

~ 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.

Open The Book

Is it just me, or does it seem like nothing makes sense anymore? Things that used to be obvious are up for debate. Facts are not facts and can be ignored at will, and there is no such thing as truth. Men are women. Women are men. Unborn babies aren't babies. Child mutilation is a good thing, parents are terrorists, and children "belong to us all." Criminals are victims, cops are bad and guns have a mind of their own. Ignore skin color and you're a racist. Disagree with someone and you're intolerant. Believe marriage and sex should be between a man and a woman (real ones) and you're a homophobe and a hater.

Open a Bible in front of someone and you're cramming your religion down their throat. Pray out loud and you're guilty of hate speech. Our justice department is unjust. Our enemies own our land, supply our meds, and make deals with our First Family. But "Climate Change" is the real enemy and our government (who can't create a blade of grass from scratch) will fix it if we do exactly what they say and hand over our freedom. Drug cartels own our borders, as well as a fentanyl and sex trafficking business that makes Walmart look like a Mom and Pop store. Our clearly demented president doesn't know where he is most of the time but has the power to start World War III. Question any of this and you're a conspiracy theorist.

There is only one way this all makes sense, and it has to do with a 2,000-year-

old book. The Bible says there is a battle between good and evil. It's getting more obvious as time goes on. Satan knows his time is short and he's stepping up his game. Jesus warned us. The Apostle Paul warned us, too.

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). It doesn't take a Bible scholar to see the predictions taking shape. From a cashless society to a one-world government. If you really want to know what's coming, open a Bible, even a dusty one. Read it for yourself. There's no other book that's more relevant in these times.

"You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!" (2 Timothy 3:1-5.)

Susie Crosby
Prineville, OR

Inland Development awards more than \$25k in scholarships



Paul Lindsay

In its ongoing effort to help youngsters in Eastern Oregon embark on educational pursuits after high school, the local nonprofit Inland Development Corporation has awarded more than \$25,000 in scholarships to 21 area students. The scholarships come as part of the Nate Arbogast Memorial Scholarship program, which has awarded nearly \$700,000 to almost 300 students in Eastern Oregon since 2010.

A full list of recipients was not released.

"As a nonprofit that works to improve internet access to schools in rural Eastern Oregon, we also believe in giving back to all the communities we serve," said Jill Parker, president of Inland's board of directors. "Youths in these communities have promising futures. Inland is honored to help them realize their educational dreams."

As it's done every year since 2010, Inland selected area students based on an application process that emphasizes academics, community involvement, service and leadership. This year's scholarships ranged from \$1,000 to \$1,700 and went to students in Boardman, Irrigon, Heppner and Ione.

The scholarship amounts are paid after recipients complete their first full term at their educational institution. Awardees can use the scholarships



Braden Atkins

for education at two- and four-year colleges, trade apprenticeships and tech schools.

Braden Atkins graduated from Irrigon Jr/Sr High School this year and received a scholarship from Inland. He plans to pursue his associate degree of applied sciences, majoring in computer science, at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

"I am honored to receive this scholarship," he said, "and I am looking forward to attending classes at BMCC this coming fall."

The Inland scholarship program launched in 2010 when Nate Arbogast, the founding general manager for Inland Development, passed away after a skiing accident. Inland created the scholarship program as a way to recognize Arbogast's efforts in bringing fiber optic technology to surrounding rural communities.

"I know Nate Arbogast was an influential member of our community and was key to bringing important technology to our school in Heppner," said Paul Lindsay, a scholarship recipient and graduate of Heppner High School, who will major in nursing at Eastern Oregon University in the fall. "I think it is amazing how Nate's legacy is continued in this scholarship, and I can't tell you how grateful I am to receive it."

BMCC receives approval for UAS degree, program



BMCC will offer an associate's degree in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) beginning this fall. -Photo courtesy of FAA

Blue Mountain community College has received approval for a new Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Associate of Applied Science program, the college announced recently.

According to a BMCC release, the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) reviewed and approved the college's application for the new program last month. The U.S. Department of Education classification designated and approved for this new program is 36.0207 - Remote Aircraft Pilot. With this approval, the two-year AAS UAS is financial aid eligible for students.

"We look forward to this training opportunity and with our workforce partners, we will continue striving to meet current and future workforce needs," says Tammy Krawczyk, Dean of Regional Workforce and Community Education for BMCC.

Years prior, BMCC offered two non-credit certificates, which were not eligible for financial assistance. BMCC was the first cohort of 27 colleges nationwide to receive certification from the Federal Aviation Administration for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Collegiate Training Initiative in 2020. UAS for-credit courses including UAS101 and UAS211 are scheduled along with other required credit courses in the UAS degree this fall. Students who indicate intent to pursue the UAS two-year AAS degree can apply for federal, state and local financial aid and scholarships.

BMCC will continue to offer the non-credit certificate options as well. For more information on how to pursue a degree and career in UAS, contact Tammy Krawczyk at tkrawczyk@bluecc.edu or Philip Schmitz at pschmitz@bluecc.edu.

WCCC to hold free golf clinic for kids

Willow Creek Country Club will host a free kids golf clinic Thursday and Friday, July 6-7. The clinic is for all kids ages seven through 13. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 6.

