

~ 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.

Crosby for President in 2024

Since the mid-terms have been a little disappointing and I believe in "putting your money where your mouth is," I've decided I can no longer sit back and watch our great country continue to go down the tubes. So, as I throw my hat in the ring, I'd like to let you in on a few of the changes I will make when I'm elected president.

1) One-year term limits for presidents and congressmen. You have one year to fix the country. If you screw it up...at least it's only one year of damage, not two or four.

2) All subcommittees must include one each: rancher, farmer, logger, police officer, veteran, cowboy, and great-gramma. A budget committee must also include at least one farmer's wife.

3) All governmental officials (including presidents) will receive the same pay and benefits package as law enforcement and work the same hours.

4) All school board members will be required to pass a fifth-grade biology test from the year 1959.

5) Sex ed will be limited to field trips to a local farm or ranch, preferably a cow/calf operation.

6) High school graduation requirements will include the ability to change a tire, fix a leak, render first aid, grow a vegetable and write a thank you note.

7) No permits of any kind will be required, including building permits. You get to live in the house you build.

8) Ten percent tax rate for everyone. Government shouldn't get more money than God.

9) All medications purchased in America will be made in America (not by our enemies). Pharmaceutical company profits will be the same profit margin as the American farmer.

10) Any doctors performing abortions will experience the same procedure as the unborn child. Likewise for doctors performing sex changes on children. These physicians will be used as trial subjects for any new vaccines, including multiple boosters.

11) All fuel purchased in America will be from our own resources (not our enemy's). Electric cars will be reserved for golf courses.

12) All American weapons will belong to and be used by our own

military (not our enemies). No weapon left behind.

13) Anyone (including presidents) found consorting with the enemy will be handed over to the enemy and any bank holdings or assets will be distributed to local veterans.

14) Athletes defiling our flag or "taking a knee" during our National Anthem will be shipped to North Korea to continue their athletic careers.

15) Law-abiding gun owners will receive a tax break for taking responsibility for their own safety and controlling their own guns.

16) Firearms confiscated from criminals will be redistributed to their victims.

17) Criminals convicted of a violent crime will complete their full sentences. Repeat offenders will be incarcerated with their lawyers...and possibly a few judges.

18) Build that wall! But every so often, insert a taco truck. Win/win for all.

19) Votes will be in person by a show of hands and tallied by one person from each political party. Nobody leaves the room until there's a consensus on the results.

20) The firing squad will be reintroduced and utilized for murderers, drug cartels and people who drive 40 miles per hour in the fast lane.

I believe these changes will benefit all Americans, including those who don't deserve it...or are too dumb to know it.

Thank you for your vote!

Susie Crosby
Heppner, OR

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

Congratulations to Ashley Lindsay, who has been selected as a member of the Morrow County School Board. FYI: Ashley joins Brian Kollman, Jacob Cain, Richard Cole, Becky Kindle, Mary Killion and Rosa Delgado.

Congratulations to Corey Sweeney, Heppner's new mayor. And congratulations to Cody High, who was selected as a (returning) member of the Heppner City Council. FYI: Cody joins JoAnna Lamb, Dale Bates, Sharon Inskeep and Adam Doherty.

Congratulations to Greg Grant, who has been selected as a "National Coach of the Year." His recognition by the National Federation of State High School Associations is based not only on his winning but his "commitments to enrich every player's life now and into the future" and "heart over talent."

Congratulations to Jessica Kempken, who earned a 4.0 GPA last term in her classes in OSU's School of Pharmacy! Jessica is the daughter of Donna Sherman.

Ali Ball, who is Diana Ball's granddaughter, just returned from a month's stay in Guatemala. While there, Ali assisted medical and dental professionals as an enhancement of her studies in Health Sciences at Whitworth University in Spokane, where she is a junior. At least one outstanding experience Ali had while in Guatemala had to have been her pulling of a tooth! Ali's parents, Duane and Stephanie (Payne) Ball, live in Cashmere, WA.

Earlier this month, Kevin Murray's uncommon expertise on the bagpipes was featured at an event held for dental and medical students at OSU. Kevin, son of John and Ann, is a freshman in the School of Dentistry.

On Jan. 4, John Flynn and Polly Peltier rode horseback cross-country to Rugg Ranch, where they exchanged wedding vows in the service conducted by Dick Temple. The nuptials have begun their life together six years after the two met at a high school wrestling match, both parents of wrestlers! Polly comes to the area from Grants Pass.

Fourteen schools participated in the Heppner High School Bank of Eastern Oregon invitational wrestling meet last Saturday. (See the G-T article.) The Heppner team, which consists of 14 mat men and women, placed third, with a strong showing in the finals matches. Congratulations, Mustangs! (The atmosphere of a wrestling meet is like no other school-sport competition, with focus on two competitors at a time and with a huge amount of shouted instructions from the spectators—and some coaches—throughout the matches of three two-minute rounds.)

Okay, math students, how about figuring out the odds of this: On Sunday, 22 people played Bingo at the Rebekahs' hall in Lexington. Six of those players were children. The winner of the first game was five-year-old Lane Tellechea of Heppner, who was there with his grandmother, Kathy. The second game went to an 11-year-old. The third game was won by a seven-year-old! Is "beginner's luck" a scientific phenomenon?!

