

~ 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.

Worldly Wisdom

Seems to me there are folks out there that have way too much faith in their fellow man. Deadly viruses? No problem.... just trust the science... and the scientist. Drive-by shootings? Just take the guns away. Too many hurricanes? Just take the cows away. No problem too big for the brightest and best of us to solve. All we need is a little more research (and more money) and there's nothing mankind can't fix. Well maybe they could start by making a hose nozzle that doesn't leak.... just a suggestion.

So, if man is so smart, why is that things just keep getting worse? We've had a few thousand years to get it right. Have we learned from our mistakes? Nope. We just keep making bigger ones. A rather important issue is the fact that we've decided that either there is no God or He is an old guy who's lost touch. The whole "male/female" thing was just a bad idea, and the Ten Commandments are pretty much passe'. Besides, the best way to make sure nobody breaks the rules is to have no rules... unless you're the government. Then you just make them up as you go along and use them against your political opponents.

Every time we chuck God's ideas and trade them for our own.... I wonder if He laughs and says "Go ahead. Make my day?" And I wonder if He ever gets tired of us acting like He's an idiot. I guess creating a functional universe was just a fluke and doesn't deserve much credit. Besides, now we have AI that will help

Dave Drotzmann a superlative leader

For over 47 years I have practiced law in Hermiston, where Dr. David Drotzmann has been mayor for almost 8 years. Dave is wicked smart, financially astute, and has that wonderful gift of respectfully listening to constituents and fellow councilors and working with them to do the right thing. His leadership is one of the best I have seen politically. I know. I served with him on the Hermiston City Council and have known him for over 20 years. Mayor Dave has also been instrumental in many civic

us fine tune our world and make it easier to manage. Lots of possibilities there. Got a question? Just ask the Big Guy (not to be confused with the other Big Guys.... Biden and God). The Big AI Guy will have all the answers. If not, he'll just make something up.

But we have a problem, Houston. It's called evil. And denying its existence won't make it go away. Lies, hatred, murder, and all that comes with is a reality. You can call it "mental health" or blame it on Bible thumping Christians for pointing it out.... but that doesn't change the result. We all feel the effects, and all the technology in the world won't fix it. Thankfully, we do have a Creator with a plan for dealing with evil. In fact, we just celebrated that plan last Easter Sunday.

Yeah, it's big stuff to be able to reduce the "carbon footprint". But I have a feeling there's a bigger footprint we need to be concerned about. The day will come when two very important feet land on this earth. No amount of human intervention will change it. I pray we're ready. Come, Lord Jesus, come. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As the Scriptures say, 'He traps the wise in the snare of their own cleverness.'" 1 Corinthians 3:19. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." Roman's 14:11

By Susie Crosby from Prineville

projects—almost all with fund-raised money and no bonded debt: building a state-of-the-art high school sports complex; moving the Umatilla County Fair out of the middle of town; and building an eight million dollar city hall. Major Dave is an uncommon leader. He has accomplished great things for Hermiston. He would do the same for everyone and every public entity in our senatorial district.

George Anderson, Hermiston, Oregon.

Spiritually Speaking
Father Thankachan Joseph



MISERY – MERCY & MYSTERY

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Feast of Easter. May the Risen Christ fill you and your families with the gift of peace. On this coming Sunday, the universal Catholic Church will be celebrating the feast of Divine Mercy, which reminds us of the divine love, care, and concern for each of us. The Gospel reading reminds me of the psycho-social experience of the disciples during the first Easter morning. In the Gospel of John 20:19, we read: "It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind the locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities." This particular passage made an impact on me. We went through a tough time of this sort during the previous two years when the pandemic hit the world and shut down our economy, our freedom of movement, and coming together - everything in a stand-still condition.

During the Good Friday reflections, I was very much touched by a character we met when we meditate on the Stations of the Cross, the character and personality of a woman called Veronica. She comes forward to the aid of Jesus, who was going through tremendous and excruciating pain on His way to Golgotha, the place where He needs to be crucified. Veronica observes the miseries the Lord was going through, she comes forward to aid Him without concern for how the male-dominated Jewish community may react to her. Love and friendship make her act promptly to wipe His bloody face and console Him with her handkerchief. She is empathy personified.

In similar situations, as when we meet our family members or members of our community, what are our first reactions? Like the apostles, we may also be going through emotional wretchedness because of our shame, guilt of the past, brokenness, disappointments, failing to reach ambitious goals. We need to look into ourselves, into how we can find ways and means of overcoming unhealthy feelings of depression, anxiety, hurt, loss of self-worth, and hatred. In miserable conditions, like Veronica, we need to reach out to others without bothering with the opinions of others. We need to become God's mercy in similar conditions.

Veronica reminds us that there are no differences among those who suffer. (The virus showed no discrimination.)

An understanding of the early Christian community is described in the Acts of the Apostles. It received mercy and lived with mercy: "All who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need." (Acts 2:44-45). I think the Divine Master is inviting every one of us to continue the same acts of kindness and benevolence to people around us even to this present time, become like Veronica. The Divine Lord is inviting each one of us to stretch our helping hand and reach out to someone who is in need of our services.

