

~ Letters to the Editor ~

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 received Him not**

To the editor:  
 Jesus "came unto his own, and his own received him not." (John 1:11). How could Jesus's own people received him not? Every prophet, every scribe, every priest in the holy land was seeking, waiting, hoping and praying for their expectant king. The Torah, the prophets, the psalmists, the historical scribes had carefully and copiously recorded the prophecy of their coming King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Over one quarter of written scripture documented this joyous event. Nevertheless, these venerated Jewish priests, prophets and scribes all misinterpreted and misunderstood scripture and the Jews "received him not." How could this happen?

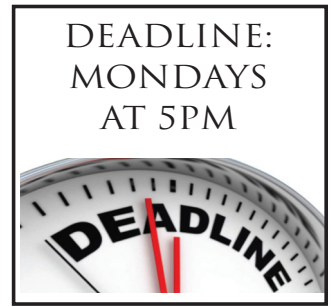
"He is despised and rejected of men: A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53: 3,4,5)

The Jewish scribes, priests and prophets threw out or misinterpreted any scripture that did not fit their tradition of their coming King. Jesus their King could not be born in a barn, could not come from lowly Bethlehem, could not have come out of heathen Egypt as scripture prophesied so they developed their own tradition and cherry picked scripture to fit their doctrine. They missed the

central truth of the Word of God: that Jesus would come to earth twice, first to redeem mankind by sacrificing his life for the sin of all men and second to return at the end of the age as King of Kings and Lord of Lord's.

Nothing has changed. Mankind has not changed, nor has God, nor has the truth of scripture. The scriptural truth of the return of Jesus Christ will happen precisely as prophesied. Could it be that "His own will receive him not." Have the traditions of the church and man misinterpreted scripture to fit their tradition and church doctrines? Jesus warned before he returned "then shall be great tribulation, such was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor ever shall be." (Matt. 24: 21) Jesus comes at the end of this great tribulation (Matt. 24:29,30) "to gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matt 24:31) Jesus exhorted his followers, "those that endure to the end shall be saved." (Matt. 24:13)

As we celebrate Christmas let's worship Jesus Christ, not as a baby, not on the cross, but as He is: our triumphant King returning to earth to claim His kingdom and end all wickedness, all lies and deception, every mandate of tyranny, and set mankind at liberty.  
 Stuart Dick, Irrigon



**Good News Only**

**By Doris Brosnan**

Surely the answer is, "No one," to the question of, "Who isn't happy to realize that yesterday was the winter solstice, so the daylight hours are now increasing?" (The average increase, a resource reports, is two minutes and seven seconds daily.) Hooray.

Good news for many are the returns of college students for a lengthy winter break that will have them home for the holidays. Fortunate, too, are the parents whose families who live elsewhere are able to squeeze enough time out of demanding schedules to come for Christmas.

The power of prayers of friends and our community of churches deserves some credit for Ayden Melba Grace Miller's being able to celebrate her first Christmas this week, say her family. Ayden was born in Portland on July 22, a "preemie" at seven months, and didn't get released from the hospital to come home with parents, Jimmy and Marcy Walton, until late October, after several precarious months. Grandparents Mark and Shannie Miller and Paul and Susy Walton, as well as many friends, have been a great help to the new parents, and the Millers now serve as babysitters, since Marcy and Jimmy have had to return to their jobs. Shannie reports with a smile that this wee nine-plus-pound wonder has quickly made obvious "why we have our children when we are much younger and have loads of energy."

Important to the promise of a better future world are kindness and caring instilled into the young: Heppner Day Care's pre-school class walked to teacher Kellie Gray's house last Wednesday to deliver a card and sing to her, since she is recovering at home from surgery and will miss their Christmas program. Also, Sage Pre-School students made crafts to deliver to Willow Creek Terrace. And the Heppner High School Choir serenaded at the Elementary School and

Hometown Tacos. The choristers are led this year by new music teacher, Brooke Baker. The FFA group adopted three families for Christmas; by using money from their greens workshop profits, they are able to give them gifts, decorations and the Heppner Family Foods holiday meal package for each family.

JoAnna Lamb reports good news as her thank yous go out to many, "I had the greatest help ever with putting on last Thursday's event. Alicia Doherty helped me not freak out when I really wanted to over how to do this type of event. She has been so much help. Seren Hansen and Melanie Wilson assisted in planning the building layout and display. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints set up and tore down decorations. The Parent-Teacher Club helped with behind-the-scenes planning. The amazing Amazon AWS Elves came from 'Up North' to help with our event. They were so friendly, very hard working, and incredibly helpful. My husband, Scott, Russell Ellsworth and Melanie Wilson jumped right in and got those gifts out to everyone quickly and efficiently. Lastly, I thank everyone who participated. We can put on an amazing display, but if no one comes, it is all for nothing. I am glad we got to bring back to the community some part of what used to be."

The HHS Class of '65 gifted Kenny and Jan Evans an all-expenses-paid trip to Las Vegas for the National Rodeo Finals, to show appreciation for their years of hard work on the All-60's Classes gatherings. Returning a week ago, the Evanses report a fantastic trip that included the last two days of the rodeo competition, an introduction to Uber transportation - which was great and provided some interesting conversations - and visits with a variety of individuals while waiting here and there, including the small-world encounter with a gentleman who at first said he was from Oregon, from John Day, but then heard that Evanses are from Irrigon, so corrected that to "Long Creek, since you will know where that is," and even further into the conversation said that he had worked for the Morrow County Road Department. (No, they can't remember his name.) Both Jan and Kenny say they are humbled by the great gift classmates bestowed upon them.

