

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

Thank goodness for the Harrisons! Last Thursday, Cara Osmin was driving herself and Claudia Hughes back to Heppner from Ione, where they had attended the Ione School's Drama Club's comedy. Cara had no sooner wondered what a dark thing in the road was when her tire hit it and "Exploded!!" It was a rock with sharp, pointed edges. Though the instantly flat tire was on the driver's front side, Cara was able to control the car to the edge of the highway. The Ione School principal, Tracey Johnston, was in the next car, stopped, offered what she could, a call to her husband in Heppner, but his heading their way became unnecessary. Brett Harrison's home was nearby, he noticed the lights at the scene, came to find out why. He then called his father, Travis, also not far from the scene, and the two of them got the "donut" spare tire onto the car, and the women went on their way very slowly for the remainder of the trip, somewhat of a challenge for Cara, the driver, whose home is about a mile beyond Heppner, but an opportunity for more visiting?

The weather was close to perfect this past celebration weekend. The organizers and helpers young and old and the huge crowd of locals and visitors ensure that it will go down as one of the best ones.

Speaking of "helpers," an outstanding example of civic-minded youth are those of the Mullins family: Emma, Ella, Griffin, Grady, Charlie, and James joined their mother, Jamie, at last Sunday's O'Brunch as it ended at the senior center and went to work helping to clean up! Washing dishes, clearing tables, sweeping... If it needed to be done, they were there to do it. When asked why they volunteered to do this, they said that they want to "Give back" to the community that they have called home for twelve years.

The first activity of the long weekend was the trivia contest sponsored by Heppner Day Care. "Two Dads Tippy Trivia" handled the event attended by eleven teams of six. The five rounds of trivia questions included St. Patrick's history, Oregon history, Sports, 90's music, and pie day (as in "pi," 3.14). First-place winners were "Luck of the Irish" - Brandi, Corey, and Jorden Sweeney, Toni Nichols, and Aymee and Jaiden Wilson. Second place went to "5 Guys and a Katie" - Katie, Ian, and Sean Murray, Donald Mathews, Jared Huddleston, and Joe Armato. Third place was won by "Risky Quizness" - Chelsea, Stefan, Sarah, and Shane Matheny and Lynn and Jake Calvert. A great, sometimes riotous evening!

Many local residents hosted guests for Wee Bit O' Ireland newbies and returnees. Among them:

Diana Ball was pleased to welcome back Bruce, Diane, and daughter Randi Moyer from Missoula and Spokane, all of whom are seasoned celebrants. Adding to that family's weekend this year were daughter Cyndi and grandsons Ryan and Chaise and Chaise's friend Bella, also from Montana. This year, Diana was pleased to have her grandson Carter come for a good visit and the fun from Cashmere, WA.

Corey and Brandi Sweeney enjoyed the return of sons Kane and Jorden and Kane's wife, Haille. They brought along six friends and all "had a wonderful weekend!" Brandi reports that their favorite activities included helping with the Leprechaun Run, watching the bed and o'plank races, and playing shuffleboard at the Elks. Loving the "beautiful weather," they all plan to return next year!

Corey's sister Nikki Coe played host to her returning son, Jace, and his friend Katie when they had down time from activities and visiting with friends.

Merlin and Claudia Hughes were pleased to have many Irish descendants of William and Kathleen, Percy and Mable, and Ebb and Pauline Hughes join them for some of the festivities. The visiting fifth generation was represented by Hugheses' daughter, Kimberly Dennis. The sixth generation included her son, Austin, joined by his wife, Angela, and daughter, Destinee, who surprised everyone by showing up from Beaverton! A highlight for all was watching two seventh-generation cousins meet for the first time: Roane Baily and Milo Dennis. A great time for all the visiting and the local Hugheses!

Terry and Karen Thompson welcomed daughter, Shelley Connelly, and son, Eric, and his wife, Tracy for the weekend. Team Thompson was an "also played," that had fun at the trivia competition, apparently, but Shelley and Karen retrieved the family pride by winning the Faded Joe's Chili Competition with their lamb chili on Saturday!!

