

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 requested 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.

*Spiritually Speaking*

**Prepare the way for the Lord**

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB, St. Patrick Church

In the season of Advent, the church extends to us the call of John the Baptist to repent and confess our sins in preparation for the One who is to come. The Church presents him as the messenger/ herald of the Savior. We are familiar with announcements that inform us that something is going to happen or is expected to take place. For example, in the airports and railway stations, we hear announcements of the arrival/departure of a train or a plane that we are waiting for. If the person for whom we are waiting is very dear to us, that announcement doubles our joy and excitement because we will soon see the one for whom we were waiting. This second Sunday of Advent brings tidings to all of us that God is coming soon. Do we believe it or not? Do we look forward to His arrival? Are we prepared to welcome Him?

The prophet Isaiah (40: 1-5, 9-11) assures the people of Israel comfort and solace. He reminds the people of Jerusalem to prepare the way for the Savior/Messiah. The prophet urges the people of his time to cut down the mountains that they have created of jealousy, envy, hatred, and fill the valleys of broken relationships with love, affection, and concern for one another. The Israelites are asked to prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. They should not wait passively for things to happen but should be active and vigorous in preparing for the coming of the Lord. The preparation is not an external preparation but a preparation of the heart and a removal of all unwanted elements of human values and principles, anything that does not fit in with God's coming. We are to make a freeway for the Lord to enter our hearts.

The Second Letter of St. Peter (3: 8-14) speaks about the delay of the Lord's coming. The Lord will come like a thief, so be prepared is the idea Peter delivers to his readers. He admonishes his listeners that they should never forget "that with the Lord 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not slow to carry out his promises." If the Lord is delaying His coming, it is for a purpose - to give his people more time to repent and come back to him. St. Peter urges his readers to remain unblemished and spotless as you wait eagerly for the coming of the Lord.

The Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of Mark (1:1-8), which highlights the life and lifestyle of John the Baptist. His role was to be the messenger announcing the coming of the Messiah. He would be the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight." The highlight of the herald was one of repentance, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He invited everyone to change and repent and experience a conversion of heart. John's preaching and personal life had a dynamic impact on the people. They came forth in large numbers to be baptized

by him and they showed readiness to change their lifestyle and come back to the Lord. What does it mean to prepare a way for the coming of the Lord today? Where do we seek God and where will we find him?

In today's Gospel we have the plain, yet powerful, message for all ages:

a. John preached condemnation. He preached the actual fact of that time, that the people had become like "vipers," poisonous because of the addictions, depression, anxiety, etc. They had allowed themselves to be poisoned and were poisonous to others. They were sick and disaster-prone, and they were biting others, making them sick and dooming them.

b. John preached repentance. All those who approached him for the baptism he told to first repent and then produce fruit. And the fruit must be worthy, consistent with repentance - fruit that shows a changed heart and a turning away from sin.

c. John preached against pride. The teaching of John urges us to get rid of our pride. The Pharisees felt that the righteousness of their forefathers saved them. How they lived mattered very little. Similarly, we can think, "I have godly parents, I have been baptized, I am better than so many, I belong to the church and attend church activities regularly etc.

d. John preached social justice. We are in fact faced with a pandemic. Do we reach out to the one who needs our help and assistance? John told the people to share their surplus food and clothes with the starving and the naked. To the business class he said not to rob the people, just collect what they were entitled to and no more. To the people in power he said, "Do not abuse your power. Do not intimidate people or use violence against them."

e. John preached the Messiah's coming. The Messiah was more worthy and more powerful than he. "I baptize you with water, but he with the Holy Spirit."

We are all invited to make some sort of changes for the reception of the Lord during this Christmas time. We are urged to "go straight," namely to give up dishonest, crooked and sinful ways and to walk the path of integrity, honesty and truth. We are invited to proclaim the Lord through our simplest way of life and action, as John showed to us through his life. We don't have to do great things; even in the simplest and most ordinary of tasks we can look for God, find Him and serve Him. Don Bosco would say, "Doing the little things in an extraordinary way."



