

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
Andrea Di Salvo..... Editor

All News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

For Advertising: advertising deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Cost for a display ad is \$5 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 50¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$10 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$5.75 per column inch.

For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be required at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

For Obituaries: Obituaries are published in the Heppner GT at no charge and are edited to meet news guidelines. Families wishing to include information not included in the guidelines or who wish to have the obituary written in a certain way must purchase advertising space for the obituary.

For Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor MUST be signed by the author. The Heppner GT will not publish unsigned letters. All letters MUST include the author's address and phone number for use by the GT office. The GT reserves the right to edit letters. 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 \$10.

Deaths

Lloyd G. McNary—Lloyd G. McNary, 92, of Ione died Friday, December 16, 2016 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. He was born December 10, 1924 at Nohley, MT. Arrangements are pending at Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner.

Dwyla J. Yocom—Dwyla J. Yocom, 62, of Lexington died Thursday, December 15, 2016 at Richland, WA. She was born October 30, 1954 at Van Nuys, CA. Arrangements are pending at Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner.

Catholic students sponsor movie showing next week

The first communion class from Saint Patrick's Catholic Church will be sponsoring a showing of the movie "The Ten Commandments" on the big screen in the church's parish hall next week.

Tripp Stewart, Owen Guerra, Claire Lindsay and Maya Payne would like to invite the whole community to the movie showing on Tuesday, Dec. 27, starting at 10 a.m. and ending at 2 p. m.

The youth will be serving lunch and snacks for everyone. Anyone with questions should call Mary Ann Elguezabal at 209-404-9072.

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

-Continued from PAGE ONE

Daniel Kelly (cont.)

Also enjoyed Halloween, too, got to experience the American way to do it. We don't really celebrate it in Australia."

Any last thoughts? "I enjoy the sports a lot. It's gonna be hard to leave, but I'm sure I'll be back again, and maybe some people will come Down Under. Thanks to Cathy (Halvorsen) to bringing us into the community."

Tiarna Church (cont.)

giving because it was very family oriented; there were hugs all around. It was really nice to meet everyone, a really nice place to be. The food was really good."

Any last thoughts? "I like the sports in the school. I really enjoyed that. It's going to be hard to leave. It's so amazing here."

Community lunch menu

Heppner United Methodist Church volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, Dec. 28, at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will include scrambled eggs, ham, bacon and sausage; hash browns; roasted tomatoes; citrus salad; biscuits and gravy; and spiced pears.

Milk is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

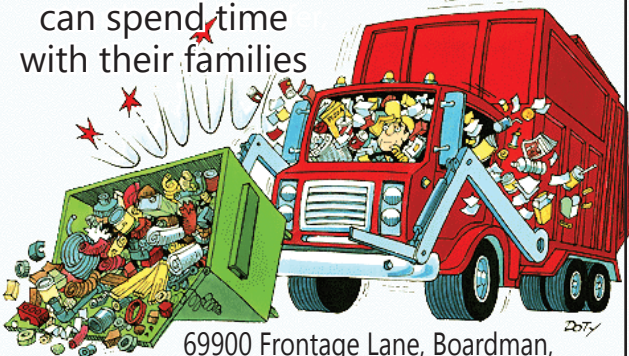
Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace Ann Spicer has released the following Justice Court report:

-Jeffrey L. Phillips, 52, of Umatilla, OR was found guilty of Take/Possession of a Bull Elk During Closed Season and was fined \$435.

The North end and South end Transfer Stations will be closed for the Holidays! Dec 24th & 25th and Dec 31st and Jan 1st

So the attendants can spend time with their families



69900 Frontage Lane, Boardman, Oregon 97818 South end Transfer, 57185 Hwy 74, Lexington, Oregon 97839

Questions or concerns please contact Sandi Putman at 541-989-9500 or sputman@co.morrow.or.us

Christmas messages of light

Unwrap the Free Gift of Christmas

"Who existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men." Philippians 2:6-7 is not a passage that you often hear read around the Christmas tree before presents are torn asunder by over-stimulated children. However, I want you to consider for a moment just how "Christmas" this passage really is.

Those Bible verses are through and through about Jesus. They testify that Jesus is Lord and God, and that Jesus is equal with God. That alone is scandalous to state, but just in case you weren't offended by that, this passage goes on to say that Jesus (being God) took on the form of a human being and entered into a human body. In other words, God had to wear diapers and be fed and wrapped in blankets so He didn't catch cold. How is that even possible? Why would God allow such a thing?

The answer is the message of Christmas. You see, God did not come to earth so that we could have a day to open presents and share a meal with our friends and family, as nice and pleasant as those things are. God came to earth in order that the brokenness of our world might be miraculously reversed through Him. He has reversed the curse of sin.

If you were to read the following Bible verse (Philippians 2:8) in this passage you would find that the purpose of the birth of Jesus is closely linked to the purpose of the death of Jesus. He came as a baby in order that He might live the life we live with one huge exception—that being, He lived a perfect life, never doing wrong, ever. No one had done this and no one will ever do this except Him.

This is important because since Jesus never did wrong, He never should have died. There is death and hurt and failure because there is evil and wrong-doing. Death is the curse of sin. We all end up dead, because we are all sinners, with one exception, that being Jesus.

But here's where it gets good; Jesus could have lived forever as a man on earth, but instead He chose to die on a cross. He allowed Himself to be subjected to torture and death in order that the judgment of sin might be paid in full. Jesus paid it all. Jesus paid our death penalty by dying on a cross for us.

Since this is true, Jesus, by His death, extends an invitation to all who believe this payment is real. In order to activate the payment for you, you must understand you have done wrong and that you truly need this payment. Then you must receive it as a gift from Jesus. It is a free Christmas gift.