The Brosnan house filled with visitors from Portland, Corvallis, and Madras. Scott Healy, the son of childhood friends Mike and Ferne Healy, brought his nine-year-old twins, Jillian and James, for their first Wee Bit O' Ireland experience, wanting to introduce them to the celebration of his memories. They didn't seem to miss a single activity geared to young people, so by Saturday evening they were slowing down even in their play with the Perky Puppy! Visiting with grandson Conor was delightfully squeezed in among his visits with many HHS-alumni friends. And brother Kip Morris, his wife, Theresa, and her mother Pat Hyatt, were brief visits while out and about and then at the house before they headed home shortly after the parade.

Easy to offer a respite from less upbeat news: Send your positive item to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-223-1490.

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

Easter Bunny and breakfast at the Holly Rebekah Lodge

HOP, HOP, HOP down to the Odd Fellow Hall at 135 Main Street in Lexington to have Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 23 from 9-11. For only \$5 the Holly Rebekah Lodge will be

servicing pancakes, sausage, and eggs. Julie Kennedy will be present to take pictures at no charge. The Easter Bunny is looking forward to giving treats to all the little ones.

~ 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 \$15. Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

SPRING CHICKEE 101

Spring is in the air! Sun is shining. Birds are singing. Chore list is growing. Man, I love spring. It's the season of new life, new hope, new seed packets, new unrealistic dreams... it suits me. THIS time, I WILL get things to grow. I WILL beat those nasty red ants. I WILL finish the painting project I started five years and three colors ago. I WILL make my farm look like the cover of Hobby Farms instead of Disasters in American History. So, where do I start? Chickees are always a good way to usher in the springtime. Though it doesn't look like any of my mama hens have gotten that memo. A quick trip to the feed store, next thing you know I'm nurturing 10 baby chicks in my dining room.

The next and very important step is the Chickee Butt Monitoring. For those of you foreign to chick raising, the first few days of a chick's life are spent trying to figure out how to go poo without "blocking the flow" so to speak. The keeper of the chicks needs to provide a little help by gently cleaning their bottoms on a regular basis (the chicks...not the keepers). A soft toothbrush (remember to find out who's brush it is first) and some warm, soapy water will usually fix the issue. Then you just use a blow dryer to dry and fluff their bottoms. Just a note: do NOT put chickees in your Air Fryer. This machine was not made for this purpose and produces less than desirable results.

Never being one to remember "enough is enough", I figured it might be a good idea to supplement my chickee supply by

incubating my own brood. Since my hens apparently don't all have to "go" at once, I had to check the nest boxes several times during the day, stealing their offspring and placing them into the incubator. Only AFTER (of course) I had a good supply of eggs settled in, I read the incubator instructions: "Avoid touching the eggs you plan to incubate".

Ok.... I'm sorry.... but how exactly do I go about doing that? Set the incubator in the chicken house with a sign and arrow "DELIVER HERE"? Number one, I doubt their aim is that good. Number two, I doubt I have that many hens that can read. Number three, though my handwriting has, at times, been rudely described as "chicken scratch", I don't write Poultry and my understanding of the language is a bit rudimentary. Now.... we wait.... for 21 days. I'm not a good waiter. Patience is not one of my outstanding virtues. I will, however, refrain from doing anything that may put the unhatched in jeopardy. This includes occasionally putting an egg or two up to my ear, while listening for the slightest "peep" ...which means... for 21 days... I will be watching them intently... while sitting on my hands.

Shameless Plug: If you like stories like the one you just read, you can read more by heading to Morrow County Grain Growers in Heppner and picking up The Farm Report: Confessions of a Single Farm Lady (also on Amazon). Get yours today....so I can buy more chickees!

By Susie Crosby from Prineville

Morrow County Republican Party Rifle Raffle



Henry's Golden Boy 22 Rifle.

