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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner

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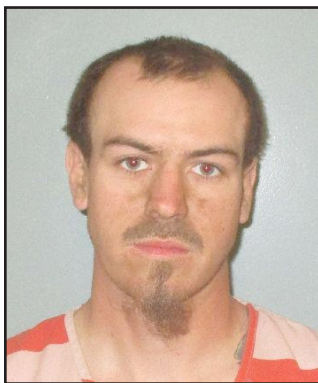
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For Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor MUST be signed by the author. The Heppner GT will not publish unsigned letters. All letters MUST include the author's address and phone number for use by the GT office. The GT reserves the right to edit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

Motorcycle rider arrested for high speed run

Matthew Ronald Venth, 24, New York, was charged with felony attempt to elude, reckless driving and reckless endangering following his arrest on August 20. Venth was originally clocked at 117 mph by a Morrow County Sheriff's Office deputy as he headed northbound on Bombing Range Rd at 4:18 p.m. He was pursued by the deputy but refused to yield.



Matthew Ronald Venth

Other deputies headed towards the location to attempt to stop the rider, clocking him at 149 mph. Luckily for Venth and all other drivers on the road,

he eventually stopped and was taken into custody. He was lodged in the Umatilla County Jail with bail of \$20,000.

COUNTY CENSUS

-Continued from PAGE ONE

Support for assistance to the fair and its losses related to not holding a fair this year because of the coronavirus lock down. The state Cultural Support has \$25.9 million to give out this year for COVID-19 relief. "This will assist the county fair in any expenses they had related to COVID-19; I think it's worth pursuing. I think we

avenue where we have an opportunity," Zody said.

In other action the commission voted to appoint Blain Middleton to the Morrow County Solid Waste Advisory Board. The board is a seven-member committee and commissioners discussed the difficulty in finding people to fill various volunteer boards and commissions in need to walk down every

Spiritually Speaking

Discipleship and its cost

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB, St. Patrick Church

In the first reading for this coming Sunday, we hear Jeremiah (chapter 20: 7-9) grumbling and complaining to God about the incredible mission he has been given. "Lord you have seduced me! Daily I am a laughing stock! ... The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long." Jeremiah was called to be a prophet as a very young man, probably even as a teenager, unwelcome in most societies, but especially in a society that valued the wisdom only of old men. Besides, he was called even though he seems to have had a speech impediment. He was called to be a prophet of doom. The people had to be reminded of their evil ways and the need to repent or else they would face destruction. Jeremiah's reward for his message was to be accused of treason. He was tired of being God's prophet, yet he felt strongly the call to be a prophet. "There seems a fire burning in my heart... and the effort to restrain it wearies me." In Jeremiah, as in all who are called, there is faith and doubt existing together. Why can't God make life simpler and easier for his faithful ones?



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

In the second reading taken from the letter to the Romans (chapter 12:1-2), Paul urges the Romans to present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Namely, if believers want to follow Jesus, they must be ready for sacrifice and whatever it may demand. Paul urges his listeners not to model their lives on the world around them, but their behavior should change, modeled by the new mind and heart they have received from Christ.

Last Sunday, we read of Peter being praised by the Lord for his revelation. "You are the Messiah," he said, "the Son of the Living God." Peter's words were exactly right. Jesus appoints Peter as the leader and in charge of his Church. In this week's Gospel reading, (Matthew, chapter 16, 21-23), Jesus informs his disciples for the first time that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer great from the elders, chief priests, and the scribes and be killed, and on the third day be raised. Actually, the disciples did not grasp it properly, and Peter comes on their behalf, takes Jesus aside, and objects. That plan does not make any sense to him. Still puffed up with the pride of his own success, still holding in his hands the keys he has just received, Peter asserts himself with boldness: "God forbid that, Lord, this must never happen to you" (Mt 16: 23). Peter is clear and concise. He's also dead wrong. Jesus turns on Peter with a real force. "Get behind me, Satan," Jesus says. The rock on which the church is to stand speaks out and crumbles. Success collapses into failures when the first of the apostle stands on the side of Satan. At this juncture Jesus gives a discourse on discipleship and the cost of discipleship that is the theme of this particular Sunday.

The concept of Messiah that Peter was thinking about was a glorious triumphant Messiah who would come in grandeur and with a show of power to set Israel free. Jesus foretold of a Messiah who would be a suffering servant, humble and meek, stripped of all power, obedient unto death. Peter just could not stomach the idea of a suffering Messiah, so he takes Jesus aside and tries to reason with him. The cross is too frightening a prospect, isn't there a more palatable way of presenting it? Can't there be a compromise, a little watering down to make it acceptable?

In response to Peter's response, Jesus reacts strongly to Peter's advice. "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's." Peter was making two mistakes. First of all, he did not listen to the full destiny of Jesus. The mention of being raised on the third day passed over his head unheard. His second mistake was to dictate what God's will should be, something most of us do all the time. This mistake could have serious consequences, so Jesus puts Peter in his place. Peter, who was earlier called the rock, is now called a stumbling stone, Satan, the tempter. Jesus attacked him so violently to teach Peter in this hard and blunt way to seek new directions of thinking and of living. Peter had faith but not yet that faith which gives the unconditional answer, "I am ready," to God's demanding word.

To conclude the reflections of the day, from the Gospel of Matthew (16:26), "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?" This calls us as disciples to put Christ first in everything: A) Prioritize: Lk. 10:38-42 (Jesus commended Mary because she chose the good, important things. Like Mary, you must make a decision to put Christ before everything.) B) Set Your Mind.

NEW LISTING



\$159,500

There are two homes on this property. The bigger one is a 3 bedroom 1 bath 958 sq ft now renting for \$800 per month. Smaller home is a 1 bedroom 1 bath 576 sq ft renting for \$400 a month. There are water rights from the creek to water the yard and a shed in the back. Located on a dead end street. Call for an appointment and have a look.

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