
~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. 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.

Constitution, greatest statement of human liberty

To the editor:

The Constitution of the USA states, "In order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty..." The greatest statement of human liberty ever written. The Declaration of Independence affirmed this liberty. "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Today in America there is no justice, there is no domestic tranquility, there is no general welfare and the blessings of liberty have been replaced by mandatory masks, closed businesses and government supported riots and desecration of our forefathers' blood-bought heritage and blessings. What happened to "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness?"

Patrick Henry said it best when confronted with a less serious affront to the inalienable rights endowed by our Creator. "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery. Forbid it Almighty God. I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

Is safety from a virus that 99.7 percent recover from worth the price of chains and slavery? Even the CDC admitted "no significant effect of... face masks on transmission of laboratory-confirmed influenza." (May 2020, CDC Journal Infectious Diseases). Even the corrupt WHO has recently warned against "the public routinely wearing masks."

Despite near unanimous mask compliance in the USA the numbers continue to escalate. Why? Because the same elites that take away our liberty, count the COVID-19 numbers. They have an agenda. 1) Ruin America's domestic

tranquility and blessings of economic independence to take down President Trump. 2) End our Constitutional Republic and replace it with Socialism Progressive Marxism. 3) Control and enslave the citizens by politically stacking the courts to deny justice to those that will not yield their creator endowed liberty.

Governor Brown has enslaved Oregonians. Tragically they are frightened, public officials are blackmailed and most are easily manipulated by corrupt officials and their false pledges of safety. How could any Oregonian trust this Governor? She used Federal and state agents to murder Lavoy Finicum because his peaceful protest undermined her agenda. In direct contrast she has refused to accept Federal agents to quench the mayhem in Portland. Why? Because she encourages the destruction of our justice, our domestic tranquility, our general welfare, and our liberty in Portland. This destruction of our way of life meets her political agenda. She lies with the help of her Democrat surrogates and claims the destruction of Portland is "peaceful protest."

She is closing our schools for the same reason, the same Marxist/fascists agenda. There is no reason our schools should close. Our youth are not susceptible to COVID-19 and there is no evidence of COVID-19 transmission between youth and adult. Our youth are being denied their education, their freedom, their liberty and their hope and dreams of the future. In like manner, this Governor is forcing the church to submit to her dictates, and in time all will be forced to bow on one knee, like our sports idols, to the new god of BLM, defunded police and open prisons.

It is time for Oregonians and Americans to choose whom they will serve. I will bow my knee to only one God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

A View from the Green

Over the Tee Cup

Pat Dougherty took low gross of the field and Judy Harris took low net at the July 21 playday held at the Willow Creek Country Club. Karen Haguewood had the least puts of the field. Eleven ladies participated.

Low gross for flight A went to Karen Thomp-

son and Pat Edmundson had low gross for flight B. Flight C low gross winner was Sharon Harrison. Kathy Martin got low net and Lorene Montgomery had the least putts for flight C.

Karen Haguewood got a chip-in on #10.

Grants to help small business

A series of CARES Act grants announced by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) are expected to support entrepreneurs and small businesses across Oregon that have been financially impacted by COVID-19. This funding is a result of the CARES Act that Congress

passed into law earlier this year.

The EDA grants will include \$1.1 million for Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation, Pendleton, OR. This funding will support economic opportunities for small businesses in Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Mal-

Small Business Support Fund for South Morrow County to receive \$50,000

By Lori Roach

The City of Heppner was awarded \$25,000 from the Oregon Emergency Board for the COVID-19 Emergency Business Assistance Grant Fund, which will be matched by Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) with an additional \$25,000. The Heppner Chamber of Commerce will oversee the Small Business Support Fund for South Morrow County on behalf of the City of Heppner and WCVEDG.

"I think it's a great opportunity that has been given to us to help support the small businesses that are being affected by these difficult times," said Heppner City Manager Kraig Cutsforth.

