

~ 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.

Be Brave

Since there might be a few people out there I haven't offended yet, I figure I'd better remedy the situation. Besides, some things put you in the mood to offend. Like when your appliance repair man tells you that you need to "junk" your new gas range because apparently when mice build a nest with the oven insulation...they also relieve themselves in places too hard to reach with bleach. Sorry, Mr. Repairman. No can do. My Scottish/Irish heritage will not allow that kind of waste. So, after a trip to Papa Murphy's, the first use of my new oven did create a rather pungent baked mouse smell. It's ok. I'm sure the pizza is still good.

So, here it is. There's a group of people that are running roughshod over our culture, demanding we all agree with them. If you have a dissenting opinion, you are deemed hateful. You may even lose your business. If you state facts, you are messing with their truth (and their delusions). They now have their finger in every pie. Department stores, banks, beer, sports, greeting cards and of course, our schools. You can't spit anymore without hitting one of their agenda promotions.

Here's my refresher course on the subject. I am a woman. I was born that way. My doctor didn't choose my gender...God did. My body is different from a man's. My emotions, my reactions, and my thinking process are also different. I have different strengths and weaknesses than a man. I was born one

of two genders, not 367. Honestly, to even have to defend these facts is a 10 on the Lunacy Scale. Mark 10:6 says it pretty clearly. "But 'God made them male and female' from the beginning of creation."

Before I get thrown on the Hater Bus, please hear me. I do not hate people, even those with whom I disagree. God loves everyone...no exceptions. Left, Right, or in between. But loving someone doesn't mean you have to love the lies they perpetuate. Jesus made it clear who the father of lies is. Satan is having a hay day with this whole thing, and he isn't stupid. He knows exactly where to do the most harm with his deception.

If you have children or grandchildren, please speak the truth to them. Tell them they are exactly who they were meant to be. Tell your daughters they have special gifts that are unique to girls. Tell your boys they also have qualities that are unique to boys (and that it's OK to be masculine). Protect them from the current onslaught of garbage being aimed at them. Combat it with reality. Combat it with Godliness. Combat it with prayer. Jesus said these last days would be tough. But He didn't say to roll over and play dead. Be brave.

"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.

Susie Crosby
Prineville, OR

That's one super storm



The supercell dumping rain on the hills Monday. According to the National Weather Service, supercells are the least common type of thunderstorm but carry the greatest chance of extreme weather. What makes a supercell unique from all other thunderstorm types is that it contains a "deep and persistent" rotating updraft called a mesocyclone. The picture was taken by Roger Long of the Oregon Department of Transportation. He took it on Heppner Hill, where he was flagging for shoulder work. -Photo by Roger Long

Soccer camp planned next week

A soccer camp for kids kindergarten to sixth grade will be held Aug. 18-19 from 8 - 9 a.m. at Hager Park in Heppner. The fee is \$5 per person, which will be used to purchase equipment for the upcoming season.

The Heppner soccer team is a member of the

American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). For those who registered in June, team practices will start in the first week of September, with days and times to be determined. Games will be held every Saturday in September and October at Butte Park in Hermiston.

Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph
St. Mary's Catholic Church Wasco



Fix Our Gaze on Christ

We live in a world of electronic gadgets that need to be connected to a power source for charging. Similarly, each of us is being called to be more connected to the Divine as often as possible. We read in Isaiah, "Go into your houses, my people, and shut the door behind you. Hide yourselves for a little while until God's anger is over" (Isaiah 26:20).

In next Sunday's first reading, we see the Prophet Elijah fleeing from King Ahab after putting down the false god of Baal. Elijah flees to the southern region of Judah for refuge and is sheltering in a cave. He longs for the voice of God. But the Lord asks Elijah to drop his idea of God and how He will appear. Elijah retreats to Mount Horeb to converse with God, thinking that God will appear in a clamorous way, through the power of the wind, an earthquake, fire. It takes some time for him to realize that he feels the presence of God in the gentle breeze. The message: We need to get rid of our expectations of experiencing the presence of God in an extraordinary way. God comes to us every day through people, ordinary things, and events.

The story of Jesus walking on water appears in three of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, John). In Matthew (14:22-33) we see that Peter also walked on water! The miracle story of Jesus walking on the sea—with the one that goes before it, the multiplication of loaves—shows that Jesus is Lord and has authority over all forces, natural and supernatural.

The Jews believed that the sea was the domain of supernatural demonic forces. A rough and stormy sea was regarded as the work of these hostile spirits. By walking on the raging waves and calming the stormy sea, Jesus shows Himself to have power and total control over these forces. His disciples are in a boat in a rough sea and strong winds. All seems lost. The boat clearly represents the Church, while the storm represents opposition the Church is facing. Jesus calls to them and says not to be afraid. Then He comes to them over the water.

Peter tries to do the same, seems to doubt Jesus's power and, in panic, sinks. But Jesus supports him, and then asks, "Man of little faith, why did you doubt?" The storm ceases. Now all the disciples acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God.

