

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

The Heppner Gazette established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912.



WESLEY A. SHERMAN
Editor and Publisher

HELEN E. SHERMAN
Associate Publisher

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. until noon Saturday.

Subscription Rates: \$4.50 Year. Single Copy 10 Cents. Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

IT'S UNCOMMONLY quiet around this week with spring (?) vacation on. Seems as if every time we grab the phone to call someone on news, he's gone somewhere, but there are enough contacts left to fill the paper and more, judging by the copy hanging on the linotype hook at this moment.

Monday's snow must have been designed to bring consolation to the left-at-homes during the vacation week, showing that it is still winter and that a person should be by the fire-side instead of gadding around anyway.

Must say, though, that the lawn mower looked pretty forlorn in the yard with the coating of snow on it.

THIS IS the week that a good share of the population might have been at Coos Bay if things had happened a little differently in the final game of the district basketball tournament. Judging by Vale's showing, it appears that Heppner could have done pretty well in the state tournament. The Vikings blasted Biddle, 71 to 34, in the first round, and that would indicate that the Mustangs could have handled these opponents, too.

Vale lost in the second game, 53 to 45, to Stayton Tuesday, as was to be expected (and predicted last week) by the state's No. 1 ranked A-2 team. We'd still have given a Heppner Sheepskin Buck (if we had one) to see how Heppner would have fared against Stayton. One never knows, Doherty, Hoskins and Co. might just have pulled out some magic to upset the

Eagles but we'll never know about that now.

WE WERE talking the other day about what a basketball team Heppner would have had if the Bill Barratts and the Bill Labharts had stayed in town. We were thinking that Scott Barratt, who played here as a freshman (and sophomore?), was just a senior this year. But a letter from Bonnie Barratt (Mrs. Bill) reports that he is attending WSU as a freshman. We understand that he made a great showing in basketball in the Spokane country. Chris Labhart is the mainstay of John Day's team, and he's just a junior. But suppose we'd had a team with fellows like Doherty, Hoskins, Jacobs, Barratt, Labhart, Kilkenny and the Mustangs. Wouldn't that be a coach's dream?

It's surprising how these kids grow up and get so big. The co-publisher watched the Herman Green family going to church Sunday and said to us, "My, those Green boys are getting so big."

But that's natural. They're Green and growing.

WE NEVER expected to run out of No Trespassing signs at this season of the year. Usually the big demand is in the fall at the start of hunting season. But Larry Lindsay licked us out of the fluorescent variety the other day. You may not believe it, but he has an invasion of hunters on the Lindsay range land, across from the bombing range.

Rabbit hunters are coming in droves, he said. They have counted as many as 20 rigs on their range in a day—campers, cars, pickups, and what have you.

On one occasion they spotted 18 men with rifles conducting a drive. They're shooting around the cattle and some calves have turned up missing.

Larry is happy enough to get rid of the rabbits, but he wants to be sure that the hunters know the difference between a rabbit and a cow. Judging by the way some shoot up signs, he isn't sure that they do.

It appears that rabbit hunting is getting to be a late winter pastime for the city dudes, who can't wait until September to start firing at birds.

We sort of had the idea that the jacks were nearing extinction in the north county, but Larry says not so. They have lean years and prolific years. He figures this is the year of a bunny explosion. Anyway, it's a rather appropriate thought with Easter coming on.

MAYBE YOU won't believe it, but all of the county school administrators were out until 2 a.m. Friday morning. Don't be alarmed, though, they were just getting home from school board meeting that broke up about 1:30 at Lexington.

Did you ever stop to think how these six hour meetings could turn all the people in the county into an irritated state of mind?

It could go like this: The principals go to the meetings and stick them out to the bitter end, getting into bed around 2 a.m. Without much sleep, when they go to school in the morning, they couldn't be in a happy frame of mind. This might cause them to speak sharply to their teachers. The rankled teachers, in turn, might give their pupils a bad day. Then the youngsters would come home to release their emotions on their parents, thereby covering all corners of the county with the wave of irritation.

This chain reaction possibility reminds us of the old story of the college freshman who was flunking out. His professors blamed it on his high school teachers for not laying the proper foundation. The high school teachers passed the buck to the elementary teachers for not giving him the fundamentals. The grade school teachers declared the kindergarten teacher was at fault for not giving him a good start. And the kindergarten teacher pointed to the home situation as being the cause of the trouble.

And the mother declared, "His dad's folks always were that way."

Salem Scene

by Everett E. Cutler

Changes Coming In Basic School Aid?

