

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: \$24 in Morrow County; \$18 senior rate (in Morrow County only; 62 years or older); \$30 elsewhere.

David Sykes Publisher
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News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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Irrigon's doing its part

[Editor's Note: This letter was read at the Morrow County School District board meeting, July 14, 2003.]

To the Editor:

Being we have heard the Board say that the new Board does not have to agree with the previous decisions or can over turn decisions already made. I feel I need to go back and bring the new board and Supt. Crippen up to date on prior meetings and comments.

On Nov. 22, 1999, when we started this last and continued campaign for the return of Irrigon High School, we were told there wasn't enough interest by the people of Irrigon. Well we proved that wrong by people attending School Board meetings, having a Town Hall meeting and lastly getting a petition with about 1200 signatures. Then we were told the students didn't want the return of Irrigon High. Well, kids signed the petition also.

We certainly couldn't have the high school because of the sewer system. Irrigon took care of that. We even had one old Board member say Irrigon doesn't even have a police dept. That was not even relevant. Just another of many excuses.

Next the School District didn't have the money but with the passing of the bond [with stipulations] Irrigon would have their High School, at the Oct. 9, 2000 School Board meeting.

At that time stipulation #2 was the big issue. Which later all but one failed, and we were told you'll have your high school.

Stipulation #3 is not and has not been a big issue.

Stipulation #4- Dr. Crippen said at the May 12 School Board meeting the Port of Morrow has enough going on and growth will continue. Well, I'm here to say growth will not only be in Boardman. Our sewer system is scheduled to be finished in February 2004 and after that the building moratorium will be lifted. A write up in the East Oregonian Nov. 27, 1999 said Irrigon was the fastest growing city in the state of Oregon. We will grow.

Stipulation #5 is supposed to be being done. My question is, for how long?

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.)

Irrigon needs to show support for its kids

To the Editor:

The next Morrow County School Board meeting is going to be held in the District office in Lexington, July 14th at 7:30 PM. This will be the first meeting of the new Board. It is imperative that every person in Morrow County, who understands equality and believes that Irrigon deserves a High School returned to our city, attends this meeting.

None of the promises made by the former Board members were sincere. Those promises were only made to get us to vote for the construction bond. Now that the bond has been passed and the new schools built we are back to convincing yet another Board that Irrigon needs a high school. That is why the return of a High School to Irrigon was not spelled out in the bond. That would have made those promises binding. Instead, the only reference made referred to upgrading sport facilities at CMS to high school quality. The new Board does not have to honor any promises the old board made to the citizens of Irrigon. Folks, we have been duped.

Now we must show up at MCSD meetings in force. Our new Board members are being told that the people of Irrigon have no real interest in our High School being returned. We are being judged by how many Irrigon citizens attend Board meetings! We have been too easy to please. We need to remind this Board that the night the bond passed we were told that the stipulations had been met and as soon as the sixth grade could be moved out of CMS our high school would be restored. Mr. Bruce Anderson, after extensive research, stated that we would lose no programs and it would not cost anymore to operate a 7-12 facility than it cost to operate a middle school. The only extra cost of having a high school in Irrigon would be upgrading the sports facilities. That was taken care of in the bond. The stipulations were an insurance policy for the Board. They knew that they could be used to deny Irrigon a High School forever.

We need to start going to more meetings and demanding that our children no longer be put in danger by being dumped along a main highway in the middle of the night. We need to demand that MCSD provide our children with activity buses so that regardless of the income of the parents all our children have the same access to their school. We need to demand that MCSD make whatever changes are needed to guarantee that attending school at Riverside be the same caliber experience for Irrigon kids as it is for Boardman kids. We need to make forcing our children to go to school in Boardman so expensive that MCSD will beg us to educate our kids in Irrigon. We must tell this Board that we are through subsidizing this district. Are you aware that while we were tolerating this kind of discrimination, federal money earned by the children of Irrigon was being sent to Heppner and Ione Schools? That money was used in part to provide enough teachers to maintain one of the smallest student/teacher ratios in the state in these two cities. This practice was stopped last year but the fact remains that over the years millions of dollars earned by North County Schools was sent South. A very small percentage of that amount would have reinstated a high school in Irrigon. In short, it is time the parents of Irrigon stand up for their children's rights and stop this flagrant discrimination.

MCSD's Board has been very accommodating when large groups attend meetings. Discussions that include a large number of citizens are moved to the beginning of the meeting enabling people to get home early. See you in Lexington on July 14.
(s) Jennifer Smith
Irrigon

Junior Golf program to be at WCCC

Junior Golf will be held at Willow Creek Country Club, sponsored by the Bank of Eastern Oregon, for children 6-15.

The classes will be held Wednesday, July 16, Friday, July 18, Wednesday,

July 23 and Friday, July 25. Classes for 6- to 9-year-olds will be from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; and for 10- to 15-year-olds will be 8-10 a.m.

