

~ 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.

**ISRAEL**

Have you wondered why Israel is such a big deal? Think about it. It's a country no bigger than New Jersey. Does anyone ever notice what's going on in New Jersey? Does anyone care? Yet today, the fate of the world rests with Israel. WW3? Maybe. But for thousands of years, the people of Israel have had to battle to survive. Everybody and their dog has been trying to take them out...but to no avail. How does such a teeny country survive so many enemies? I believe it's this....God wants them to exist. Why? Because the plan of salvation for the entire world is wrapped up in the people of Israel.

Then why all the hatred and efforts to make them disappear? It's not like they go around spreading hate and discontent (don't believe the media). Sure, they have some odd ways about them, but they've had them for a long time and those odd ways aren't hurting anyone. Maybe it's because they really are God's chosen people. That puts a huge target on them, and Satan doesn't just shrug his evil shoulders and say... "Oh well, let God have His people. I've already got Hollywood, Disneyland, Mainstream News, Washington DC, and 99% of the whole Democratic party."

Here's the insanity.... the same folks who want to annihilate the whole state of Israel "from the river to the sea", will demand you agree with them...or they'll call you a hater, homophobe, transphobe, xenophobe, or whatever 'phobe they can come up with. If you're white, you're an automatic racist and if you believe the

Bible, you're a terrorist. So, there's that.

And let the Jews try to defend themselves against horrific, barbaric attacks.... and they're the bad guys. So don't defend yourself folks unless you're on the Left side of things. Then you should probably show up with some matches and burn the place down. Their logic takes more twists and turns than a mountain road.

So, here's a quick history lesson for you. The Israelis have a 3,000-year history in Jerusalem. Check out what God promised Abraham in Genesis 13:14-16, Genesis 15:18.... just for starters. The Palestinians arrived 200 years ago and have never been a state. Their leader is a terrorist group that use them as human shields. If you wanna protect the Palestinians, you can start by protecting them from Hamas, who would rather shoot them than let them escape to safety.

The future of Israel is interesting. Look for Iran, Russia, and Turkey to gang up and try to take them out (Ezekiel 38). No country will come to their defense, but God will stop them.... miraculously. By the way, we just learned that Iran launched approximately 350 "projectiles" at Israel and managed zero fatalities. I would call that a miracle.

So pray for Israel, the Palestinian people, and you're loved ones. And as you see all this prophecy unfolding...make sure you're right with Jesus.... and listen for the sound of a trumpet.

"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:3

By Susie Crosby

**OTLD to hold meeting April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Oregon Trail Library District will hold a monthly meeting Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:30pm at the Heppner

Branch. Attendance is possible also through Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83776386636>.

**WCCC Ladies play day results**

There were 7 players in the ladies game play at the willow Creek County Club on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The weather was cold and windy. The results are as follows: Low gross of the field was Virginia Grant, Low Net of the field was Betty Carter, and Least Putts of field Kris Lindner and Karen Thompson. Low Gross Flight A

was Carol Mitchell, Flight B was Karen Smith Griffith. Low Net Flight C was Nancy Arnson. Chips-ins were Virginia Grant with two, Betty Carter with five, and Kris Lindner with six. Karen Thompson has the longest putt. The upcoming game is April 16<sup>th</sup> with tee-time at 10am.

**Public-At-Large representative needed for R&E Board**

SALEM, Ore. — ODFW is seeking qualified applicants to fill a Public-At-Large position on the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Board, which helps fund fish restoration and enhancement projects throughout the state.

Interested individuals must apply by May 15, 2024, using the application at <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/RE/board.asp>

The ideal candidate to fill the Public-At-Large position will be a resident of Oregon who can effectively represent the public on a variety of fisheries-related topics. Desirable candidate attributes include knowledge of hatcheries, fishing access, fish habitat, water conservation, or similar projects related to fish or fisheries management. Preference will be given to candidates who have previous experience with boards or commissions, and who have knowledge of, or involvement with, the diverse fish species or fisheries across Oregon.

The Restoration and Enhancement Program was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1989. The program is funded by a surcharge on sport and

commercial fishing licenses and commercial poundage fees and is overseen by a seven-member citizen board. This seven-member board is made up of three sport fishing representatives, three representatives from the commercial salmon industry, and one public-at-large representative. The board reviews grant proposals from various organizations and agencies and recommends projects for funding.

Board members, who are appointed to four-year terms by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, meet two to four times each year in various communities throughout the state to review project funding applications, hear public testimony, act as liaisons between the program and the public, and to conduct other program business. Board members are volunteers; however, board-related business expenses are reimbursed.

For more information, go to the R&E Program website at <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/RE/> or contact Marty Olson, at (503) 947-6232 or [Martin.P.Olson@ODFW.Oregon.Gov](mailto:Martin.P.Olson@ODFW.Oregon.Gov)

**Good News Only by Doris Brosnan**

OOPS! Last week's column misprinted the phone number to call if you wish to leave a message for Cherry Clark as she researches Sears houses. The correct number is 541-667-7458. "Readin', writin', and 'rithmetic...." And so much more! Our young citizens are quickly becoming thoughtful, caring community members as they work with their advisors, fellow students, and parents. Examples: At HHS, the agricultural leadership group has made forty blankets to donate to local organizations and plan to make more blankets later this year to donate to Doernbecher's Hospital. The FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) students and the volleyball team combined funds to donate \$5,300 to Morrow County Hospice in memory of Sharon Miller. Last Wednesday, the National Honor Society members hosted a second blood drive at the high school. Commendable contributions, Citizens!