"Until we get a tax program and know how much money will be available, we can't talk intelligently about basic school support," according to Senate Majority Leader Al Fiegl (D-Roseburg), chairman of the Senate Committee on Education here.

Nonetheless, the 1967 legislature is studying several bills intended to change the formula by which the state subsidizes local school districts for the cost of Oregon public education. Many ideas are gaining favor, and it seems reasonable to expect some changes in paying for education within the overall tax reform picture.

A number of claims of inequities under the present allocation formula can be cited: Portland versus downstate communities, Eastern Oregon versus the more populous Willamette Valley, large school population districts with small property evaluation versus small population-large value districts, O & C land grant counties versus non-O & C counties, to name a few.

Both Sen. Fiegl and Rep. Carroll Howe (R-K. Falls), chairman of the House Taxation Committee and for 30 years a professional educator, would like to reduce the friction. Both would like to see the state general fund budget supplying half the operational cost of schools. Such an increase from the present 28-30 per cent would reduce local taxes, but such a hike appears highly unlikely unless the state picks up more tax dollars.

The 50 per cent idea is represented in H.B. 1573, sponsored by Rep. Howe, Rep. Stafford Hansell (R-Hermiston) and Sen. L. W. Newby (R-Ashland). It provides for the state to give local districts amounts equal to half the cost of education for each pupil within each district. "This bill is keyed to fluctuations in the state's average income," Rep. Howe explains. "Furthermore, it is keyed to high-spending and low-spending districts, which will help correct some of the inequities in the Portland area."

Portland, with 17 per cent of the state's school population, receives only 12.5 per cent of state aid. It is argued by non-Portlanders that Oregon's largest city does not bond itself for school construction, and that it has the highest property evaluation rate per student.

Sen. Fiegl, now serving his tenth year, calls H.B. 1573, "the best plan devised since I've been in the legislature. But there is no recommended tax plan with it. We can't seriously consider increasing expenditures without a plan to increase revenue."

Another idea receiving serious consideration is S.B. 325, the result of seven months of study by a State Department of Education-appointed technical committee and lay advisory committee representing wide geographic and economic areas. It would raise state aid to 42 per cent, a possibility with funds already available, and provide corresponding property tax relief. The bill would give Portland a 10 per cent bonus, raising it to 15 per cent of support funds, and it provides a special allocation to small schools in sparsely-populated areas. It also would abolish the equalization levy of intermediate education districts, eliminating costs "double equalization."

A similar proposal, from the Legislative Fiscal Committee, revises procedures for payment of allocations and places the state fund under an allotment

system. Limitations are placed on district tax levies for all 12 grades and on the number of tax elections which may be held on operating or capital outlay levies.

Still another plan, introduced in the House at the governor's request, would impose the same two limitations and would provide allocations to common and union high school districts of basic and supplemental grants, based on a support program level. It also would eliminate any mandatory county school fund levy and would abolish intermediate education districts.

With so many proposals to study, the legislature is considered almost certain to hammer out some new formula system. Right now, Sen. Fiegl and Rep. Howe agree, the stage must be set by the Joint Ways and Means Committee, which breaks down the state budget's receipts and expenditures tally for legislative approval.

When the Senate Equalization Committee this week voted to increase basic school support from \$160 to \$240 per census child, Sen. Fiegl pointed out that action would have to come from Ways and Means, which would have to come up with the money.

"I am sure that Rep. Howe will agree with me," says Sen. Fiegl in summing up such legislative sentiment, "that if we can find the state funds, we should give local schools one-half of their operational cost, district by district, and forget about the formula."

Governor to Report On Tax Problems

Governor Tom McCall will report to the people Thursday, March 16, at 9:30 p.m. in a special color television show to originate over KGW-TV in Portland. The Governor's first televised report since taking office will be titled, "Do You Want Property Tax Relief?"

John Mosser, director of the Department of Finance and Administration, will appear with Gov. McCall on the program. The governor will explain in detail his plan for a reduction in property tax.

Gun Club Schedules Shoot on Sunday

Morrow county gun club will hold a shoot at the club grounds south of Heppner on Sunday, March 19, at 10 a.m. Club leaders announced Tuesday. Merchandise prizes will be given to winners at the shoot.

Examiner Coming

A drivers license examiner will be on duty in Heppner on Tuesday, March 28, at the court-house between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The Department of Motor Vehicles of Oregon announces. Persons wishing original licenses or permits to drive are asked to file applications well ahead of the scheduled closing hour in order to assure time for completion of the required license test.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

ROCKHOUND MEETING
Saturday, March 18, 8 p.m. Old Heppner Library building. Meeting changed from March 25 of Holy Week.

