

# HHS Newsies performance delivers on opening night



Jack Kelly, played by senior Aubrey Smith (center) talks to David, played by Moira Di Salvo, in the opening scene of *Newsies Monday night in Heppner.* -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo



The newsies gather around to read Denton's article about their famous strike right before breaking into "King of New York." -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

By Tylynn Cimmiyotti

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! The opening night for Heppner High School's drama production of *Newsies* was a huge success, to say the least.

With an all-star cast, powerful voices and synchronized choreography, the performance held a captivated audience to the very end.

Despite last-minute additions and the occasional, minimal mishap, the drama crew has truly outdone themselves, delivering a crowd-pleaser that's sure to be the talk of the town for weeks to come.

*Newsies*, a production inspired by true events set in the late 1800s, unfolds during the Industrial Revolution and at the start of the Progressive Movement. Originally released as a live-action film by Disney in 1992, it hit the stages

beginning in 2011.

This story follows young entrepreneurs in New York City who are exploited by big names and forced to fight for their survival as devastating price hikes threaten their livelihoods.

Inspired by the labor strikes occurring around them, these determined newsboys with big dreams take control of their aspirations and futures by forming their own, unofficial union and helping set a new precedent in a time when children and workers across the country faced widespread abuse.

Now, Disney's fictional retelling of this courageous true story comes to life in the heart of our small community.

In just seven weeks, the cast at Heppner High not only embraced their roles but also infused each

scene with emotion, bringing history to life on the cafeteria stage. Under the direction of Alaina Lemmon and Joanna Lamb, Aubrey Smith, the lone senior, led the spirited ensemble of twenty-something cast members and their dedicated tech crew in an energetic performance that had the crowd cheering along with the characters as they celebrated their victories on stage.

In the weeks leading up to their show, several of the drama members had the opportunity to watch the Broadway version performed by Kennewick High School. Taking inspiration, the cast and crew then got to work, spending time "customizing" the script to fit HHS's available cast, many of whom took on multiple roles.

Whole scenes, the romance, and at least one musical number did not make the cut, as the final production was adapted to fit the limited stage area, props, equipment and backstage staff.

Though they may have been "winging it" throughout the night, and none of our actors are professional singers or dancers, they delivered a performance worthy of a standing ovation. With Rylee Palmer leading the choreography, the cast showed up, letting their characters shine through, bringing the stage to life.

Final curtain call: Thursday, May 22, 7 p.m., at Heppner High School. Taken straight from the mouth of one of our *Newsies*, "The things we do today, will be tomorrow's news."

Don't let this show be just another headline you read in the ol' papes; make sure you're there to experience it firsthand. I highly recommend securing yourself a front row seat!

## SMCSM receives grant from Roundhouse Foundation for art and cooking classes

South Morrow County Seniors Matter (SMCSM) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$14,000 grant from the Roundhouse Foundation to provide monthly art and cooking classes for older adults in South Morrow County, to be held at the Willow Creek Innovation Hub.

The classes are designed to enrich the lives of seniors through creative expression and culinary skills. These funds will help make the classes accessible and provide seniors with an opportunity to engage in meaningful, educational activities that foster creativity, build new skills and promote social connections.

The Roundhouse Foundation is a private family foundation based in Sisters, OR. It supports creative solutions to the unique challenges associated with rural culture and the landscapes of the Pacific Northwest. For more information, call 541-904-0700 or visit their website at [www.RoundhouseFoundation.org](http://www.RoundhouseFoundation.org).

SMCSM serves the older adults of south Morrow County through weekly lunches and a variety of programs and activities purposed to enhance their wellbeing.

For more information about SMCSM, visit the website at [www.smcseniormatter.org](http://www.smcseniormatter.org) or attend the senior lunch at 11:30

a.m. on Tuesdays.

More information regarding how to enroll in the art or cooking classes will be coming soon.

### 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!

#### Math Quizz

Level - Easy

Q: Which number doesn't belong: 2, 3, 5, 7, 10?

#### Riddle

Level - Moderate

Q: I'm light as a feather, yet the strongest man can't hold me for long. What am I?

#### Morrow County Trivia Challenge

Level - Easy

Q: Which Morrow County river is tributary of the Columbia.

#### Answers from May 7th edition

Puzzle: Snail mail

Q: A snail climbs 5 meters up a wall each day but slips back 3 meters at night. How many days to reach 10 meters, and why's it so determined?

A: 4 days (Day 1: 2m, Day 2: 4m, Day 3: 6m, Day 4: 5m up to 11m, done). It's determined because it dreams of being a mountaineer!

Joke

Q: Why don't raindrops ever lie?

A: Because they always come clean!

Morrow County Trivia

Q: In which Morrow County town was the Star Theatre opened on February 5, 1919 destroyed by a fire in 1962?

