

~ 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.

The Golden Years

Something really weird happened to me yesterday while I was washing dishes. I got old. Seems kinda unfair that it can happen while you're just going about your business, innocently doing some mundane chore. But, yep, I looked down and there they were...my granddaughter's hands. How the heck did that happen? And why wasn't I warned? Nobody told me my body would turn on me, or I wouldn't be able to bend and breathe at the same time. And what's with the turkey neck thing? I feel like I've just been placed on the clearance rack at Wallies.

I guess the biggest shock is how I got here so quickly. Seems like just a couple months ago, I was normal merchandise. I could see, hear and touch my toes. I could also leave home without going over a long checklist. Let's see now...glasses, teeth, hearing aids, hair, meds, phone (in case I fall and break a hip). Maybe it was something I ate. More likely something I drank. It appears chocolate milk doesn't originate in the Fountain of Youth.

They say old age is not for the weak. True words. Not to be morbid but, there's something a little unnerving about reaching the age when nobody's surprised when you die. And here's a thought. Maybe the Golden Years should be called The Titanium Years. Isn't that what they're making new hips and knees out of these days?

But what's so bad about being old, anyway? After all, you're in good company

because there are a lot of old people these days. Just make a trip to Bi-Mart. It's swarming with them. My granddaughter noticed it. "Wow Gramma, there's a lot of old people in here." Yep. It's actually one of my favorite places to hang out. In fact, it's where I go to pick up guys...and help them to their car.

I guess when you consider the alternative, getting old is a pretty good thing. It means you're still here by God's choice. The way I see it, if you woke up this morning, He still has work for you to do. Maybe not laying concrete or bucking bales, but there's a lot of wisdom to be shared and the value of a righteous man (or woman) has nothing to do with age. My wake-up call has convinced me of that. If you can manage to smile at a stranger, pray for your family and seek the Lord in all things, you have immense value here. While smooth skin, flat tummies, and a full head of hair might get you a place on the world stage, it won't guarantee your place in heaven. Only faith in Jesus can do that.

So while you're here, make the most of your time and your talent. And make things right with Jesus. He has a great retirement plan.

"I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return" (Philippians 1:9-10).

Susie Crosby
Prineville, OR

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan



Cynthia (Showalter) Dangerfield, Pam (Orr) Powell, Kelli Bergstrom, Shelley (Stroeber) Hill, Kimberly (Hughes) Dennis, Jennifer (Hughes) Jaca, Stephanie (Payne) Ball, Wanda (Riley) Hordyk, Cammie (Papineau) Jones, Jodi (Padberg) Sass. -Contributed photo

Taylor Turner started work as a physical therapist with Shelley McCabe on June 12, and Taylor credits Shelley's support as what empowered her to reach this goal made several years ago. Five years ago, Shelley first hired Taylor as an aide. For two summers she filled this role, while working toward her Bachelor of Science Degree in Clinical Physiology at Central Washington University. The work with Shelley, a doctor of physical therapy, was necessary experience before Taylor could be accepted into a PT program. She was accepted into Pacific University, completing the three-year program, earning her Doctorate in Physical Therapy in May, and returned to work side-by-side with her mentor, three days a week in Heppner and two days a week in Boardman. Welcome, Taylor! We hope to see you often, out and about, on the streets, in the stores, rather than in your place of business!

Some ranch wives might be able to identify with the following: Late afternoon, feeling a bit tired and very grubby from working outside, an early shower and a cool, short, lightweight nightie sound inviting...No sooner sparkling clean and clad for relaxation, than in the door comes the husband. "Get some boots on and get out here to help me! That cow has jumped the fence again!" So, in nightie and boots, aware that passing cars have an unusual sight to behold, the assist is accomplished, but then... "We need to change pastures, or those cows are going to push that fence down!" So, gate open, wading through the pasture to help steer the bovines in the right directions, making sure none successfully veer off in the wrong direction. And then, an early shower and a cool, short, lightweight nightie sound inviting...

The visit from daughter, Darci, and granddaughters, Katie and Amy, from Sunday, the 16th, until last Wednesday brightened this Mom-Grammy's days. The Salem group enjoyed their walks with the dogs, the visits to Murray's and Breaking Grounds, Flood Town Books, the swimming pool, the pizza, and, hopefully, the catching-up. Thoughtful people that they are, they purchased a 1500-piece jigsaw puzzle to start and leave behind!

This year marked the 18th annual "Girls Trip" for the women in the HHS class of '85. After flying and driving to meet in various gathering spots on Wednesday, July 19, the destination was McCall, ID. Each trip is filled with skills learned from Tupper, hiking, time on the water, singing, adventuring and rekindling lifelong friendships formed when most of these women met in kindergarten and a few more joined them in about the fourth grade. Every year, before departing on Sunday, a new location and adventure are chosen.

