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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner

GAZETTE-TIMES

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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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.

Obituaries

Sue Orr

Sue Orr, 74, passed away at her home of 33 years in Prairie City surrounded by her family on June 17.

Sue was born in Caldwell, ID to Maurice Claire Hire and Elaine K. “Kitty” (Combs) Hire on July 26, 1945. They named her Claire Elaine but always called her Suzy. The family lived in Caldwell and Baker City. In 1952 her mom and stepfather, Harvey Spivey, moved the family to live in a cozy cabin at Camp 5 logging camp. Her most cherished memories were there, leaping from the dock into the lake.

Sue graduated from Wheeler County High School in Fossil, OR in 1964. She married David Mattison and raised two daughters in Kinzua where she loved to play pinochle, sew and crochet until Kinzua closed in 1979. She lived in Heppner and worked for Central Market until she married Gordon Orr in July 1987. They moved to Prairie City where they had a lovely home and yard. Sue spent 50 years following the Portland Trail Blazers.

Survivors include her husband, Gordon; daughters, Jodi (Matt) Ferguson of Walla Walla, Robin Mattison of Pendleton and Pamela (Russ) Orr-Powell of John Day; sons, Mike (Gina) Orr and Greg Orr of Winnemucca, NV and Jeff Orr of Heppner; grandchildren, Connor and Brett Ferguson of Walla Walla, Mikaela (Alley) Conway

of Huson, MT, Brett Alley of La Grande, Casey, Chase and Justin Orr of Winnemucca, Jaden Orr, Megan (Orr) Fischer of Hermiston, Cody Orr of Isle, MN; seven great-grandchildren; brothers, Robert (Laura) Hire of Heppner and Frank Spivey of Baker City; sisters-in-law, Norma Roberts of Biggs, CA and Earlene Dillard of Bend, OR.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sons, Joseph Mattison and David Orr; brother, Bill Roberts and sister, Lois Colleen Hire.

Memorial contributions can be made to Blue Mountain Hospice through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

To leave an online condolence for the family, visit: www.driskillmemorialchapel.com.

Morrow County Extension open by appointment only

Oregon State University, Morrow County Extension office is currently operating under phase two and is open to the public by appointment only. To

MCSD receives donation to support virtual learning

Superintendent Dirk Dirksen has announced the latest collaboration between Amazon Web Services (AWS), Morrow County School District (MCSD), Umatilla Electric Cooperative and Hermiston Energy Services who have donated \$25,000 in support of virtual learning and connectivity as the school district prepares for the 2020-21 school year. This donation is great news for Morrow County School District’s distance learning program as it tries to enhance support to students and families with more virtual learning opportunities and connectivity.

AWS had just recently donated 50 laptops to the school district to support distance learning. “These donations are the latest in AWS’s ongoing efforts in Morrow County,” shared Dirksen. “There is a long history of AWS supporting STEM related activities for our county’s youth and educators.”

Morrow County School District’s plan is to use these latest donations to provide better technology resources for students who have factors that precipitate the need to continue online learning for extended periods of time during this next school year.

“We have been very fortunate in Morrow County to provide many exciting opportunities for our students in partnership with many of the industries in Morrow County. Amazon Web Services (AWS) has always stepped up as a major supporter of programs found in Morrow County School District,” Dirksen said.

These programs include:

-Girls’ Tech Day which is a one-day event designed

to inspire and empower young girls in grades three to 12, and young women 18 to 24 years of age, to pursue interests and careers in technology. It is a series of learning workshops focused on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM). The event is free, fun and open to all girls and young women in the area. Over 100 girls participated in that event last year.

-At the Nuts, Bolts and Thingamajigs Camp, AWS provides a presenter as well as staff to assist students with a project during camp.

-Educator Externship consists of meeting with teachers from across Morrow and Umatilla Counties to talk about data center operations and career opportunities.

-Senior Career Days for Morrow County School District students provide opportunities to meet with AWS staff off site to learn about AWS careers and different education paths.

-AWS has provided \$25,000 in scholarships to students who are enrolled in Blue Mountain Community College’s data center technician program.