MORROW CO. GUN CLUB
Sunday, March 19, 10 a.m. Heppner Club Grounds. Merchandise Prizes.

EASTER FOOD SALES
American Legion Auxiliary, Friday, March 24, next door to Gardner's. Sans Souci Rebekah Benefit Bake Sale, Sat., March 25. Coxen Building, next door to Gardner's.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES
Friday, March 24. First Methodist Church, 12:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. Sponsored by South Morrow Ministerial Assoc. Everyone Welcome.

CIVIL DEFENSE MEETING
Thursday, March 23, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Elks Lodge room.

SPONSORED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY
C. A. RUGGLES
Insurance Agency
Heppner
P. O. Box 247 PH. 676-9825

Basic Support and the Budget

A common quandary for school districts in the state at the moment is posed by uncertainty as to what action the legislature will take towards increasing state basic school support.

It is particularly tough on the districts because they are currently in the throes of preparing their budgets for 1967-68 and cannot accurately forecast how much they will receive in assistance from the state.

With no definite knowledge on what to expect, they can only hold to the present rate of assistance (\$160 per census child) in preparing their estimates.

If the legislature approves increases in support—and it is expected that it will—the action will increase the revenue coming to the local districts and thereby cut the amount of taxes that will be levied against property.

Morrow county school district R-1 finds itself in this plight, with the rest, at the moment. Faced with a proposed general increase in pay for teachers, the district is proposing a budget that shows a hike of \$160,000 over last year. Should the highest of the proposals now before the legislature be enacted in increasing basic school support, this increase in property levy in the school budget would be cut by some \$55,000.

The shock of soaring school budgets this year is not unique with Morrow county. It is a general condition, as anyone who follows the daily newspapers or television news will note.

The Oregonian, in an editorial Monday, estimated that property taxes throughout the state may be \$80 million higher next year chiefly to meet higher teacher salaries.

It certainly is a quandary to cause the most conscientious board and budget committee members to perspire. On the one hand, they are faced with the necessity of increasing salaries for keeping good teachers to provide adequate education for students in the district. On the other hand, they are faced with a mandate from taxpayers to keep levies down.

Their only hope for a solution is to pick up aid from some other source. This was the prime matter for the legislature to consider at this session, but nothing has crystallized as yet.

The Oregonian editorial said Monday, "If this Legislature is so politically malleable-bound that it is unable to provide additional state aid to schools, which would hold down the rapid escalation of local property taxes, there is likely to be a lot of new faces in the 1969 Legislature."

Among those who serve on this year's budget committee for Morrow county schools are those who well know and feel themselves the pressure of property taxes. They are just as interested in holding them to a minimum as anyone.

The board and the lay members have scrutinized every aspect of the budget through a succession of meetings, and they have made substantial cuts.

Some pessimism is heard regarding the voters' reaction when they cast ballots on the budget April 17. It is hoped that the situation in regard to state support will be clarified somewhat between now and then, but there is no assurance that it will be.

This year it isn't a question of paring "fat" from the county school budget. The committee has already made an effort to do that. It's simply a question of whether Morrow county voters will pay the increasing price of teaching their children in the face of the uncertainty on property tax relief.

Of the total general fund requirements of \$1,231,282 in the county school budget for 1967-68, a total of \$762,919 is marked for instruction, including teachers' salaries and other instructional costs. In addition, administrators' salaries are set at \$25,653.

This accounts for the bulk of the budget. When you consider that many other costs are relatively fixed—maintenance of plant, utilities, Social Security and so on—there isn't much left to hack away that would make any significant change in the levy.

It poses a tough dilemma for the taxpayer, but the big hope still lies with the legislature. If the property tax burden isn't relieved at the state level, it is a virtual certainty that drastic reaction will result all around the state and not just in Morrow county.

Journalism Society Initiates Members

Six Heppner High school students were initiated into Quill and Scroll, national journalism honor society, at the student body meeting of Heppner High on February 21. Those initiated were Barbara Anderson, Pam McCabe, Martha Peck, Jill Schmidt, Marsha Sowell and Mike Sweeney.

To be eligible, students must be a junior or senior, must be in the upper one-third of their class scholastically, and have worked in some phase of journalism. They must be recommended for membership by the advisor or the governing membership committee and approved by the club's executive officer.

Presiding at the initiation ceremony were Donna Potter and Mrs. Rachel Dick, advisor.

FFA Boys Attend District Meeting

Heppner Chapter of Future Farmers of America was represented at the Blue Mountain District meeting in Stanfield on March 6 by four of its members. Local boys who attended the district meeting were David Hall, Earl Struckmeier, Alfred Drake and Steve Wagenblast. Steve also entered his record book, on which he received third place.

