

~ 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.

Correction

Last week The Gazette Times left off the name of the letter to editor "Know who you're hiring." The author was Cheyenne Rogers, Heppner, OR

Grateful for care at PMH

To the Editor:
I'd like to let everyone know about the wonderful service I received at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Dr. Jeffrey Westin, Destiny and their team provided great care for me, Gayla Jones. They chatted and kept us company as we waited. My son and granddaughter were there to support me and were impressed with the facility. I'm grateful and felt comfortable and well cared for.

Gayla Jones
Heppner, OR

Please vote smart

To the Editor:
Last week when I wrote about the top three gubernatorial candidates, I thought I had discovered Betsy Johnson's most appalling vote:

"In favor of abortion at all stages of pregnancy, up to the baby's first breath."

Sadly, I was horrifically wrong. Now, Ms. Johnson doesn't have any children, so I can't expect her to think or feel like parent. That is her choice for her life and I have no judgment or opinion on that. However, the state she wants to represent as governor has millions of parents and children. Children who are the future of their families, their cities and counties, our state, and our country.

Therefore, it is impossible for me to conceive that any human could/would vote against a bill that bans infanticide. Specifically SB 586 which is currently in senate committee on health care:

"Banning infanticide. Requires health care practitioner to exercise proper degree of care to preserve health and life of a child born alive after abortion or attempted abortion."

Johnson voted Nay!

Let's begin with the obvious (well, obvious to me, anyway). As a mother and Nana to my own and bonus children and grandchildren. . . each one more precious to me than oxygen. . . My first question would be why on earth would legislation such as this even be written in order to be voted on?? Even every single pro-choice person I've spoken to (which is a considerable number!) considers this murder!

Secondly, what possible discussion could be had to convince someone to vote against such legislation, thus essentially mandating that health care practitioners kill a baby born alive? A doctor whose oath states, in part, "First Do No Harm."

I pray with my whole heart that Ms. Johnson not only fails in her bid to be our next governor, but that she never holds public office again. If we can't trust her to hold the best interests of our most precious and fragile demographic at its greatest height, how can we expect her to hold any of our interests at heart.

Furthermore, the last thing Oregon needs as governor is a person who has spent two decades

using her political power to strong arm and pressure support for her self-serving agendas. One who uses "homelessness" and "housing shortages", real crises affecting real people as campaign catch-phrases even though they were not important issues to her at any point during her 20 years in legislature. (oregonlive.com, Betsy Johnson: unaffiliated Oregon Governor Candidate would bring longtime skepticism about government to the job, September 26, 2022).

I implore you, please do your research. Read the above cited article. And vote with your heart and mind.

(s)Cheyenne Rogers
Heppner, OR

To all Conservatives Not the phonies

To the Editor:
To all Conservatives. The real ones. Not the phonies. Ones whose cornerstone values are the Constitution, the rule of law, and institutions that make those possible. When are you going to take your Party back? Yes, you who used to call yourselves Republican before your brothers and sisters swallowed the Kool-Aid of Putin's puppet. And you, who still hold onto the Republican label, just because you have no place else to go. A political party without a moral core grounded in reality, not self-delusion, eventually self-destructs.

I am no fan of Joe Biden. But he did identify Vladimir Putin as a war criminal. Donald Trump called him a "genius." What do you think?

The big lie that Trump won the election worked well. Now it's a litmus test for "real" Republicans. It didn't matter that when it came time to produce evidence in open court, there was none. Believing mattered more than evidence. Intelligence has nothing to do with it.

Why was selling the fraud so easy? Because the lie was aimed at minds who want to be lied to. Even Donald Trump was booed when he told people to get vaccinated. When you invite people like that into your party, the lunatics eventually take over the asylum. The ones who know better, but are in the game to get power, have no choice but to bobble their heads along with loonies. Courage only makes you a target. Just ask Congresswoman Liz Cheney. That is why the Republican Party today has so few moral leaders. Who's following them?

The joke is anyone who challenges the delusion is called a "RINO." The fact is: many real Republicans have already left.

James Tweed
Ocean City, NJ

A little too Woke?

To the Editor:
Twice in recent days or weeks, I have mentioned to someone that the world, and especially Oregon, and maybe even my church at the upper levels, have become a little too WOKE for me. In both cases, they seemed to zero in on homosexuality as the likely cause of my concern. But that is not the case.

I googled woke to be sure I knew what the word meant in an objective sense. It seems to be related to race and Marx Critical Social Justice Theories.

