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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 \$15

Obituaries

Kathleen C. O'Leary



Jeremiah O'Leary was married on July 23, 1955 in Portland and after a stint in the service for Jeremiah, settled on their ranch under Winter Rim in Summer Lake where they raised sheep and later cattle. Five rambunctious youngsters quickly filled the house.

Kathleen was a lifelong member of the Catholic church. She played organ at St. John's in Paisley for many years, parking the family in the pew right next to the organ in the event that misbehavior was detected. She was a substitute teacher and taught CCD but mainly was involved in running the household and the ranch. She ran a baler, milked a cow, nursed bummer lambs, and did night checks during calving. She made the best homemade bread in the county and could feed a crew a hearty meal at a moment's notice.

Kathleen and Jeremiah retired from the ranch and moved to Paisley and later relocated to Silver Lake where she got the new house she had been promised for 50 years. After Jeremiah passed away in 2009, Kathleen moved to Bend and later to Condon to be closer to family. Kathleen and Jeremiah were married 54 years before his passing.

Kathleen is survived by her children Tom (Karmen), Anne Morter (Ralph), Chris (Viviana), Julie Currie (John) and Kathryn Greiner (David); grandchildren, Nolan and Barry O'Leary, Clayton and Bethany Morter, Lauren Billman and Jack Currie, Joseph and John Greiner and Julian Salas Rodriguez. She is also survived by countless nieces and nephews and their kids and grandkids. She was preceded in death by a son, Donal O'Leary, husband Jeremiah, and her brothers Don, Dick and Jerry McElligott.

Funeral services will be held Monday, September 9, 2024, at St John's Catholic Church in Condon with a Rosary at 10:15 am and the Funeral at 11am. In lieu of flowers, donations to Summit Springs Village Assisted Living, PO Box 687, Condon OR 97823 would be welcome. Sweeney Mortuary is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com

Kathleen Cecilia McElligott O'Leary was born August 15, 1927, to Charles and Cecilia McElligott in Portland, Oregon. She passed away August 9, 2024, in Condon, Oregon a week shy of her 97th birthday.

The rose between the thorns, Kathleen was the little sister to brothers, Don and Dick McElligott, and the big sister to LJ (Jerry) McElligott. She spent her carefree childhood on the McElligott Ranch in Eight-mile Canyon near Ione, blissfully unaware of the effects of the Depression. She rode horseback with her cousin, Clare Moshofsky, to Davis School under the watchful eye of big brother Dick. That experience cured her of ever wanting to ride horseback again. The family moved to Portland in 1936, always maintaining their Morrow County roots by returning home to harvest in the summer. Kathleen graduated from Immaculata Academy in 1945, spent a couple years at Seattle College before buckling down to earn a teaching degree at Marylhurst in 1949.

While teaching third and fourth grade in Vale, Oregon, Kathleen met many other Marylhurst alums (Marylhurst College was a prodigious producer of farm and ranch wives all over Eastern Oregon) and the fellow teacher who would become her lifelong best friend and eventual sister-in-law, Marie Cray. The two of them ran around with Ruth and Cameron Cliff (Marie's sister) in what would be best described as "gallivanting." A recently unearthed photo album showed them in Burns and California and many points in between living it up as fun-loving, single girls. Kathleen and Marie moved to Lakeview to teach in 1954. It was in this time period that a handsome, young shepherd swept her off her feet at a Fort Rock dance. Kathleen and

Dennis Wayne Miller

Dennis Wayne Miller, age 80, died peacefully on August 22, 2024, at his home in Heppner, Oregon, after a courageous battle with COPD and Asbestosis.

Dennis was born in Portland, Oregon on October 1, 1943 while his father was working in the shipyards during WWII. The family returned to Ketchum, Idaho, where he spent his childhood and youth being loved by his three older sisters, skiing, Bald Mountain (Sun Valley) and running around town with his buddies. In particular his cousin, Dave Nance.

He graduated from Hailey High School in Hailey, Idaho. Dennis married Jane Exner in 1963 and joined the US Air Force. He proudly served for 5 years and was stationed in Alaska and Montana.

He and Jane welcomed 2 sons, Brock and Jason, whom he loved so dearly. Upon his return to the "Wood River Valley" he became a carpenter and made it his lifelong career. He remained in Hailey until he moved to Payette, Idaho in 1974.

In 1975 he met the love of his life, Pennie Freeland in Payette through the insistent matchmaking of his sisters, Arlene and Shirley. The couple married two years later and spent 43 years together as best friends, business partners and loving companions. Dennis and Pennie moved to Heppner, Oregon in 1978, for the opportunity to become an independent contractor. He built homes, remodeled his home and many others and mentored younger professionals to become excellent contractors. He then took on a different role as a businessman in the oil and customer service industries. Dennis and Pennie bought "Millers' Mini Mart

and Chevron" and carwash, "Millers Car Wash". He successfully ran this business for over 10 years and thoroughly enjoyed his time meeting and greeting new and old customers with his big smile and willingness to serve. He then returned to contracting until he retired at age 62.