Tomorrow is Groundhog's Day, but one might wonder if the weather will be too cold for Punxsutawney Phil to venture out of his den for a look.

Many thanks to everyone who contributes to this column, willing to share good news and smiles with Gazette-Times readers.

Company came, you enjoyed, and you want to share? Have had a trip to talk about? New family members? Entertaining words from the mouths of your babes? Accomplishments by those kids/grandkids you are so proud of? Any and all of your reasons for smiling can be shared by many more people if you send your info to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 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



Be salt of the earth and light of the world

We are invited to be the light of the world and salt of the earth. We know from our daily life how salt plays an important role in our daily cooking experience. You may put choice spices into a dish, but unless you add salt, it does not have the right taste. Similarly, we are invited to add salt to someone's life.

The prophet Isaiah (58:7-10) describes the artificiality of the faith present in the lives of believers. The prophet harshly blames those who claimed to be religious but were also at the helm of social injustice and oppression. The prophet reminded the faithful that the restoration and glory of Jerusalem could not be sought amidst evil whereby the weak are oppressed. The prophet offers the remedy of turning away from the old way by sharing the bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and homeless, clothing the naked. Only then shall the light shine upon them and the gloom shall become for them like midday (Isaiah 58:7,10). We must examine ourselves for the glory of God within us. Isaiah invites us to evaluate our way of living.

In the Gospel Matthew, 5:13-16, Jesus uses two metaphors of salt and light. Jesus wants us, His followers, to be to a light and salt to someone's life. If you are a cook, you know the role salt plays in cooking. Everybody gets annoyed with food that has either too much or too little salt. If it is in the right proportion, nobody even thinks about salt.

Only one person in the Bible, a woman, could really say: "I am salt!" That woman was the wife of Lot, who turned into salt when she looked back on her past in Sodom and Gomorra (Gen. 19:26). She became salt, 100 percent salt, and nobody around her seems to have been happy about it. Being salt is hopeless. There is nothing so useless so unmanageable, and so inedible as salt by itself. You can't do anything with just salt. In a time of famine, you cannot eat it. In a time of drought, you cannot drink it. Salt only becomes useful when it is used, as Jesus indicates in today's text, mixed up with other things. We are not salt, we are the salt of the earth. We should be mixed up with the reality around us.

When Jesus used the symbol of salt, He must have meant it as a great compliment. When we say to someone for example, "You are the salt of the earth," we emphasize his worth and usefulness. In the ancient world, salt was very valuable. The Romans used to say, "There is nothing more useful than the sun and salt." Salt purifies, and the Romans considered salt the purest of all things because it is the product of the sun and the sea. It was used as an offering to the gods. When Jesus used this example of salt, He meant that His followers should be models of purity like salt.

Salt preserves things. Now we have refrigerators to preserve things from spoiling. People of ancient times used salt as a preservative. I remember that even in the 20th century in our country, we were using salt to preserve things. It prevents rotting or decay. So, the followers of Christ must have the quality of "antiseptics."

Salt adds taste to the food. It is the spirit of Christ that flavors Christian life. When Sir Wilfred Grenfell was in Labrador, he wanted a volunteer to go as a nursing sister to his hospital. One girl volunteered. He wrote to her and said, "We can't offer you much money, but if you come out here and help the sick and nurse the lonely you will have the time of your life." Christians who are the salt of the earth should be taste givers and taste makers in our human reality—in this street, town, city country, in this world. Just as salt must be mixed with something else, we the believers of Christ, when we are mingled in the world and with the humanity in a proper dimension, we can make this a better place. Jesus reminds each one of us that "You are light of the world." Our sacramental life should help us to be a spark in someone's life.

Morrow SWCD to meet

Morrow SWCD will meet Wednesday, Feb. 8, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building, 106 E May Street in Heppner. To join via Zoom or conference call, contact the SWCD beforehand at 541-676-5452. Meetings of the Morrow SWCD are open to the public.

Grief support group begins this week

A new 13-week grief support group is beginning this week. GriefShare meetings will be held Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. at Willow Creek Terrace beginning Feb. 1. Willow Creek Terrace is located on Frank Gilliam Dr. in Heppner.

GriefShare is a non-denominational network of 15,000-plus churches worldwide and features biblical concepts for healing from grief. Each weekly

meeting will contain a video seminar, a small group discussion and journaling and personal study exercises that reinforce the weekly topics.

The GriefShare program is sponsored by Pioneer Memorial Hospice (PMH) and Willow Creek Baptist Church. For more

information, contact PMH chaplain Jerry Conklin at 541-676-2946.

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Morrow County Budget Committee

Morrow County has one vacancy for the remainder of the term ending on June 30, 2023

Committee's Purpose:

Budget committee meetings are typically held in mid-April. At these meetings, the budget committee receives the budget message and the proposed budget document, which it may revise, before it is formally approved. The budget committee meetings also provide members of the public with an opportunity to ask questions about and comment on the budget document.



If you are interested in serving, please visit <https://www.co.morrow.or.us/bc-bc> and send application to HR at kince@co.morrow.or.us

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