

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.)

HES fifth and sixth graders speak out

more letters page four

[Editor's Note: Fifth and sixth grade students from Heppner Elementary School wrote letters to the editor as part of class project. The subject of the letters range from ideas for the old pool to supporting our local businesses.]

To the Editor:

Due to our location near creeks, lakes and rivers, fishing should be promoted. Fishing is a lifetime sport that can be enjoyed by all ages. By promoting fishing, it will help our local economy by increasing gas sales, food sales and fishing tackle sales.

People that enjoy our local fishing might even consider moving to our area. Please help promote fishing.
(s) Justin Key
Lexington

To the Editor:

When you are driving out to the mountains, how many deer do you see or elk? Not very many and I think I know why. It is because of how many cougars are wandering around in the mountains.

To resolve the problem, I have come up with a solution. I think we should be able to hunt cougars with hounds to get rid of some cougars. The average full grown cougar eats two deer or one elk a week. Now I don't know about you, but when I am a grandpa and I want to take my grandkids hunting, I would want to kill an elk or a deer and not see a cougar.

I hope that I have made a point to people and they will do something about it so I can kill an elk or a deer in a couple years.
(s) Wacy Coil
Heppner

To the Editor:

I'm a sixth grader who has gone to Tupper Outdoor School and have had the same great time as all my brothers have had. I want to make sure that the generations below me have the same privilege of going to Tupper.

Tupper is Outdoor School, out in the mountains and we learn about the wildlife and survival. We stay there for a school week

and have the time of our lives. But this past year, the school district did not fund Tupper. So we have had to earn the money on our own. We have gotten donations and they are greatly appreciated. The best way to support Tupper is by buying a magazine during the HES magazine sale. The magazine sale is in early spring and the fourth, fifth and sixth graders sell magazines and earn money for our school. The magazine sale will be going toward Tupper.

I hope that for many years to come, the sixth graders will be able to get off the bus and hear, "We welcome you to outdoor school and we're mighty glad you're here."

(s) Catherine McElligott

To the Editor:

Not everyone is aware of a wonderful new program at Heppner Elementary School called the SMART program.

SMART stands for Start Making a Reader Today. SMART volunteers come to the school Tuesdays or Thursdays for one hour to read to kindergarten through third grade students. Tracie Bunch, head of HES's SMART program, had devoted much of her time to this program. Everyone appreciates the amount of help she has given.

If you would like to be a SMART volunteer during the coming school year, call Tracie Bunch at the school or come by and ask.

(s) Curtis Harper
Heppner

To the Editor:

My name is Taighler Dougherty and I go to Heppner Elementary School. I love cats and dogs. It is sad to hear that people are poisoning cats and dogs because they are barking or using their yard for a bathroom or just doing something wrong.

It's very sad because if you think about little kids or people that love their animals, then someone poisons them and they die. What if your cat or dog that you loved died because it was poisoned by someone?

Well I know ways to stop dogs and cats from doing things wrong. You could write a letter to the

owners and ask them to keep their cat or dog home or call and ask. If you still have a cat or dog doing something wrong and the owner hasn't done anything about it after you asked nicely, then call the police and have them deal with it.
(s) Taighler Dougherty
Heppner

To the Editor:

My name is Bryan Holland and I am a student from Heppner Elementary School. I would like it if the City made a basketball court out of the old swimming pool. I wanted once since I was a little kid. I live on South Chase Street and it would make the kids in my part of town not have to walk all the way to the other side of town to play basketball. It's not fun walking all the way to the other side of town. It takes a long time.

I'd really appreciate if the City would make one. It would make the difference in my life.

(s) Bryan Holland
Heppner

INWM receives grant from Meyer Memorial Trust

Inland Northwest Musicians is pleased to announce that they have received a grant totaling \$11,700 from Meyer Memorial Trust. The grant will be used to purchase musician chairs and racks, stand lights and music folders. This is the second grant from Meyer Memorial Trust. In 2001, the trust awarded INWM a similar amount to purchase percussion equipment. Meyer Memorial Trust supports non-profit organizations in Oregon, especially those who provide community enrichment to underserved areas.

Inland Northwest Musicians is an orchestral and choral organization dedicated to presenting live performances throughout northeast Oregon and southeast Washington. The organization also provides educational opportunities for young and returning musicians through its Willow Creek Symphony and Willow Creek Singers. In five years, Inland Northwest Musicians has presented 110 concerts in 40 different communities. The Inland Northwest Musicians ensembles are led by Maestro R. Lee Friese of Athena.

Marriage Licenses

June 15: Jeffrie Duane Fountain, 43, Irrigon and Deana Virgene Andermatt, 45, Irrigon.

June 16: Santiago V. Pena, 28, Boardman and Elba L. Cardenas, 21, Boardman.

MCURD Budget Information

The Morrow County Unified Recreation district is about to finalize the budget process for 2004-05. At its regular meeting, June 24, at Riverside High School in Boardman the board plans to adopt the budget. If you have any questions regarding the budget or budget process, please join us.

