

~ 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.

Dare Ya Deer

I've been quite fond of deer for most of my adult life. I've looked for them on many a road trip. I've admired them both from far off places like alfalfa fields and forest groves, and from close-up places...like over my recliner on my living room wall.

There's one thing that always baffled me. How can a serious lover of deer walk for miles, all day, up and down, over hill and dale, without being graced with the presence of even one deer. Yet head home with a ton of hay in your truck bed and you find they're lying in wait by the side of the road, putting the reaction time of a certain Farm Lady as well as the brakes of a '97 Ford pickup to the ultimate test...both of which could be better.

After pondering the whole deer-in-and-out-of-sight situation, I've come to the conclusion that there is some underlying sinister activity going on of which the common traveler/deer searcher is unaware. After a little investigation, I have learned that the evidence of gang activity amongst the local deer population is overwhelming.

After some serious espionage and monitoring of road-side conversations, *this* is a reality we have somehow missed:

"Hey Frankie, it's your turn. Now remember...you have to wait 'til we give you the signal."

"I don't know, Micky. Did the other guys have to

do this?"
 "We all did it. Now don't be a chicken or we won't let you in. And remember...you can't run when you get to the road. You have to walk, or it doesn't count."

"Okay, but it didn't work very well for Spike."
 "Spike didn't listen. We told him not to stop and stare at the lights."

A little road-side surveillance, and it's obvious Spike isn't the only one who didn't make the cut. Sorta makes you wonder. Might be time for a new Giver of the Signal.

"Now! Oh wait...no... Now! No...wait...Wait!"

Not sure if the particular gang member I connected with the other night made the initiation. He did the stop, drop, and roll technique...then ran up the hill and out of sight. He did leave me with a slightly crooked bumper and a few strands of hair. Thanks, Frankie.

There are certain county road crews that have tried to help out by placing "Deer Crossing" signs in designated safe-to-cross areas. I'm sure they thought it would be a great help...at least for the non-gang members who have a legitimate reason for crossing the road. Unfortunately, we have since learned that most deer are not great readers. There is, however, talk of sign language courses being made available. Your government tax dollars at work.

*Susie Crosby
Prineville, OR*

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

One of the possible/probable alerts our area will receive this summer will be about an electrical outage—for instance, a "public safety power shutoff" can occur because of wildfire potential, and rare outages can be caused by other situations. This is just one example of alerts/warnings we can receive from the Sheriff's Department. With access to the internet, we can sign up to receive a vast array of timely alerts that deal with our safety and the safety of others. We can choose to receive the warnings on our cell phones, land lines, computers. To sign up for the alerts we choose, we can either go to the Morrow County Oregon Sheriff Department website or sign up at the Oregon-alert site by typing Everbridge Oregon alerts in our search engine. A phone call to 541-676-5317 is another way to ask about possible alerts if a person has reason to check a report being spread via other means.

If wishes were horses, four women who play tennis three to five times a week in fair weather would have a herd! But wishing does not take away the cracks in the courts' surface, so they have to be prepared for the occasional ball that hits a crack and veers off in an unexpected direction. That is okay, they say, because it doesn't happen often, and because Denis Lien keeps the weeds from pushing up through those cracks!

A reminder: On July 30, an auction and bingo will be held in Lexington as a fundraiser for Dick Temple, who is enduring hospitalizations and health challenges. Although Dick seems to be improving, Karen says, he still faces some rehab/therapy. The serving of a \$10 meal will begin in the Rebekahs' lodge at 2 p.m., with a silent auction held from 2-4 p.m. At 4:30 p.m. a live auction will be held, and bingo will then follow.

Betty Gray's bridge group was as pleased as she was to be celebrating her 85th birthday last week. When they played cards at her home two days before her special day, they surprised her with a bouquet of flowers and a favorite wine. The afternoon was even good to her, with some biddable hands and a high score. Then on her actual birthday, last Friday, they met her for lunch at the Broken Spoke, where she offered a champagne toast to these friends who added so much to her celebration.

Last Friday, four generations of the Don and Jan Stroeber family gathered in Heppner for a barbecue to celebrate Don's milestone-85th birthday. Jan reports that this great family, who have also been such wonderful help and support for her since her knee-replacement surgery just over two weeks ago, are truly a blessing.

Lorrene Montgomery traveled to Mile City, Montana, on June 7 so she would have time to "make the potato salad" for her granddaughter Rachael Gilbert's wedding dinner on Saturday, the 10th. Rachael and Cordell Ellis had a "cowboy wedding" on his ranch. On Sunday morning, after the couple had opened wedding gifts, Rachael's father, Lorrene's son Rick, announced that he and long-time romantic interest, Dorothy Love, would be getting married that afternoon at 5 p.m. in the Mile City Memorial Park! They said they had remained mum until then so as not to detract from Rachael and Cordell's wedding. So, a little shift to a different venue, and the guests witnessed the second wedding in two days officiated by Dorothy's son. Lorrene returned home the following Monday, from a "very, very fun" time.

Chad and Alicia Doherty are first-time grandparents, and to say they are pleased would be an understatement! Alicia reports that she has visited little "Renn Velazco" every weekend since he joined his parents, Luis and Brittany (Dohertys' daughter) in their Tri-Cities home on June 15. Congratulations to All!

What a delight for young people who walk north from the library: Pages from a book have been duplicated on posters and spaced at strategic intervals on wires along the sidewalk, so an entire story can be read before reaching the playground area (fun top-off to the walk).