In addition to the clinic, WCCC will hold a kids golf tournament and barbecue on Saturday, July 22, from 8 a.m. to noon.

While preregistration is

not required for the clinic, interested parents are asked to email Donald Matthews at donaldgmatthews@gmail.com or message him on Facebook to give the club an idea of how many to expect. Questions about either event can also be directed to Matthews.

Free golfing for kids is funded by the Morrow County Unified Recreation District.

Boardman to sponsor community-wide clean-up in July

The City of Boardman will sponsor a community-wide clean-up the month of July. The city has garbage vouchers available, with a \$50 limit, to residents of the City of Boardman. The vouchers are valid during the month of July at Finley Butte Landfill and the North Morrow Transfer Station.

The garbage voucher program encourages citizens to clean up their residences by disposing of yard debris. City residents may pick up their vouchers at Boardman City Hall at 200 City Center Circle. For more information on this program, call Boardman City Hall at 481-9252.

CDA ribbon cutting next week

The Columbia Development Authority (CDA) is inviting community members to attend a ribbon cutting celebration at the former Army Depot, now Camp Rees, on Wednesday, July 12. The Ribbon Cutting Celebration will begin at 10 a.m. with a short program led by the CDA, followed by a com-

plimentary barbecue and a tour of the Depot.

During the event, the CDA will share about the development process and conduct a tour of the site, including exploring an igloo, visiting the southern Oregon trail, viewing the 1944 igloo explosion site and the former demilitarization site.

Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph
St. Patrick Catholic Church Heppner



Come to Me and Learn from Me

Father Thankachan Joseph, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Wasco.

This Sunday's readings invite everyone to unload worries and overburdens at the feet of the Lord. He invites every one of us to the rest He provides. Everyone at times finds life difficult. We become overburdened with problems, worries and anxiety. In this week's Gospel, however, Christ tells us to bring all our burdens to Him, and He will give us comfort, peace and strength. Let us pay attention to his loving invitation to go to him with love and trust.

The first reading is from the Book of Zechariah (9:9-10). Zechariah was a contemporary of Alexander the Great, who conquered the known world at the age of 21 and was known to be brash and arrogant.

In sharp contrast to this emperor, Zachariah sees true greatness in the Messiah, the King, who would be mindful of the lowly. Whereas Alexander and the last kings of Judah would ride on chariots and horses, using their bows and arrows and instruments of power, the Savior, Christ, would come on a donkey—not to signify humiliation but humility, serenity and peaceful intentions. His era would be not one of force but one of peace established through justice, especially for the poor and oppressed.

We are constantly confronted, at the business as well as individual level, by the choice of two opposing lifestyles: one built on the exercise of power, domination, violence, manipulation and aggression, leading to an unstable impression of peace, or one founded on justice, mutual respect, reverence for life, gentleness and compassion, leading toward lasting peace.

The Gospel of this week is taken from Mathew (11:25-30). In it, Christ offers us two invitations: 1) Come to Me. 2) Take my yoke and learn from Me. The Lord welcomes and invites everyone who is burdened, exhausted, despairing, and those who are about to stop and collapse due to their daily routines. This burden could be the burden of responsibility that comes from being a leader, a parent or teacher. Then there is the burden that comes from being sick, handicapped, widowed or divorced, or the burden of coping with losses—job losses, loss of a relationship, loss of emotional support.

We may also be weary from too much attraction to pleasures of the flesh and the guilty feelings from that. Maybe we are not sincere with our parents or spouses. And there is the burden that sometimes we carry as we look after others—for instance, care of an aged relative, for the terminally ill, care of the handicapped or slow learners. No matter what weariness we feel, no matter how heavy the burden we carry, Jesus invites us to come to him.

"Come to me all you who labor and are overburdened, and I will give you rest."

We need to notice the fact that Jesus does not say, "I will get rid of all that is burdening you."

Rather, He says, "Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light," (Mathew 11:30). In the time of Jesus, many people found the law itself was burdensome, and religion far from uplifting. Today, as well, some people seem to find religion burdensome and oppressive, so they have given up on religion and on God, but that does not seem to have freed them of the burden they are carrying within.

In the Gospel of John, we read, "Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give to you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you," (John 14:27).

At times when I face difficulties, worries of all types, when I face that I am about to stop and fall down, where do I turn for help? I have seen people going to the mountains, basketball courts, golf courses, going with their friends to eat, drink and make merry, searching for respite from their anxiety, sometimes under the influence of intoxicants. At such times, the Lord is calling us to Him, "Come to me. Shoulder my yoke...." instead of rushing to man-made solutions.

Only when we come to Jesus will we find true freedom from all that oppresses us. Jesus invites us to take His yoke upon our shoulders. If we discover Jesus in every burden, in every yoke that is placed on our shoulders, we will find the burden light and the yoke easy to bear, for love makes every burden light.

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 Birthright of Morrow County needs volunteers for the following shifts:
 Mondays 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
 Mondays 1:00 to 3:00 pm
 Thursdays 5:00 to 7:00 pm
 Work once a week or once a month.
 Call 541-676-0530 if interested.