

New teachers continued from page 1

Elguezabal, believes in the total immersion theory of learning a foreign language. Elguezabal says he will give a few instructions in English on the first day of school, but after that it's all Spanish. "They're going to think that this doesn't work," said Elguezabal, who was born in Musquiz, Mexico, south of Del Rio, Texas, "but it does come."

Elguezabal, 45, knows a little about teaching, having spent 19 years as an educator in Nyssa, which is near the Oregon-Idaho border. At Nyssa, Elguezabal taught global studies, Spanish and U.S. history and coached three sports a year for 18 years.

At Heppner he will teach introductory Spanish (seventh and eighth grade Spanish), all the way up to Spanish IV. He also plans to coach junior high football and perhaps freshman basketball. "I've coached since day one," said Elguezabal. "I always coached three sports--football, basketball and baseball. I never got tired of doing that."

Elguezabal says he had known HHS principal Ron Anthony prior to coming to Heppner since Anthony taught 10 years in Nyssa. The two also worked together during the summer months. Anthony worked for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the summer and Elguezabal worked with the BLM. He owns buses and had a business bussing fire fighters on forest fires.

Elguezabal, who comes from a family of 10 children, also has a large family himself. He and his wife, Mary Ann, who teaches third grade at St. Peter's Elementary in Ontario, have six children. The older three, Petra, 17, a senior, Blas, 16, a junior, and Juanita, 14, a freshman, all accompanied their dad and are enrolled in classes and sports at HHS. The younger three, Jesus, 11, a sixth grader, Ignacio, seven, a second grader, and Tomas, five, a kindergartner, are still with their mom, who remained in Nyssa for the time being to stay near her elderly, widowed mother.

Elguezabal said that he came to Heppner because he felt he needed a change and the older kids wanted a change too.

He said he first became impressed with the Heppner High School work ethic during the Heppner-Nyssa football playoff game in 1995. Nyssa, "man for man, talent-wise" should have beaten Heppner fairly easy, said Elguezabal. "But Heppner just stayed with us and almost beat us."

"The kids here are very nice. They seem very polite," he added. "They have just been super to me and my kids."

Elguezabal grew up in Nyssa and graduated from Nyssa High School. He received a bachelor of science degree in social science from Eastern Oregon State University at LaGrande.



Karen Smith-Griffith

Karen Smith-Griffith is no newcomer to Heppner, but she has moved from her position as special ed teacher at Heppner High School and Lone schools to

fifth and sixth grade social studies and spelling teacher at Heppner Elementary School.

"I like kids, and wanted to get more into the teaching aspect of education," says Smith Griffith, who has been special ed teacher at Heppner and Lone for the past 10 years.

Before coming to Heppner she taught third and fourth grade combined at Spray.

Smith Griffith, 40, is originally from Hood River, where she was raised and where her father had a sporting goods store. She graduated from Hood River Valley High School and then enrolled at Western Oregon State College at Monmouth, where she received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education in 1979. She returned to college in 1986 and received her special education endorsement and a master's degree from the University of Oregon.

Smith-Griffith and her husband, John, have a son, Aaron, who is a sixth-grader at HES. Her husband, who comes from a ranching family, is a self-employed log truck driver. She has a sister who is employed as a registered nurse in Hood River.



Melissa Cvarak

Melissa Cvarak, 31, is a long way from her home town. Originally from Maryland, she attended high school at Damascus High School there and graduated from St. Mary's College at Orchard Lake, Maryland, with a bachelor of arts degree in human development. Her husband, whom she met while he was in the military, was originally from Portland, so the couple moved back to Oregon seven years ago.

Cvarak then returned to college at Portland State University, where she earned a master's degree in education.

About a year ago her husband got a job with the Geographic Information Systems, doing computerized mapping for Morrow County, a new position, and the family moved to Heppner.

Prior to her move to Heppner, Cvarak was a substitute teacher in the Portland schools and since coming to Morrow County, she subbed in Heppner and Lone.

"It's small," said Cvarak of the Heppner community, "but I like it a lot. It's a safe place for kids." Cvarak and her husband have two children, a son, Drake, eight, and a daughter, Rose, three.

Cvarak's father is a retired police officer. Her mother, a homemaker while she was growing up, now is a child care giver. Cvarak has one brother.

Water color class planned

Anyone interested in attending a watercolor class by Tina Tharp is asked to contact Sharon Harrison, 676-9164, or Trish Sweeney, 676-9426.

The class is sponsored by Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts.

Anderson-Perry & Assoc. adds to staff

Anderson-Perry & Associates, Inc., a consulting civil engineering firm with offices located in La Grande, Walla Walla, and Baker City, recently added an engineer and a surveyor to its La Grande staff.

Troy Baker is a University of Idaho graduate with an ME degree in civil engineering. He previously worked for Gray and Osborne, Consulting Engineers in Yakima, Washington. As a staff engineer with the firm, Baker's primary responsibilities will include writing water and waste water system plans, as well as assisting in the design of waste water and water facility improvement projects. Baker, his wife, Michelle, and daughter, Shelby, moved to the area in April.

Mike Posada holds an associates degree in surveying technology from the University of Alaska in Anchorage. He is a licensed professional land surveyor (in Alaska) with 12 years of surveying experience for various employers. As a land surveyor with the firm, Posada's primary responsibilities will include various office and field surveying assignments on projects designed by the firm, including site mapping, construction layout and surveying, and legal surveys. Posada and his wife, Valorie, moved to the area in July.