The Gospel of John (20: 19-31) narrates the experience of the apostles immediately after the death of the Lord, in lockdown/shutdown, something similar to our epidemic experience, which is very fresh in our minds and hearts. The shutdown is actually in the plan of God. In Genesis 7:16 we read: "A male and female of each kind of living being went into the boat with Noah, as God had commanded. Then the Lord shut the door behind Noah." Similarly, we read in the Gospel passage, "The first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" (20:20). When we are faced with such situations, the Lord will be there on our side to whisper the same words of consolation, "Peace be with you."

The Lord invites each one of us to face the misery that we may be experiencing right now with hope and courage, for there is a solution. The Lord is always faithful to His promise: "I will be with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). When we face the tough sea, or troubles and problems crop up, keep in mind that the Lord always comes in and supports us with His peace, mercy, compassion, and tranquility. He does it through various ways. Those of us who experience this mercy of the Lord, by reaching out to others with mercy and compassion, take part in the mystery of Christ.

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

The "Seniors Matter" have added another program to their offerings for senior citizens: Starting this week, the senior center will be open on Thursdays for "YOLO" (You Only Live Once) activities. From surveys completed by some attendees at the Tuesday lunches, several activities have been scheduled for Thursday already, with more to be developed. Sounds like a good place to spend a day, socialize, and stimulate mind and body!

On April 10, the local library will offer another "Crafty Night," this one for creating a Floral Hoop. Adults can register for the evening at OTLD.ORG. (Maybe just go into the library or call?)

Shirley Connor says "Hello!" to friends in Heppner and reports that she would enjoy contact/news from home while she is at her daughter's home in LaGrande mending from surgeries: She had a shoulder reversal in Boise, was recovering nicely, contracted a virus that set her back several days, fell and broke the "surgered" right arm in two places, had repair surgery, has cabin fever! Good news: her daughter's nursing care is superb! But nerve damage apparently means that healing will require her to be a house guest for another month. She is right-handed, which precludes her from responding to mail, but she can read (2001 Jupiter Way, LaGrande 97850) and can visit (541-371-6419).

Other pedestrians might agree with the ped who reports that walking on the clean sidewalks has been a welcome change from having to walk around dog messes. This ped thanks the city employee who used a blower on the sidewalks before St. Pat's and thanks the dog owners who continue to be conscientious.

"Hello, Spring!"

Readers seem eager to get the paper each week and look for the positive happenings shared in this column. As long as contributions come this way it will continue. Contributing is as easy at writing to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or calling 541-223-1490.

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

County audit shows concerns over cybersecurity

By Andrea Di Salvo

The county has a few bugs to fix in its accounting and internet technology systems, according to the audit report for the last fiscal year. Salem firm SingerLewak presented the highlights of the 125-page report at the Morrow County Board of Commissioners meeting in Irrigon March 20.

This was the county's first year with a new audit firm after 20-plus years with Hermiston firm Barnett and Moro. The audit for the last fiscal year was originally planned to be finished in December of 2023. However, delays in the audit led to a March report.

Morrow County Finance Director Kevin Ince said the transition to a new audit firm was a little bumpy.

"Different approaches and transitioning to a new audit firm can certainly be a big lift," said Ince.

SingerLewak CPAs Brad Bingenheimer and Kathy Wilson were present via Zoom to give the report and answer questions from the commissioners. While

there were no major alarms in the county's accounting system, Bingenheimer said they noticed some "nitty gritty" details in the budgetary process that were not followed correctly.

Morrow County Commissioner Jeff Wenzholz asked for clarification on whether the errors were new or had existed in prior years and "flowed through" to the current year. Bingenheimer said the latter was the case for several of the items in the report.

"As new auditors come in, we do have a tendency to really dig into nitty gritty things," he said. "We ask a million one annoying questions, we ask for a million different documents, because we want to gain a good understanding of everything."

"Sometimes it's a matter of having fresh eyes on things and looking at it with a deeper dive," added Wilson.

Among the issues noticed by the auditors were over-expenditures in appropriations for the year, COVID fund classifica-

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Equipment - Farmland - Operating Lines

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BIRTHRIGHT

Birthright of Morrow County is seeking monthly donors to support our work here in Heppner! We are a non-profit that offers confidential support to anyone who is pregnant or thinks she may be pregnant. If you are able to donate \$10, \$20, or more per month, please let us know! We also accept one time donations as well. For more info, call 541-676-0530. Thank you!

mindfit

Be a part of the movement for Change, Healing and Hope

APRIL 4-7, 2024
7:00 PM
HEPPNER SDA CHURCH

Register for this FREE Event (541) 922-8697 or on our Facebook Event Page

a FREE four-part series that exposes the roots of mental illness and stigma, and explores how modern medicine and biblical faith offers real hope to those who are struggling.

Heppner Seventh-Day Adventist Church
560 Minor Street, Heppner