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

**Pioneer Memorial Hospice sells ornaments for Remembrance Tree**

*Purchase an ornament for your loved one*

The holidays are a special time of year when we reflect and treasure the memories of those who have died. This season you can share a friend or loved one's memory by purchasing an ornament with their name and display it on the community Remembrance Tree or your own tree.

The Remembrance Tree is prominently displayed in the Main Street window of Sage Clothing Company in Heppner. Ornaments can be purchased for \$15 each.

Molly Rhea, Director of Pioneer Memorial Hospice, states, "The funds we raise from the Remembrance Tree help us provide the extras that many hospice clients need to stay comfortable and live their lives to the fullest. Purchasing a delightful rustic ornament, hand made by Kelsie Worden, will provide funds for supplementing hospice clients lives."

This past year fundraising dollars have been used for massages to ease pain, Halloween costumes for children coping with the loss of their father, technology to record voice histories, equipment to transfer hospice clients from wheelchair to vehicle seats and for reaching out to isolated clients to provide them with creative and interesting gift bags. "Our



Personalize an ornament with your loved one's name.

hospice team strives to understand how to support our clients and families in their last months," says Jackie Alleman, volunteer coordinator. "Sometimes we need funds not provided by traditional means to obtain items that would enrich our clients and improve the last months."

Pioneer Memorial Hospice strives to maintain quality of life during terminal illness. Hospice provides physical, social, emotional, psychological and spiritual support by a team of professionals consisting of physicians, nurses, counselors, therapists, aids, bereavement specialists and volunteers specializing in quality of life medicine. Hospice care is available for anyone desiring supportive care when curative treatment is no longer effective or desired, and life expectancy can be mea-

sured in weeks or months. Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance companies pay for hospice services. At Pioneer Memorial Hospice care is not withheld because of inability to pay. PMH brings crucial elements of medical and nursing care

to the patient's bedside at home, offering practical and emotional support to the patient and their family.

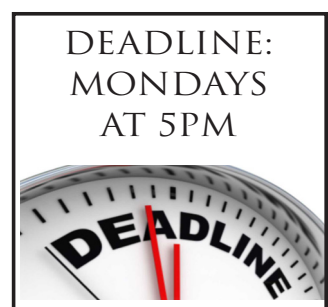
More information is available by calling or stopping by the office at 162 Main Street in Heppner, 541-676-2946.

**Wolf committee meeting planned**

The next meeting of the Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee will be Tuesday, December 8 at 7 p.m. at Heppner City Hall, 111 N. Main St. The primary topic on the agenda will be the review of applications for grant funds, as well as agency updates, such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The agenda will be posted to the meetings page of the Morrow County website, <https://www.co.morrow.or.us/meetings>, by 5

p.m. on Friday, December 4. Please contact Committee Chair Dean Robinson at 541-980-2350 or the office of the Board of Commissioners at 541-676-5613 with any questions.



**ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.**

JOIN US FOR A HOLIDAY MARKET

**MAIN ST. WALK & SHOP**

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 5TH  
10 AM - 2 PM

VISIT LOCAL SHOPS:  
Blondee Salon  
Breaking Grounds Coffee  
Sage Clothing Company  
Serendipity Designs

**Morrow County Foster Children Gift Drive**  
COME TAKE A TAG FROM OUR GIVING TREE.

RETURN UNWRAPPED GIFT BY DECEMBER 9TH WITH TAG ATTACHED.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PURCHASE EVERYTHING ON THE LIST.  
GIVE WHAT YOU CAN.

IF YOU TAKE A TAG, PLEASE BUY THE GIFT.  
IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, BRING THE TAG BACK AND PUT IT ON THE TREE.

**Tires LES SCHWAB**

**124 N. MAIN STREET HEPPNER OR 541-676-9481**