Positive and good news can be a respite from the negative and/or sad. Please share your smiles: dbrosnan123@gmail.com or 541-223-1490.

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

SCC releases honor roll for spring quarter 2023

Spokane Community College has announced that Patience Kannah and Carlos Meza of Irrigon have both been named to the college's honor roll for the 2023 spring quarter, which ended in June. The honor roll lists those students who achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or above.

SCC is one of two

community colleges within the Community Colleges of Spokane district. It is known for its programs in career and technical training as well as its apprenticeship programs, but it also offers associate's degrees, including those that are transfer-ready for those going into universities.

Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph
St. Mary's Catholic Church Wasco



What Are You Looking for in Life?

This Sunday we have for our reflections the parables of the darnel, the mustard seed and the yeast. These parables stress how a disciple of Christ should be in the Kingdom of God. The parable of the sower taught us how a disciple of Christ should be free like the sower to scatter the seed of Word of God anywhere. The disciples in the kingdom will bear fruits in different degrees and quantities, like 100, 60 or 30-fold.

The second reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans is about the Spirit that comes to the aid of each one in our weaknesses. It begins with, "Brothers and sisters, The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groaning." (Romans 8:26). God has predestined everything for everyone who trusts in Him. Paul reminds the Romans that they will be able to endure with help of the Spirit of Christ who is always with us and around us. Divine providence or trusting in Him suggests the ability to look beyond the present suffering and see its meaning in the future. Paul reminds us that everything in our lives will turn out to be good when we trust in the Spirit that abides in each of us.

In the Gospel reading from the 13th chapter of Matthew, Jesus describes characteristics of the kingdom of God in parables, which are very easy to understand. The kingdom of God is again compared to a sower who sowed good seed in his field, and the enemy, the devil, comes and does his work of sowing bad seed while all are asleep. The wheat and the weed are growing alike together in the field. The owner of the field allows it to grow until harvest time for both. When the slaves ask him for permission to pull out the weeds from the wheat, he doesn't allow them to remove the weed, fearing that they might unknowingly remove the wheat. The "owner of the field" gives us the opportunity to change ourselves until the end of our lives on earth. We are distinguished and categorized according to the types of fruit we bear at the end of life on earth. If we don't bear anything, like the weeds, we are thrown into the fire. The parable gives us the assurance that there will always be the good and the bad. It is not prudent or appropriate to eliminate or pull out the darnel or unfit members before due time, which can cause havoc to the good ones. So, the Master of the Harvest is very cautious and gives everyone time and opportunity to bear fruit in each one's life.

From the parable of the mustard seed, we need to understand that the Kingdom, like the mustard seed, has a very humble beginning. It has no fanfare, no triumphalism. It is open to receive everyone. No exclusivism. Through the parable of the mustard seed, Christ speaks to us about the gradual expansion and growth of the Kingdom through its professed members. Similarly, through the parable of the yeast, Jesus wants us to understand the idea that every member in the Kingdom, however insignificant he/she may be, must exhort themselves to transform or influence the community or the society in which he or she is situated, like the yeast does in the flour, transforming it.

To conclude this reflection of the day, let us ponder the title of this article: "What Are You Looking for in Life?" Worldly possessions and material things? Or God's kingdom and His values? According to its dictionary meaning, a pearl is born out of great suffering. A speck of sand makes its way into an oyster. The oyster is a living organism, so the intruder hurts the oyster. To protect itself, the oyster stows a substance called nacre, to surround the intruder. That is the secretion that gradually forms the pearl. Thus, the pearl is born out of much torment and pain. Not that there are many pearls around us; some of these are fine pearls. People seek truth and life in such things as philosophy, science, technology, wealth, fame, art, music, literature and religion. But there is only one pearl that is priceless, only one pearl that is worth more than the world itself—the pearl of Jesus Christ Himself.

Fundraiser planned for Temples

A fundraiser for Dick and Karen Temple will be held at the Holly Rebekah Lodge in Lexington on Sunday, July 30.

A meal of a pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, dessert and drink will be available for \$10 and will be served from 2-4 p.m. or until food runs out. A silent auction will be held during the meal, with a live auction to follow about 4:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to join in and finish the day playing bingo at 5 p.m. Cost for bingo is \$5 for a 10-game pack of cards or 50 cents per card.

The event is sponsored by Holly Rebekah Lodge and Heppner Christian Church. One hundred percent of proceeds will go to the Temples to help with

medical-related expenses.

Donations have also been provided by the following businesses and individuals: Breaking Bread, Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo, Jeannie Collins, Jack Rabbit Candle Company, Kevin Troxell, Devin Oil, Wheatland Insurance, Neiffer Ranch, Todd and Missy Lindsey, Jim and Becky Kindle, Corey Miller, Browne House Coffee, Serendipity Designs, Wrights Design, Edith Papineau, Brian and Susie Thompson, employees of Columbia Basin Electric, Katilyn Zinter, Grieb Farms, Morrow County Grain Growers, Heppner FFA, Crum Ranch, Josie Miles, Randy Hughes, Pam Norton, Charlotte Wisser, Mike and Marlene Gray, and Tammy Rolfe.

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This classic split level 2 bed, 2 bath home overlooks Heppner with a relaxing back deck and beautiful backyard. 1 car garage leads into the lower game room/office with bathroom. New furnace in 2020 with ac and air purifier, new roof in the last 5 years, new carpet in 2021. Cozy living room, dining room and bedrooms. Upper and lower Sqft is approximate. 140 S Gilmore St. MLS#:23505395



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



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