

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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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.

Memories of a Veteran

In 1926, a 37-year-old widow, my grandmother, was left with eight children, seven sons, and one daughter, when her husband died, leaving her with over 2,000 acres of a dry-land wheat ranch in Morrow and Gilliam Counties. The ranch house and barn are still located in west Morrow County, west of Ione. This is over a century-old ranch now.

In just a few years, the family and country were beset by the depression. The family survived during the Depression because they had cattle, chickens, and milk cows. The boys planted and harvested wheat and barley all this time. My Grandmother was able to hold the ranch together when many others were forced to sell.

In 1926 Lawrence was the oldest son, 17 years of age. Charlies was next in line at 15. With this crew, she managed to hold things together into WWII, when she sent FIVE of those boys off to the military of the United States.

Lawrence was a soldier in the US Army. He landed in Europe just after Normandy, slogged his way across Europe and fortunately, he returned without a scratch. Charlie was in the Navy, on a ship, in the English Channel during the invasion.

Bob (my father) was in the Pacific Theater and was badly injured and ended up spending over a year in the hospitals in California. Hebert was next in line and joined the Army Air Force. He was the flight engineer

on a B-29 that was shot down, over Belgium, and he was killed. Bill was the last to serve, in the U.S. Army

Giving a lot of credit to Lawrence, Charlie the two older boys, Bob, and Herbert, and the two youngest boys, George and Andy - who ran the ranch while their older brothers served in the military. It was a big job and Sue helped my grandmother every step of the way.

All the seven boys were very knowledgeable and able to fix anything and everything. After the war, Lawrence stayed at home and took over the operation of the wheat ranch.

My Dad's stay in the hospital was a long one. He was in a full-body cast for some time, then an upper-body cast, and finally a neck cast brace.

After his recovery, he worked at the Heppner Gazette-Times for a short period. He was not supposed to do any heavy labor. And, other than answering a few questions, we know very little of my dad's wartime experiences. We know that he didn't ever eat Spam after the war, and he was not a hunter. My mother told us that he did not like to talk about the war. It was really a sad time when Herbert was killed as he and my dad were "Irish Twins," with my dad being the oldest.

Dad told us the story of Grandpa William chartering a train from California to move his large family and equipment to eastern Oregon.

Robert H. Davidson

South Morrow County Senior Matters



Children from the Heppner Daycare gather around the candy bowl at the Heppner Senior Center.

- Contributed Photo

Chatter and laughter filled the St. Pat's dining room on Halloween Tuesday as preschool guests paraded through the tables of grandmas and grandpas in their festive costumes. Seniors Matter hosted Heppner Preschool and Sage Garden Preschool children, who mysteriously had transformed into their favorite superheroes, gremlins, and fairy princesses. Jodi Seagraves decorated Halloween-inspired cupcakes for each of the ghosts and goblins that attended. Eerie music floated

through the room as Sage Garden Preschool sang Halloween favorites for those who were dining on sloppy joes and tater tots. Some of our seniors even showed they were still children at heart donning very creative costumes. Whether it's witches, zombies, barnyard animals, or classic monsters, the diversity of costumes weaved its web through the hearts of those attending and gave the perfect opportunity for all to un-chain their alter egos and immerse themselves in the spirit of the day. Senior's Matter invites seniors and friends to attend our weekly lunches. Ione, Lexington, and Heppner area residents, age 60 and above, are free. Age 5 and under are free. All the in-betweeners are invited to donate \$5. South Morrow Co Seniors Matter, PO Box 241, 190 N Main St. Heppner, OR 97836.

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Jackie Alleman

Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph
St. Mary's Catholic Church Wasco



BE PREPARED AND BE WISE ALWAYS

We are invited to recall the great event that will take place both at the end of our life and at the end of time: Christ will certainly come. The message running through this week's Gospel reading is: "Be wise! Be prepared!" We are asked to form a truly Christian mentality about how we ought to live in this world so that we shall be best prepared for life in the world to come.

The reading from the book of Wisdom (6:12-16) is an invitation to all to become truly wise. The reading explains to us what is true wisdom and how each can find it. We say that God is Wisdom, God is Power, God is Life, and God is Love. If we substitute the word "Wisdom" for the word "God," the meaning of today's first reading becomes clearer to all of us: "God is bright and does not grow dim. He makes truly wise those who love Him." One is truly wise who tries to discover what God wants and to carry out His wishes. God guides such a person until they safely reach heaven.

The Gospel passage is taken from the fifth discourse found in the Gospel of St. Matthew. Through the parable of the wedding attendants, Jesus tries to convey a lesson for Christians of all times: do not be like the five foolish virgins in the parable. It means avoiding all sorts of laziness, sluggish ways, and sloth from one's life and striving toward the kingdom of God with vigilance and prudence.

To understand the Parable of the Ten Virgins, we must know the Jewish traditions regarding marriage celebrations. Usually, their wedding celebrations last for seven days. On any one of these days, the bridegroom will come with his relatives and friends to the bride's house. Only the best man will know the exact day of their arrival, a secret reserved to him only. As the invited guests await the arrival of the bridegroom and his party at the bride's house, they continue the celebratory mood. The awaited did not arrive at the expected time. This explains the reason for the shortage of wine at the wedding in Cana.

In the parable, when the five imprudent virgins prayed to open the door for them, the response was "I do not know you." Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount has mentioned this (Matthew 7:21-23). A disciple or a believer should not be unprepared, seeing the oil with others: There is no meaning in expecting God's grace thinking that others in my family are going to church for me or praying for me, etc.

Let's go deeply into the inner meaning of each of the various elements mentioned in the parable: a) Christ is the bridegroom. b) The wedding banquet represents God's kingdom in heaven. c) The bridesmaids represent Christians waiting for the return of Christ, which will take place at the end of their lives. Each one must decide in his or her own life what to be - a wise or a foolish Christian. At Baptism, each one of us received as God's gift, a lamp brightly lit, well provided with oil. The lamp represents both the Life in the Spirit and the gift of Faith in Christ, which ought to light our way through the darkness of this world. We must keep on adding oil to our lamp lest it goes out. The oil is none other than a true Christian life.

To conclude the real meaning of this parable, Jesus just reminds each and every one of us not to be like the Pharisees and the scribes as the Lord describes them in chapter 23; He describes them with the seven negatives that aptly describe them. The Lord describes them as hypocrites because they become a burden to fellow human beings with innumerable descriptions of the laws and not reaching out to rescue their fellow beings. Jesus also signals His followers to be alert and vigilant always and constantly. The Lord tells His followers to be on guard like the five wise virgins and not to be like the five foolish ones. To summarize the parable, He admonishes His followers to be like the wise virgins be useful and be fruit-bearing; be committed and hardworking, creative, inventive, diligent, etc., like the five wise virgins of the parable.

Morrow County Marriage license

Ethan Rey Greer (24) and Alysun Kaylynn Macomber (22) filed for their marriage license on Oct 5th in Morrow County.

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