

~ 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.

Catching up

Ms. Johnson is fortunate to have a friend with whom her own opinions jibe so closely.

One of my long-time friends did give me his opinion. Yes, he agreed that everyone has a right to their opinion—but not all opinions have any value or worth. He noted, in response to my letter, that "evil people, dishonest people, cheaters, criminals and lawbreakers, and liars can have all the opinions they want, they just have no value to anyone."

I did enjoy Ms. Crosby's "story" about the cow. Something I readily understood as I once milked two cows morning and night for one summer as part of my job. I did enjoy spraying the barn cats with milk as they would all gather to get a taste of the milk I would spray at them.

I also agree with Ms. Crosby that opinions about politics and religion are most often left unsaid. But, I did want her to know how much I enjoy the humor, (maybe a little satire thrown in) and tongue-in-cheek comments that she includes in her letters.

She has provided a lot of entertainment in the last several months.

*Robert H. Davidson
Milwaukie, OR*

Election thoughts

I've been thinking about 2024 elections. So much is riding on the outcome. A Red Wave would be nice. Maybe things would return to "normal." But then I wonder if anything will ever be "normal" again.

It looks like Trump and DeSantis will most likely be the front runners of the Republican primaries. Honestly, I like them both. I just wish they wouldn't fight. Is there a way to campaign without slamming the other candidate? Maybe. Maybe not. I understand proving you're the better man for the job. That's part of the deal. But just be nice. You're on the same side. If you're gonna fight...fight the enemy.

So who is the real enemy anyway? I'm a firm believer that this fight is exactly what the Bible says it is. It's a battle between good and evil. And it's more evident now than ever.

That truth explains a lot. It's been really bugging me trying to figure out how people think. Seriously, how can someone claim to be all about "for the children" and yet fight for the "right" to snuff out their lives when they're in the womb? If they don't care about these kids before they're born, pretty sure they don't care much for them afterward. The fact that the hypocrisy of it all isn't front and center boggles the mind.

But honestly, if I believed man was in charge of the universe, I'd be a wreck too. Get control of the climate, get rid of the guns, babies aren't babies, heck with the rules and the crazy religious nuts... eat, drink and be merry, or Mary, or Frank...whatever suits your fancy. But it's not working...nor will it ever. Because man is man and not God.

One can't help but hope for a reprieve from all the nonsense. It's nice to think about...the America we knew back when...common sense. I guess I'm hoping for Mayberry...not too realistic though.

So is God up there wringing his mighty hands wondering what he'll do if the wrong guy wins? Nope. He has a plan. Should we keep praying, voting, doing what's right, and speaking out against evil? Most definitely.

Yes, Idaho looks pretty good at the moment. But truth is, when the polls are closed and all votes counted...where should my trust be? In Idaho? In a 2024 victory? In a good prepper supply? There are some practical attributes in all these things. But we're not to put our trust in things, in man or in our own resourcefulness. Our trust needs to be in Jesus Christ and His love for us.

Lord thank you that you are faithful, even when I'm not.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

*Susie Crosby
Prineville, OR*

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Spiritually Speaking

*Father Thankachan Joseph
St. Mary's Catholic Church Wasco*



We Need to be Fruitful

This Sunday's scripture readings invite everyone to receive the word of God. The Prophet Isaiah (55:10-11) offers us a rich portrayal of the power of God's word, reminding us that just as God cares for the earth by sending it rain to make it fruitful and rich, so He cares for us by sending His word. As the rain yields results—the earth responding and becoming fruitful—so God persists with His word until it produces results. The precipitation comes down from heaven and becomes part of the earth; similarly, every word from God's mouth produces abundant outcomes.

Paul's letter to the Romans (8:18-23) fills us with hope. Life in the Spirit is life lived in hope. Endurance is a favorite word of Paul in writing to the Romans. He reminds them that they can endure suffering and trials because of this hope, looking beyond present suffering and seeing its meaning in the future. God's word of hope is for all in bondage and awaiting freedom promised by Christ.

This week, Chapter 13 of Matthew's Gospel offers the "Sower Parable" through which Matthew explains in the simplest form of presentation the characteristics, dimensions of God's Kingdom. This parable teaches us that as the sower of the Word of God, Christ scatters the seed/the word everywhere without any calculations or inhibitions. Similarly, it invites us as Christians to use opportunities we get to speak about the Word of God to all categories of people. We have ample opportunities to speak about the Word of God to friends, but due to fear and inhibitions, we don't take them. The Lord of the harvest wants us to do it freely and willingly.

The parable teaches us that there are different types of human beings with different attitudes toward the Word of God. What is the state of our hearts? Are our hearts open to receive the words of Jesus, or are we hard-of-heart and a source of grief to Jesus? Let's compare ourselves to the people in the parable to see where we stand.

The first type of person: The one who hears the word of God without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown into his heart (Matt 13:19). The seed that fell on the footpath doesn't get a chance to sprout because it didn't land on soil, and it was pecked by the birds of the air. Do we ever reject part of the word of God because we do not understand it, allowing the evil one to steal it away?

