

The Official Newspaper  
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner  
GAZETTE-TIMES**

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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David Sykes Publisher  
Katie Wall Editor

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**Answers to the Mysteries of Education**

By Dr. Jack Crippen

MC School District Superintendent

*As we prepare for a new year, I wish for all of you to be able to look back on 2002 and be content with what you accomplished. I hope that the holiday time was one of rejuvenation and strength gathering as we face the excitement of 2003, as well as the difficult decisions it appears it will require us to make.*

**What does Ballot Measure 28 mean to Morrow County School District?**

Ballot Measure 28 means approximately \$450,000 to the District. Put another way, that is approximately the salary, payroll cost and benefits for eight (8) teachers. This is money that has already been put in our budget for 2002-03, and if approved in the special election this month, will be available in the 2003-04 and 2004-05 school years. If Measure 28 does not pass, the district will need to make up that amount out of our cash carryover. This will also have a negative affect on our budgets for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

This is a very important election for education as well as other service areas concerning our quality of life in Oregon. Please vote! This is too important an issue to be decided by small percent of the voters.

**Why don't we stop building and use that money?**

The quick answer to that question is that we are not permitted to do that by law. When a district or agency passes a building levy as we have, one may only use that money for the purposes as written on the request. There is very little wiggle room. The law or Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) requires that the money from a building bond may not be used in the general fund of the organization.

The district receives its maintenance and operation funds, or general fund money from three sources. About 30 percent is from property taxes, about 70 percent from the state through income taxes, and 1-2 percent through other local sources. (Interest earnings, rental income, miscellaneous income, etc.) The way the State School Funding formula is set up, if property taxes go up, (the 30 percent) the money from the state, (the 70 percent) goes down. This amount of money comes to us through an amount of money per child. They feel some areas may cost more, so the formula gives us credit for extra students, known as weighted students.

We had around 2300 average daily membership resident students (ADMr) in school the first of December. We were given credit for around 800 more students, bringing our average daily membership weighted students (ADMw) to just over 3100 students for our district. During the up coming legislature, they will talk about the amount per child. It will be referring to the ADMw number.

**What is teaching to the test and is it good or bad?**

In education teaching to the test is generally thought of as teaching only that material that one knows will be on a test. Whether it is good or bad depends greatly on the test. There are programs available to help students prepare for college entrance tests, for example, that most feel are very beneficial to the student.

The discussion in Oregon around this topic centers on the Oregon State Benchmark Tests given at grades 3, 5, 8 and 10. Under most circumstances I do not feel it inappropriate to "teach to the test". To understand why I feel this way it helps to know the difference between criterion-referenced tests and norm-referenced tests. A criterion-referenced test is designed to determine how much one has learned about a subject. A pop quiz, or a test at the end of a unit is an example of a criterion-referenced test. If there were 20 questions and one missed two, one would receive a score of 90 percent.

A norm-referenced test on the other hand gives a score that tells how one has done against the other people who have taken that test. If one received a 90 percent on a norm-referenced test it says that one did better than 90 percent of the students that took that test. It said nothing about how many one got right or wrong. One could have missed one or five.

A norm-referenced test is generally normed on a national level. Because of this, this type of test covers a very broad range of information. They try to cover the curriculum for all fifty states, which generally means they do not cover any one state's curriculum in any depth. Prior to Oregon developing their own test, the best match of a national test to Oregon's curriculum was the Metropolitan Achievement Test, which covered 19-20 percent of Oregon's curriculum.

Oregon's test is based on their Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) requirements that set out what one must know or be able to do at grades 3, 5, 8 and 10. Since Oregon's tests are designed to see how well our students have learned the curriculum, it seems to me that teaching to the test is teaching to Oregon's curriculum, which to me is what we should be doing.

If you have questions or explanation of items concerning education, please write or e-mail me in care of this newspaper or to the Morrow County School District office at P.O. Box 368 Lexington, OR 97839.

**Order Magnetic  
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Heppner Gazette-Times  
676-9228

**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.)*

**Recommending new city dump**

To the Editor:  
To the people of  
Lexington, Heppner and Ione:

I am inviting you to visit  
Lexington's newest attraction, the  
Monument, at D and Arcade  
Street.

It seems that debris,  
rocks and etc., can now be  
dumped on city property by

certain individuals, who do not  
think the rules apply to them and  
who do not want it on their own  
property, or to dispose of it  
appropriately.

This being the case, I am  
recommending that the next city  
dump should be on B Street.

(s) Bob Taylor  
Lexington

**School board meeting is important**

To the Editor:

The upcoming School  
Board Meeting, Monday, Jan.  
13, at 7:30 p.m., at Heppner  
Elementary School, will be a  
crucial one, as the groundwork  
is being developed for how we  
will deal with a cut of a minimum  
of nine teachers to Heppner  
Schools.

