

**Obituaries**

# Steven L. "Steve" Myren

Steven L. "Steve" Myren of Boardman was born July 23, 1962 in Silverton, OR. He died on February 1, 2021 in Hermiston at the age of 58 years.

was part of an ambulance crew that brought patients back from cardiac arrest on three occasions and treated literally thousands of patients while working EMS / Law Enforcement.



Steven L. "Steve" Myren

"Steve was true to form right up to the end, doing anything he possibly could for Mim and everyone else who loved him so much. He composed the following just days before he passed which captures the heart and spirit of a truly great man."

*Greetings friends, First, on the subject of religion, I consider myself a Christian. Some might be surprised to hear that, but it is true. I have never been near as devout as most people in terms of open expression, but I have prayed to God privately in my moments of need and guidance for many, many years. I do believe in heaven and I believe Jesus died for my sins.*

*Second, I am so very happy with my life. I have very few regrets. I think that while I have had some interesting misadventures over the years each and every one of them have formed me into the man I am today. And the good has SO FAR outweighed the bad I simply have no room to complain.*

*Part of what fuels me and has fulfilled my life has come out of my desire to "help people." I never cared what time of the day or night or the circumstances. If it were in my power to assist I would do my level best to make it happen. THAT, my friends, is where the reward comes from. People remember kindness and it has always come back in the form of help and support whenever my lovely bride or I needed anything.*

*I would not have achieved near what have had it not been for meeting Miriam "Mim" Reimer and convincing her to be my bride in 1981 in Silverton, OR. She has been by my side supporting me without fail for 40 years. She is my hero. All of my adult life she has been the rock that I lean on, my sounding board and best friend. While I was gallivanting off on adventures she was happy to be the one at home. While we have had a lot of fabulous adventures together she was also happy to let me "roam" at times and go on my "walkabouts." She still to this day says, "You feathered me too nice of a nest here. I am comfortable and happy".*

*I started in public safety 40 years ago when I was 18 years old as a Fire Dept volunteer, became an EMT, a dispatcher and eventually a police officer. Over the last few years, I became less active in fire and EMS and more active in law enforcement, eventually retiring as the Undersheriff and Emergency Manager in Morrow County. In my career I have delivered multiple babies,*

*During the time that I was a DARE Officer I taught that program in every 6th grade class in Morrow County for many years.*

*This gave me unique access and contact with the youth of the county. To this day I still have people (now adults) remind me that they were one of my DARE students. Having the rapport with the students kept me involved as they matured into young adults. There are a fair number that I was able to help past rough spots and they are the ones I am most proud of. Even though sometimes my co-workers would not agree with me taking the "extra" time to work with the troubled ones, I am proud to say that those kids fought their way to a good place and are doing exceptionally well. Many are FB friends and I want you to know I am still proud of you.*

*Third, my federal work with the medical teams. Many years ago, I was asked to sit on a state disaster committee. I was later asked to join the Oregon Disaster Medical Team. This team was part of a nationwide DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team) and plugged me into a world I never thought I would see. My very first team deployment was to Ground Zero after the terrorist attacks where I led the team as we helped take care of the people working the World Trade Center site. Over the years I was given more duties and eventually rose to the level of Type-I Operations Section Chief. In that capacity there were (at the time) only four of us qualified to that level in the US with our agency and as such we were busy. I deployed to the Olympics, numerous hurricanes, tornados, The American Samoa tsunami, and many weeks in New York managing over 1,500 team members while working Superstorm Sandy.*

Love you all, Steve and Mim

Steve is survived by his wife and partner for over 40 years, Mim Myren; sisters, Susan (Casper) Lehner and Elsie (Tim) Dirlam; numerous nieces and nephews as well as countless colleagues.

Arrangements are pending. Those who wish may make contributions in Steve's memory to the American Cancer Society.

Please share memories of Steve with his family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

# A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

There are two new residents at Willow Creek Terrace and two months into the new year. Ginger O'Brien, a familiar face in Heppner who had a long career as a school bus driver, moved in last month. Rita Bowman moved in this month and received many good wishes this week because she has enjoyed many years of making friends in Heppner and celebrated her birthday on Monday. Her new neighbors viewed her choice of chicken and coconut cream pie for her shared birthday lunch as a gift for all. A Happy Birthday shout-out goes to Bernice Lott, who will celebrate on the 25th.

Everyone has also welcomed a new staff member to the Terrace, Alice Ragan.

As this short month seems to quickly pass, so far without much suggestion of winter, it does actually mark the halfway point of the season (Feb. 6). The almost-springlike days have allowed more walks around outside and strollers have witnessed the buds and merging plants. Punxsutawney Phil apparently did see his shadow on Feb. 2, however, so six more weeks of winter must be on its way.

The threat of COVID-19 postponing the Super Bowl did not stop the game on Sunday, so residents and staff enjoyed supporting their teams and

watching for each quarter's score results, to see who won the game-board pot for each.

Of course, Valentine's Day décor can be seen at the Terrace this month, and a special day and lunch will be featured on the 14th. Next week will offer Presidents' Trivia at morning discussions, since Feb. 15 will be President's Day. But discussion on the 18th will also include I Love Lucy because that day celebrates the show that began in 1951 and ran for six seasons. Some episodes will run on the TV. Though no canines presently live at the Terrace, residents will be encouraged to take walks on the 22nd, Walk-the-Dog-Day, weather permitting. And Johnny Cash will be a topic on the 26th, the anniversary of his 1932 birth, with some of his songs playing in the background.

