

~ Letters to the Editor ~

Good News Only

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. Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

**People need good news**

To the editor:  
A doctor friend of mine cautioned me to share more encouraging columns. I agreed, however, I asked him if he would want his doctor to share the truth about an ominous health diagnoses or cover things in a manner to soften the blow. He responded people are scared and they need hope. He is right. What is happening in America and the world is confusing, discouraging, and portentous. People need some good news.

Doris Brosnan has been a breath of fresh air since she and Dan returned to Morrow County decades ago. Her column "Good News Only" is exactly what eastern Oregon needs. Fr. Thankachan Joseph has been ministering to all faiths and peoples of eastern Oregon and beyond with the "Good News" of Jesus Christ honestly, passionately and true to scripture for months. Father Joseph's ministry provides hope for all with ears to hear. This encouragement would not be possible without a Heppner Gazette-Times owner with integrity and firm understanding of the need for a free press for our republic to survive.

Perhaps the most encouraging for discouraged citizens that value the sanctity of all life is the opening of Birthright in Heppner which hosted an open house Sunday, Jan. 24 at 128 West Willow Street. Those who are willing to fight the Lord's battles through volunteering, prayer and finances for Birthright will bring a great blessing upon their community. What an opportunity to share the 'good news' through ways and means to save precious babies lives.

Another piece of good news is the wolf committee volunteers that meet monthly at the courthouse. This committee is at the forefront of the battle to rid our land and heritage of hybrid wolves that our forefathers had the sense to eliminate. Finally, there continues

to be 'good news' coming forth from Lexington with volunteers willing to make their city great again.

Doc, you need to buy a subscription to the Heppner Gazette to lift your spirit. Nevertheless, the good news must be tempered with truth or it has no lasting virtue, especially at an hour in America where truth is controlled by those that own the press, media and the internet and all other 'news' is censored. Our forefathers would call this tyranny. James Madison, the father of the Constitution warned, "The accumulation of all power, legislative, executive and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, or few or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny." (Federalist 47, 1788)

Things are happening in America that need to be exposed, because if they are not confronted and opposed our wonderful tidings of good news will be censored forever. The only power left in America today that protects our way of life and liberty is the Second Amendment, the right to keep and bear arms in order to safeguard our Constitution, our liberty, our way of life and our property. The ominous news that must not be covered over is the Second Amendment is under an unprecedented fiercely satanic attack by the global Socialist/Communist government tyranny that now rules our Republic.

The good news is our God will bless those who will not yield to this tyranny and are willing to fight the Lord's battles. The good news Heppner and eastern Oregon, as documented in this letter, is rising up and will not be silenced. In closing, Sir Winston Churchill in his greatest speech ever after winning the Second World War spoke only three words and sat down, "Never Give Up."

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

**Neighborhood Watch seeks new members**

To the editor:  
With the uptick of criminal activity in our sleepy community, I feel a need to make everyone aware of the Neighborhood Watch Program in our town and encourage citizens to join. As of today, we have 15 active members, but that isn't near enough to cover the need. People who live in areas that don't have a member are encouraged to join.

Anyone living within eyesight of any of the parks, including the pool, the hill streets such as Willow View, Rock South Main and Chase are really needed. If you can't see a Neighborhood Watch sign on or next to your street please join us. I am also encouraging anyone who has

a security camera to please call the Sheriff's Office or me so we can have a list to go to if something happens. The non-emergency phone number for the Sheriff's Office is 541-676-5317 and you can also call me at 541-676-9810.

We are looking forward to welcoming new members. You may not be aware of how easy it is to be a member. All we ask is for everyone to keep an eye on your neighborhood and call the Sheriff's Office if you see something that just isn't normal. They don't mind taking your calls and encourage you to do so, but remind you to call the non-emergency number.

Thanks to all of you and please consider joining.  
Glo Lesperance

**Dollar General will have negative impact on Heppner**

To the editor:  
As you may have heard there are plans to have a Dollar General to replace the Cornerstone and RV Park. This has been confirmed by the owner of the property and our Heppner City Manager.

