

~ 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.

Susie Crosby expresses my thoughts

I agree with Robert Davidson (Letter to the Editor, June 7, 2023, p. 3) when he says, "Everyone has a right to their opinion, whether they choose to broadcast it or not." But I don't see how Susie Crosby is "telling other people how they should be living or thinking." And if she is, how is that different than Mr. Davidson's comments about Mr. Trump?

Maybe how something comes across is related to how one feels about what is said. I may never write another letter to the editor again—Ms. Crosby expresses my thoughts and values, and more, so much better than I ever could. I'm glad she writes so regularly—I always look forward to her comments.

Sandra Johnson
Winthrop, IA

#Moo Too

For years I've heard people say that the best way to maintain a peaceful environment is to never discuss either of two particular subjects. Apparently, it's commonly thought that religion and politics tend to bring out the fight in folks. Well, those happen to be the two things I think about the most...in that order. While I'm not a fighter, I do tend to voice my opinion now and then (sometimes with fervor) and I do enjoy a good discussion.

For the most part, farm animals are not good conversationalists. Some are downright evasive when it comes to engaging me in any type of discussion. Horses mumble, and usually only when they want something. Chickens are so busy talking to each other you can't get a word in edgewise. I figure goats must be a little hard of hearing since their only response is usually, "Wha? Wha? Wha?" The Border Collie is deaf. I do most of the talking during our conversations. It's kinda

like talking to a teenager, of which I have much experience. House pets are not much better. The parakeets clam up when you want them to show off their verbiage for company... then won't shut up when they know you're trying to sleep. The fish are usually pretty quiet.

I've always felt that Rosie and I have a fairly open relationship, and she is normally a pretty good listener. Or maybe it just appears that way, since her nose is usually in the feed trough. To her credit, she's not one to talk with her mouth full.

The other day she surprised me by opening the morning conversation with what could be considered a taboo subject. And although I suspected she might be a little "left leaning" after one particular milking incident (loosened the kick bar...straightened her right up) this was a little different.

Rosie: "I'm joining the Me-Too movement."

Farm Lady: "That's ridiculous. You're a cow."

Rosie: "That was rude."

Farm Lady: "I meant your species, not your size."

Rosie: "I've been fondled."

Farm Lady: "You've been milked. There's a difference."

Rosie: "I never consented."

Farm Lady: "I provide hay. You provide milk. We help each other. It's called a symbiotic relationship."

Rosie: "Quid Pro Quo. I'm still joining."

Farm Lady: "OK, I'll tell you what Rosie. You can walk right out that pasture gate and into the big world out there and find your own alfalfa and grain...and good luck applying your own fly spray, by the way...or you can stay right here and be a cow, let your milk down and eat your hay. What do you say to that?"

Rosie: "MOO."

Farm Lady: "Good choice."

Susie Crosby
Heppner, OR

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

This is it! The longest day of the year! This writer is going to try to just enjoy it without thinking about what now happens. (After all, Dec. 21 is six months and gradual changes away.)

Last weekend saw many local parents and grandparents on the road to attend college graduations of some of our future leaders. Area students, some of whom spent some of their college experience under pandemic restrictions, have now received degrees and embarked on new phases of their life-journeys. (The University of Oregon, for one, did not hold commencement until yesterday, so this column will gladly acknowledge next week more area students in later commencements.)

The following list of last weekend's graduates results from several phone calls and messages in an attempt to be thorough, but an attempt to check Southern Oregon University and Lane CC graduates failed (Please, contact me if you have additions):

Blue Mountain CC (incomplete)—Kassidee Cimmoyotti, Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education; Matthew Orem, Associate Degree in Agricultural Production.

Eastern Oregon University—Kaden Clark, BS in Business Administration; Linsey Hanna, BS in Psychology; Hunter Nichols, BS in Biology, Magna Cum Laude.

Montana State University—Jacee Currin, BS in Nursing, Summa Cum Laude.