However, remember, God is just and wrong-doing must be paid for. If God did not demand judgment for evil, He would not be good; instead, He would be a party to evil. Either Jesus pays through the cross your death penalty for sin or you pay in the awful place of judgment the Bible calls hell. Never should that be so. All can and should receive this free gift from Jesus.

This Christmas, meditate on this. Rest in the wonder of this gift, and if you have never received it, unwrap the greatest gift you could ever possess, eternal life and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. May the Lord Jesus call your name and may you hear His voice this Christmas season.

Tripp Finch

Willow Creek Baptist Church

Christmas celebrations at area churches

Heppner Church of the Nazarene—Candlelight service with singing and a brief message at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

Heppner United Methodist Church—Christmas Eve service at 9 p.m., Dec. 24. Christmas Day worship with the Shared Ministry at All Saints Episcopal at 10 a.m., Dec. 25.

Shared Ministry—Lessons and carols, candlelight and communion at Hope Lutheran, 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Sunday morning worship with lesson and carols at All Saints, 10 a.m. on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

Valby Lutheran Church—A service of carols and readings will be held at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

Willow Creek Baptist Church—A special service Christmas Day, Dec. 25, at 5 p.m.

'Taste of Heppner' cookbooks at Murray's

"Taste of Heppner & Surrounding Communities" cookbooks are now on sale at Murray's Drug Store. The cost is \$25. The cookbooks are published as a fundraiser for the St. Patrick's Catholic Church parish hall renovation.

YOU CAN QUIT SMOKING!

FREE WORK SHOP COMING TO HEPPNER SDA CHURCH JANUARY 1-6 7PM

To assist you in your new years resolution to stop smoking or kick any other tobacco habit

Fear Not

The angel who tells Mary she will bear the Son of God also tells her, "Do not be afraid." The angel who appears to Joseph in a dream soon afterwards tells him, "Do not be afraid." The angel who first appears to the shepherds in the field tells them, "Do not be afraid."

When Jesus enters his ministry, he takes over the work of the angels, and repeatedly tells his followers to "fear not," "do not be afraid," and "take courage."

And yet we fear so much. We fear the loss of those we love or need, we fear the loss of our health or productivity, we fear the future of our communities, our nation, our world. Some of us fear our very selves. How do we reconcile this ubiquitous anxiety with the commands of the angels and God to live fearlessly?

It is perfectly human to fear loss and suffering, but in full and perfect faith, we must realize that nothing that matters is ever truly lost. The material world will pass, as will everyone and everything in it, but the eternal life of God cannot be destroyed, nor can it end. Those we love will die, as will we, but death is simply a transition, not an end.

"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us'" (Matthew 1:23b). This is the root of our courage. And God is still with us, now in spirit as he once was in the flesh. What then have we to fear?

Christmas begins with the necessity for Mary and Joseph to live without fear, knowing that God was with them. It is no different for those of us who once a year celebrate the incarnation in time and place of the eternal God. "Do not be afraid," the angel told the shepherds and every single person who came after them. "For see—I am bringing you good news of great joy." And courage for life.

The Rev. Lea Mathieu

Valby Lutheran Church

To My Favorite Town in the World: Heppner

For six Christmases (2002-2007) I was privileged to be the pastor of the Heppner United Methodist Church. I now live in Salem, and am celebrating my 70th Christmas! I want you to know that I am still in the land of the living, and that I love Christmas—and Heppner—as much as I ever have.

When I was much younger, I took my son Steven on a camping trip in the mountains. Our tent was something of a pup-tent, with no door, so as we drifted off to sleep in our sleeping bags, we were able to see a bright and clear starry sky before us. Sometime after midnight I awoke to the sound of a quietly tinkling bell out in the darkness. I found that there was a large flock of sheep slowly moving up the mountainside. The moon had come up, and there was enough light to make out the shadowy white movement as the flock seemed to flow through the night. Once in a while I heard a dog bark, and was reminded that the shepherd and his trustworthy companion were working, keeping watch over their flock by night. Steven woke up, and together we watched as the sheep disappeared up the mountain.

With Christmas here, and the age-old stories being shared again, new ideas have come to me about that first Holy Night of long ago. I am reminded that when the angel appeared, proclaiming that the Savior of the world had just been born, the shepherds were terrified. But... the sheep apparently were not. Such a heavenly commotion, in my mind, should have scattered the sheep in all directions. Their shepherds were giving off such alarming emotions. The sky was lit up by a bright light. And the sound was heard of a multitude suddenly singing. It might have been a Holy Night, but at that moment it certainly was not a quiet holy night.

We are given the impression by the story told in Luke that the shepherds abandoned their sheep for a while to go in search of the miracle in Bethlehem. Perhaps the strangely quiet behavior of their flock, even with all the commotion going on, assured the shepherds that God was very present, and their sheep were in God's care. Or, it could be that with the brightness of that one star shining over Bethlehem, they had enough light to safely move their flock along with them, as Steven and I had observed that night on our camping trip.

In whatever ways we picture the actions of the shepherds, there is still room for us to find how we might react to the events of that first Christmas night. I have come to believe that our world is much like an enormous Internet, where every word spoken is saved. Our minds are the computers that can receive. And it is possible for us, if we can quiet the many voices of the world, to tune ourselves to that one mysterious night, and hear again the wonderful news that God speaks out: "Don't be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people... for unto you... a Savior is born!"

So, this is my prayer for you: that you will find the time, and hear the angel, and seek out the Shepherd, who leads us through the night into everlasting day.

A very blessed Christmas to all,

Rev. Keith Brudevold

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Heppner Gazette

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