I am expressing my concerns to all of the Heppner residents because I believe there will only be negative impacts on our already established businesses and the small community we all love so much.

The predatory practice that Dollar General establishes is to target failing communities and Heppner is not a failing community.

My concerns are as such: 1) That Dollar General will take away jobs from already established Heppner businesses. Local merchandise stores and markets to Heppner employees around 14-15 employees while Dollar General hires 6-8 employees per location. 2) Dollar General is a corporation that will not be providing any products

to Heppner that are not already provided. 3) Dollar General will not support the local economy of Heppner, such as donations to our schools and community events like our already established businesses do. 4) Heppner is our home with a small-town charm. Dollar General will take away our small-town pride and character on Main Street.

If you share these concerns that I have please share this post and attend the next city council meeting February 8 at 7 p.m. so all of our elected Heppner officials can be made aware of what the Dollar General will take away from Heppner. Help support me, as well as these businesses, that stand behind these concerns: Murray's Drugstore, Sage Clothing, Two Old Hags Pizza, Heppner Auto Parts, Brannon's Auto Repair, Peterson's Jewelry, Breaking Grounds Coffee and Breaking Bread Distribution.

Drew Brannon  
Heppner

**COVID-19 vaccine given in Heppner Fri.**

*All groups in phase 1A, school staff, 65 and up*

All people in groups phase 1A, school staff and people 65 years and over can get the COVID-19 vaccine this Friday at the fairgrounds in Heppner from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The shots will be given on a drive through basis and those coming should wear a

mask and stay in their car.

Times for age groups are: 9-10:30 a.m., age 80 and up; 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., age 75 up; 12-2 p.m., age 70 up; 2-4 p.m., age 65 up. Extended wait times could occur. Paperwork can be picked up in the offices in advance.

The health department tells people not to come if they have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell or any other illness, are in quarantine for a COVID-19 exposure or have had any other vaccination in the past 14 days.

**Funerals**

**Raymond "Ray" William O'Neal** - Raymond "Ray" William O'Neal, 84, of Heppner passed away Sunday, December 13, 2020 in Prineville surrounded by his family.

There will be celebration of life held Saturday, January 30, 2021 at the Gilliam-Bisbee Building (106 E May Street-Heppner) at 1

**Town and Country banquet postponed**

Heppner Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lori Roach has announced that the annual Town and Country Banquet will be postponed indefinitely, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chamber, however, is still taking nomi-

nations for man, woman, business, teacher, student and lifetime achievement of the year.

Roach says that nominations may sent to the Chamber at P.O. Box 1232, Heppner, OR 97836 or emailed to heppnerchamber@gmail.com.

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

Hi! I'm Linda, your Morrow County Veterans Services representative, aka VSO-Veterans Service Officer. As your local VA Advocate, accredited under Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, I'm here to assist you and your family access benefits that you may be entitled to. As an accredited advocate, I help veterans and their families understand their benefits available through the VA and state. This can include applying for VA Health Care, other information related to veterans health care, veterans disability income benefits, burial benefits surviving spouse benefits and much more! There is no charge for this service. VSOs have your best interest in mind and will help you get the benefits you deserve. VSOs assist veterans and their families in many ways, including:

- Answering questions, advising, and educating individuals and groups on what benefits are available from federal, state, county, and local resources
- Assisting eligible persons in filing the necessary claims
- Representing individuals and presenting claims in VA hearings
- Referrals to additional services

We're here for you! Call today 541-922-6420



By Doris Brosnan

This "Good News Only" column will print some good news from our area for GT readers - as long as individuals are willing to share - because we all appreciate opportunities to smile over someone's "good news." Anyone who doesn't get contacted by me but has something to share is encouraged to email it to dbrosnan123@gmail.com. A phone call will also get the job accomplished: 676-5382.

The newly opened Birthright volunteers were pleased with the turnout for their open house last weekend. More people becoming aware of their services, including free pregnancy tests, is good news. And good news for some new mothers are the free baby clothes available on Mondays, 10-3 p.m.; Thursdays, 5-7 p.m. and Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.