Not only is Chad Doherty Heppner's Public Works Director, he is also a scholar, a Blue Mountain Community College student. And Chad is to be congratulated on being included in this year's 55-member Oregon Community Colleges Association All-Oregon Academic Team! Selection is based on academics, leadership, and community service. Chad will be a speaker at the "recognition luncheon" in Salem on Friday.

Hunter Nichols, son of Russ and Toni, holds

EOU records in indoor and outdoor track, and now he has added "steeplechase" to his resume. Encouraged by his coach to try the 3000-meter race that includes 28 barriers and seven water pits, Hunter has now placed in three of these challenging races! Congrats, again, Hunter! Look up as you stroll Main Street and you can see the photo banners of the HHS students who will graduate this year. Only two and a half months from now will see these ten seniors accept their diplomas as they contemplate what lies beyond high school.

Ione citizens just received good news: DEQ and EPA have approved their wastewater-treatment plan, so bids opened on Wednesday and will close on May 23. Soon after, a choice will be made and work can begin. The project will include new septic tanks for all homes, a drain field for the affluent, and pumping of all tanks on a regular schedule. As today demonstrates there is always room for more good news, so please take time to contribute yours at [dbrosnan123@gmail.com](mailto:dbrosnan123@gmail.com) or call 541-223-1490.

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

**Spiritually Speaking**  
Father Thankachan Joseph



**Are you a shepherd? Then lead, feed and protect**

Usually, this fourth Sunday of Easter is known as the "Good Shepherd Sunday." Good Shepherd here reminds us of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. He gave us a good example of leading, feeding, and protecting His flock that was entrusted to His care. We are all called to be shepherds.

Who is a good shepherd? I checked the dictionary meaning of "shepherd," which was explained like this: a person who protects, guides, or watches over a person or group of people. In the Christian term, shepherd mostly refers to pastors, members of the clergy, etc. Shepherd is not, however, limited to clergy alone. All who are under the care and protection of someone else are generally being shepherded. For example, parents, teachers, employer etc., are all shepherds. Shepherding is nothing but giving for the sake of someone else, sacrificial love, dedication, commitment towards the flock in one's care. For example, that of a parent-sibling relationship, teacher-students, employer-employee relationship, etc.,

It is good to understand the characteristics/tasks of a good shepherd. John's Gospel explains a shepherd as having mainly three tasks: 1) one who guides the sheep, 2) who feeds/provides for the sheep, and 3) who protects the sheep from all dangers.

**Guide the sheep:** it is the duty of the shepherd to show the sheep greener pastures, to graze them there. Those of you who are reading my article, I am sure, are in one way or another a shepherd. How do you lead the flock that is entrusted to your care? The present-age sheep that is under your care is looking for good models. There should not be a disparity in our doing and talking. The dichotomies are actually confusing the sheep these days.

**Feed the sheep:** Psalm 23 begins with "The Lord is my Shepherd..." I shall not lack. Like the psalmist "But He would feed Israel with the best wheat. I would satisfy you with honey from the rock" (Ps. 81:16); or again, in prophet Isaiah we see: "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd" (40:11). Are you only worried about providing material things? Do you pray together with your family? Do you provide for the spiritual growth of the sheep under your care? I know many parents look for best school, best sports centers, and other matters pertaining to this world. How many of you really spend time with your children to impart spiritual matters? Have you ever asked your kids to put aside the electronic gadgets and asked them to spend a little more time in prayer?

**Protect the sheep:** Jesus says in John (10:11): "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." I am sure this is true of every parent. Recently, I saw a picture on Facebook that struck me: A young deer goes to drink water from a lake. As it is gulping water. A crocodile comes to eat up the young one. Noticing the danger, the mother deer comes across the younger one and becomes the prey to the crocodile. A good example for laying down one life for the sake of someone else. It is the case of every parent.

The Good shepherd Sunday theme invites every one of us to be like Jesus the Good Shepherd. We need to ask ourselves two important questions: (1) Am I a faithful member of God's flock? Only those sheep who follow the guidance of the shepherd could ever hope to arrive at the green pastures or be safe from the greedy wolves. (2) How could I participate more closely in the work of shepherding God's flock in my family as a contributing member? On account of the infidelity of the shepherds to their divine calling, God promised His people that He Himself was going to be their shepherd, their good shepherd (Ezekiel 34:15-16). This promise was fulfilled in prophet Ezekiel "You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. So, they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals" (34:3-4). Like the Good Shepherd after the heart of Jesus Christ, let's try to lead, feed, and protect the sheep that are under our care with dedication, commitment, and, above all, unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

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

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541-676-9228

**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!

The City of Heppner will be offering vouchers for 1 free dump, per account, at the South Morrow County Transfer Station. Vouchers are redeemable for the period beginning April 20, 2024 and valid through May 19, 2024. Must be a current customer of the City of Heppner (water or water/sewer account,) and your account must be in good standing. Customers must request their voucher in advance at City Hall and present to Transfer Station attendant at time of redemption. No rain checks.

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