When I talk about WOKE, I'm thinking about a number of different beliefs being pushed on society recently, especially the last two or three years. It includes the belief that America is irredeemably racist and all white people are white supremacists and all black and brown people are victims with no chance of succeeding. (There is plenty of evidence to disprove the latter statement. Don't think it's possible to prove or disprove the former.) We're living on stolen land. (Controversial—indigenous peoples didn't own land and fought each other over it even before white people came, just as had been done by most peoples throughout the world for centuries, and it seems possible no one in the world is NOT living on stolen land.) Men can become women, and women can become men. Men who identify as women have a right to compete against biological women in sports (in spite of their superior size and muscle strength gained with testosterone surges during puberty.) Men who identify as women should be allowed in wom-en's restrooms, locker rooms, even prisons, even before surgery, even after women have been victims of rape in these settings. Black and brown people are targeted by police and at greater risk from them than from criminals—and racism is the only possible reason they are over represented in the prison system. (Loss of fathers in

the home couldn't possibly be a serious contributor.)

All this seems more designed to turn us against each other and create chaos than it does to solve problems. And there seems to be no room to disagree with the WOKE narrative, or discuss it. You are a bad person if you question any of it.

An interview I listened to on the internet expressed this better than I ever could: Speaker 1: "The woke brigade categorizes themselves as liberals, but there's nothing liberal about that mentality. But when you have a cancel culture which is driven by if you don't agree with what I say, you're going to get shamed, vilified, canceled, fired, maybe even imprisoned. That is actually what fas-cist regimes do."

Speaker 2: "Yeah, but the fascists are more straight forward about it, cause they basically come out with something like, 'Shut up, or we'll beat you,' whereas the compassionate types, they come out and say, 'Well, we're really trying to save the world and we're acting in everyone's best interests, so we just think it would be better if you regulate what you say, and if you don't you're not a good person.'" And you'll be shamed, vilified, etc.

Speaker 1: Piers Morgan
Speaker 2: Jordon Peterson; I hope you see the accuracy of the message, even if you don't like the speakers.

Sandra Johnson
Heppner, OR

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

After a couple of dashed hopes of visiting classmate and friend Ferne Healy in Roseburg, I was able to enjoy a couple of days with her and husband, Mike, a week ago. 'Twas my luck, also, to meet some of Ferne's friends because they needed a substitute pinocle player the day I arrived. A walk-about in downtown Roseburg was a first; I enjoyed browsing small, independent shops. I felt as though I was missing something when I first arrived in Roseburg, but I quickly realized that it was the first time in months that I was without a melancholy collie and perky puppy. They stayed in Salem with Darci.

Yes, we will have pizza. This is according to Dawn Brosnan, who reports that it is true: The plan is for Drew and Taylor Brannon to buy the business that they will start running as this year ends and the new year begins. Both Dawn and Josh will be doing other things, but they are pleased to know that Heppner will continue to have pizza. Good luck to all. (A few devoted Old Hags customers advise: "Don't change the sauce.")

And yes, those determined young women successfully completed their marathon and half-marathon runs last weekend in Portland and have the medals to prove it. (Using maiden names from their HHS days) congratulations go out to Janelle Healy, Kathleen Greenup, Petra Elguezabal, Jaci Hughes, Amber Peck and Annie Hisler. And kudos to Joyce Hughes, previously from Heppner, who successfully joined them.

Trevor Nichols, HHS graduate, son of Russ and Toni Nichols, has done it again. Trevor is receiving recognition for being an important member of the men's EOU cross-country team that has "surged into the top 10 in the nation," as reported by the "East Oregonian". The team is presently ranked sixth, the highest since 2017. Trevor is credited for being part of a duo "who have been the proverbial tip of the spear...." Kudos, Trevor. Janet Greenup and her family were relieved when she came home from St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton last Friday, after a bout with blood clots in her lungs. Recovery will be slow, they have been told, but Janet is determined, as demonstrated by her attendance at church last Sunday.

If you enjoy smiling with the contributors to this column, think of the smiles you can bring to faces if you send your tidbit to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-223-1490.