A: Heppner

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT 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 \$16 Email to editor@rapidserve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

## Gravy Train

I don't know how I could live this long and not think about retirement. Maybe because old age crept up on me while I was doing dishes. Not fair. I blinked and went from sticky kid fingerprints on the furniture and "Mom.... Mom... MOM!" to a mailbox full of AARP, hearing aid offers and "Plan Now for Your Cremation Service." Where did all the "in between" go? I heard Billy Graham was once asked what the biggest surprise in life was. His reply was, "The brevity of it." Truer words never spoken.

With all this in mind, I catch myself thinking about the value of time. I've never been a fan of waste. If there's a teaspoon of peanut butter left in the jar, you can bet I'll be digging it out before I chuck it. So, wasting time is bothersome to me. One would think that would make me a good steward of it. Nope...and ADHD doesn't help much. I spend a great deal of time just trying to remember what I was doing two minutes ago and wondering where I set my phone. Things were a lot easier when phones were attached to walls.

Along with my awakening to the rapid passing of time has come the desire to be more productive with what I have left. Someone recently told me, "You probably have a good 10 years left." He said it to reassure me. It didn't. Being a younger fellow, he didn't realize how recent "10 years" ago was. I have unfinished sewing projects older than that. I guess I had better get busy.

There's one big problem. Stuff is always getting in the way. Things like "work," for example. Employment is a big time-stealer. It's hard to get those important projects done when you aren't home. Things like planting 50 more tomato plants, adding to my fabric collection and snuggling baby goats get put on the back burner. Just sad. And since my chances of becoming independently wealthy in my current circumstances are rather slim, I figure I need to rethink my financial plan. Besides, even though my hens are producing fairly well, a dozen eggs per day still falls a little short of making a mortgage payment.

So, here's my new plan. I will work for another year...and then quit. And since it's "standard procedure" to receive a year's pay (plus benefits), I would be riding the Gravy Train for a whole year. Then... get hired on again...and repeat. And if I really wanted to rake in the proverbial dough, I could find myself a good lawyer and someone to sue. Maybe change my gender for a bit and get someone to address me by the wrong pronoun. Heck, just think of all the fabric and goats I could acquire. OK, so it does sound a little greedy. But remember, we all have priorities. Waste not...want it all.

"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives

us all we need for our enjoyment" (1 Timothy 6:17).

Susie Crosby  
Prineville, OR

## Schools are our commitment to the future

Dear Editor,

I write this letter in support of passage of the Morrow County School District bond. Rural schools are the heartbeat of any rural community. Our schools are our community center and our commitment to the future. The current bond issue taxes us at the same property tax rate as 20 years ago with many times the amount of infrastructure improvement. Imagine buying something today for the same price as you paid 20 years ago, except you are getting much more of it.

Our school infrastructure is out of date and failing. Without the funds this bond issue provides, we are failing our children, our community, and our future. If you have any concerns about the excellent value received for the proposed spending, please visit the Morrow County School District website and see for yourself.

Please join me in making the best investment we can make in our communities continued vitality and vote yes on the Morrow County school bond issue.

Thank you.  
William J. Kuhn  
Heppner, OR

## Is universal healthcare right for Oregon?

Oregon's health care system is at a breaking point. Hospitals on the verge of collapse. Birthing and dialysis centers are closing down, leaving Oregonians in the lurch. Hospitals and clinics are relying on outside corporate private equity firms for injections of cash just to stay afloat.

This cedes ownership and operations to those with a profit motive, those who are accountable to their shareholders and not the patients served.

Should Medicaid funding be taken away, one in three Oregonians who rely on the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) will lose access to care. Countless others will face rising costs and shrinking options. The stakes have never been higher.

Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) believes the solution to many if not most of these problems is a publicly-funded, universal health care system model. And thanks to the current work of the Universal Health Plan Governance Board (UHPGB), which is actively designing a plan that we Oregonians can vote on in the near future, Oregon is the state closest to enacting this type of system for our residents.

Readers are encouraged to learn more about the UHPGB by reviewing their website on [Oregon.gov](http://Oregon.gov) and to get involved, tune into the public meetings, and make your voice heard about what you want from a new type of healthcare system in Oregon. Readers can also visit <http://www.hcao.org> to learn more about this work and other strategies to increase not just coverage but true access to care.

Valdez G. Bravo,  
FACHE  
President, Health Care for All Oregon

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### Seniors Matter May Menu

May 6 - Baked Pasta, Garden salad, Garlic bread and dessert



May 13 - Hot Turkey Sandwich, Mashed potatoes, Pea salad, Dessert

May 20 - Taco Bravo Bar, Spanish Rice and Dessert

May 27 - BBQ Beef Sandwich, Jojo potatoes, Coleslaw and Dessert

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