The Morrow County Republican Party (MCRP) is excited to announce the raffle of a Henry's Golden Boy 22 Rifle. The tickets are \$10 each. Only 250 tickets will be sold. "This is a very nice item and the MCRP is proud to be able to offer it to the raffle winner. The tickets are selling quickly!" said MCRP Chairman, Clint Carlson. You can contact Clint Carlson, Jack Meligan, Raymond Akers, Ethan Akers, to purchase tickets. The tickets will only be sold to those qualifying for an FFL background check. The drawing will be held at the Morrow County Fair in August. MCRP funds Morrow

County delegates to the Oregon Republican Central Committee meetings, supports voter education and voter registration in Morrow County, as well as the "Get Out the Vote" activities in Morrow County in election years. MCRP is looking for fellow Republicans to join us in our election-year activities. The Republican Party is open to individuals interested in conservative ideals and values. The Republican Party platform can be found at <https://oregon.gop/>. If you have any questions or want to know more about the MCRP you can contact us at mocoreps@gmail.com.

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Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph



HE NEEDS A DONKEY?

Happy Patrick's day Greetings to everyone. I am sure it was a wonderful opportunity, as family and friends to come together again to celebrate the great things that St. Patrick did in Ireland. With the same sentiments of joy, happiness, and enthusiasm, Christians all over the world will be entering into the Holy Week. I am sure that many of us cannot believe how quickly this time of Lent is passing. On this Palm Sunday, we remember the solemn entry of Lord Jesus into Jerusalem. The crowd who accompanied the Lord, shouted out; let us also shout out, "Please Lord, please save us. Please, Lord, please give us success" (Psalm 118:25). People all over the world still feel threatened and anxious about what is going to happen next. There is an air of anxiety, fear, depression, dejection. Disappointments grip us.

The beginning of Holy Week is marked by the celebration of Palm Sunday when we remember the solemn entry of Lord Jesus into Jerusalem. "The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed him were all shouting, 'Hosanna to the son of David!'" (Mt 21:9). The etymological meaning of the Hebrew word "hoshi'a na" is translated into Greek as "(h)osanna." In English, we know it as "hosanna." The original biblical dictionaries of scripture describe it as "Save!" It is viewed as a plea for help. We are going through difficult times; like the disciples in the boat who cried out, "Master, don't you care that we are about to die?" (Mk. 4:38), the whole world, too, is faced with the same situation of troubled seas and a heavy storm in front of us day by day.

The introductory rite of the celebration begins with the Gospel reading from Matthew 21: 1-11, which starts on a triumphant note, the celebration of a victory parade. Parades and processions have always been part of worship in Jewish and Christian tradition, and they were the most normal way for people to acclaim the victories and triumphs of their heroes and heroines. When the parade is over, the heroes fade away and are forgotten, and Jesus, whom we acclaim in today's victory procession, will momentarily fade into His passion and death, but then He will rise again and live on. What is worth noting is the attitude of Jesus as He is about to enter into the final phase of His life: He enters the holy city of Jerusalem boldly, fearlessly, triumphantly, though He knows that He will meet His end there. He went riding in and they acknowledged Him: "Hosanna to the son of David!!!" We remember that the palms we carry today will be burned and the ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday will be made from them. Thus, the sign of glory and the sign of conversion are made of the same stuff and meet in our flesh and lives.

Palm Sunday reminds us all of an important thing: Though He is the King, He is coming on a mule. This king is different from the earthly kings. The donkey stands for humility, simplicity, ignorance, demureness, diffidence, docility. This Holy Week invites all of us to answer this question of the Lord: Can you be a donkey for me this Palm Sunday? Can you take me to the cities and towns shouting and yelling "Hosanna to the son of David?" To be a donkey for the Lord, what are the things we need to leave aside? This post pandemic period invites every one of us to have an introspection of oneself and to get rid of those things that make us boastful, arrogant, non-caring. Scripture says, "The greater you are, the more humbly you should behave, and then you find favor with the Lord" (Sir 3:18). Then Hosanna will be accomplished in our lives too. I would like to remind you all once again of the little prayer that the Holy Father has taught us all during the time of the pandemic as a source of inspiration for us all: "I am vaccinated by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. No virus can touch me." As the crowd shouted with Jesus during His entry into Jerusalem, let's to shout out to him, "Hosanna to the son of David!" (Mt 21:9). Save us Lord from this present situation that we are going through.

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