The routine weekly activities will help to fill out the month on the Hill, as residents patiently wait for health-related restrictions to be cancelled. Just having a safe place to live, good food to eat, conversations to appreciate and caring staff to help with activities can be viewed as good fortune and blessings.

Individuals interested in information about Terrace apartments and services or about employment opportunities should call 541-676-0004.

# Field day required for hunter education

The Hunter Education field day will be required for youth to hunt as of April 1. The 2020 temp rule that postponed requirement due to COVID expires March 31.

Youth hunters (age 17 and younger) will need to fully complete their hunter education certification, including completing a field day, to hunt in Oregon on their own tag as of April 1, 2021.

Hunter education classes and field days were cancelled or limited last year due to COVID-19 restrictions statewide. A temporary rule was approved that

postponed the requirement for youth to attend a field day class in order to receive their hunter education certificate and hunt in 2020. The rule expires March 31, 2021.

Any student who was only able to complete the online or workbook portion of the class in 2020 will need to complete the field day portion to hunt as of April 1, including for 2021 spring turkey and spring bear seasons. The temporary rule is still good for hunts from the 2020 season that end by March 31, 2021.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) offers two types of hunter education classes: conventional which is all in-classroom instruction or online which students can complete mostly independently, except for the in-person field day.

ODFW has taken a number of steps to protect both students and instructors participating in classes/field days since the pandemic began. Class size is restricted to 25 students/parents and then broken up into smaller groups at arrival. Social distancing will be maintained, and all students and volunteer instructors are required to wear a mask during the class. Hand sanitizer will be available.

# HHS 60's reunion planned

The Heppner class of 65, come hades, hail, or high water, will hold a 60's class reunion on July 16-17. The organizers are counting on the Governor to open the state and end the lockdown. A final determination will be made in April/May with more details.

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# Spiritually Speaking

# The Healing Touch

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB, St. Patrick Church



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

This week, the readings deal with the topic of leprosy and how Jesus approached the problem. In ancient society, no figure was more pathetic than a leper. "Leprosy" was a red-flag word that brought the same responses as the word "plague" in the 1200s, "smallpox" in the 1700s, or "Aids" in the 1900s, and "corona" in 2020. People were deadly afraid they would catch the disease. Leprosy was indeed contagious but only after long periods of very close contact. The leper's life was a living hell. People hated the sight of him, and he, in turn, hated the sight of himself. Psalm 31 describes this wretched situation: "Those who know me are afraid of me; when they see me in the street, they run away. I am like something thrown away." Leprosy was a terrible skin disease and, something like COVID-19, the cause and spread were not known, the only solution was to isolate or expel the affected patient from the community. Jesus becomes an example to the present world of how we need to approach the patient who needs our care and concern. Christ wasn't afraid to reach out and touch lepers. He still reaches out to us, all who call out to Him, to heal in us the wounds of present-day sins. Let us not be afraid to approach him. We need His healing touch especially as we are fast approaching the season of Lent.

The Book of Leviticus (13: 1-2, 44-46) was one of the books of the law given by Moses to the people of Israel, describing the rules, norms to be followed by the leprosy patients. Chapters 12 to 15 deal with various illnesses and why some illnesses require the person to live apart, primarily in order not to infect others. We know that when someone is affected by the corona, we isolate the patient immediately to control the spread. The ancient society was not as sophisticated as we are now. The only criteria in those days was expulsion from the community.

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (5:20-6:2) depicts St. Paul as an ambassador of Christ urging all to get reconciled to Christ. We are moving towards the season of Lent, which is an invitation to turn away from sin and to turn towards God. The pandemic that we are facing is, also, an invitation to be reconciled to God, as St. Paul reminds us that the appropriate time has come: "Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold now is the day of salvation" (6:2).

The Gospel from Mark (Mk 1: 40-45) brings us back to leprosy. The leper's faith that Jesus can cure him is so strong that Jesus tells him: "Be made clean." And the leprosy leaves him. The leper proclaims to everyone that he has been cured by Jesus. In Jesus's day, a leper by law could not get within fifty yards of a clean person. So, this was the heart of the matter. Not only did these wretched people have to endure the trials of an incurable affliction, they also were isolated from society and the community of faith. The horror of disease, a lifestyle of loneliness, isolation, and hopelessness - where could they find hope?

Imagine how he feels. His body is physically rotting away. He is rejected by everybody. It was such a man as this who, in today's Gospel, came out of the shadows, who emerged from the pit of loneliness, rejection and worthlessness, to confront the man he believed would not reject him, namely, Christ. To such a tragic leper, Jesus reached out his hand lovingly, touched the man, and healed him. This is the essence of Christianity, to touch the untouchables, to love the unlovable, and to care for the uncared for.

What is the relevance of the story for us at this particular time? We are facing the pandemic of COVID-19, an epidemic that affects everyone. It has caused the death of several of our loved ones or friends. We are crushed, as the leper was when he contracted his disease. St Paul in his letter to the Romans writes, "We are often troubled, but not crushed, sometimes in doubt, but never in despair... and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed (8:32)." For Believers, no tragedy is so great that Jesus can't make of it something better. Today's story of the leper tells us that no tragedy is so terrible we can't survive it, no calamity so crushing we can't recover from it, no disaster is so destructive we can't pick up the pieces and start over again. Whenever we think our life is ruined forever, we need only to turn to Jesus, who can repair our broken lives. Romans 8:28: "We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him." We need His healing touch.

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