Seventy years ago, 1953, Wilbur and Marie Steagall and Wilbur's siblings organized the first "Steagall Family Reunion," and every year since, Steagalls have been gathering at Bull Prairie, beginning on the preceding Wednesday and continuing through the second weekend in July. Even during the Covid crisis, family members chose to meet, with the necessary precautions. Five generations, 73 people, attended this year's reunion—the youngest, a six-week-old great granddaughter of Bob Steagall's from the TriCities, and the oldest, 98-year-old Bobby Steagall of Albany, Wilbur's youngest brother. His sister Irene, who is also in her 90s, came from CA. This year, five Steagall progeny came for the first time, adding Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio to the list of states represented: ID, UT, CA, OR, TX, WA. Much of the success of this endeavor presently rests mainly with sisters Pat and Deanna, who have many totes of necessary cooking equipment and food stuffs, but everyone knows they need to plan for the potluck dinners: Thursdays = spaghetti, Fridays = burgers, Saturdays = chicken, and Sunday breakfasts. And donations help cover common expenses, as well as this year's coffee mugs, and pay for the every-year tee shirts commemorating the 70th year.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed just enjoyable stories this week! Readers continue to hope for Good News, so how about adding yours? Send or call: dbrosnan123@gmail.com or 541-223-1490.

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

Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph
St. Mary's Catholic Church Wasco



You must look for the things that are above

Last week, we read in the Parable of the Wheat and Weed, "While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off." It is in fact for all of us an eye opener; if we are not cautious in our spiritual life, the enemy around us is waiting for an opportunity to destroy us in any way.

This week, the first reading from the First Book of Kings (3:5, 7-12) makes us question whether faith and trust in God are the prime value that influences our choices or not. This reading gives us the beautiful description of Solomon being asked by God to choose anything he would like from God. Instead of asking for wealth and material possessions, Solomon prayed for the gift of wisdom. He could have asked for anything on earth so that he could go around lavishly and comfortably in his palace and ponder the truths of the universe, but he asked God for wisdom and an understanding heart so that he could govern his people wisely and prudently. God was so pleased with the choices that Solomon asked for, He blessed him with all that was needed to govern God's people and granted wealth and treasures, as well. What would have been our choices in such a situation? If God comes in your dream tonight and asks you to ask for one thing and one thing only, what would you ask for? Would you ask for wealth or success in business or your love life, family life etc.? Would you have the wisdom of Solomon to ask for the reign of God in your life? Is the kingdom of God so important to you that you are prepared to part with all you have in order to have His kingdom? If you have the kingdom of God, you have everything, and if you don't have the kingdom of God, you have nothing.

The second reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:28-30) is about trusting in God. Paul says, "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose" (8:28). God has predestined everything for everyone who trusts in Him. Paul reminds the Romans that they will be able to endure suffering and trials because of this trust in God. 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 Him and live according to His commandments.

The Gospel reading of this week from Matthew 13: 44-52 is about the Parable of the Pearls; the kingdom is compared to a man who is searching for rare pearls and when he finds one, he is ready to give up everything he owns to acquire the pearl of rare value. A treasure is something uncovered quite by accident, whereas the pearl is found after deliberate pursuit and searching. From the parable of the treasure and pearls we can see that discipleship or membership in the kingdom of God is a precious gift. It demands on the part of the disciple a certain amount of renunciation, commitments, sacrifices and daily choices in our lives for the sake of the kingdom's values. Do we continue to make a constant search in our lives?

To conclude this reflection of the day, let us ponder the title of this article: You must look for the things that are above. Worldly possessions and material things? Or God's kingdom and His values? As we have noted before, 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. It 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, but some 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.

WCCC Sunday Men's Play

Sixteen participated in Sunday men's play on Sunday, July 23, at Willow Creek Country Club. The results are as follows:

KP #1-10, 2nd shot, Duane Disque, 3'11"

Net was a three-way tie among Derek Gunderson, Dave Pranger and David Allstott, 56.

Gross—1st, Charlie

Over the Tee Cup

Tuesday, July 18, was warm and sunny for the 11 ladies who turned out for their play day at Willow Creek Country Club.

Eva Kilkenny took low gross of the field, while Sharon Harrison took low net of the field. Sarah Rucker had least putts of the field.

For flight A, Karen Thompson had low gross and long drive, and Pat Dougherty low net.

For flight B, Pat Ed-

Ferguson, 59; 2nd-3rd (tie), Barry Munkers and Jerry Gentry, 69.

The next Sunday play will be a two-man best ball hosted by John McCabe and Josh Coiner. There will be no organized play on Aug. 6, as the couples' tournament will be held that weekend.

mondson had low gross and Sarah Rucker long drive. For flight C, Karen Smith-Griffith had low gross, Lorrene Montgomery low net, and Kris Lindner least putts and long drive.

Pat Edmundson had a chip-in on #6 and Sarah Rucker a chip-in on #8.

In other events, Kim Carlson was the winner of a special prize on #4 and Karen Smith-Griffith took the special prize on #6.

Seniors Matter menus for August

South Morrow County Seniors Matter has announced the following menus for the month of August:

Aug. 1: Chicken bake with roll, wild rice, broccoli and a dessert.

Aug. 8: Enchiladas with Spanish rice, refried beans, side salad and dessert.

Aug. 15: Pork Roast, mashed potatoes, carrots, dinner roll and dessert.

Aug. 22: Quiche, hash-browns, peaches, coffee cake and dessert.

Aug. 29: Meatloaf with garlic mashed potatoes, corn, salad and dessert.

Meals are served at 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday at St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner. Seniors 60 and above may donate what they can toward the cost of the meal. Those 60 and younger are asked for a suggested donation of \$5.

No to-go plates or delivery are offered at this time, but diners may bring empty containers for a portion to take home.

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BIRTHRIGHT

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For Thomas G Martin

A remembrance will be held at 1:00 pm, August 19th at the Willow Creek Country Club, Heppner - No flowers needed. If you would like to make a donation to the country club it would be great. Tommy loved this golf course. Come for a great visit.