Karen Temple reports that the Heppner Christian Church (541-676-9209) also has babies in mind as volunteers prepare baby baskets for anyone in need. "Another day is always good news, and it is so good to see people helping people."

Good news that "Auntie Shari" (Ober) has shared is that Braden and Amber Britt are expecting their first baby. Braden is the son of Rick and Sally.

And Jon and Janelle Ellis will be welcoming their second child in March. Baby Ellis will be joining brother Cole, who will surely consider this good news.

Helping with the Ione Booster Club's funding of the school's various needs is a long-standing community effort, and anyone can contribute by adding returnable bottles and cans to a downtown receptacle. Good news for the students, having such strong support. After using her garage for storage of the bottles and cans for thirteen years, Betty Gray was willing to hand that responsibility off to other members and get her garage back.

Some Heppner High students think the recent change in the approach to in-class instruction is good news, a small indication of steps toward eventual "normalcy." For now, some actual face-to-face instruction will slowly, gradually be added to the more restrictive virtual instruction.

**Top semester grades announced**

The Heppner Junior/Senior High School has released the names of the students receiving the top grades for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. To be on the list, students must attain at least a 3.5 GPA.

Students with a 4.0 GPA: Seniors: Madison Ashbeck, Roy Collins, Alexis Cutsforth, Kimber Kelton, Marlee Mitchell, Madelyn Nichols, Hannah Palmer, Aimee Turrell, Kennisyn Wilkins, Jayden Wilson and Blake Wolters. Juniors: Harley Anderson, Hannah Finch, Cody Fletcher, Serena Humphreys, Lillian Imes and Blane Mahoney. Soph-



Walker McCoy Haak, son of Amy Haak, enjoyed the snow by building a snowman on Main St.

Good news for some HJSHS students is being recognized by staff as high-achieving scholars during these challenging times of virtual schooling. Their names and pictures are featured online at <https://hhs.morrow.k12.or.us/o/hhs/page/head-of-the-herd-copy2>

Of course, the recent snowfalls are good news, say several locals, including George Nairns. "The snow is important moisture, pretty and a reason to appreciate being warm inside while enjoying its beauty." And Tyler at Les Schwab didn't complain when he had to drive to work early in his RZR on Monday because of a treacherous street. Kay Fowler reports that 10 members of the cross-country ski club thought the snow and sunshine for their weekend outing beyond Bull Prairie were good news, too.

The weather doesn't affect pinochle-playing for the Ione ladies whose once-monthly play was already going strong when Lorene Montgomery moved to Ione in 1969. She reports as good news that even the pandemic has not totally curtailed the long-lived group who are mask-wearing, disinfectant washers of hands, tables, chairs, chips and cards. (Or usually new decks are used.) They have had to work around the changing restrictions but are determined to keep the group going.

If good news tidbits continue to come my way, the column will continue to appear. Reminder: dbrosnan123@gmail.com. 541-676-5382.

Hoping all eyes reading this will have some good news to share next time.

omores: Tyler Boor, Samuel Finch, Paul Lindsay, Trevor Nichols, Madison Palmer and Daralynn Teeman. Freshmen: Morgan Cutsforth, Caden George, Hunter Houck, Irelynn Kollman and Cameron Proudfoot. Eighth grade: John Lindsay and Katie Spivey. Seventh grade: Elizabeth Finch, Lilyanna Nichols, Rylee Palmer and Loren Trujillo.

Students with at least a 3.5 GPA: Seniors: Jackson Lehman, Mikel Jaca and Sydney Wilson. Juniors: Conor Brosnan, Julianna Teeman, Blake Carter, Julie Dyer, Brock Hisler, Kylie Boor and Aubriana Rodriguez. Sophomores: Brooklyn Wilson, Dusty Robinson, Camryn Scrivner, Adan Guerra and Hailey Wenberg. Freshmen: Piper Kelton and Hadlie Nation. Eighth grade: Sierra Greenup, Cristal Manning and Jackson Coiner. Seventh grade: Sophie Rodriguez, Sarah Munkers, Journey Cavan-Harris, Owen Guerra and Zaleta Masterson.