

~ 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.

Normal

Sometimes I just wish things were normal. As time goes by, I wonder how many folks remember what normal really is. It's starting to fade just a bit. Maybe things weren't exactly Mayberry quality, but they were a heck of a lot closer than they are today. Remember when people used to know what good was? Mom and Dad, big families, babies, prayer, law and order, honesty, respect, trust, modesty. We knew there was an appropriate age for the Birds 'n Bees talk, and that men dressed like women to make us laugh. We all believed in God and the devil and knew the difference, and we all knew freedom was worth fighting for and Communism was worth avoiding at all costs.

It seems to me that someone messed with the plumb line. Today, "normal" has been moved from the direct middle to the far right. I, for one, do not remember moving. As we "normal" folks have been relocated to the extreme right, the left has taken our place in the middle, and they're hoping nobody will notice. Not fair. It's kinda like messing with the English language. Pronouns matter.

I'm not saying every single thing we considered normal in the past was good. There were things that needed to change, and many have. Pretty glad the use of leeches is a thing of the past.

Normal has worked pretty well for a long time. And while change motivated by what works and what doesn't is a good thing, today, we have a loud and rather obnoxious group of people that expect us all to bow to what works for them and their "truth." We are to forget God, forget common sense, give up our guns, and embrace their new morality and their delusions. And by all means, do not hurt their feelings.

St. Pat's parade winners announced



Heppner Bookworms parade float. -Contributed photo

The Heppner St. Patrick's Committee has announced the winners of the 2023 Great Green Parade. Winners are as follows:
 Irish Themed Business Float: Morrow County Soil & Water District.

Better Days

I miss the days when things weren't so weird.

When bad wasn't good and good was revered.

Friends were your friends without Facebook or Twitter.

No one liked a snitch, a liar or quitter.

Soldiers were loved and lawmen respected.

Babies were precious, child innocence protected.

Schools were for reading, writing and prayer.

Gunracks were common and shootings were rare.

Tattoos just said "MOM," piercings were few.

Jeans weren't so skinny, hair wasn't blue.

Drugs were for colds and needles for sewing.

Underwear was under there, grass was for growing.

Guys were content with just being guys.

Women were ladies who act civilized.

Privates were private and we knew what that meant.

Bathrooms were clearly marked "Ladies" and "Gents."

Cussing was handled with soap and disgust.

Jesus was someone we knew we could trust.

Crooks stayed behind bars once they were caught.

Evil was hated. The Bible was not.

Knees were bent for repentance and prayer.

When old folks were standing, you'd give up your chair.

Hard work was rewarded, slackers were fired.

Flags were flown high, saluted, admired.

We knew the enemy, we knew the cost

To keep the freedom others had lost.

But we closed our eyes, and pretended to keep

The country we lost while we were asleep.

Susie Crosby
Heppner, OR

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan



The wedding party of Kevin and Kelly Murray displayed the Murrays' Scottish pride with kilts and plaid. -Contributed photo

Some people love the challenge of pulling a good April Fools' Day prank and some people just act on a spur-of-the-moment idea that presents itself. Surely, the day held much laughter and many groans. Shirley George's thought that morning was to theatrically announce to Kit that a cougar was in the back yard, until she decided that this would be more suspect than believable. Later, though, a second thought popped into her head: "Kit, there's a raccoon in the back yard!" Uh-huh, it worked, day complete.

It was no joke when Butch Knowles, who was inducted into the St. Paul Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2019 and the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame in 2021, was told that he will be inducted into the Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs on July 15. Butch's love of rodeo apparently began at a junior rodeo in Redmond and never waned. He qualified as a saddle bronc rider for the National Finals Rodeo in '81, '83, and '86-'87 and has now been a TV commentator at rodeos for three decades. He is being honored for his contributions to rodeo, including helping to initiate the pro rodeo in Hermiston. Congratulations, Butch!

Also on April 1, Kevin Murray and Kelly Jencen said "I do" in the nuptial mass that began their life together. Kevin and his nine groomsmen paid tribute to his Scottish heritage by wearing kilts, they in black and Kevin in the Murray plaid. As Kelly entered after her seven attendants in their champagne-colored gowns, she matched Kevin's kilt with a shawl made in the Murray plaid. A celebration of the young couple continued at the Gilliam and Bisbee Event Center, and they were then able to pause for one day before having to head back to Corvallis, where Kevin is attending dental college and Kelly is a medical assistant. It was in Corvallis that the couple met three years ago, he from Heppner and she from the small city of Sierra Madre in southern California. Best wishes to the Murrays!

Congrats again to Heppner Mustang hoopsters who were named in the line-up of the Blue Mountain Conference: First Team—Landon Mitchell, Tucker Ashbeck; Second Teams—David Cribbs, Halle Hisler; Honorable Mentions—Trevor Nichols, Hadlee Nation.

When grandchildren grow up and move away, sharing in-person time with them occurs less often, of course. This is why having Carson Brosnan (senior at OSU) in Heppner for two days last week was such a treat for his me-ma. Hearing the confidence of a 21-year-old in our conversations drew me back almost 60 years. Hugging at his chest instead of his shoulder was a reminder of the passage of time for this growing young man and the compression of discs for this aging woman. Watching him satisfy what seemed a huge appetite was a wonder in this house of time-outs for grabbing a little something once in a while. And the added bonuses of his visit came when he set up a new printer, managed the huge dining-table leaf that had to be added and later removed, and attached a new gate latch. What a bounty of gifts received in two days' time!

Three pieces of Good News come to us from our library: 1) Notary service is now available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Not all staff are licensed notaries public, so contact the library before your visit to ensure a notary is present.) Bring your photo ID. All signers must be present. Do not sign the document before it is notarized. 2) Crafty Night on Wednesday, April 12, at 6 p.m. will feature a "Highland Cow" painting. This program for adult crafters only has limited space, so registration is required. Go to www.otld.org. now to reserve your spot. 3) And Oregon Trail Library District offers Brainfuse JobNow—a versatile online service designed to support every step of the job search process. JobNow features live online coaches who, among other things, assist in resume/cover-letter preparation and help patrons prepare for job interviews. JobNow is available to all library patrons from the computers at the library or from any computer with an internet connection. To access JobNow, visit the library's website.

Please share the moments that brought a smile to your face or laughter to your lips. Send your tidbits to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-223-1490.

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

Library plans crafty night

The Heppner Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District will hold a "Crafty Night" on Wednesday, April 12, at 6 p.m. This month's craft will be a highland cow painting.

This program is for adult crafters only and has limited space, so registration is required. Visit the website at www.otld.org to reserve a spot.

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ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 8th
Morrow County Fairgrounds
 9:30 a.m. Pictures with Easter Bunny
 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt Starts
 Age groups:
 0 thru 3, 4 thru 6, 7 thru 9, and 10+
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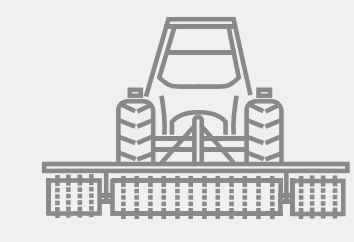
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 May 5th, 8 am-5:45 pm
Hosted by Starvation Farms & PNDSA
 73117 Strawberry Ln. Lexington, Or
 7:30 Coffee and light snacks Noon lunch provided.
 Shop presentations start at 8 AM with field demonstrations at 1 PM Social at the conclusion.