

# Miles couple celebrates 60 years



Dexter and Corinne Miles of Heppner are celebrating 60 years of marriage this Friday.

Dexter Miles, a Lexington High School graduate, met Corinne Siggelkow of Scobey, MT when he was stationed at Glasgow Air Force Base in northeastern Montana. She was a teacher at Glasgow schools at the time.

They were married in a small, private ceremony on Dec. 30, 1962, in Scobey. They lived in various

towns in eastern Montana and eastern Oregon early in their married life as Dexter pursued different jobs, mainly farming. Corinne worked as a substitute teacher and focused on raising their five children, Darrell, Craig, Carla, Michele and Andrea. In 1977 they settled in their current home on the family farm on Fuller Canyon Lane outside of Heppner.

Two of their daughters, Carla and Michele, did not live to see their 60th anniversary, but they have been blessed with 20 living grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

They will celebrate the milestone with a small open house for family Friday evening at their home.

## St. Pat's committee to meet

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce will hold a St. Patrick's Day Committee meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Heppner

Chamber of Commerce office, 133 N Main Street, Heppner.

Any questions can be directed to heppnerchamber@gmail.com.

## Water control district meets next month

The Heppner Water Control District will meet Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, at the Pettyjohn Office Building conference room beginning at 6 p.m.

minutes of previous meeting, financial review, report to the Secretary of State and open bids received. Meetings of the HWCD are open to the public.

Agenda items include

# Speaker Rayfield concludes three-day trip with visits to Boardman, Port of Morrow

Speaker met with Republican House members Greg Smith and Bobby Levy, along with other local elected leaders



Oregon House Speaker Dan Rayfield and Rep. Greg Smith talk to education leaders at the Port of Morrow in Boardman

BOARDMAN – Oregon House Speaker Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis) concluded a three-day tour of Central and Eastern Oregon today with stops in Boardman and the Port of Morrow.

“As House Speaker, I will always aim to serve all corners of the state,” Speaker Rayfield said. “I again want to thank all the local elected leaders who welcomed me this week and provided important insight into the opportunities and challenges in their communities. This will be invaluable feedback as we focus on the values and priorities Oregonians have told us they wanted to see in 2023.”

Speaker Rayfield joined Rep. Greg Smith (R-Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman and Wasco Counties) in Hermiston on Wednesday morning for a meeting with education leaders in the Hermiston and Umatilla school districts, the city managers of Hermiston and Umatilla, and other local business and nonprofit leaders.

They then met with leaders of the Umatilla Electric Cooperative to discuss energy usage in the region, including the power the cooperative provides for nearby Amazon data centers.

“I am thankful to Speaker Rayfield for making this visit out to Eastern Oregon. Nothing compares to in-person tours and meet-

ings when learning about unique communities. We made several stops highlighting Northeast Oregon’s vast energy and food production industries, and discussed the need for housing and childcare,” Rep. Smith said. “The speaker and I have been colleagues for a number of years, and I look forward to the 2023 session as we further our bipartisan efforts to better the State of Oregon.”

The day concluded with a driving tour of the

## Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

A great story of compassion and caring from Jackie Alleman: “We have a hospice client who, when I interviewed him about his hobbies, mentioned that his favorite basketball team is the Golden State Warriors. Although a visit to a game is not permissible at this time, Molly Rhea, Hospice Director, suggested that I check out their website to see if they had a virtual tour of their facilities that we could access for this man. As I perused the website, Golden State Warriors had a place where you could access signed equipment. As I filled out the form, I noticed that it was available for California residents only. I may have misrepresented on the form and entered our full Heppner address and fudged the city, so the form would be accepted. Well, three weeks later we received a nice square package, the same size as a Wilson professional basketball signed by Jonathon Kuminga. Not a Stephen Curry signature for sure, but that didn’t dampen the spirits of our hospice client. The basketball was delivered by Jerry Conklin, Chaplin, and Jackie Alleman, Volunteer Coordinator. Many thanks to the Golden State Warriors and may Santa bring you a playoff seed.”

Another holiday season with weather that challenged families who needed to travel. Hopefully, many reached destinations before the ice storms and could wait for the promised thawing the extra day or two after Christmas.