The spending levels are very similar to limits set in the past for community activities and contracts for co-curricular activities in our schools. The Ione School District has

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

Heppner Christian Church will provide volunteer hosts for the June 30 noon meal at St. Patrick's Senior Center. The menu is oven baked chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, hot rolls and apple crisp.

The results of the monitoring of the Morrow/ Umatilla County area senior centers resulted in excellent and informative reports. Each center staff was observed in action, through preparation, serving meals by volunteers, kitchen procedures and clean up. The monitoring committee at each place consisted of three or four people: one from the agency staff, one from the local board of directors and one from the AAA advisory committee. Each monitoring group met afterwards with the staff they had monitored to discuss and present their findings. A check with the State Department of Health clarified the dish-rinsing temperatures for sterilization and all centers are in compliance.

A new senior center will be operating in Ukiah by the end of the summer, making a total of eight in the area.

The next meeting of the AAA Advisory Committee will be in Pendleton and involve training for committee members.

Do not forget there are cards, exercise, bingo and a jigsaw puzzle always in progress at the Center. For specific times and place details, you can contact the Center office Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m., at 676-9030.

Missionary returns from Russia

Tom Norton recently returned from a two-week mission at an orphanage in Russia. While at the orphanage, Norton helped make repairs on the building and ministered to the children.

Norton will be at Lexington Baptist Church on Sunday, June 27, at 11 a.m. to share about his trip. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

requested \$84,000 for their activities in the coming year as compared to the \$94,000 contract for this last year. The Morrow County School District has requested \$349,000 compared to \$318,000 for this last school year. The total approved for both schools was \$433,000.

As in years past, the board has dedicated \$40,000 to community activities. The community activity money helps purchase entertainment and advertising for the following annual events: Ione 4th of July, Boardman 4th of July, St. Patrick's Day, Irrigon Watermelon Festival, Cinco de Mayo, Lewis and Clark Heritage Day, twelve Music in the Parks summer events in Boardman and Irrigon and two summer events in Heppner and Ione, as well as

performances by the Willow Creek Symphony.

Funding levels for these activities may change drastically in the near future. MCURD's financial director is projecting a \$62,000 loss in revenues in 2007. The loss in revenue is directly associated with a projected diminishing County value. The board is making this information available to all entities that do business with the district. It will be very important that we start preparing for the revenue loss now.

If you would like to express an opinion on the decisions made by the board please feel free to contact your board members: Cyde Marie Estes (541) 676-5808; Terry Tallman- Boardman; Bob Byrd- Irrigon; Barry Turner- Rural Irrigon- Boardman; and Del LaRue- Ione.

WCCC to host ESPN golf school instructor

Willow Creek Country Club will be hosting a junior golf clinic conducted by ESPN golf school instructor and PGA apprentice professional Rick Koffler. The clinic will be Wednesday June 30 from 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m., and Thursday and Friday, July 1 and 2, from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

Registration forms will be available at W.C.C.C. beginning June 22. For questions, call Chris Bowman at 676-5035, or Greg Grant at 676-5257.

Rick Koffler is a staff member at Primm

Valley Golf Course in Las Vegas, NV, host of the ESPN golf schools. Koffler has had an opportunity to work under Jim Flick and Hank Haney, two of the top golf teachers in the game today.

"We are very excited about Rick coming to work with our junior players," said Chris Bowman course manager. "Having someone with the experience of working under two of the top teachers in the game of golf will be a tremendous opportunity for our kids."

Cost of the three-day session is \$10. This also includes junior golf every Tuesday throughout the summer.

Cardinal Booster Club news

The Cardinal Booster Club met June 7 in athletic director, Dean Robinson's room. Fourteen members were present.

President Lynn Dee Ramos said she would look into purchasing 50 Cardinal banners. The sixth grade will be given the opportunity to sell the banners as a fundraiser for Outdoor School.

The fence around the track practice area is complete. The final cost was \$1800 for material and \$630 for labor.

There will be a boys' basketball summer league tournament June 12 and 13 at Ione. Twelve teams will participate, using both gyms. The club will sponsor concessions.

The design for the refinished gym floor in the high school was discussed and agreed upon. The design will be sent to the school grounds committee for final approval. D & S Hardwood will do the work, starting July 5. The school district will pay for the refinishing work and the expense of having the basketball and volleyball lines painted. All artwork must be paid by

other means. The Class of 2004 voted to use their leftover money to help finance that project.

Robinson reported the football scoreboard will have to be moved because the new sign is larger. The mats are up in the gym and the Les Schwab basketball sign will be taken to Hermiston to be repainted. He reported the recreation district article was misleading. Ione was cut \$10,000 for the 2003-04 year and will be cut again next year.

Marlene Pointer is doing embroidery work and sent several Cardinal samples to the club.

The club voted to donate \$100 to the Heppner Booster Club if the money is needed to help pay for the baseball team charter bus they took to state. The club also approved loaning the cheerleaders \$1500, which they will repay through fundraisers.

Membership letters will be sent to individuals and businesses in July.

The next meeting of Cardinal Booster Club will be Monday, July 5 at the school library.

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