

Request absentee ballots now

Absentee ballots for the January 13 school serial levy special election are available at the Morrow County Clerk's Office.

A written request for an absentee ballot may be mailed or brought to the Clerk's Office anytime before 5 p.m. January 12. One letter may request a ballot for both a husband and wife, but both must sign the letter, the Clerk emphasizes. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Clerk's office (not postmarked) by 8 p.m. January 13.

Since the Courthouse will be closed December 26, those unable to get a ballot at another time may call the Sheriff's Office and they will contact the Clerk who will then make arrangements for an absentee ballot.

Polling places for the January 13 election will be Greenfield Grange for Boardman precincts, City Hall for Lone precinct, North Morrow Annex for Irrigon precincts, the Mormon Church for Lexington precinct, and the Neighborhood Center for the combined Heppner/Hardman precincts.

Businesses close for holidays

The school district offices will be closed Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday this week and next in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Morrow County and the Extension office will be closed December 25 and 26.

Heppner Postmaster Ken Nairns said Monday that he had not yet received any official word that the post office would be closed December 26. The post office will be closed December 25.

Other local businesses will close Christmas Day. The four area markets, Bristow's, Central, Court St., and Del's have each said they will reopen for business December 26.

Neighborhood Center incorporates

way, and for clothing and food items people need which the Center does not have on hand.

We will be looking for alternate funding, she said. Since the Neighborhood Center is the only organization in this area which can help people other than the ministerial association, and they can do only so much, it is especially important that we do all we can to keep the Center open.

Other areas have used clothing centers or Salvation Army which can help, but for someone here needing help, there is no transportation out of here. "If you need help, you don't have the money to travel as far as Hermiston to get it. If you can afford the gasoline to go that far, you can afford to buy the cheese you would get from a distribution," she said.

We are also looking at the possibility of furnishing a food closet in the north end of the county because we are getting more requests for assistance there now.

Federal programs such as Adult and Family Services and the Women, Infant, and Children Nutrition Program have been administered through the BMEDC. The Center must now look for another nonprofit, nongovernment agency to keep the programs going.

Morrow County Judge Don McElligott said Tuesday that the Court thanks the center volunteers who have formed a nonprofit corporation in order to keep the services available.

Commissioner Peck told the board members that the county has been and will continue to be committed to help funding the center, but he said he could not say how much funding the county could provide. "We will

need help from the north end of the county, from businesses, charitable organizations, private donations and even then we may need to look at a

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reduced level of services," he said. The programs will still be there, but we may have to rely on more volunteer help to administer them.



Helping Hand

Neighborhood Center volunteers Donna McCurdy (left), Jane Rawlins, and Center Director Pat Scott get a helping hand from Santa Claus and Jimmy Clark as they prepare Christmas baskets to be distributed locally.



Because one child is born

Donald A. Boyce
United Methodist

Christopher Fry writes: "The darkest time in the year. The poorest place in the town. Cold and a taste of fear. Man and woman alone. What can we hope for here? More light than we can learn. More wealth than we can treasure. More love than we can earn. More peace than we can measure. Because one Child is born..."

Nearly two thousand years ago hundreds and hundreds of people were asked to go to the city of Bethlehem that a new census might be taken, that a new rate of taxation might be given to the people. In the midst of a crowded city bustling with persons concerned about new taxes, in a city with more people than beds, something unexpected and unnoticed by many of the people happened. In a quiet corner of the city, in a room filled with animals sheltered from the cold, a mother gave birth to a new baby and a father stood by with love and concern.

The birth of Christ took place in a most unexpected way, as God is always revealed in unexpected ways. Could it be possible that in the midst of our own economic and taxation problems we might be able to discover God in new and unexpected ways? Might we be able to find again the eternal hope of God expressed in the unexpected birth of God's Child? If we can look for the unexpected God then we will truly find the eternal message of Christmas for this and every year. We will truly know of "More peace than we can measure Because One Child is born..."

Obedience may involve risks

The Rev. George W. Izzett
All Saints' Episcopal Church
Text Matthew 1:18-25

The very first Christmas was an invasion in which the living God himself came into the darkness of our world. The same Word who was made flesh through the obedience of Mary and nurtured through the obedience of Joseph still speaks through us in the world today.

Most of the great events of the Scriptures involved someone being obedient. Most of the great personalities in the Scriptures were people who risked popularity, were willing to be laughed at, were willing to die all because they would be obedient to God.

Few things hurt us more than to be wrongfully doubted by folks. It certainly must have troubled Mary to see the sidelong glances of those who did not know she carried within her God's Promise for the future of the human race.

How great it must have been for Joseph when he hears Mary vindicated and realizes that God's love will come to a climax in the child that Mary will bring forth. Emmanuel of God himself dwelling with us.

To have that assurance of God with us we must commit ourselves to the Father and do his will. Christmas is a good time for us to speak out courageously and obediently concerning our love for Jesus Christ.

Child has power to change the world

Matthew Nelson, Pastor
Lone United Church of Christ

It is Christmas. Come closer. See the little child, so soft and quiet and pure, so gentle and meek. But there is power in that child. Look closely, see the flash in his eyes, almost like a light shining forth, a star light. There is passion in his innocence, a passion that only God can know.

It seems that only a child can call us back to a place of innocence and simplicity, to a place of love and gentleness. Only a child could challenge us to change the world we live in so that other children do not have to suffer.

We do things in the name of our children. Let us bring peace and unity in the name of our children and in the name of our children seven generations away. Only then will the Prince of Peace be at peace and we at love with one another.

Come closer. See the small child, so soft and quiet and pure. Careful, he is full of passion and rage, waiting to change the world with his love.

Freedom of choice: gift without equal

Don Reiber
Seventh-Day Adventist

As we emphasize the birth of Christ this Christmas season, let us look beyond the manger scenes, the angelic choir and the wisemen from the east. And yes, let us look beyond the giving and getting of gifts among friends and family. May it remind us of the tremendous value God places on freedom of choice. He could have made us mere robots and programmed us to do exactly as He wished. This would have insured a universe free from sin and spared Him the agony of sending His only begotten Son to be born in a barn and die among thieves.

If the value of the gift is measured by its cost, then surely the freedom of choice is a gift without equal. As we recognize its value, let us resolve to use it wisely and to His honor in the food we eat, in the clothes we wear, in our recreational activities and in the quality of job performance during 1987. This is the ultimate celebration of Christmas by Christians.

Greeting symbolizes joy and peace

Fr. Edward Reccomi, O.S.B.
Pastor St. Patrick's Church

Merry Christmas: No doubt we have often heard or used this particular greeting during the past few days. But why that particular greeting, would not a simple hello do just as well? No. Merry Christmas is sign and symbol of our joy, peace, and present giving at this time of year. If the Spirit of Christmas is not on our hearts, it is because we have not opened the door of our hearts to that spirit. God's Christmas gift to us, Christ His Son. Merry Christmas.

Wishing all our faithful patrons holidays filled with Christmas cheer, blessed with health and prosperity. It has been our pleasure to know and serve you this past year.

Morrow County Grain Growers Inc.

Phone 989-8221 1-800-452-7396 P.O. Box 367 Lexington Oregon 97139

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Glad Tidings

Old fashioned wishes for friendship and fun this Yuletide. We're so very glad to know and serve you.

Peterson's Jewelers
676-9200

Ginger, Molly, Sue, Deena, Marlene & Randall