The Small Business Support Fund for South Morrow County will help businesses that were unable to access funds through the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) or the EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan).

"The uncertainty and unknowns of this pandemic make it difficult to plan or confidently operate a business. Having any kind of financial assistance adds a much-needed cushion that will assist in overcoming some of this uncertainty. WCVEDG's hope is that; these owners can relax a little bit. Survive this part and focus on the future so that they will be here to serve us in the spring," said Kim Cutsforth, president of WCVEDG.

Grants will be based on the number of employees or fixed expenses and will range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 per business. Fifty percent of the funds must be awarded to sole proprietors if possible. A marketing program is being created to ensure that historically disadvantaged population groups are not overlooked.

In addition to self-certifying they have not received funds from PPP or EIDL, businesses must also follow the following criteria for the individual business grants:

-they were prohibited from operation as directed by Executive Order 20-

12; or

-they had a sales or revenue decrease of 50 percent or more in the month of March or April 2020, as compared against sales or revenues of January or February 2020, or as compared against the same period in 2019.

-they also must demonstrate they are headquartered and with principal operations in Oregon.

-they must self-certify that its businesses and its operations are and will, remain compliant with all local, state and federal laws

-they will also provide business, financial and ownership information necessary to determine and verify eligibility.

The one-time awards through the Small Business Support Fund for South Morrow County will focus on businesses that have been adversely affected economically in one of the following two categories:

-Those for-profit and non-profit (limited to 501(C)(3) corporations) businesses that were prohibited from operation as directed by Executive Order 20-12.

-Those eligible for-profit businesses that can demonstrate a one-month decline in revenue greater than 50 percent in the month of March 2020 or April 2020 as compared against sales in the month of January 2020 or February 2020, or as compared against the same period in 2019. Those non-profit businesses (limited to 501(C)(3) corporations) that can demonstrate a decline in revenue greater than 50 percent across the months of March 2020 and April 2020 as compared against the same period in 2019.

-Businesses also must have fewer than 25 employees.

Grant packets for qualifying businesses will be available online, as well as at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce office once all the details are in place.

For more information e-mail Lori Roach at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce at heppnerchamber@gmail.com

Willow Creek men host championship

The Willow Creek Country Club men's club hosted the club championship on July 25 and 26, with 21 players. Greg Grant won the championship with a two-day total of 132. Gene Orwick was the net champion with 117 and

Ron Bowman was again the senior champion.

Taking first place in gross was Greg Grant. Dave Pranger was second and Ron Bowman was third. In net, Gene Orwick came in first, Delbert Binschus second and John Edmundson was third.

Players getting the best KP were Scott Burrigh on #5-14 with 11'1" and John Edmundson on #3-12 with 1'7". KP second shot winners were Charlie Ferguson on #6-15 with 2' and Ron Bowman on #1-10 with 3'.

The next men's play event will be held August 9 with Ron Bowman, Duane Disque and Barry Munkers hosting.

Spiritually Speaking

Pandemic: A Time to be Empathetic

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB, St. Patrick Church

Through in this Covid-19 situation we are facing, we are all finding time for relaxation, entertainment and games - like rushing to swimming pools, mountains with our RV's, golfing, soccer, etc. I am a bit alarmed to see the flight of human beings into material things. We have gone through the lockdown-mandate from government authorities and following that we have tried to return to our normal life. While reflecting on this, I came across this particular scripture passage in my mind: In the second book of Chronicles we read, "Whenever I hold back the rain or send locusts to eat up the crops or send an epidemic on my people, if they pray to me and repent and turn away from the evil they have been doing, then I will hear them in heaven, forgive their sins and make their land prosperous again" (2 Chron 7:13-14). At present we are going through the second phase of this pandemic situation, and as I was going through Sunday's three readings, this particular scripture passage struck me. So, I thought to bring it back for our reflection once again.

