

~ Letters to the Editor Continued

Chamber supports school bond measure

Dear Editor,

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce board wishes to express its support of the Morrow County School District bond measure 25-104 on the May 20 ballot.

This bond will allow the district to make needed improvements to its buildings. Projects include a new school, remodels of schools and security and safety improvements at all MCSD schools. Projects are planned in Boardman, Heppner and Irrigon.

The chamber board recognizes that updated schools are an essential part of our communities and are paramount in making sure that families and businesses continue to choose Morrow County as a place to live and do business.

The proposed bond is for \$204.4 million, and if the bond passes, the school district will receive an additional \$6 million through a matching grant from the state of Oregon. This is a great opportunity for the district and its students. Morrow County School District is the only district in our area that does not currently have a bond on the tax roll. In order for our district to stay relevant and attract families to live and work, the Morrow County School District must improve its facilities.

While we understand that this bond would increase taxes for Morrow County citizens, the improvements to our schools are inevitable and the costs associated with them will only continue to increase. It is also important to note that Amazon and other industries will pay 72 percent of this bond over its lifespan. Residents will only be paying for 12 percent of the bond.

We encourage voters in Morrow County to vote yes on Bond Measure 25-104 for the future success of our

Nichols breaks 32-year school record

-Continued from PAGE ONE

26th - Austin Willis (11), 27' 6"

Discus (1.6kg)

6th - Chris Humphreys (11), 117' 11"

10th - Landon McMahon (11), 105' 4"

16th - Gage Heideman (9), 93' 8" PR

Javelin (800g)

2nd - Chris Humphreys (11), 161' 7"

21st - Gage Heideman (9), 97' 8" PR

High Jump

1st - Joseph Albitre (11), 6' 0" PR

Long Jump

4th - Nick Wenberg (12), 17' 10"

12th - Joseph Albitre (11), 16' 11.5"

Girls

200 Meters

2nd - Hallee Hisler (12), 26.57a (3.5)

3rd - Healy Hisler (10), 27.90a (3.5) SR

18th - Laia Puelles (10), 31.83a (0.6) PR

400 Meters

1st - Hallee Hisler (12), 1:00.59a SR

2nd - Healy Hisler (10), 1:02.98a

800 Meters

county to continue to thrive.

Sincerely,

Heppner Chamber of Commerce Board

Vote yes for a stronger school district

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of the Morrow County School District bond measure 25-104 on the May 20 ballot. This bond will allow the district to make needed improvements to its buildings in Heppner, Boardman and Irrigon. Projects include a new school, remodels of schools, and security and safety improvements at all MCSD schools.

I served on the Community Bond Advisory Committee for the Morrow County School District. Our committee worked for a year to review facility assessments, tour buildings with school principals, review bond financial options and prioritize projects. As a former teacher and current parent and coach, I have seen firsthand the updates that need to be done in our district. This isn't just about one community; this is a bond that will support all students in the district.

Although many of the schools appear well-maintained on the outside, it's the issues you can't see, whether it be electrical, mechanical or structural, that should be of great concern. We are at the point where we must address these needs, and right now we have the opportunity to do so.

I encourage community members to attend the open house tours and a town hall question and answer session at Heppner Jr/Sr High School on April 24 from 4:30-6:30. Please do your research and vote yes on measure 25-104 for the future success of our students and to build a stronger school district and community.

Sincerely,

Madison Rosenbalm

Heppner, OR

Community Bond Advisory Committee

School district plans town halls about bond measure

Morrow County School District and its board of directors invite district students, parents, teachers, staff and community members to three community town halls to learn about General Obligation Bond Measure 25-104 on the May 2025 ballot.

The Heppner community town hall will take place at Heppner Jr/Sr High School on Thursday, April 24. Building tours will take place from 4:30-6 p.m. with a bond presentation and Q&A at 6 p.m.

The district and school board are currently engaged in an information effort to inform stakeholders about the district's bond.

"We are dedicated to providing accurate, timely information about the district bond using multiple methods to reach our community," said MCSD Superintendent Matt Combe. "We hope people will join us for the town halls so we can share with them more information and answer any questions they have about the bond and its projects."

In February, Morrow County School District's Board of Directors voted to place a General Obligation Bond for the district on the May 20, 2025, ballot. If passed by voters, the proposed bond would fund these projects:

-Irrigon Jr/Sr High School (built 1978)—due to severity of structural issues, replace school to provide modern educational environment for students.

-Riverside Jr/Sr High

Teen entrepreneur night, STEAM day at Hub

The recently opened Willow Street Innovation Hub will host a Teen Entrepreneur Night on Thursday, April 24, from 6-8 p.m., while the South Morrow Arts Center, located in the same building, will host a STEAM Day on Friday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Teen Entrepreneur Night is free, open to all local teens, and promises pizza, prizes and hands-on exploration of business

Over the Tee Cup

A sunny and warm day greeted the nine ladies who attended the ladies' play day April 15 at Willow Creek Country Club.

Low gross of the field went to Karen Thompson, while Tiffany Clement had low net of the field. Sharon Harrison had least putts of

School (built 1968)—remodel and build addition for more classroom space and gym to support future enrollment.

-Heppner Jr/Sr High School (built 1962 with later additions/remodels) and Heppner Elementary (built 1954 with later additions/remodels)—remodel Jr/Sr High to become a K-12 campus with thoughtful grade level separation, resulting in operational savings and safer location for elementary students.