Christmas Day at Brian and Susy Thompson’s included Bill McCain, and family members Terry and Karen, Emily and Keenan, Stephen and Charlie, and the adventurous travelers from Walla Walla, Shelley and Tim. If the Gorge weather allowed, they were expecting Erik’s family to join them on Monday. The evening at Thompsons was filled with great food and conversation, and Shelley had two takers for a folded-fabric-star craft she led!

When the families of Bob and Sharon Harrison gather, the game of Hand and Foot seems to be a tradition, and all of them—children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, Todd and Mike, Trent and Jill’s family, Travis and Kirsten’s family and Tony and Tiffany’s family—were able to get to Lexington for that fun and the great meals and fellowship.

Yes, this is a busy time of year, but maybe you can find a few minutes for jotting something and sending it to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or for calling 541-223-1490.

Here’s hoping that some good news comes to everyone reading this!

## Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph  
St. Patrick Catholic Church Heppner



## Holy family: a model for all families to imitate

The Holy Family is the example for all of us. The child Jesus is a beautiful example of how to be obedient to our parents. Mary teaches us to be caring mothers, spouses and sisters. St. Joseph is always spoken of as a man who lived a just life, a good father. The Holy Family listened and obeyed, and, though they had to go through many struggles, lived the will of God.

The Book of Sirach (3:2-6, 12-14) offers the duties and responsibilities of children towards their parents: obey and respect their father and mother. I was reminded of something that happens in most families all around the globe: When children are very small, they argue and tell each other. “Mummy is mine,” or “Daddy is mine,” But these same children who fought each other for their mummy and daddy when they were tiny toddlers will not have time for their parents when adults, forgetting the parents who gave their best and forgot to live for themselves in order to provide a better future for their children. “Long life comes to anyone who honors a father, whoever obeys the Lord makes a mother happy. Such a one serves parents also as the Lord” (Sir 3:6). Parents are our visible God on earth. Do parents sometimes need to correct and discipline their children? Is a successful family one in which all the children excel in studies and extracurricular activities? A family where all behave perfectly and never quarrel? A family made up of perfectionists? Mother Teresa said: “God does not call me to be successful but to be faithful.” We are all human and have failings. Falling down on the journey of life and getting up again are part of growth. We can sincerely try to change undesirable behavior, with the grace of God and support and encouragement of loved ones.

This coming Sunday we are celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and combine it with feast-day reflections on the Holy Family. As part of our meditations, in chapter 2 of Luke, we see Mary and Joseph take the child to the Jerusalem temple for the customary purification rite, and we read that he becomes missing. We see them going hand-in-hand in search of the lost boy, in a spirit of prayer. We don’t see them accuse each other in their great misfortune. They lived in a tough time, during selfish, cruel King Herod’s reign. He sought to kill Jesus because he refused to see anyone higher than he. So, Joseph, taking Mary and the child, flees to Egypt.

The Holy family was not spared from the difficulties of day-to-day life, but their love, prayer, devotion, commitment in life, and work kept them united. In the midst of troubles, they showed signs of encouragement, smiled at those who looked at them despairingly and prayed for them, a model family for us.

The ordinary life of Joseph included the struggle for daily bread, as he worked at his carpentry. Mary worked at housekeeping and helping Joseph. Although Mary and Joseph were busy, both found time to be with the Lord. Busy as we all are, do we find time to be with the Lord?

In Nazareth, one group of people came around Joseph and Mary’s poor, modest family, looking up to them as a model family. Another group sneered at them and tried to annoy and lay snares for them. They gathered around Joseph to gossip and urged him to speak against the pregnancy of Mary. But Joseph would just shake his head. If an argument became heated and Mary’s eyes brimmed with tears, Jesus would cut it short, “We must forgive! Forgive, not once but seventy times seven.” Many of our family issues could be decimated if married couples have the minds and hearts of Joseph and Mary.

Mary was the best mom and Joseph a just and prudent man. Parents today can learn from them how to teach their children to grow in obedience and respect. The Nazareth home reminds us that families have the responsibility of teaching their children the Faith and to model virtues. So, as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, let us ponder how we can be a model, a family capable of being open to God’s will, of being loving and happy, of communicating more often and having more time for face-to-face family interaction, of bringing Christ into the lives of others.

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HOPE YOU HAVE A FUN & SAFE NEW YEARS!