

The Official Newspaper  
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner**  
**GAZETTE-TIMES**  
U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Cindi Doherty.....Advertising

All News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.  
For Advertising: advertising deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Cost for a display ad is \$5.50 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 50¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$15 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$6.00 per column inch.

For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be requested at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

For Obituaries: Obituaries are published in the Heppner GT at no charge and are edited to meet news guidelines. Families wishing to include information not included in the guidelines or who wish to have the obituary written in a certain way must purchase advertising space for the obituary.

For Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor MUST be signed by the author. The Heppner GT will not publish unsigned letters. All letters MUST include the author's address and phone number for use by the GT office. The GT reserves the right to edit letters. 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.

**Spiritually Speaking**

Father Thankachan Joseph  
St. Mary's Catholic Church Wasco



**The lord invites us to his banquet**

We are familiar with participating in birthday parties, wedding parties, retirement parties, etc. The majority of us look forward to such celebrations as they are occasions of joy and gaiety that add vigor and vitality to everyone's life. If these celebrations are special and only for a select crowd, we feel thrilled to be summoned. We wouldn't dream of saying "no" to a VIP invitation, especially if the person mattered to us a lot. The Lord Jesus is inviting every one of us wholeheartedly to the Eucharistic celebration that he has prepared for each and every one of us through his precious life. Faith is an invitation to celebrate God in our lives and the Eucharist is the festive banquet. Have we accepted the invitation, will we join in the banquet, or do we have our stock excuses?

The first reading from the prophet Isaiah (25:6-10) uses the allegory of a banquet to describe the fullness of life that God wants to bestow, not just on Israel, but on all the peoples of the earth. "On this mountain, the Lord will prepare a banquet for all peoples (6)... on this mountain, he will wipe the tears from every cheek. This is our God in whom we hoped for salvation." The banquet that the Lord hosts stands for the fullness of life to which God is calling us all. It is a call to celebrate our intimacy with God and a deeper and more authentic personal life. But it is also a call to communion with others. The invitation challenges us to abandon our seclusion and our self-sufficiency, and to be willing to share with others, to associate with others, and to collaborate with others. We are not invited to celebrate and satisfy our needs but to enjoy and reach out to one another.

In today's Gospel, Matthew chapter 22:1-14 compares two parables, one of the guests at the wedding feast and that of the man not wearing the wedding robe, both parables dealing with being invited to the Kingdom. The first parable is linked with the banquet mentioned in the first reading, the kingdom to which all are invited. In the first century, a dual invitation was customary. Guests were invited well in advance and again gathered when the feast was about to begin. The banquet is prepared, everything is ready, and the king summons the guests. Shockingly, some simply ignore the invitation, others head out of town, and the rest beat up and kill the king's messengers. They all have their excuses and justifications.

The refusing guests are associated with the original invitees of God's Kingdom, God's chosen people, the Jewish people, and in particular their leaders, who not only refused to accept the invitation but put to death the son of God Himself. In the parable, after sending his troops to deal with the murderers, far from grumbling, the king orders his servants to go to the highways and byways and invite everyone they see, both the good and the bad, to the wedding feast. The "good and the bad" are invited to make it clear that people are not invited because of their merits but rather because of the generous goodness of God.

Matthew continues with a second parable with another theme. As people come into the banquet, when the king notices this man without the wedding garment, the man is questioned and thrown out of the banquet. Why was the king so harsh on the man who was invited at the last moment? It would seem absurd that he would have a fine garment after being picked up from the street. There is a deeper point being made: accepting the invitation to the kingdom requires a certain practical behavior to which the image of the robe is referring. Since clothing can be a symbol of new identification with Christ, the wedding garment evokes the good deeds or quality of life that must be shown by one who participates in the banquet of life. Those who accept God's invitation can't just walk in and continue to live as they want, they must change, they must be seen wearing the wedding garment, living the Christian life, graced by God, and overflowing in deeds of justice and love.

**ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:  
FRIDAY AT 5:00 P.M.**

**Obituaries**

**Nancy Lou (Ball) Ekstrom**

Nancy Lou (Ball) Ekstrom, age 86, passed away on September 20, 2023. She was a dedicated mother first and foremost. She treasured her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, family, and friends, and embraced every moment with them. She had a vivacious personality, and one would never guess that she faced so many adversities and challenges. She is an example of what we all should strive to be. Nancy was a firm believer that you make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give. Herb and Nancy started their marriage in The Dalles, Oregon and then moved back to Ione where they started their business Ekstrom Farm Chemicals, and raised their four children, Herbert R Ekstrom III, Cynthia M Greenup (Bill), Jan A Gridley (Bob) and John Ekstrom and wife Helen. She loved the coast, trips to Mexico, times spend at the river at their boathouse with family and friends. She loved watching sports, following her grandchildren in their various sports programs,

and her great granddaughter playing college golf. Nancy was an avid bridge player and loved playing cards with her friends of many years. Nancy was involved in the Valby Lutheran Church. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, the International Order of Rainbow for girls, 4-H knitting and sewing clubs, as a leader. Born to Archie C. Ball and Doris H (Mahoney) Ball. She married Herbert R. Ekstrom Jr. October 17, 1953, he preceded her in death May 10, 2007. Also was preceded in death by her oldest son Herbert Ekstrom III, and her parents and siblings; Archie Ball, Doris Ball, Bobby Ball, Laurel Van Marter, Harriet Hall, Beth Hughes Eileen Steiger, and Archie Ball Jr. and brother-in-law, Richard (Dick) Ekstrom. She is survived by three children, 9 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, 5 great great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews and her sister-in-law Diana Ball, and brother in-law Roland Ekstrom. Nancy was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and a friend to many and will be greatly missed. There will be no service or celebration of life per Nancy's request.

**Service Notice**

**David L. Mitchell**

David L Mitchell, 79, of Heppner, passed away on July 19, 2023, at his home. He was born November 30, 1943, in Granada, Colorado. A celebration of life will be held Saturday October 14, 2023, from 2-4 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge #358. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner oversees arrangements.

**Sharron K Miller**

Sharon K. Miller, 50, of Heppner, died September 15, 2023, at a Portland Hospital. She was born August 28, 1973, at Hermiston, Oregon. A celebration of life will be held at the Morrow County Rodeo Grounds, 5 p.m. Saturday, October 14, 2023, with a meal to follow at the Morrow County Fair Pavilion. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements.

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**Thursday** - Chicken Tortilla soup & quesadilla \$9  
**Friday** - popcorn chicken mashed-potato bowl \$9  
**Saturday Closed**  
**Monday** - 1/4 cheeseburger with Mac n cheese for \$9  
**Tuesday** Reuben and coleslaw for \$9  
**Tuesday night** - 6-9pm \$2 hard shell tacos  
**Wednesday** - tomato soup and a cold Turkey Swiss sandwich for \$9 or \$7 for seniors

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**Garage Sale October 14, 2023  
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Rick and Shelli Britt's house  
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Proceeds benefit Hopeful Saints ministry youth for 2024 Summer Camp fees  
Cinnamom rolls and coffee for first 24 people (for a donation)

If you can't come to the sale and would like to donate to the youth text/call Shelli at 541-256-0857 to arrange receipt of donation

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