When Peter "felt the force of the wind, he was afraid and began to sink." Matthew tells his struggling Christian community that even if their faith falters and they panic when they look at surrounding danger, Jesus will come and save them. Good news indeed! A boat riding the stormy waves is a striking and well-known image of the Church. The Church, the people of God, is constantly being threatened by every possible negative influence.

As long as Peter kept his focus on the Lord, all went well. As soon as he forgot about Jesus's presence and began to look around, got distracted from the closeness of Christ, and worried about Christ's power, he began to sink. Perhaps, this is what faith means: Keeping our focus on the Lord, regardless of the turmoil around us, trusting that He is always nearby, a hand-stretch distance, to lift and support us.

Does this Gospel have any special meaning for our personal lives? It surely does. There are times when the waves of misfortune—sickness, family tragedies, financial problems—seem to engulf us. There are times when our Christian faith is deeply tried and we feel like giving up in despair. Then it is that Jesus, who loves us more than we shall ever know, says to us, "Why are you faltering? I am with you always. Do not be afraid."

Christ foresaw the storm and the grave risk His apostles would face. But that was for their own good because they realized that He was from God and that they could always count on Him. Our trials and ailments are also foreseen by God and permitted by Him so that they will draw us closer to Him and help us on the road to heaven.

May the Lord increase our little faith so that in all the storms of life we shall have our eyes and our trust constantly fixed on Jesus and His power and not on ourselves and our weaknesses.

Fair and rodeo

-Continued from PAGE ONE

with the process.

The fair has also seen some updates this year with the purchase of brand-new pens for hogs, sheep and goats, as well as new panels for the increasing number of dairy animals. New coolers have been purchased to keep everyone cool and comfortable.

There's also plenty to eat, and plenty to entertain. The police K-9 team will stop by to give a demonstration and answer questions. A children's carnival will be there all week for the little ones, as well as axe throwing and mechanical bull riding to keep the thrill seekers engaged. A 55-foot STEM trailer provided by Eastern Oregon University and Amazon Web Services will also provide educational entertainment.

Dinner will be served by Lenn Greer during the entertaining RDO pedal tractor pull. Joe Stoddard will be there with his talking horse act. Also part of the nonstop entertainment will be Trevor Tagle, Jacob Westfall, and Countryfied during the Thursday night dinner with the livestock growers, catered by Paradise Rose. And, of course, the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo will take center stage Friday night and Saturday.

Don't forget the food! The tasty selection this year includes strawberry shortcake, floats, funnel cakes, hotdogs, taco truck, Yocountry yogurt and a Polynesian grill.

Look for details on all of this and more in the special 28-page fair and rodeo edition inside this issue of the *Gazette-Times*.



Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

An opportunity to put your creative imagination to work and contribute to the festive atmosphere of the fair and rodeo: The Saturday, August 19, parade has room for your entry! Save a spot in the line-up by contacting the Chamber of Commerce. Volunteers are also needed for entrance ticket booths at the rodeos on that Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

And there is room for more hungry stomachs at the Tuesday lunch for senior citizens! Serving of the free, good food begins in the dining room of the St. Patrick Senior Center at 11:30.

A road trip and visiting with childhood friends was a long-awaited treat for Shirley George and this classmate recently. We left on Sunday, July 30, traveled to Salem, where we picked blueberries from the 76 bushes at my daughter's home—a favor in exchange for overnight accommodations in the family's absence. Then on to Roseburg for a visit with classmate Ferne Healy and her husband, Mike, and guaranteed lots of laughter.

More to come: On to Shady Cove—a new, unfamiliar place on the Oregon map—to enjoy lunch and an afternoon of conversation with classmate Tom Green and his wife, Annette. Back to Roseburg, more visiting and laughter. On to Salem for more berry-picking and visiting with local acquaintances. Home again, home again on Friday with our gallons of berries and memories of a good trip.

The meaning of "cloud burst" was clear on Monday as a brief deluge of large raindrops hit parts of our area. A sprinkle at Diana Ball's, a flooding in Ione! Good news pointed out for this scenario: the Ione community members quickly pulled together to mitigate the results of the flooding.

Judie Laughlin now lives closer to both of her daughters, Tammy and Lottie, since she moved last Tuesday to Madras. As Judie's health has continued to suffer, she will now be getting more assistance at Chinook Place, 470 NE Oak St (97741). Friends do miss Judie but consider her new location good news for a visit, a reason for a get-away and a change of pace—only two and a half hours away.

We have our fingers crossed for more contributions to the Good News column next week. Sharing is quick and easy—jot it down and send to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-223-1490.

Hope good news comes to everyone reading this column!

Morrow County Fair
August 16-20, 2023

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Lunch & Dinner Menu

Specials 8/10 /8-16

Thursday - Grilled Turkey, apple slice and pepper jack cheese sandwich on sourdough with fries \$9
Friday - Chicken fried steak, sausage gravy, hashbrowns, and scrambled eggs for \$9
Saturday- Grilled chicken craisin salad \$10
Monday - Philly steak burrito & tortilla chips \$9
Tuesday - Finger Steaks and Side Salad \$9
Tuesday - night 6-9pm \$2 hard shell tacos
Wednesday - Grilled Chicken Salad and Roll \$10. This will be our last Capeco Meal. Thank you for letting us serve you these last few years.

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