-New this year, AWS is providing local summer internship opportunities to college students for Data Center Technician, Engineering Operations Technician, and Data Center Manager roles. They offered 19 positions in total.

“Morrow County School District is very fortunate to have a partnership with a company that contributes this kind of support to students and families in our community. Thank you again to Amazon Web Services (AWS), Umatilla Electric Cooperative and Hermiston Energy Services,” shared Dirksen.

Spiritually Speaking

God loves a cheerful giver

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB

“Give and it will be given to you,” (Lk 6:38) is a promise from Jesus in last Sunday’s Gospel that holds true. The giving is a freewill choice for all His believers. Let us never forget the fact that “God knows the heart of everyone.” He knows when gifts, whether material or spiritual, are given joyfully.

Hospitality: In Sunday’s reading in Second Kings, we have an appealing message of hospitality and its implications, from the life of Elisha. During the days of Elisha, those who travelled beyond the territory of their family or tribe for anything had to depend on the hospitality of strangers to survive. Elisha is fortunate in his travels to meet a woman who invites and welcomes him to bread journey and eat at her house. The hospitality must have been good because Elisha then makes it a habit of stopping at her place on his travels. Believing that Elisha is a holy man and knowing that he travels regularly, the woman, with the permission of her husband, builds a regular abode so that Elisha can have his own room on his travels. Elisha repays the woman’s generous hospitality by promising her a very special blessing from God: the gift of a son, whom she was longing for because they were a childless couple. This anecdote teaches us that what we give to God and God’s representatives always comes back to us. We are also challenged to be hospitable to others, to move from suspicious hostility to hospitality. We never know what blessings God has in store for us if we open ourselves to God, who may come to us in the attire of an alien, in a most unexpected way.

Also in the Gospel, Jesus assures us that all those who receive His word and welcome those who come in His name will be well rewarded. Even the tiniest gesture, the smallest action done for God, will not pass unnoticed and will be acknowledged by God. We are called to be welcoming people, open to His word and open to messengers of His word. In the sacred tradition of Israel, hospitality was regarded as one of the chief responsibilities of a caring people.

The stranger, the outsider was regarded as one needing special care. The Book of Leviticus reminded the Israelites of their duties towards strangers because they too were once strangers: “For you were once strangers yourselves in the land of Egypt” (Exodus 22:21). Everybody wants to be loved by other people. Everybody wants to be needed by other people. Everybody wants to be desired and longed for by other people. All Jesus is asking us is to be good followers who are hospitable and the cost of this discipleship will be a great reward – a promise that God loves a cheerful giver.

The cost of discipleship and the great reward: In the first part of Sunday’s Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus spells out the cost of discipleship, while in the latter part He reminds us of the great reward, not only to heralds of the good news, but also to all who welcome the emissary. While speaking of what it takes to be a disciple of the Lord, Jesus is quite blunt and does not mince His words. Jesus did not come to promise us a good time or a comfortable existence. To follow Jesus is not easy and not for the faint-hearted. Self-denial, sacrifice, self-discipline, austerity and asceticism are not fashionable words today. Yet the Gospel tells us clearly that anyone who is not ready to practice self-denial and accept the crosses of daily life is not worthy of being called a disciple of Jesus Christ.

At times we can be great admirers of Jesus but be hesitant to follow his example in daily living. Jesus doesn’t want lip service. The Gospel of Mathew explains it vividly: “It is not anyone who says to me. ‘Lord, Lord,’ who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in Heaven” (Mathew 7:21). That is quite demanding of Jesus when he speaks about a true disciple.

We reflected on the theme “be not afraid” in the previous week. We are affected by all sorts of fears that tend to paralyze us, such as fears of the pandemic, the silent and invisible slayer around us. As we read and hear the daily news, surely, we get a bit panicked now and then. Then in our relationship with God, we tend to act out of fear rather than out of love for God. God created us to live in freedom and He does not want us to be intimidated. We are challenged: “Be not afraid!” We can step forward, be cheerful even in the midst of fear and anxiety.

Jesus fan or Jesus follower: If you cannot see the suffering people around you and reach out to them, then you are not His follower. He wants more followers to accompany Him this way to the cross, even to the point of death. “No one has greater love than to lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

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