

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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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 \$5.25 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 \$6.05 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.

# Post Easter reflection

Years ago, while in college, I went to an Easter Sunday service with my roommate and his family. I wasn't much of a believer back then, but it seemed like the thing to do. During the sermon, the pastor noted that there were people present that he would not see until Christmas; at which point my roommate's father whispered, "Someone want to take that knife out of my back?"

Personally, as a pastor, I have never minded "twice-a-year" attenders or those who only show for a wedding, funeral or baptism. I rejoice at who is with us in worship no matter what. All are welcome.

Most of us sat home on Sunday, foregoing Easter services at church, the most attended Sunday of the year. Maybe a televised service from somewhere else,

or a radio broadcast of "The Messiah," or even an old John Wayne western filled our Easter morning. We all dealt with social isolation and this major Christian holiday in our own ways.

I wince when I see huge gatherings in the midst of this plague of COVID 19, and pastors telling their parishioners that God would rather see them in church than cowering at home. My prayers are that they are right, and that their congregations have not become new vectors for the spread of the virus. Most of us, however, have stayed at home, and most of us have done the right thing for ourselves, our neighbors and all God's children.

Now, on this week after Easter, the temptation is to feel a bit let down, and think that Easter just wasn't the same this year.

it not that losing the opportunity to celebrate Easter in the church as a family is a form of true suffering? But we need to hope for the best.

In the above scripture passage, Jesus's prediction for the world is already at hand, for the coronavirus fulfills that "you will be scattered, each of you to your own homes." But though we have been left alone, believers all over the world have strengthened their faith in Christ through various ways. This Lenten season, we have had a chance to experience that Christ is risen—in new ways. Those ways have been quieter and seem smaller, but we made it merrier and bigger. Over the past week, we met as a community of believers virtually through live streaming, YouTube, WhatsApp, Zoom, etc. This pandemic fear has also served as a momentum builder, to bring all of us together in different ways to raise hope that we're still all together as true Christians. It's been strange, but it has fostered closer relationships among the families and

one another. I hope these relationships will continue once things return to normal, possibly strengthened through feelings of thanksgiving.

Pope Francis has tried to keep the church united with Christ. His Urbi et Orbi blessing was actually a moment of building peace with Christ. This is what Christ reiterated to disciples before his death and to us when we are caught in the grief and loss of our dear ones due to COVID-19, "You will have peace by being united to me." It is very apt at this time. We could really overcome fear, anxiety and nervousness through the support of our praying communities in which we took part and prayed.

The risen Lord always greeted his disciples in all the post-resurrection scenes with these words, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19) He also mentions, "Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid." (John 14:27) This Easter season reminds us all to come a little closer to the Lord, who is caring for us, who is protecting us, and will still protect us from all threatening events of the world. Instead of looking for comfort and pleasures from material and worldly things, the Lord invites everyone to come closer to Him and trust Him more.

Let these words of Christ resonate in our minds and hearts: "Be brave! I have defeated the world." I think that is the real message of Easter, "Be brave I have conquered the world." If you, too, remain in Him and His words remain in you, surely, we, too, can conquer the threatening virus of corona with our faith. Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB, St. Patrick Church

# The Loop schedules meetings

Morrow County Special Transportation The Loop will be holding its quarterly advisory committee meetings on April 21 at the Bartholomew Building lower conference room.

In response to the current health emergency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, county facilities have limited seating capacity and meetings are being held electronically to provide participation other than in-person. The meetings will be available for viewing via Morrow County Zoom meeting. To schedule a Zoom meeting invitation please provide your name, phone number and email address to Morrow County Special Transportation The Loop via phone message at 541-676-5667 or kimes@co.morrow.or.us

The Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee meeting will begin at 3 p.m. On the agenda for the meeting will be public comment, approval of the minutes, revenue/expense reports, ridership and other business as needed for the good of the order.

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Committee meeting will start at 4 p.m. On the agenda for the meeting will be public comment, approval of the minutes, revenue/expense reports, fixed route, and other business as needed for the good of the order.