While additional cuts  
may very well come from the  
State; the current one is in direct  
response to the Board's action  
of funding "equalization"  
throughout the county. Our  
School Board must answer the  
question of how they will offer a  
curriculum to our students.  
Everyone needs to see and  
understand what will be left to  
offer our students.

Ask our school board  
members to describe the  
schedule and class size changes  
that will occur as a result of their  
decision. The board members  
must take responsibility and

present their plan to continue to  
offer quality education to South  
Morrow County students. They  
must be held accountable for the  
resulting change to our schools.  
The actual curriculum/schedule  
that we will be left with is not an  
issue that will go away. For those  
students who are in school now,  
it will affect them for years to  
come.

We must start making  
decisions based on what is best  
for all the students. Contact the  
Board members and come to the  
meetings. Offer your input and  
watch our Board in action. There  
is no time to lose.

School Board members  
include: Julie Weikel, 481-2545;  
Pat McNamee, 922-4786; Gary  
Frederickson, 481-6225; John  
Renfro, 989-8117; John  
Rietmann, 422-7123; Larry  
Mills, 676-5546; and Burke  
O'Brien, 676-9861.

(s) John and Ann Murray  
Heppner

**Chamber Chatter**

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

Our community lost a wonderful friend and Chamber member to cancer Saturday. Shut your eyes and there's that wide smile and twinkle of the eye! Hear his laughter? Tom Sly will live on in so many memories.

Heppner was indeed blessed when he and Jerri chose to retire here and immerse themselves in community activities. You could always count on an affirmative head shake or Tom's hand shooting up to volunteer, be it on the Chamber Board of Directors, HCC, WCVED, the Baker-Morrow Partnership, St. Pat's Celebration, the Senior Center, his church and more. You could find him researching community issues, stringing lights on a float, serving meals, marching in parades, traveling to Salem for rural Oregon, and the list goes on. He was a good friend, a veteran, a great volunteer, respected, fair, honest, caring, just an all-round guy who took us into his heart and gave his all. The Chamber and the community will miss him.

And life goes on with Town and Country on the horizon, and, more than ever, it is about community. Next Thursday, Jan. 16 is the annual event. Tickets are on sale at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Klamath First, Murrays and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber annual luncheon and installation of officers will be Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 11:30 a.m. at All Saints Episcopal Parish. Call 676-5536 to make reservations.

Don't miss the opportunity to have a chance in the Chamber gun raffle. The "gun with a history" is displayed at Heppner Hardware. The lucky winner will be announced at Town and Country. Proceeds are part of Chamber non-dues income to prevent raising dues and to enable the Chamber to continue community enhancement and promotion.

Thought for the week: "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." - Wm. Arthur Ward

**SWCD, Weed Board to hold board, annual meetings**

A regular board meeting of the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District/Weed Advisory Board will be held Thursday, Jan. 16 at 10 a.m. at the Pettyjohn Office building in Heppner. Agenda and discussion items include: Reappointment of Associate Directors, Oath of Office-new Directors, and to assign committee responsibilities and agency reports.

The annual meeting will follow at 1 p.m. upstairs in the Heppner Elks Lodge. The meeting is open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

**Obituaries**

**Thomas Edwin Sly**

A remembrance  
gathering for the family and  
friends of Thomas Edwin Sly will  
be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, Jan.  
10, at the Heppner Elks Lodge.

Sly, 74, of Heppner, died  
Saturday, Jan. 4, 2003, at his  
home.

He was born Aug. 8,  
1928, at Bunceton, Mo., to Rollo  
and Hildred Sly. He graduated  
from Benson Poly-Tech High  
School in Portland then attended  
and graduated from Oregon State  
College in Corvallis.

He married Betty Fritz.  
The couple had three sons,  
Stacey, Skip and Shawn.

Mr. Sly served with the  
U.S. Navy from 1951 until 1955.

His professional career  
included 30 years with Tektronix  
Inc. and Krone and Associates  
of Carmel, CA, involved in  
organizational development.

On Dec. 31, 1978, he  
married Jerri Withington.

Mr. Sly served as a  
trustee with the Methodist  
Church in Heppner and was a  
trustee with the Heppner Elks  
Lodge. He also helped start,  
sponsor and judge the Elks  
Americanism Essay Contest in  
Heppner.

He was on the Baker/  
Morrow Partnership Board of  
Directors, was on the Chamber  
of Commerce Board, the City  
Planning Commission, a member  
of the City Sidewalk and  
Neighborhood Enhancement  
team and the Hardman  
Community Commission.

He had enjoyed fishing  
all of his life and was fond of his  
cocker spaniel, Callie.