In Sunday's first reading, Isaiah issues an invitation to all the Israelites in exile in Babylon to come to a banquet. As those people in exile experience the real hunger and thirst for food and drink, we need to have the real thirst for the Divine Master who can put an end to this prevailing situation we are facing. In their exile, the Israelites experienced hunger for they had nothing that could satisfy their needs. When we are hungry, all we can think of is the next meal and where it will come from. To these needy people Isaiah said, "You who have no money, come receive grain and eat." This was an invitation to participate in God's love. The Lord is giving us this loving invitation to return to Him with simplicity and humility for our mistakes. It's an invitation to pray, repent, and return to the Lord, as we read from 2nd Chronicles.

In the second reading, Paul, writing to the Romans, reminds them that no matter what bad times they may have to go through - as we are facing now with the pandemic - the people/believers in Christ, must remain firm in the faith and undaunted because we can be certain that even in hard times God loves us. Often when bad things happen to us, especially when they are not of our own making, we feel God does not love us or has abandoned us. Paul forcefully contradicts this assumption. He assures the Romans that nothing can separate us from the love of God. On the contrary, our sufferings and trials can actually bring us closer to God. The proof that we have experienced that love will be our willingness to love others. St. Paul exhorts the people of Rome to come close to the Lord in such situations. Just for our reflection, has this pandemic brought me little closer to the Lord and his precept.

In Chapter 14 of Saint Matthew's Gospel, we see the divine quality of Jesus, that of empathy, the capacity to understand or feel what another person is experiencing from within their frame of reference, the capacity to place oneself in another's position. This seems a real divine as well as human element, which is almost disappearing from our selfish world. In Chapter 14 at the beginning of the story, Matthew tells us that Jesus took pity on the people and was moved with compassion on them. Miracles happen when we move beyond concern to action, when we feel deeply within us the hurts and pains of others. Concern is the cold voice of the logical brain, whereas empathy is the warm language of the heart and gut. Concern would say, "Send the people away." Instead, empathy says, "There is no need for them to go." Concern takes up causes, whereas empathy picks up people. Right now, in this Covid-19 situation, concern speaks at a safe distance through a microphone or letters to the editor and is also seen advocating for the need for population control, contraception and abortion. But empathy is at work in the midst of pain, nursing and feeding and supporting the broken-hearted and befriending the lonely. Jesus had empathy and compassion on the crowd and healed the sick. And then when He challenged His disciples to share the hunger of the people, a miracle of compassion took place. Even if a few people have empathy/compassion, miracles can take place.

Christ fed five thousand people in the desert and everyone got as much as they wanted and still there were twelve baskets of crumbs left over. But this miracle could not have happened without the generosity and collaboration of that little boy who was ready to part with all he had. The miracle could happen because of this lad's willingness to part with all his food in spite of his weariness and fatigue. Are we willing to part with what we possess and share it with the person who needs our help? Mother Teresa fed nine thousand people every day in Calcutta, but this could not have happened without the generosity and help of others. One day a young couple came to Mother Teresa and gave her a large sum of money. "Where did you get so much money?" Mother Teresa asked. "We were married two days ago," they replied. "We decided not to have a wedding feast, but to give the money to the poor instead." "Why would you do this?" she asked. "Because we love each other and wanted to begin our married life with an act of sacrifice," they replied.

To conclude these reflections, we need to keep in mind that the Lord gives to others everything in abundance. As we are faced with the situation of Covid-19, let's place ourselves more into his protective hands than into material things of the world. As he took the five loaves and two fishes and lifted it up to be a blessing for others, ask him to lift us up from this pandemic we face; it may be an invitation to be empathetic towards others and to be blessing for others.

Funeral Notice

Val Marton Bailey - Val Marton Bailey, 66, of Lexington passed away at his home on July 12, 2020 from a yearlong battle with cancer. A celebration of life will be held at his home, 71325 Blackhorse Canyon Road, Lexington, on July 31 at 1 p.m.