

Good News Only

By Doris Brosnan

On Tuesday, August 10, Mike and Cindi Doherty and Jerry and Ione Martin, Cindy's parents from Hermiston, went to Lincoln City to meet Larry and Linda Martin from Waterloo, Iowa. Larry is Jerry's brother, and Larry's wife Linda had never been to Oregon. They were spending Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday together. Larry even rented a van so they could tour together. They drove along the coast on Thursday, south from Lincoln City, where they were staying. When they returned from Newport, the hotel called to announce that they had to leave. The call came at about 3 p.m., and everyone had to be out by 6. The facility closed the casino, the restaurants and the hotel. Because it was summer and there were no rooms available, Larry and Linda went back to Portland to visit her son, and the rest returned to eastern Oregon that evening. (Good news was sharing that time together, a first for Linda and a memory made.)

Evelyn Sweek will celebrate her 90th birthday, again, on the 30th. Why again? Because of schedule demands, a small gathering of some friends and family toasted Evelyn last Saturday. HBD, Evelyn.

Last week, Jason and Michelle Carson's family welcomed, a wee bit earlier than planned, baby Olivia, who weighed in at 5 lbs., 8 oz. Olivia joins parents and siblings Mason, Ryan and Isabelle.

Tanner Rietmann, son of Greg and Shelley, and Madison Carlyn plan to wed on December 18. Tanner works with his father, and Madison will be the third-grade teacher at Ione this fall.

Bingo has started up again at St. Patrick's Senior Center. As of yesterday, players are welcome at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays. The only restriction is that players must wear masks unless they are actively eating during the potluck period. Outer doors are unlocked during the day for easy access.

Betty Gray can attest to the large variety of good produce that is available from the gentleman from Lebanon who includes Arlington, Ione, and Lexington in his circuit. He is in Ione on Tuesdays from 11 to 1, before moving on to Lexington. She reports that the tomatoes and peaches have been especially outstanding, and he has informed her that he plans to continue this service into mid-September, when his

supplier no longer supplies.

Last weekend, many family groups of multiple generations filled the bleachers and/or performed in the rodeo. Such good news for families when offspring (and their offspring, often) gather for this August event that affords time to connect to those ties that bind.

While touring the fair entries, the concern about a seeming drop in entries was replaced with the knowledge that anyone who didn't enter even one thing may have contributed to the drop but also the more cheerful knowledge that we have almost a year to create even one entry. That is good news.

Mentally calculated several times, the number is repeatedly "eight" times a pedestrian can cross Willow Creek when walking from one end of Heppner to the other. Starting at the dam, ending on Morgan Street? (Yes, please check my calculations.) Pausing at each bridge offers repeated moments of pleasure in the (reassuring? happy? uplifting?) sound and sight of the clear water. (Good news, too, is the cleanup of the banks — only a few careless people have left Styrofoam, plastic and metal containers behind in a few places.)

Good news can be the passing of a test of one part of a senior citizen's brain: Encountered on Main Street last weekend someone who moved from Heppner many, many years ago. She recognized me. I thought I recognized her. She asked my name. I answered as I searched my memory banks for the answer to my question. Bingo. Theo Greenup. Congrats to us both. (Theo lives in Mississippi.)

Oh, yes, the rooster reigns. Not only has he returned at 5 a.m.; some mornings he seems to be accompanied by background singers - quail, doves and occasional overhead Canadian geese who add their cacophonous echoes.

But little Houdini Dog has not attempted to visit for a couple of weeks now, apparently no longer feeling amorous over Katie the collie.

Too busy to write a tidbit to add to this column? A quick phone call with your information can also guarantee some smiles for readers. Please, share your good-news tidbits by sending them before Monday afternoon to dbrosnan123@gmail.com, or call 541-676-5382 or 541-223-1490, or stop me on the street.

Here's hoping that some good news comes to everyone reading this.

Congressman Bentz hosts town halls

Congressman Cliff District."

Bentz recently hosted town halls in 11 of the 20 counties in Oregon's Second Congressional District. During the town halls, Congressman Bentz gave an update on his work in Washington, D.C., including his efforts to secure aid for communities struck by drought, promote water infrastructure projects, raise the profile of wildfire issues in the west, stop out-of-control deficit spending and address the immigration and border crisis.

"I am so thankful to those who took the time to participate in our town halls this past week," said Bentz. "In groups big and small, we talked about serious issues impacting Oregon families and communities. I am committed to continuing to listen to my constituents as I return to Washington, D.C. for debate on the upcoming budget bill and as I look to visit the remaining nine counties in Oregon's vast Second Congressional



Congressman Cliff Bentz

Each forum gave constituents the opportunity to ask questions and voice their opinions on federal legislation and other issues impacting Oregon.

Many spoke of their concerns regarding federal land management policies that contribute to catastrophic wildfires, dam removal proposals that would harm Oregon agriculture, pandemic measures that have impacted the economy and efforts to undermine local decision making in communities and schools.

The counties visited by Congressman Bentz included Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, Lake, Harney, Grant, Wheeler, Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes. Bentz said he is currently planning to visit the remaining nine counties during the month of September. He hopes to announce those county town halls as soon as possible.

Hopeful Saints to hold outdoor worship

Praise in the Park will be the theme of Hopeful Saints Ministry's annual outdoor worship service at Hager Park on Sunday, August 29. The singing will begin at 10 a.m., with worship to follow (in person and on Facebook Live). All are encouraged, but not required, to bring an object from nature to add to the altar table and a lawn chair.