# Peace be with you

As I was thinking of the Easter-day homily, something from the Bible struck me very deeply. I was concentrating on the topic "peace be with you." How to describe this theme of Easter in the context of the pandemic disease? The parish community cannot even come together as one to pray and worship the Risen Lord.

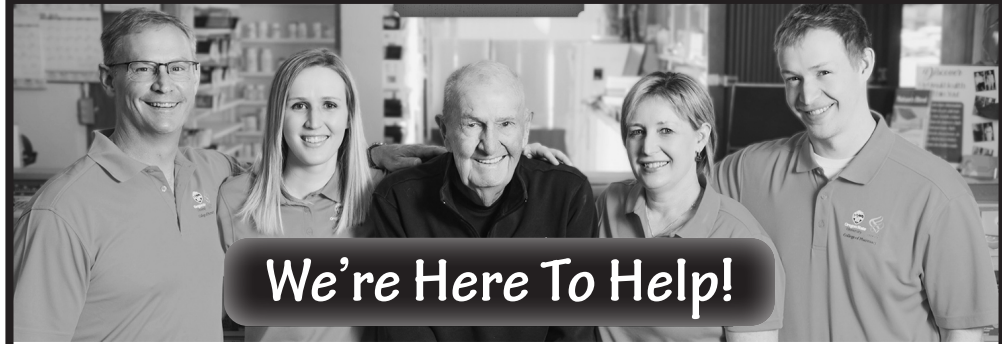
The scriptural passage from the Gospel of John reminded me of a message for the occasion: "Jesus answered them, 'Do you believe now? The time is coming and is already here when all of you will be scattered, each of you to your own home, and I will be left all alone. But I am not really alone, because the father is with me. I have told you this so that you will have peace by being united to me. The world will make you suffer. But be brave! I have defeated the world!'" (John 16:31-33)

This Gospel passage was very apt this year when we all celebrated Easter in our own homes. Unthinkable is the image of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem to

crowds of admirers who were most certainly not practicing social distancing. A Maundy Thursday meal without the disciples. The way to the Crucifixion without the loved ones watching his journey.

The Catholic Church is finding different ways for us to celebrate life and hope during a time of uncertainty, as Easter arrived devoid of fanfare and we watched everything behind closed doors – which has become a symbol of unity and hope in a world faced with an uncertain future.

And Christian hope cannot be quarantined. The fear of coronavirus and joy of Easter are simultaneously possible, just like it was for the women who came to Jesus's tomb that first Easter. Even at this time we need to shout, "Alleluia, God is with us!" Because Jesus declared long before his death what is going to take place in the world after his death: "In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). In this world, we do now have trouble - the coronavirus. Is



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Do you want to vote for President in the May 19, 2020 Primary?

political party  
Constitution  
Democratic  
Libertarian  
Pacific Green  
Progressive  
Republican  
Working Families  
Other

Oregon has closed primary elections. This means that if you wish to vote for either the Republican or Democratic presidential candidates, you must be registered to vote with either the Democratic or Republican Party. If you are not registered with either major party, you will still be eligible to vote for measures and any non-partisan candidates offices in your voting district.

- | Major Party Ballot  | Not a member of a party   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US President</li> <li>US Senate</li> <li>US Representative</li> <li>State Legislature</li> <li>Secretary of State</li> <li>Treasurer</li> <li>Attorney General</li> <li>All Non-Partisan Candidates</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judges</li> <li>Morrow County Candidates</li> <li>Ballot Measures</li> </ul> |
- Do you know which party you are registered with? Don't be surprised when your ballot comes in the mail. Check now at [oregonvotes.gov/myvote](http://oregonvotes.gov/myvote)
- You can register to vote or change your party by April 28, 2020. You can pick up a paper Voter Registration form at any elections office, Oregon DMV or post office in Morrow County.

If you have questions or concerns please call (541) 676-5601 or email [mcclerkrecords@co.morrow.or.us](mailto:mcclerkrecords@co.morrow.or.us), Bobbi Childers, Morrow County Clerk.

As always ballot drop sites will open after ballots are mailed and will close on Election Day at 8 p.m.

Return Ballots are now pre-paid. Please mail back prior to May 12, 2020 to ensure arrival by election day.

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