

~ 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.

Doherty clan to celebrate triumph and tragedy at reunion

The Doherty's came to America with determination in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They homesteaded or purchased more than 35 ranches, first raising sheep, but soon they were growing wheat and raising cattle.

Family members will visit many homestead sites at the Doherty Family Reunion this Saturday. At least three have 100-year farm designations, including the Turner Ranch, the Anthony Doherty Ranch and the Miller Ranch.

In addition to acquiring land holdings in the Sands, Blackhorse, and Vinson areas, the family created a legacy of community service with seven women teaching in the schools, young women winning the rodeo courts, both men and women serving in the military, and a few responding to religious callings. Rev John "Jack" Doherty was ordained in 1953 as a Catholic priest.

Numerous families have hosted the Heppner St. Patrick's Day festivities. These and more family members will be remembered.

But among all this success, there were many tragedies. Nora Doherty McCabe and her son drowned in a flash flood in 1917. Ebner Nelson sent his wife Catherine Doherty and their son James to Pendleton just before he was killed in the Bannock Indian War uprising. Open fires in Butter Creek burnt several homes to the ground.

Although a successful businessman, in 1907 Daniel P Doherty got into a brawl at the IXL Saloon in Lexington, resulting in a death. Receiving a life sentence, he was released in 1911.

Family members were quick to volunteer. But again, tragedy struck when William T Doherty was killed in a tractor accident in the construction of St. William's Catholic Church in Ione, which is now named in his honor. A stained-glass window in the church carries on his memory.

Today, the family continues to serve and lead the community, with Jim Doherty recently declaring his candidacy for Oregon State Senate.

The Dohertys and extended family members will gather at the Pendleton Convention Center with an opening luncheon on June 30 and ending with a lamb barbecue at the Cunningham Sheep Company on Birch Creek on July 3. For more information, visit <http://www.dohertyreunion2023.com> or call 303-350-8226.

Eileen and Roger Doherty
Denver, CO

Biden's Wonderland

Customarily, when a parent expresses pride in their child, it's usually followed by a statement or two about a particularly good job they did and some kudos for their success. Recently, in response to

a question from a reporter about his son and the recent plea deal involving activities for which any normal, non-Hunter person would acquire a jail sentence, our president stated: "I'm proud of my son."

That would have been a great time for follow-up questions like, "What for?" or as I would have so eloquently asked, "Seriously? Why? Did he recently win an award like maybe on a woman's swim team? Or maybe expose himself on the White House lawn? Because remember, Mr. President? Those folks are the bravest people you've ever known."

Did I miss something? Was there a press conference starring a tearful Hunter Biden where he expressed regret about his past activities involving crack, videos and young girls? Has he agreed to stop consorting with the enemy? Has he shown any repentance for anything...ever?

Maybe a chip off the old block. It appears repentance is a rarity in the Biden family. I'm trying to remember if I've ever heard Hunter's dad take responsibility for even the slightest mistake. Granted, pride is a problem we all deal with. But then, his memory is about as accurate as *The Enquirer's* expose' of Tom Cruz's alien offspring. So maybe he just doesn't remember the mistakes he made. When others do, he has a great response lined up. "Come on man," and "Malarkey." Add a hand wave and both mistakes and lies magically disappear. So *that's* how it's done.

But it seems like there are some things you'd get right, even in the company of your favorite woke reporters—like, for example, the fact that your son Beau wasn't killed in Iraq. Sadly, he died of brain cancer years after serving in the military. But I wonder... does Biden really think nobody will notice or maybe do some fact-checking?

So, it appears that Biden has lost the ability to either tell the truth or recognize the truth, or both. He also can't recognize the sad fact that his second son is not exactly a fine example of a human being. I doubt too many parents would like to hear their kids say, "When I grow up, I wanna be just like Hunter Biden." Gives me chills.

While living in Wonderland might be fun to think about, it's pretty concerning when the leader of the free world lives there. The last thing this country needs is the Mad Hatter with his finger anywhere near "The Button." Lord help us. Is there forgiveness for Hunter Biden? Most certainly. But it has to follow sincere repentance. I think it would help if parents would stop trying to protect their kids from the consequences they've earned.

"Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).
Susie Crosby Heppner, OR

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Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

Maybe it's a good day when able to keep feet on the ground and hats on heads, and to successfully maneuver among the detours!

The Sykes family held its annual reunion last week with all family members present: David and April of Heppner; Chris and his wife, Rachel, with their two children, Waylon and Sophie, also of Heppner; Andrew of Pendleton; Camille and Eddie Gonzales and their son, Oscar, of Milwaukie, OR; and Allison Hayes with her husband, Matt, and their two boys, August and Sebastian, of Cary, NC. They rented a house in Lincoln City, close to the beach, where they spent time that included clamming and having a bonfire with s'mores on the final night. Each evening one of the family members prepared dinner, with Camille doing Mexican, Allison and Matt a seafood spread, Andrew salmon and ravioli, and Chris and Rachel Italian spaghetti. (How wonderful for all that everyone was there!)

After Bryce Fowler completes two more classes this summer and passes his oral examinations, he will receive his master's degree in science and math education from Oregon State University. This is reason enough for Bryce to feel rewarded for his accomplishments. Add to that being one of only 35 nation-wide Knowles Science Teaching Foundation Teacher Initiative recipients, and Bryce must surely be ecstatic! The foundation, a nonprofit, supports innovative mathematics and science teachers with \$5000 awards for a period of five years. Bryce's complex application process included an all-day interview. As a recipient, he will be attending an orientation in Philadelphia this summer. In September, Bryce will return as a teacher to Condon High School and use the funds to enhance his classroom plans.

Last Thursday, Dennis Peck did it again at Willow Creek Country Club when he made a hole-in-one on number 4, witnessed by several thirsty golfing buddies! Luckily, Dennis didn't make his ace on the weekend when around one hundred men were golfing at WCCC at the annual invitational tournament. Celebratory beverage purchases would have created a very large financial burden!

An almost seamless transition should be the story at Heppner City Hall as Tom Wolff steps in as interim city manager. How fortunate for the community to have someone local with the experience and background that Tom brings to the position.

This week, St. Patrick and St. William Catholic Churches said "goodbye" to Fr. Joseph Thankachan as he headed for his new pastoring assignment in Wasco, Dufur and Grass Valley. And the Heppner and Ione congregations then welcomed Fr. Alexander Kalappurakkal, who comes to Heppner from Redmond.

Glo Lesperance is now a first-time great-grandmother! Glo's granddaughter, Amelia Baker, and her partner, Cameron Jewett, welcomed Cheyenne Elizabeth Rose on June 21 at Good Shepherd Hospital. A wee bit earlier than expected, Cheyenne still weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces and measured in at 21 inches. Amelia, daughter of Sarah Baker of Heppner, is a familiar face at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, but will be home with Cheyenne for several weeks.

Although the email address is P ODonnell, Dennis O'Donnell has stepped forward to take credit or blame for the "little bit of humor to start your day" that arrives sporadically. His sense of humor shines through, and he says (picture him with tongue in cheek) that for some reason that he doesn't understand, Peggy's sense of humor has dwindled after living with him for over 50 years!

Indicative of a change: The excitement elicited by the sighting of not one but two bumble bees within days of each other. Gone are the days of hollyhocks clustered at the northwest corner of Gale and Baltimore Streets with bumble bees hovering among them. Rare seems to be the sighting of these robust flying pollinators, which explains the excited reaction.

On July 30, the Rebekah Lodge in Lexington will hold bingo and a silent auction as a fundraiser for Dick Temple, who has been hospitalized far too much, we think, this past month and was scheduled for heart surgery in Spokane on Monday. So, mark calendars for this worthwhile event, which will be co-sponsored by the First Christian Church. It will begin at 2 p.m., with bingo beginning about 3:30 p.m.

Please take a few minutes to contribute your pleasant news at dbrosnan123@gmail.com or by calling 541-223-1490.

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

Woman dies in fatal UTV accident

A 61-year-old grandmother from Sublimity, OR is dead after a tragic UTV accident near Ellis Creek Sunday.

Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports that, around 1:05 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, the MCSO Communications Center received a 911 call regarding a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV or side-by-side) accident with a 61-year-old female.