Oregon State University—Carson Brosnan, Marine 2nd Lieutenant Commission, BS in Business, Cum Laude; Gibson McCurry, BS in Engineering, Cum Laude.

Linn-Benton Community College—Maggie Flynn, Associate Degree in Nursing; Alyse Wentz, Associate Degree in General Studies and in Dental Assisting.

Welcome to this world, Maeve Morrel Murray! This darling (truly) wee one with the ancient Irish name joined her eager parents, Ian and Katie Murray, at St. Anthony Hospital on May 24. Proud grandparents are John and Ann Murray, Colleen Baker, and Dan and Melanie Siri.

Shannon Kelly lived in Heppner as a child, the daughter of Bob, a professor at Blue Mountain CC, and Mary Lou, the high school secretary. Shannon returned for a visit last Friday, specifically to visit with Kit and Shirley George and have a look at the remodel of their home, the home in which she lived and for which her father laid the plans. While in the area from McMinnville, Shannon continued to Hermiston to visit ex-Heppnerite and relative Len Ray Schwarz and his wife, Ann.

Claudia Hughes is so pleased to have "all our family within a couple hours drive in the Pacific Northwest" now that daughter, Kimberly's, two children have moved closer, joining son, Kevin's, two children, who also are within that radius. A week and a half ago, Claudia joined her sister, Kathy, and Kimberly and granddaughter Destinee, for a trip to Cannon Beach, perfectly timed for marveling at some artwork in the Sand-Castle competition.

Alan and Nancy Anderson travelled to Elgin last weekend for the 60-year reunion of the Class of '63. Nancy reports that she attended school through her freshman year with these friends who insist on including her in their reunions.

Last weekend, Cara Osmin enjoyed a visit with her son, Ryan, and granddaughter, Mae Pence, who is 13 years old, in Portland. While there, Cara was able to watch Mae try out for a local ice hockey team. The "really skilled" player played last year with the Lady Admirals of the Seattle area but now waits with hope that she made the team much closer to home!

Visiting from Phoenix, Karen Haguewood found her stay with Betty Gray in Ione from June 13 to the 19th totally relaxing, Betty reports. The week was an opportunity to enjoy visiting area friends, play some Loo, read, watch baseball championship games, and look forward to a continued Oregon stay, when she travelled on to Hermiston and La Grande before returning to Arizona.

As Karen said her "goodbyes," arriving at Betty's was her son Mark and his wife, Ima, from Helix. Over just for the day, the two planned to replace Betty's front steps.

Ione will again hold its Fourth-of-July celebration soon, so we can check the G-T for details. The golf tournament on the third is a fundraiser for the Ione scholarship fund; to sign up, individuals need to contact Stacy Ekstrom at 422-7410. The many activities on the Fourth will include the 1 p.m. parade; for information, individuals need to contact Betty Gray at 422-7335.

Now open, in time for that celebration, is the Cardinal Café in Ione, which is in the location of the previous Perk and Brews. Jeff and Dawn Eynetich have posted hours for Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Calling 541-223-1490, emailing dbrosnan123@gmail.com, or pasting that FB post into an email to dbrosnan123@gmail.com will get your tidbits shared with the vast number of G-T readers.

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

Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph
St. Patrick Catholic Church Heppner



Do not be afraid

This Sunday, the Lord reminds us of threats around us when we preach the word of God. The first reading, from the prophet Jeremiah (20:10-13), initially expresses his despair and anguish. But later, when he speaks of how he is being persecuted with terrors all around, instantaneously, he also makes a confident statement of his trust in the Lord to deliver him. Perhaps many people can identify with Jeremiah's situation, especially when we are faced with similar life-threatening situations. The prophet is a clear example for all of us—put our trust in the Lord. In his despondency, misery and anxiety, he is overwhelmed by those seeking to destroy him, yet he also trusts in God as his caring deliverer. Jeremiah refused to be intimidated by attacks upon his character and plots against his life, and so he was unafraid to speak out in the name of the Lord. He is trusting in the words of the Psalmist: "He will keep you safe from hidden dangers and from deadly diseases... you will be safe in his care; his faithfulness will protect and defend you" (Ps 91:3-4).

