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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

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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.

Obituaries

James Edward McConnell

James Edward McConnell, a U.S. Army veteran and longtime resident of Pendleton, passed away at age 56 on



October 14, 2023, following medical complications. Jim, as he was referred to by his friends and family, was born on August 5, 1967, at Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande, Oregon, to Charles and Vivian McConnell. In his primary years, Jim and his family lived in many areas throughout Northeast Oregon, including Elgin, Lexington, Enterprise, and Wallowa. He graduated from Heppner High School in 1985. Jim enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1984 and attended language school in Monterey, California, where he learned the German language. He was an Army staff sergeant and served in military intelligence and as a military policeman, participating in both Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Throughout his Army tenure, he was stationed in many places throughout the world, including Panama, England, Guantanamo Bay, and New Mexico, among others. He was very proud to have guarded President George Bush Senior once during his career while stationed in Maryland. Jim was also based in Heidelberg, Germany, where he met Shelly Arnaman from Wisconsin, and the two were later married. He was blessed with two wonderful sons, Tyler, and Sean. Following his military career, Jim and his family moved to Appleton, Wisconsin, where he worked at the Appleton paper mill. He eventually returned to Oregon after his first marriage ended, and he served at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Facility in Pendleton.

After returning to Oregon, Jim met the love of his life and was married on October 18, 2009. They later welcomed two beautiful daughters. Jim was known for his love of music, baseball, video games, and Star Wars. Even more so, he was known for his deep commitment to his family. He was a loving father and husband who always tried to give his kids and wife the best opportunities and experiences, an involved uncle who packed his many nieces and nephews around, and a caring sibling who was always the first to volunteer to help when his brothers or sisters had a need. Jim was preceded in death by his parents and his niece Kimberly (McConnell) Eldridge. He is survived by his wife, children, and seven siblings: John McConnell, Cindy Sumner (Charlie), Susan Hargrove (Bryan), Kathy Adams, Tom McConnell (Margie), Richard McConnell, and Robert McConnell. He also leaves behind 14 nieces and nephews and 22 great-nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by his entire family.

A celebration of life will be held at the National Guard hangar at 2100 N.W. 56th Street in Pendleton on Friday, October 27, 2023, at 1:00 P.M. A graveside service will be held immediately following the celebration of life at Olney Cemetery (865 Tutuilla Road, Pendleton). A meal will be provided for the family at the Bethel Church at 6:00 PM. The address is: 1109 Airport Rd. Pendleton

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of all care arrangements, you may find the online

condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com

«It doesn't take a hero to order men into battle. It takes a hero to be one of those men who goes into battle. ~Norman Schwarzkopf

Shirley Ann McCarl

Shirley Ann McCarl was born in Heppner on September 10, 1935, to Aurthur and Bertha Hunt. She died on Saturday,



October 7, 2023, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital at the age of 88. She was raised and attended school in Lexington, where she continued to live for the next 88 years. On August 22, 1952, Shirley married Morris McCarl in Albany, Oregon. The couple resided in Lexington where they raised their three children, Barb, Sharon, and Lee. Morris and Shirley had been married for 70 years. In her younger years, she enjoyed bowling, and going to the horse and dog races, and was an avid seamstress. Her greatest pleasure came from spending time with her family. She worked as a rye puller for many years for local farmers. She also worked for DO Nelson on his potato diggers and worked at Kinzua Mill for a time. She later became a Deputy Clerk at the Morrow County courthouse and worked there until her retirement. Shirley is survived by children; Barb Coiner, Sharon (Bill) Morris, and Lee McCarl. She had 6 grandchildren Austin (Lindsey) Coiner, Josh (Melissa) Coiner, Daniel Coiner, Kim (Michael) Woolfolk, Ben (Maddie) McCarl, and Zach (Savannah) McCarl. She also had 8 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, oldest brother Dean Hunt, and husband Morris McCarl. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 28, 2023, at the Lexington Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, PO Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836 or to Shriner's Hospital for Children, 3101 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97201.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