For more information contact Craig at 422-7455.

The flow of history, logic and honesty

To the Editor:

A little more history. Ockham's Razor, a principle popularized by William of Ockham, 1285-1349(?), that states: "entities are not to be multiplied beyond necessity..." Or in more common English, "don't get too big for your britches." Two examples: The Commander in Chief with his insistence on war and the bilking this county got from the school board.

I was asked recently where I got my Ph.D. In actual fact, there isn't one. What I did have was a tutor for three years between the ages of 13 and 16. An amazing gentleman that taught me that there are two aspects of learning that should never, ever be denied. Those are, logic and honesty. Logic in the realm of "common sense" and "don't ever stop asking questions." Example: On at least four occasions a government official (Powell in particular) was asked a question. His reply was some devised joke to avoid answering at all. Honesty for its obvious attributes is the opposite of lies and half-truths. Just how deep does "devious" affect all of us?

A quick congratulations to the principal for his added curriculum and "challenge" to "look a little deeper into government."

On with history. Manifest Destiny: "the fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by providence..." What does that say in plain English? "God wants us to move here and take over." The Commander in Chief said virtually the same thing with the "spread" of democracy. Even though the Iraqis, at least some factions of them, don't seem to want democracy or Bush. It seems more a fear of losing their lifelong religion.

"Manifest Destiny" is an American invented term, first used by John L. O'Sullivan in the "United States Magazine and Democratic Review" (July-Aug 1845). For the most part a Democratic concept, it fell out of favor during the 1860s to 1880s and was picked up again in the 1890s as a Republican policy. Is it any wonder why people don't want to talk about politics? Memories last much longer than 30 or 40 years.

On the news over the last few weeks: The statement was made that the planning stages of the Hussein regime take over was started twelve years ago, but the Democrats voted not to start putting together a replacement leadership that soon. A caller to CNN made the point: Is this circumstance pre-emptive and an impeachable offense?

As imaginative as some attorneys are, I suppose it could be. Yet, it won't happen, the Republicans have the majority of seats in the

House and Senate. Very much like the vote saved Clinton; almost strictly down party lines. Quite similar in two aspects of Fascism. (A single party government that uses force to have its way.) Look it up in a dictionary if you don't believe it.

One of those "scientific" opinion poles that Blitzer raved so much about was taken a week or so ago. Generally, it wanted to know who agreed with this administration. The results: over 65, 23 percent; over 40, 35 percent; under 30, 51 percent. The obvious conclusion is an old one: "With age, comes wisdom." For most, it does anyway. Age and education; that is, a more open ended type of education that covers both sides of the story, and promotes "understanding" rather than accentuating differences. Take Billy Graham for example. His goal is to help feed those devastated by war, certainly an honorable goal. Yet he will criticize their life styles: not one of the most Americanized things to do considering freedom of religious expression. It seems the phrase "Great American Melting Pot" has fallen out of favor. Will it too be picked up again at some future date? Or will the phrase "Love it or Leave it" come back into practice?

An article in the Capital Press, June 20, includes "ally bashing" and accusations that Australia paid kickbacks to the Hussein family in order to maintain wheat exports. Whether these accusations are true or not, it isn't proper to slam a country when it's not proven. Take it to the international court system, that's why the U.N. is there.

The environment. The environmentalists have given an "F" to this administration for reducing the clean air standards set by previous administrations, along with charging the tax payer to clean up those businesses pollutants.

This letter has gone on enough. Just one more comment. It doesn't matter what kind of social or religious or political life anybody leads. "We the People of the World" have one thing in common. If not for us working our lives away, there would be no way for any government to survive. What do we get out of it? More laws, that we don't make, so all the various governments can survive.

John Quincy Adams (President 1825-1829) had the roots of a good idea. He called himself "a man of my whole country." He never considered himself a "party man." Should we be thinking any less for the whole world? Enough is enough.
(s) Phillip Kight
Heppner

ISD to hold work session

The Ione School District will be holding a work session, Thursday, July 17, at 6 p.m. The work session will

be held at the Ione United Church of Christ.

On the agenda is discussion of staff schedules.

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"Music in the Parks"
Free Outdoor Music Festival
All concerts begin at 7 p.m.
Monday, July 21 "Smilin' Scandinavians" - Irrigon Marina Park
Monday, July 28 "Shenanigans!", "Mulligan Stew" & "The Chicks" - Boardman Marina Park
Monday, Aug. 4 "Sidewalk Stompers" - Irrigon Marina Park
Monday, Aug. 11 Kinzel & Hyde - Boardman Marina Park
Monday, Aug. 18 "Skweez the Weezle" & "Baile Glas" - Irrigon Marina Park
Funded by Morrow County Unified Recreation District & Portland General Electric
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