Survivors include his  
wife, Jerri Sly; sons, Stacey Sly,  
Skip Sly, and Shawn Sly; sister,  
Jeannie Nelson; stepsons, Tim  
Jorgesen and Todd Withington;  
stepdaughter, Teresa Loakso;  
and 11 grandchildren. He was  
preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial contributions  
may be made to Pioneer  
Memorial Hospice, P.O. Box 9,  
Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of  
Heppner is in charge of  
arrangements.

**Vernon E. Padberg, Sr.**

Vernon E. Padberg, Sr.,  
72, of Tillamook, died Jan. 3,  
2003, in Tillamook. Funeral  
services will be held on  
Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 1 p.m. at  
Waud's Funeral Home in  
Tillamook. A gathering will also  
be held at the United Methodist  
Church in Heppner, Friday, Jan.  
10, at 1 p.m. Internment will be  
held at Lexington Cemetery.

Padberg was born June  
30, 1930 in Heppner to John  
Archibald and Susan (Allstott)  
Padberg. He grew up and  
attended school in Heppner.

From 1948 until 1952,  
Padberg served in the U.S.  
Navy. He was also a graduate of  
Oregon Technical Institute in  
Klamath Falls.

In 1956 he went to work  
for MaBell in Pendleton as an  
installer repairman. He later  
became an employee of G.T.E.  
in Cornelius and then in Tigard.  
He retired in 1991 after 20-plus

years. He moved to Tillamook in  
2000.

Padberg is a past  
member of the Sherwood's Elk's  
Lodge. He was an excellent  
bowler, and enjoyed deep sea  
fishing, playing on the computer  
and music. His greatest joy was  
spending time with his family.

Padberg is survived by  
sons, Vernon Jr. of Tillamook,  
Douglas of Gillette, WY., Carl of  
Tillamook, and Jerry of Lincoln  
City; daughters, Deborah  
Reynolds of Gillette, WY., Joyce  
Spaulding of Puyallup, WA,  
Kathryn Butz of Tillamook and  
Maymae Seaton of Forest  
Grove; brother, J. Archie  
Padberg of Heppner; sisters,  
Juanita Ross of Hermiston and  
Lola Springer of Hood River; 21  
grandchildren, eight  
grandchildren, and numerous  
nieces and nephews. He was  
preceded in death by one  
daughter, Sheryl Ann Padberg.

Those who wish may  
make contributions to the  
Doernbeckers Children's  
Hospital.

Waud's Funeral Home,  
Tillamook, is in charge of the  
arrangements.

**Hazel Mae Ellis**

Hazel Mae Ellis, 91, of  
Ione, and a lifetime resident of the  
area, died Friday, Dec. 26, 2002,  
at Pioneer Memorial Nursing  
Home in Heppner.

A service was held  
Thursday, Jan. 2 at Ione United  
Church of Christ, with burial at  
Ione's Pine View Cemetery.

Ellis was born May 24,  
1911 at Ione, to Thomas and Ida  
Hale Grabill. She was raised in  
Ione and attended school there.

On Sept. 3, 1929, she  
married Edison Morgan at Ione.  
The couple was married for over  
20 years before they divorced.

In 1954, she married  
Steven L. Wiles at Milton-  
Freewater. Mr. Wiles died in  
1958.

She then married Elmer  
Ellis at Baker City in 1964. Mr.  
Ellis died in 1994.

Ellis enjoyed collecting  
cookie jars, shopping, cooking,  
sewing and canning. She was  
also a member of the United  
Church of Christ.

Survivors include  
daughter, Juanita Shultz, and son,  
Jim Morgan, both of Ione and  
numerous grandchildren. She  
was preceded in death by her  
brother, Gene Grabill and sisters,  
Mary Bristow, Anna Wright and  
Helen Keithley.

Memorial contributions  
may be made to the Hazel Ellis  
Memorial, c/o Ione United  
Church of Christ, P.O. Box 346,  
Ione, OR 97843.

Sweeney Mortuary of  
Heppner is in charge of  
arrangements.

**Edwin James Dobbie**

Edwin James Dobbie,  
94, of the Portland area, died  
Dec. 20, 2002, in Hillsboro. A  
memorial service was held Dec.  
28, at Aloha United Methodist  
Church.

Dobbie was born May  
29, 1908, in Edmore, N.D.

He graduated from the  
University of North Dakota.  
During World War II, he served  
in the Army. He was a high  
school science and music teacher  
in Montana and principal in  
Heppner before moving in 1959  
to Portland. There he was a  
chemist for Fuller Paint and then  
Portland Paint & Lacquer.

In 1941, Dobbie married  
Betty Jean Warrington.

Survivors include his  
wife, Betty Jean; daughters,  
Barbara Smith and Shirley  
Dobbie; three grandchildren; and  
10 great-grandchildren. His son,  
James, died in infancy.

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**Monday through Saturday:**

**7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**and Sunday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**



Main Street,  
Heppner