"Story Time" is back at the Heppner Library! After a hiatus that made time for the Summer Reading program, this hour for little people has returned at 11 o'clock on Tuesdays. Show up on Tuesday, or for more information, call 676-9964. The Heppner Masons have just donated \$2000 to the FFA "Backpack" project. They did the same last year. The project targets "fighting food insecurity of school students" by providing backpacks/bags of food products each Friday for the students to take home for the weekend. The Lone Topic Club will be holding its annual Book Fair at the Lone Elementary gymnasium on November 1 and 2, from 9 AM to 6 PM. This event is the main fundraiser for the Topic Club, which uses its funds for purchasing classroom books, books for the teachers, books and supplies for the preschool, and for other worthwhile community projects. Last Saturday, the Lone-Arlington volleyball team earned their way to the top of the District Championship competition held in The Dalles! Congratulations, Girls!! Support from the Lone and Arlington communities was outstanding, as it will surely be today when they compete at the Lone school in the first round of the state championships. Good luck! Rita DeZoete returned on the 17th with a week's visit to Marquette, Michigan. Rita flew with her daughter Dee Miller to be with her sister Susie for Susie's 82 birthday celebration. Susie lived with Rita and her family for three years when a teenager and graduated from Lone High School, maiden name Belmore. Rita was raised in Marquette, Michigan, with Susie and brothers Mike, Steve, Jon, and Dale, and married Arnie Hedman with whom she headed west, ending up in Oregon. Susie's birthday party was also attended by her three children and many of her grandchildren. Rita reports that she had a fantastic trip! Last Thursday, eleven women from Lone, Lexington, and Heppner enjoyed lunch at the Elks lodge as they celebrated four October birthdays: Judy Buschke, Edna Dalzell, Nancy Arnsen, and Lorene Montgomery. Chef Heath prepared a delicious shrimp pasta for the group, topping the lunch off with pumpkin tarts and ice cream. Much visiting and laughter followed as the celebrants enjoyed their humorous birthday cards and comments about age! Last Friday, two Heppner women, Shirley (VanWinkle) George and Doris (Morris) Brosnan, headed for Salem for the 62nd gathering of their HHS graduating class. They picked up another classmate, Elaine (Laird) McGann, who had been staying with a friend in Woodburn, having flown in from Las Vegas. Soon joined by Ferne (Albert) Healy from Roseburg and Evelyn (Tucker) Ross from White Bird, ID, they then attended a social evening at the home of Tom Glass and his wife Patricia. Another classmate, Bill Monagle, and his wife, Nancy, from Lone, also came. The following evening, the small group dined at the Illahe Hills Country Club and were pleased to welcome Lydia (VanHoute) Taylor, of Portland, to the gathering. On Sunday, after breakfast at Illahe, the graduates went their separate ways, happy with the opportunity to reminisce and update, though disappointed that several classmates were not able to attend because of scheduling conflicts. Next year, they hope to see a better turnout for a reunion in Heppner. Last Saturday, "the blessed parents, Corey and Brandi Sweeney, and family and friends of Kane Sweeney and Haille Lantz gathered at the Cape Horn Estates in Stevenson, WA, to celebrate the couple's wedding." Haille's parents are Doug and Jessica Lantz, from Portland. Haille grew up in Boise and Portland, and she met Kane at Oregon State University. The two have been together for four years. Brandi reports, without bias, that the "groom was dashing, the bride was radiant," and the weather was perfect! After the heartfelt ceremony, the newlyweds and guests enjoyed "Tacos Hometown" and danced the night away! A send-off of the couple with sparklers completed the "magical evening." They planned a few-days stay at Skamania Lodge before returning to their Portland home, with a honeymoon in Italy scheduled for February. Coming to Lone on November 4 is the Annual Lone Christmas Bazaar. At the time of this writing, there was still room for more vendors, so interested individuals can call Becky Rietmann at 422-7230 for information. The Cardinal Café will be open on that morning and through the lunch hour, ready to serve the bazaar browsers and buyers! Madison Palmer, daughter of Jason and Jennifer, has been chosen for the lead female role in Eastern Oregon University's production of Death Trap. While in high school, Madison was regularly listed in the casts of characters in the HHS stage productions and is now a freshman at EOU, declaring a major in math and a minor in theatre. Death Trap will be performed on December 8, 9, and 10 in the Schwarz Theater. The \$10 tickets to the mystery are on sale at EOU's web site. One of Madison's loosely related activities presently is her opportunity this coming weekend to join some other college actors in the LaGrande Parks and Recreation's "A Haunted Trail," guaranteed to slightly frighten the faint of heart or create a big scare for the braver visitor.

Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph
St. Mary's Catholic Church Wasco



LOVE GOD ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE.....

As we move towards this Sunday, the theme for our meditation is the greatest commandment of God, "Love God above everything else." The Agape, or unconditional, love is what Christ is trying to describe to his disciples. Today, love is the subject of countless films, and the Beatles popularized the song "All You Need Is Love." What is the love we are talking about? Is it that nice warm sentimental feeling or is it more than that? Is there one love that is the greatest of all? May His word open our minds and hearts to Agape... the unconditional love of God!

The reading from Exodus (22:20-26) reminds us as believers of Christ what our obligations are towards others, especially to the widows, strangers, and orphans, namely the weak and helpless people. The time of the exile was definitely a very painful and dark part of the history of the people of Israel, during which they experienced what it meant to be weak and dependent on others, as they were strangers journeying to the Promised Land. Times became better, but they were asked not to forget what they themselves had undergone and to be sensitive to the needs of the foreigners among them, the homeless, the helpless and the dependent. They must not oppress strangers because they were strangers once. They must plead the cause of the underprivileged because they were underprivileged themselves. Having felt the pain of injustice and oppression themselves, they must never inflict pain on others. The health of a community can be measured by the way it treats such people.

The second reading, Paul in his letter to the First Thessalonians (1:5-10), is full of appreciation and praise for the believers in Thessalonica, because of the way they received the good news and incorporated it into their lives. He is happy that they imbibed the faith through the good example of the way he himself has lived in their midst. He continues praising them because they themselves have spread the good news and become a good example, attracting others to the faith. Faith is not taught but caught by the inspiring way it is lived.

This week's Gospel (Matthew 22:34-40) begins with yet another tricky question from the Pharisees who are trying to trap Jesus in His words. But on this occasion, we hear from Him no answering word of sharp rebuke or harsh condemnation. Instead, we have just His luminous response about the two-fold commandment of love. The Scribes and Pharisees could accept the conclusion that the twin commandment of love is an adequate summary of the whole Old Testament. So, the question arises: If that is so, what difference does Jesus make? And we answer at once: Of course, the difference He makes is radical and transforming. In the first place, Jesus invites us now to love according to the measure of His own love: the love whereby He loved both His Father and us to the end; faithful even in Gethsemane; enduring for us the passion, and the Cross, and death itself. Then, and even more so: precisely as a result of His saving death and resurrection, Jesus now invites us to love with the power of His own love. Identified with Him, indwelt by His Holy Spirit, ever turned towards God the Father, our love, and our life are to be henceforth "in Christ". So, we are to love with the very love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We sing of this Heart in the litany: Fornax Ardens Caritatis - burning furnace of charity for men and women; abyss of all virtues; treasury of all wisdom and knowledge; dwelling place of the fullness of divinity; fountain of life and of holiness; source of all consolation; our peace and our reconciliation; the delight of the Saints: have mercy on us and make our heart like your Heart.

The whole of the Old Testament was a preparation, a foretaste, a promise, a guide towards this. Now that Christ has come, and He has set before us a guideline to live according to the twin commandment; that must be the central project of our whole life. This is how we must measure success or failure; it's on this that we must ultimately be judged. The Benedictine, cenobitic, monastic life is designed to help us live out that project, those commandments, and also to encourage everyone who encounters it to do the same.

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