The second type of person: The one compared to rocky ground, the one who hears the Word and receives it with joy but has no soil for the roots. When some tribulation or temptations come, such a person immediately falls away (Matt 13:20-21). Just as the seed sprouts lack a conducive atmosphere and the seed is scorched in the heat of the sun, we give up.

The third type of person: When the seed is sown among thorns, is the one who hears the Word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the Word and it bears no fruit (Matt 13:22); these can meddle with our spiritual life and put us off our spiritual path. Have we missed Sunday services because we were too busy or made up another excuse? Are we too busy to read the Bible? When we are too busy and ignore these spiritual needs, we are actually inviting the devil into our lives.

Finally, the seeds that fell on good soil did not all yield in the same way. The Lord is telling us that there will always be different types of people who belong to the kingdom of God. To be receptive to the Word of God and fruitful, our attitude and openness to the Word is important, we have to realize that God's Word is to the human heart what the seed is to the earth. Just as soil is barren without seed, so our lives are barren without the Word of God, the source of Spiritual life. If there is no Word of God, all our efforts will remain fruitless. While we listen to human words, the most important voice we need to be attuned to is the Word of God. Happy are those who make the voice of God the most important voice in their lives. They will surely harvest the fruits of the Kingdom of God.

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Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

Good news in this day of electronic communicating can be when one's internet is working. So, "good news" here, at least for now, enables this week's column without too much brain strain in trying to figure out the alternate method of delivery.

Good Fourth of July, Everyone? Some grumblers wondered, "Why can't it be moved to a Monday to create a three-day weekend from work?!" But some defined holidays one does not play around with. (Christmas, for instance.) And some employees were able to take the 3rd off as a personal-leave day, enjoying the four days off. Good news.

Personal fireworks seem to be increasing in size, judging by the remnants left behind in people's refuse containers after their noisy, bright-lights celebrations! These explained the reaction of the Melancholy Collie (about 70 pounds), who tried several times to get into her owner's lap for security, even though loud music was intended to drown out the bigger "BOOMS!" Perky Puppy was oblivious.

Almost every weekday morning we can wonder where the street construction will be that day as we endure the ODOT project. An impressive reminder that the many individuals who are working in the several locations are truly human beings with emotions, not just figures who are disrupting our routines: Last week, Jeanne Daly was not able to maneuver her wheelchair into the market because her usual access was blocked for a construction-related reason. One of the men who was working at that site stopped what he was doing to go to her and manipulate her chair through the challenge and through the door.

Jeanne is a member of a graduating class of HHS that will be included this weekend when the classes of 70, 71, 72 and 73 gather for a combined reunion. As is true for some classes from time to time, those four classes seemed to "hit it off" when in school, sharing many experiences, so the memories will be many and the conversations delightful when they gather at the Elks this Friday evening, the golf greens on Saturday and the dinner at the Elks on Saturday evening.

Last Thursday evening, 10 friends of Karen Thompson joined her and husband, Terry, for a celebration of Karen's **th birthday, with cards both sincerely nice and tongue-in-cheek funny. The Broken Spoke's menu satisfied the hungry diners, and Eva Kilkenny brought a German chocolate cake she had made (a favorite of Karen's) and ice cream to top off the occasion. Delayed but soon joining the party at a nearby table was Thompson's son Brian's family.

Time for the adult craft night TONIGHT at the Heppner library: making decoupage clothespin magnets! Register at the library or at old.org/crafty-nights-the-heppner-library.

The awards and recognition continue for some of our local youth and adults! Don't miss a word of the articles in the Gazette-Times that follow and announce the latest acknowledgements—in sports, academics, citizenship—for our area's young and older, for their outstanding abilities, achievements, contributions, teamwork. Kudos, All!

This column depends on readers' contributions, so everyone is again encouraged to share good news tidbits: dbrosnan123@gmail.com or 541-223-1490. If sending an email or leaving a message, please include contact info, just in case a few more details might be requested.

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

HAPPY
Birthday
Jodi Brisbois!
Thursday July 13th
We appreciate you!

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177 N. Main
P.O. Box 337
Heppner, OR 97836
Chris@sykesrealestate.net

\$140,000

This house is ready to go. Recently updated windows, kitchen and bathroom. Heat on demand water heater, new paint, fridge, washer, dryer and dishwasher. Large back yard. Within walking distance of the Heppner pool, high school and softball field. 485 W Morgan St. MLS#: 23328135

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Three bedroom, one bath home on quiet street in Heppner. Real wood floors and knotty pine walls give a warm and comfortable feeling when you walk inside. Large fenced backyard with excellent soil will give you a great garden, and there is an access gate off the back street (Riverside) for additional parking. A full walk-in basement is waiting for you to finish out and add lots of additional living space. New pellet stove. 335 W Union Ave, Heppner
MLS#: 23220466