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

Marriage Licenses

Send engagement and wedding announcements to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

<i>Marriage Licenses Issued On September 12, 2022:</i>	
CASTRO LANDEROS, ESTELA ARACELY (18)	FLORES
RESENDIZ, PEDRO (27)	
80839 WAGON WHEEL LOOP	80839
WAGON WHEEL LOOP	IRRIGON,
IRRIGON, OR 97844	ASHBECK,
OR 97844	
REA, JASON MICHAEL (20)	69425
MADISON RHEA (19)	ECHO,
63201 HOWTON LANE	
LITTLE BUTTER CREEK RD.	
IONE, OR 97843	
OR 97826	

Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph
St. Patrick Catholic Church Heppner



Gratitude is an art of human life

In both the Old and New Testaments, God laments over man's ingratitude: "Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth, for the LORD speaks: Sons have I raised and reared, but they have disowned me! An ox knows its owner, and an ass, its master's manger; But Israel does not know, my people have not understood. Ah! Sinful nation, people laden with wickedness, evil race, corrupt children! They have forsaken the LORD, spurned the Holy One of Israel and apostatized" (Isaiah; 1:2-4). "He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him" (John 1:11). Who among us is not grateful for the numerous blessings that we receive in our day-to-day lives. From dawn to dusk, we receive abundant blessings from the Lord, but how do we respond to Him? God desires gratitude from us for the many blessings we receive and feels pain at our ingratitude.

The Second book of Kings (5:14-17) describes the pagan Naaman (king of Damascus and captain of the king of Syria's army) at his healing from leprosy through the power of Yahweh. When the prophet Elisha refused to accept Naaman's costly gifts as reward for the healing, the grateful Naaman asked the prophet's permission to take two loads of Israelite earth with him from Yahweh's land, for building an altar in Damascus so as to pray to Yahweh on Israelite soil. The grateful Naaman promised that he would accept Yahweh as his only God and offer holocausts to Him in thanksgiving for the healing.

This week's Gospel story from Luke 17:11-19 tells us of a gentile leper (a "Samaritan-foreigner") who returned to thank Jesus for healing him, while nine Jewish lepers went their way under the false impression that healing was their right as God's chosen people. They did not seem indebted for the singular favor they had received. Instead, they hurried off to obtain a health certificate from the priests. "Where are the other nine?" Jesus asked the gentile leper. "Did only one come back to say 'thank you?'" We are reminded that faith and healing go hand-in-hand. Faith prompted Naaman to plunge himself into the waters of the Jordan River, and faith in Jesus prompted the lepers to present themselves to the priests. The scripture readings remind us of the following life values that we need to put into practice.

- 1) Learn to be thankful to God and to others. Although we receive so much from God, we often take it for granted. We allow negatives like health problems, financial worries, conflict with a neighbor or co-worker or spouse to hide the blessings we receive. And we are often thankful only when we compare ourselves with less fortunate people. In times of need, we pray with desperate intensity; but as time passes, we forget God. Many of us fail to offer grace before meals or allot a few minutes of the day with family to thank the Lord for the numerous blessings he has showered upon us. God gave us His only Son, but we seldom give Him thanks. Similarly, we owe a great debt of gratitude to many other people, but we often fail to thank them sufficiently.
- 2) Celebrate the Holy Eucharist as the supreme act of thanksgiving: The Greek word "Eucharist" means "profoundly religious" and "thoroughly spiritual thanksgiving." When we worship together, we are thanking God for the great gift of His Son, whose sacrifice formed us into the People of God, and for the gift of the Spirit, through which we bring the presence of the Lord to others. Saying thanks to God with the parish community, sharing our time, talents, and blessings in the parish and sharing the heavenly bread of thanksgiving, the Holy Eucharist, is the least forms of thanksgiving we can offer every Sunday in response to God's blessings.
- 3) Realize the truth that we all need healing from our spiritual leprosy. Although we may not suffer from physical leprosy, we may suffer from "spiritual leprosy" of sins, which makes us unclean. Externally, we all look beautiful and handsome, but inside we need a thorough cleansing. Jesus wants to heal us from this leprosy of sin. Since Jesus is not afraid to touch our deepest impurities, let us not hide them. Just as the lepers cried out to Jesus for healing, let us also ask Him to heal us from the spiritual leprosy of sins including impurity, injustice, hatred, and prejudice. May He bless us all with this spiritual healing.

Elks' golf tournament

Raises donations

The Heppner Elks sponsored a "very successful benefit golf tournament at the Willow Creek Country Club" on September 24. Over \$2,300 was raised for a donation to the Oregon State Elks Children's Eye Clinic.

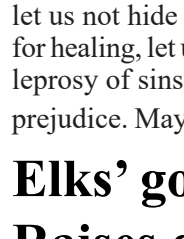
This was the 25th year for the annual tour-

namment which was headed up by Marvin "Marty" Brannon, a Heppner Lodge #358 member, PER, and local businessman. This was the 25th year for the tournament, which Mr. Brannon chaired for the past 14 years with the help of local Elks members.

year for the annual tour-

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