The accident occurred in a remote area of South Morrow County, off the 21 Road near Ellis Creek.

The Lulay family apparently has been coming to this area for family camping trips for many years. On Sunday, several friends and family members were riding ATVs, UTVs and motorcycles, following each other through the forest.

Lulay was reportedly traveling less than 20 mph on one portion of the

road when the UTV she was driving overturned. Her nine-year-old granddaughter was also in the vehicle. The granddaughter sustained reportedly minor injuries but was transported to a Portland-area hospital for overnight observation.

Lulay lost her life in this UTV accident.

"The Morrow County Sheriff's Office wishes to express our deepest condolences to the Lulay family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time," MCSO stated in a press release.

The sheriff's office also stated that the incident is a sad reminder to always wear a seatbelt in a UTV, as well as a helmet, calling those steps "A very small price to pay to avoid a tragedy."

MCSO was assisted by Heppner Ambulance and Heppner Fire.

Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph
St. Patrick Catholic Church Heppner



God Loves a Cheerful Giver

"Give and it will be given to you," (Lk 6:38) is a promise from Jesus. Giving is a freewill choice for all His believers, but let us never forget the fact that "God knows the heart of everyone." He knows when gifts, whether material or spiritual, are given joyfully.

In Sunday's reading in Second Kings 4:8-11, we have an interesting incident of hospitality and its implications. During the days of Elisha, those who travelled beyond the territory of their family or tribe for anything had to depend on the hospitality of strangers to survive.

In his travels, Elisha is fortunate to meet a woman who invites him to break journey and eat at her house. The hospitality must have been good because Elisha the makes it a habit of stopping at her place on his travels. Trusting that Elisha is a holy man and knowing that he travels regularly, the woman, with the permission of her husband, builds a little comfortable abode so that Elisha can have his own room on his travels. Elisha repays the woman's generous hospitality by promising her a very special blessing from God: the gift of a son, whom she was longing for because they were a childless couple.

This anecdote teaches us that what we give to God and God's representatives always come back to us. We are also challenged to be hospitable to others, to move from suspicious hostility to hospitality. We never know what blessings God has in store for us if we open ourselves to God, who may come to us in the attire of an alien, in a most unexpected way.

The Gospel passage this week is from St. Matthew 10:37-42, wherein Jesus assures us that all those who receive His word and welcome those who come in His name will be well rewarded. Even the tiniest gesture, the smallest action done for God, will not pass unnoticed and will be acknowledged by God. We are called to be welcoming people, open to His word and open to messengers of His word. In the sacred tradition of Israel, hospitality was regarded as one of the chief responsibilities of a caring people.

The stranger, the outsider, was regarded as one needing special care. The Israelites are reminded of their duties towards strangers because they too were once strangers: "For you were once strangers yourselves in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:21). Everybody wants to be loved by other people, to be needed by other people, to be desired and longed for by other people. All Jesus is asking us is to be good followers who are hospitable, and who will be greatly rewarded – a promise that God loves a cheerful giver.

In the first part of Sunday's Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus spells out the cost of discipleship, while in the latter part, He reminds us of the great reward not only to heralds of the good news, but also to all who welcome the envoy. While speaking of what it takes to be a disciple of the Lord, Jesus does not mince His words. Jesus did not promise us a good time or a comfortable existence. To follow Jesus is not easy and not for the faint-hearted. Self-denial, sacrifice, self-discipline, austerity, and asceticism are not fashionable words today. Yet the Gospel tells us clearly that anyone who is not ready to practice self-denial and accept the crosses of daily life is not worthy of being called a disciple of Jesus Christ.

At times we can be great admirers of Jesus but be hesitant to follow His example in daily living. Jesus doesn't want lip service. The Gospel of Matthew explains it vividly: "It is not anyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in Heaven" (7:21). That is quite demanding of Jesus.

As we reflected last week, we are affected by all sorts of fears that tend to paralyze us. As we read and hear the daily news, surely, we get a bit panicked now and then. Then in our relationship with God, we tend to act out of fear rather than out of love for God. God created us to live in freedom and He does not want us to be intimidated. We are challenged: "Be not afraid!" "Give and it shall be given to you."

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