A potluck barbecue and games will follow the wor-

ship. Bring meat to grill and a salad or dessert to share. Dinnerware and drinks will be provided. Everyone is welcome to come and join this opportunity to gather and sing together outside in what is forecasted to be a beautiful day.

Additional information about this event and other church activities is available by calling the church office at 541-676-9970.

Mormon crickets, topic of meeting

A meeting to discuss the Mormon Cricket situation in Morrow County will be held Thursday, August 26 at 7 p.m. at the city park in Ione. The discussion will be asking what can be done about them as they move into the county.



Mormon crickets are moving into Morrow County.

Death Notices

Jerald Paul Ellenberger — Jerald Paul Ellenberger of Milton-Freewater passed away August 19, 2021, at his home at the age of 77 years. He was born October 9, 1943. Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater is in care of arrangements.

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Spiritually Speaking

Be active listeners of the word of God

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

As we read this week, we are reminded to be active listeners, not passive listeners, of the Word of God, letting His word transform us into good deeds. Through the readings of the day, the Lord asks us to reflect on our lives, to check whether we are really honoring Him with our hearts or only with our lips. What has been the effect of the Lord's word in our lives? Have we really been doers of the word, or merely hearers?



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

While going through the reading from St. James (1: 17-18m 21-22,27), I was reminded of one of the anecdotes I read somewhere about uprightness and integrity: A man and a lady enter a takeaway restaurant. The man orders two fried-chicken dinners. The girl at the counter mistakenly gives him a bag of money, the entire day's proceeds. The man and woman drive to their picnic site and sit down to enjoy their chicken dinners. To their surprise, they discover that it is a bag of money, totaling almost \$10,000. They put the money back in the bag, drive back to the restaurant, and return the money bag to the restaurant manager. The manager is overwhelmed. He declares the man a hero and a saint. He goes to call the local press to put the story and the man's picture into

the local newspaper. "You're the most honest man in the whole world," says the manager. But the man will not let him call the press. Instead, he leans closer and whispers in the manager's ear, "You see, the woman I'm with is not my wife...she's, uh, somebody else's wife."

The man might well be a hero, but he's no saint. As James tells us, true Christian holiness has as much to do with doing good to others as it has with keeping ourselves pure. "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:27). The man scores high on honesty but very low on integrity.

A majority of Christians in our churches belong to one of two camps. Either, like the man in the story, scoring high marks in their commitment to practical justice and fairness but low in self-discipline and integrity, or they are people who score high in self-discipline but low in practical commitment to fairness and upright living. James, the apostle of practical Christianity, teaches us that a Christian must score high marks in concern for the welfare of others and in self-mastery to be truly holy and acceptable before God. St. James leads us to understand the importance of practical Christianity, that faith without good works is dead (James 2:17).

James makes two important points in today's read-

A View from the Green

WCCC men's play

Eight golfers participated in men's play on Sunday, August 22 at Willow Creek Country Club. Taking first in gross was Jerry Gentry with 68. Dave Pranger was second with 70 and Dale Boyd came in third with 75.

First in net went to

Over the Tee Cup

Virginia Grant took low gross of the field at the Willow Creek Country Club ladies play day on August 17, a cool day. Low net of the field winner was Pat Edmundson and Karen Haguewood had the least putts. Grant also got a birdie on #10.

For flight A, Karen Thompson had low gross and Shelly had low net. Carol Mitchell had the least putts and Virginia Grant got the long drive and KP.

Pat Dougherty won low gross for flight B and Pat Edmundson got the long

Gene Orwick with 60. The second-place winner was Mike Doherty and third was Roger Ehrmantraut.

Derek Gunderson and David Gunderson will host the next men's play on August 29.

drive and KP.

Flight C winners were Lorene Montgomery for low gross and Kris Linder, low net. Jean Creswick had the least putts and Betty Carter got the long drive and KP.

In other events, Virginia Grant, Karen Haguewood and Betty Carter got the long putts for flights A, B and C.

The Eddi Skow/WCCC ladies club championship will be held August 31 and September 1. Ladies must sign up in advance to play.

Free haircuts at Neighborhood Center

Joseph Kindle will be providing free back to school haircuts for elementary age boys at the Neighborhood Center on Thursday, August 26 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 pm. No appointment is necessary. Joseph Kindle is currently a student at Paul Mitchell The School in Richland, WA and is set to graduate in November.

The Neighborhood Center will hold a \$15 bag sale on Wednesday, September 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (closed 12:30-

1:30 p.m. for lunch). Shop for the entire family and fill up a bag with clothing, shoes, books, games, music and movies. Second bag purchased will be at a discount rate of \$5. Household items are 50 percent off that day as well.

Proceeds from the sale help purchase food for the pantry. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday at 441 N Main Street, Heppner. For any questions about emergency services contact Lisa Patton at 541-676-5024.

Chamber meeting

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting is scheduled for September 2 at 12 noon at the Gilliam and Bisbee building. Lunch of a taco, side dish and dessert will be catered by Tacos Home-

town for \$10 per person.

RSVPs for attendance and choice of beef or chicken taco must be received by Monday, August 30. Call 541-676-5536 or email heppnerchamber@gmail.com to RSVP.

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace, Glen Diehl, has released the following Justice Court report:

-Donald Martin, Jr., 51, Heppner, was convicted of DWS, fine \$440.

-Travis A. Palmer, 30, Heppner, was convicted of DWS, fine \$440.

-Colton L. Todd, 26, Seattle, WA, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$165 and failure to carry proof of insurance, fine \$265.