In the second reading, Paul, writing to the Romans (5:12-15), contrasts the consequences of sin, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned," and salvation merited by Jesus Christ. By the word "sin," Paul tries to explain the personification of evil unleashed on the world. Individual sins have contributed to the power of evil. Paul in his letter to the Romans just recaps that if the first man's sin brought death and suffering into the world, Christ's obedience merited for us freedom from sin. Paul insisted that the free gift of grace far outweighs the effects of sin. We need to be like Christ and be a good example of our faith to the next generation.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 10 speaks about, if you are a member of the Kingdom of God, how to recruit people to God's Kingdom and its pros and cons. Jesus exhorts His disciples to be fearless witnesses of the Gospel. When Jesus sends His disciples out into the world to be His emissaries, He knows they will be fearful, for good reason, knowing the hardships and persecution it would involve. Therefore, we see three times Jesus stating to them, "Do not be afraid." It is normal and natural that boldness will sometimes fail us and that we will be afraid. All those who have accomplished great things have gone through fear, and it has not defeated them. In the Gospels we read about Jesus's fear in the garden of Gethsemane. It is not experiencing fear that matters but how we respond to fear that matters. In the concluding passage of today's Gospel, Jesus says: "If anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But if anyone disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my father in heaven." Jesus calls us to be witnesses, unafraid in the midst of a hostile and skeptical world.

I conclude this week's reflections with the example of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was canonized on October 14, 2018 by Pope Francis for his courageous and fearless witnessing of Christ among the subalterns of El Salvador. When he was made Archbishop of El Salvador in 1977, he was a conservative. But he soon became an outstanding witness to Christ's caring love when he saw what was happening. Every Sunday he preached at the Cathedral. His homilies so electrified the country, the nation came to a standstill to hear him. He made public the unspeakable crimes being committed. He was under constant threat of death. Some of his best friends were murdered. But he never ceased, nor would he go into hiding or exile. "At the first sight of danger the shepherd cannot run and leave the sheep to defend themselves. I will stay with my people," he said. He was shot on March 24, 1980, while celebrating the Holy Eucharist. Even though we may not aspire to such heights of heroism, people like Archbishop Oscar Romero are an inspiration to us. In today's Gospel, Jesus instructs the twelve how to deal with injustice, false accusations and calumny. He assures us that our faith in God will be justified.

Heppner fire department welcomes new firefighters



The Heppner Fire Department welcomed three new Firefighter 1 volunteers recently. L-R: Charles Cason, Hailey Wenberg and Zachary Stutzman. -Photo by Tyllynn Cimmoyotti

Currin graduates from MSU

Jacee Currin of Heppner graduated from Montana State University May 12 at the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse in Bozeman, MT. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Currin was among the students who graduated with the highest honors, having earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7 to graduate Summa Cum Laude.

Happy 70th Anniversary



Mom and Dad

"A true love that has lasted the test of time"

Love Barbara, Cyde and David

WEEKLY SHOPPER
RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY NOON ON THURSDAY (541) 676-5667

the loop
Proudly Serving Morrow County Veterans

June 23rd Combined Weekly Shopper
Wal-Mart Safeway Plaza Bellinger's Denny's

JUN 30th Combined Weekly Shopper
Bi-Mart Safeway Plaza Chen's

\$425,000

NEW LISTING!

Find peace and privacy on this forty-acre parcel complete with functional 2 bedroom 1 bath cabin. Take in the Mt. views from the reverse living upper level 640 sq ft foot great room. Ride the property's ATV trails in the summer or snowmobile/sled in the winter with access to thousands of acres of National Forest Land at the property corner. LOP tags available or just enjoy watching the elk, deer, bear and turkey that frequent the property. Private well with back-up valve filled cistern, two springs and electricity, as well as internet access. MLS# 220154062

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FAY RANCHES