A seventy-eight-year-old woman offers as evidence that she is still able to adapt to a changing world the fact that at a party, "In my day, we were apt to serve a 'cheese-and-meat tray' with some fruit and crackers or breads," but no longer. Now, instead, "I understand that what I will put together is a 'Charcuterie board,' which consists of (wait for it...) cheese, meats, fruits and breads."

Good news for this column will be reports of happy moments shared with family and friends over these next several days and then shared with our readers by sending good-news tidbits before Monday afternoon to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-676-5382 or 541-223-1490.

A Christmas greeting to everyone. And here's hoping that some good news comes to everyone reading this.

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**Heppner**

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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.

**Obituaries**

**Ronald Henry Currin**

Ronald Henry Currin was born in Heppner, OR on August 21, 1960, to Ronald Currin and Judy Lazinka Currin. Affectionately, he was known to family and friends as Ronnie or RC. He was raised on the family cattle ranch on Buttercreek with his brothers, Tony, Mike and Steve and sister, Jennifer.



Ronald Henry Currin

Ron graduated from Heppner High School in 1978, then attended Blue Mountain Community College and Montana State University, on rodeo scholarships, where he was a three-time College National Finals Rodeo qualifier. At Montana State, he discovered his love of the cattle industry. After returning home from Montana State University, Ron pursued the family's passion of rodeo. He traveled for several years, over thousands of miles, with his brothers and friends making a lifetime of memories and friendships. He was an accomplished all-around cowboy, competitive in both calf roping and steer wrestling. Ron was most proud to capture the prestigious Pendleton Round-Up All-Around Champion in 1993 and the steer wrestling title in 1995.

After Ron's rodeo career, he switched gears and began pursuing his passion of trading cattle. He started in the business at the bottom and worked his way up to become a first-class cattle trader. Ellington Peek and Western Video Markets were instrumental in starting his career and allowed him to broaden his cattle trading network. In 2005, he found his ultimate position as director of procurement with John Wilson and Beef Northwest. He loved what he did and valued the people he worked with in the cattle industry.

Ron married Rayanne Engel in 2005 and they divided their residency between Clements, CA and Pendleton, OR. In 2007 they welcomed twins, son Riley and daughter Rayna, which have been their pride

and joy. After a lengthy battle with metastatic bladder cancer Ron passed away at his Clements home with his wife by his side.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Mike Currin in 1990. Ron is survived by wife, Rayanne; son, Riley and daughter, Rayna. In addition, he is survived by his father, Ron Sr.; mother, Judy; brothers, Tony (wife Kelli) and Steve (wife Lianne); sister, Jennifer Gutridge (husband Shane); sister-in-law, Judy Pederson (husband Curtis) and nine nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held in Pendleton at the Convention Center on December 31 at 1:15 p.m. Memorial contributions can be made to the Ron Currin Memorial C/O Bank of Eastern Oregon, PO Box 39, Heppner, OR 97836 or to Hospice of San Joaquin (www.hospicesj.org) in Ron's memory.

**Bailey inducted into OBA Hall of Fame**



Jeff Bailey

The Oregon Bankers Association (OBA) inducted Jeff Bailey, president and CEO of Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner, into the Oregon Bankers Hall of Fame during the Oregon Bank Leadership Symposium held in December.

Induction into the Oregon Bankers Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed peer-to-peer within the Oregon banking community. It recognizes the

outstanding contributions inductees have made to the Oregon banking industry, to the OBA, and to the communities in which they live and work.

Bailey was born and raised in Enterprise and graduated from Eastern Oregon University with a degree in agriculture business. His professional career started as a grain buyer in Portland. He would eventually return to eastern Oregon where he became a commercial loan officer in Gilliam County with the Bank of Eastern Oregon. This was the beginning of what has been 25 years of service to the bank. From 2003 to 2009 Bailey served as chief credit officer. In 2008 he was named president and a year later, CEO.

Beyond his service and leadership within the bank, Bailey is known for his service to his community and to the banking industry.

Bailey is a past chair of the OBA and recently started a two-year term as the chair of the Community Banks of Oregon, a sister entity of the OBA that serves as a unique voice dedicated to banks headquartered in Oregon.

In eastern Oregon, Bailey is engaged in the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group, the Heppner Chamber of Commerce and many other civic and nonprofit groups.

During Bailey's induction into the Oregon Bankers Hall of Fame, OBA President and CEO Linda Navarro shared comments she received from his colleagues about his contributions and service.

Gabrielle Homer, a member of the bank's board of directors said, "I have always appreciated Jeff's open door - both as a customer of many years and when joining the board last year. He has always been responsive and helpful. He is a friendly, patient voice of reason. He is incredibly knowledgeable, and he is dedicated and loyal."

George Koffler, former CEO of the bank and current board member said, "Jeff has a strong moral compass that serves him well. He leads by example and is always willing to represent our industry in any capacity."

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