Anderson-Perry & Associates, Inc. is now in its 24th year of providing engineering, surveying, and testing services in the region. The firm provides a broad range of general civil engineering services to cities, counties, port districts, state and federal agencies, and other public and private clients throughout the Eastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington region.

Projects of local interest include a water system planning study being completed for the city of Lone, a waste water planning study for the city of Boardman, and the engineering of a waste water improvement project for the city of Condon.

Farm Credit Services elects director

Bryan Wolfe of Hermiston has been re-elected by local stockholders to serve on the Farm Credit Services local board of directors. He will represent stockholders who do business at the Farm Credit Services office in Pendleton.

Wolfe has been a local director since 1994. He and his wife, LouAnn, own and operate an irrigated farm and backgrounding feedlot in the Hermiston area. They raise sweet corn and grain corn, potatoes and other row crops.

According to branch manager Andy VanderPlaats, stockholders also elected the following nominating committee members: Tim Hawkins, Pendleton; Shannon Rust, Echo; Tim Weinke, Pendleton; Tony Raymond, Helix; and Kelly Tubbs, Athena; and alternates Nancy Ward, Ukiah, and Marsha Anderson, Heppner.

The committee will nominate candidates for next year's local director elections. Farm Credit Services provides \$2.7 billion in loans to approximately 19,500 farmers, ranchers, aquatic harvesters, timber producers and rural home owners in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska, said VanderPlaats.

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Dale Johnson

Dale Johnson, who retired this year after 33 years of teaching, decided this fall that he just wasn't quite ready to retire and accepted a position as Heppner High School math teacher.

"I enjoy mathematics," said Johnson. "I like to see my students come back and say, 'I remembered that stuff like crazy when I went to college. I didn't realize how much I learned.'"

Not entirely unfamiliar with the Heppner area, Johnson accepted a teaching position in Fossil in 1962, after graduation from Eastern Washington University at Cheney, WA, where he received a bachelor of science degree. After Fossil, Johnson taught at Warden, WA, and then did a stint as owner of a drive-in restaurant in Seattle before returning to teaching. He then got a job at Tonasket, WA, where he has taught the last 27 years. Ironically, while in Tonasket, Johnson taught several years with Les Payne, who is a long-time teacher and coach at Heppner High School. Another teacher at Tonasket at the same time was Rick Jagers, who is now a teacher at Weston-Athena.

"I like a small school," says Johnson of his move to Heppner. The town of Tonasket, which is around 120 miles from Wenatchee, is smaller than Heppner, but the school is a little bigger. The region is apple country and many students come into school from the farms in the outlying areas.

During the summers for six or seven years Johnson also worked as a carpenter for the school district.

Johnson and his wife, Ann, who recently retired after 25 years in the banking business, have three grown children, one in Walla Walla, one in Tonasket and one in Stockholm, Sweden, and five grandchildren, one in Sweden.

Johnson enjoys fishing and carpentry and says that he and his wife "might travel a bit".

He will teach calculus, pre-calculus and integrated math I, II and III.

Jones celebrate 60th anniversary

Charlene, Kenneth and Connie Jones were hosts to a family potluck dinner recently to celebrate Cecil and Delpha Jones' 60th wedding anniversary. Those present were a sister, Jo Irving, and husband George, of Irrigon; Jim and Vicky Bowen and Kate from Goldendale, WA; Stuart and Valda Smith of Hermiston; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Groshens and family from Pendleton; Mike and Chris Jones; Jill Barber; Royce Fulleton and friends from Heppner; and Charlene's granddaughter, Becky Whitney, from Aloha.

Cecil and Delpha Jones were married August 12, 1937 in La Grande.

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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.

Play today, pay tomorrow?

To the Editor:

The August 31st Sunday Oregonian front page article on schools in Oregon should be required reading for every parent or student in Morrow County. It concerns what will be expected of all Oregon students for them to secure future living wage jobs.

It is blatantly impossible that we can accomplish what the situation calls for with the four day "business as usual" approach advocated by Superintendent Starr and promoted by some school board members and teachers.

To not meet this challenge is courting failure to provide living wages for a large percentage of our students' future families, plus

providing the country with a lot of non-thinking voters.

Parents and students need to be made aware of the drastic changes coming to our schools. If our school board does not head up an effort towards awareness, concerned parents should do so. Only knowledgeable young people in Morrow County can change the future for their children, and for themselves, too.

Increasing numbers of grandparents are raising their grandchildren because of a failure, for one reason or another, of the parents to do so. How many really want to play today and pay tomorrow?

(s) Meg Murray
Ione

BMCC beginning golf class slated

Blue Mountain Community College will once again offer a beginning golf class at Willow Creek Country Club (WCCC), in Heppner, beginning Thursday, Sept. 11. Interested students are urged to preregister now by contacting Anne Morter, Morrow County coordinator, at 422-7040.

The six week class will be held on Thursdays, from 5-6:30 p.m. John Edmundson is the instructor. The class is limited to 12 students.

The class is intended for people with little or no prior golfing experience, or those wishing to review the fundamentals of the game. School-aged students in grade five and up may enroll in the class with the instructor's permission on a space available basis and if an adult takes the class with them.

Tuition for the course is \$20 per person. A temporary membership fee of \$20 must be paid to WCCC by all non-members.

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