At the meeting, discussion was held on the election of district officers which will be in April.

Athletic Banquet Tickets on Sale

Tickets for the All-Sports Banquet to be held in Pendleton on Wednesday, April 19, are now on sale at the Gazette-Times office in Heppner.

Bob Lilly, all pro tackle with the Dallas Cowboys, will be guest speaker for the banquet, which is sponsored by the Pendleton Athletic Round Table. Lilly is formerly of Pendleton.

The banquet is open to the public and will honor Pendleton High athletes.

Lilly, a former Pendleton High school star, will fly to Pendleton with Mrs. Lilly from Dallas, Texas. His former coach, Don Regua, of Pendleton High school, is scheduled to introduce him at the banquet.

In addition to the talk by Lilly, several other features are planned for entertainment.

Jack Saul of Pendleton, ticket chairman, said that it is expected that nearly 1000 persons will attend the banquet, which will be in the Pendleton Memorial armory, beginning at 7 p.m. on the Wednesday evening. Tickets are \$4.75. They are being placed on sale in various cities surrounding Pendleton for the convenience of those who would like to attend, and the Gazette-Times is handling them in Heppner as an accommodation.

The attack rate in measles is higher than for any other infectious disease.

TO THE EDITOR.

Helping the Blind

To the Editor:

There is an old adage that goes, "There is no one so blind as those that don't want to or won't see."

Mr. Webster defines the word "Industry" as systematic work or labor, or a particular branch of productive labor. "Industrial" is of or pertaining to, or resulting from industry or productive labor. He also defines "Industrialist" as a person employed in or concerned with industry, or productive labor.

For example, if we take the 100,000 acres in the Industrial Park and divide it into economical irrigation farm units of 160 acres, there would be 625 farms or industries. We will now add one average size farm family to each unit. That is quite an increase in population.

What would be the increase in population if we include all the land in the north part of Morrow county, from the Umatilla county line to the Gilliam county line surrounding the Industrial Park and the Navy firing range?

How many of us have the foresight to be able to visualize what the development of that amount of irrigated farms would do to the already established service industries in and around Morrow county? The area would need the services of surveyors, engineers, land leveling, construction and building contractors. The products and services of pipe and pump dealers, lumber dealers, farm machinery dealers, gas and oil dealers and fertilizer dealers would be a necessity in the development of these farms. The dry goods, hardware, grocery and drug merchants; restaurant, hotel and motel owners will benefit. The professional services of bankers, lawyers, doctors, dentists, and druggists would be needed and those of you in these and other professions are here and established.

As Heppner is the county seat, many of these people would have to come here to conduct much of their business, but Boardman, Irrigon, Ione and Lexington are closer to the area and would expand faster.

Our recreational facilities would have to be increased to meet the demands of that many persons and their families.

As we look at the example in the Columbia Basin area to the north of us, or to the Central Oregon area to the south of us, we can arrive at a fair picture of this country 20 to 25 years from now if we act now.

Can any one remember Pasco 25 years ago? Warden, Othello, Eltopia, Ephrata, of Quincy 20 years ago? Does anyone remember Redmond of Madras before dams in the Deschutes river made water on the land possible?

For that matter, does anyone remember Boardman or Irrigon before an irrigation ditch brought water from the Umatilla river to the area? Would there ever have been such towns as we know them today without the water?

I believe that if we will all work together to put that great God-given natural resource, "Water," on another God-given natural resource, "Land," we will see a greater expansion of growth and development that far exceeds expectation of the most far-sighted person living in Morrow county today.

Barbara Cutsforth

PUTMAN FLYING, INC.

WEED SPRAYING

CALL
HOTEL HEPPNER
PH. 676-9623

Penney's

ALWAYS FIRST QUALITY

3 DAYS ONLY

Gaymode® nylons reduced!

Reg. 3 pairs for 2.95 NOW
3 prs. for 2.27

Famous Gaymode® first-quality nylons—all styles: flat knits, mesh, Agilon® and Cantrace® stretch, too. Demi-toes, service weights... seamless or full-fashioned. All proportioned for better fit. Spring shades.

Boys' dress oxford 6.99
Girls' classic pump 5.99

Durable Pentred® sole and heel, scuff-resistant treated upper in smooth black leather. Extra comfort: broad toe last. 8½ to 3.

In glossy black patent vinyl—pretty enough to go partying! One-strap styling with rounded toe, synthetic sole. It's Childcraft®! 8½-3.