-Sam Boardman Elementary—make parking/traffic flow improvements including a dedicated bus loop for safety.

-District-wide—make security and safety improvements including secure main entry, cameras and door access control at all district schools.

The proposed bond would raise \$204.4 million. The district would receive a \$6 million matching grant from the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program if the bond passes. The proposed bond would mature in 20 years or less and the bond rate would be an estimated \$2.99 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, although the actual levy rate may differ.

More information about Bond Measure 25-104 is available online at mcsdbond.org, by emailing bondinfo@morrowsd.org or by calling the Morrow County School District Office, 541-676-5705.

Teen entrepreneur night, STEAM day at Hub

concepts.

The STEAM Day will focus on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics activities specifically for Heppner students, grades five through 12.

Students interested in attending either event can RSVP by contacting Andrea Perry-Nelson at andrea.perry-nelson@morrowsd.org.

Willow Street Innovation Hub is located at 188 W Willow St., Heppner.

Yankees secure opening win with big sixth inning

By Brian Bunch

Heppner's Hodgen Distribution Yankees built on their lead and pulled away from the Prodigal Son Brewers with a six-run sixth inning on Tuesday, April 15, in a 10-2 win in their first game of the season. It seemed that Pendleton's Bob White Field had been gifted perfect weather for the opening week of the 2025 Babe Ruth Season, as the fans admired the weather with a high near 70 degrees for the day.

The Yankees held a 4-2 lead after five innings with a quality start from Kord Dickenson. The lefty went 4.1 innings, allowing two runs (one earned) on four walks and zero hits with nine strikeouts. Johnny Ashbeck worked a lead-off walk in the top of the sixth to start the Yankee parade around the bases as they sent 10 batters to the plate in the inning, scoring more than half of them.

Mason Haugen replaced Kord on the mound in the fifth and finished the game, pitching 1.2 innings, giving up no hits, one walk, and recording two strikeouts, including a backwards K on a nasty curveball to end the fifth. Kord and Darby Spivey both led the team at the plate with two hits and two runs in two at-bats. Jace Wilson added the only other Yankee hit, while younger brother Joel Wilson added two runs.

The Yankees secured their season-opening win, scoring 10 runs on five hits and committing only one error, while the Brewers scored two runs and com-

mitted four errors with no hits in the game.

Yankees Defense Stumbles vs Red Sox

Wednesday, April 16, the Hodgen Distribution Yankees traveled back to Bob White Field after an opening game the night before that had them on the field until almost 10 p.m. This time, for a face-off against Big John's Red Sox, the Yankees committed six errors and walked seven batters in a 15-3 game that was called in the middle of the fifth inning due to the 10-run rule.

Joel Wilson got the start for the Yankees, pitching 2.0 innings, allowing 10 runs (two earned) on five hits with four walks and recording three strikeouts. Joel was replaced on the mound by Charlie Mullins after he walked the first two batters of the third inning. Charlie pitched the last 2.0 innings of the game, giving up five runs on three hits with three walks and recording two strikeouts.

Five different players were responsible for six errors throughout the game. The offense was not much help as only four Yankees managed a hit; and of those four, only Brody Ogden and Matt Wilson scored. Kord Dickenson joined Brody and Matt as the only Yankee runs as he reached base on an error and scored on a Gage Rosenbalm RBI.

The Yankees get a long weekend to rest up and will return for their next action Thursday, April 24, at 7 p.m., hosting the Athena Coca-Cola Nationals at Bob White Field in Pendleton.

The Gazette Puzzle Pop

Sharpen your mind with our Gazette Puzzle Pop! Weekly math, word, and local trivia from our five towns—no internet or phones allowed. Answers in next week's edition—grab a pencil and show off!

Number Pattern Puzzle

Level - Moderate

Question: Find the next number in the sequence: 2, 5, 11, 20, 32, ...

Wordplay Whiz

Level - Easy

Question: What do you call a dinosaur that takes care of its teeth?
(Hint: Think of a dinosaur name combined with a dental term.)

Morrow County Trivia Challenge

Level - Easy

In what year was Morrow County created from parts of Umatilla and Wasco Counties?

Answers from April 16th edition

Number Pattern Puzzle

Puzzle: Find the next number in the sequence: 1, 2, 7, 34, 103, 104, 623, ...

Solution: The next number is 3742.

New Wordplay Riddle

Riddle: I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with the wind. What am I?

Answer: An echo.

Question: What is the highest point in Morrow County, and in which forest is it located?

Answer: Black Mountain, Umatilla National Forest

Seniors Matter March/April Menu

April 1 - Chili Relleno, Refried Beans, Cinnamon, Rolls, Peaches



April 8 - Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Mixed Veggies, Dessert

April 15 - BBQ Chicken, Baked Beans Mac/Cheese, Cucumber Spears and Dessert

April 22 - Taco Soup, Chips, Salad and Dessert

April 29 - Stuffed Baked Potato Bar and Dessert

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For Sale

\$550,000

More than meets the eye! There is plenty of room in this 3,680 sq. ft. 5 bedroom 4 bath home on 5.29 acres located on Dee Cox Rd near Heppner. Has family/game room, office space and a deck for summer barbecuing. Beautiful bamboo floors with an open kitchen and dining area. Top of the line induction cook top convection oven with air frying included. Daylight basement opens out to the backyard, where there is an outbuilding & chicken coop. These small acreage homes are hard to come by, so come and have a look soon. Property is located in the flood zone. 61476 DEE COX RD
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