked tirelessly for it.

We have suffered a great loss and have lost a fine model of a good citizen and neighbor. No task was too small or menial and no request was denied. In fact, Tom did not wait for a request when he noticed a job that needed doing; he took care of it. He joined many local organizations and served on several boards. More importantly, he was an active member who brought to those groups his analytical mind, his listening skills and his carefully considered perspectives.

Tom's dedication to our community was a tribute that we hope everyone will carefully consider. We certainly can be proud of Heppner and optimistic about our future if a man of this caliber chose it for his retirement and worked so hard for it. No one can fill the void and no one can fill those striped bib pants, but we are challenged to stay engaged as citizens and to take up some of the slack that Tom's passing has created. We have lost a friend, but we still have one another.

(s) Dan and Doris Brosnan
Heppner

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