Dennis enjoyed being a member of the Heppner community, joining the Elks Lodge #358, golfing, hunting, and fishing with friends, playing cards, shooting pool and drinking Beer! He was also a strong supporter of his wife, Pennie, who was an EMT for the community for over 42 years.

He will be dearly missed by his wife, his sons, and all the family and friends who were so blessed to have him in their lives.

He is survived by his wife, Pennie, dear friend ("sister"), Peggy, 2 sons, Brock and Jason (Traci), 3 grandsons, Brock Jr., Bradley and Nicholas, 3 granddaughters, Kasia, Keira, and Clarissa, 4 great grandsons, Allen, Brock III, Crew and Micah and 1 great granddaughter, Audrey, 7 nieces and many more great nieces and nephews.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Oliver Miller and Evelyn Young, his 3 sisters, Shirley, Virginia and Arlene, his grandson Travis, 1 niece, Julie and 2 nephews, Lynn and Howard.

A memorial service with military honors will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, August 31, 2024, at the Heppner Elks Lodge. Memorial contributions may be made to the Heppner Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 743, Heppner, OR 97836. Sweeney Mortuary is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

Remember to think of our future and hug a farmer today! The Father Condon annual golf tournament last Saturday was another day of good weather, golf, camaraderie, and tasty noshes for 29 golfers! This remembrance of Father Gerry is a fundraiser for the church youth.

A thank-you to the Sweeneys for their devotion to serving our area for over forty years! Standing room only at their retirement party on Saturday was indicative of the number of people who hold them dear as thoughtful and caring (as well as humorous) friends, family, and neighbors. And everyone is happy to know that they are retiring but not leaving!

A salute to the 125 years of service to our area by our volunteer firefighters, past and present, featured a barbecue on Sunday hosted by the volunteers! The number of appreciative citizens might have been smaller than expected, since apparently, the time for the celebration was listed in the newspaper as 4 to 6:00 on Sunday but was later posted on Facebook as a noon function, so some of the population who are 65 years old and older might not have seen that time change? Everyone appreciates the selfless work of these volunteers.

Anyone who crosses Willow Creek on foot can appreciate the sparkling water, the upbeat sound as it flows through town, and the *much* cleaner banks, such an improvement over last year, thanks to conscientious individuals!

Quite enticing, the Water2Wine Cruise ship in Richland, WA, so a few area residents satisfied their curiosity last Sunday in perfect weather by leisurely cruising the Columbia for an hour and a half while enjoying their made-to-order lunches: Allen and Nancy Anderson, Terry and Karen Thompson, Betty Gray and daughter Deloy Marcyes, Eva Kilkenny, Molly Rill, and Doris Brosnan.

As long as contributors supply tidbits to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-223-1490, this column will add positive notes to area news! Here's hoping that good news comes to everyone reading this.

BUCKNUM'S TAVERN
146 N Main Street Heppner 541-676-5274

Lunch & Dinner Menu

Specials 8/29 - 9/4

Thursday - Hamburger dip with potato salad
Friday - Grilled cheese and bacon sandwich with salad
Saturday - BBQ Beef Sandwich and fruit
Monday - chicken bacon ranch burger and fries
Tuesday - Turkey and pepperoni sandwich with macaroni salad
Tuesday night 6-9pm \$2 hard shell tacos
Wednesday - Chicken Taco and chips

Spiritually Speaking
Father Thankachan Joseph



This Sunday, we are back with the Gospel of Mark wherein the Lord reminds us about the need to change one's attitude, to not be a passive listener of the Word of God but be an active listener. Let the Word of God transform us into doers of good deeds. Through the readings of the day, the Lord asks us to reflect on our lives, to check whether we are really honoring Him with our hearts or only with our lips. Have we really been doers of the word, or merely hearers?

While going through the letter of James (1:17-18, 21b-22,27), I was reminded of one of the anecdotes I read somewhere in social media about uprightness and integrity. A man and a lady enter a take-away restaurant and the man orders two fried chicken dinners. The girl at the counter mistakenly gives him a bag of money, the entire day's proceeds, instead of fried chicken. The man and woman drive to their picnic site and sit down to enjoy their chicken dinner. To their surprise, they discover that it is a bag of money, totaling almost \$10,000. They put the money back in the bag, drive back to the restaurant and return the money bag to the restaurant manager. The manager is overwhelmed. He declares the man a hero and a saint. He goes to call the local press with the story and the man's picture for the local newspaper. "You're the most honest man in the whole world," says the manager. But the man would not let him call the press. Instead, he leans closer and whispers to the manager, "You see, the woman I'm with is not my wife... she's uh, is somebody else's wife."

The man might well be a hero, but he's no saint. As James tells us in today's second reading, true Christian holiness has as much to do with doing good to others as it has with keeping ourselves pure. "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (1:27). The man scores high on honesty but very low on integrity.

The majority of Christians in our churches belong to one of two camps: Either they are people like the man in the story, who score high mark in their commitment to practical justice and fairness but low in self-discipline and integrity, or they score high in self-discipline but low in practical commitment to fairness and upright living. James, the apostle of practical Christianity, teaches us that to be truly holy and acceptable before God, a Christian must score high marks in both practical concern for the welfare of others and self-mastery.

James makes two important points in today's reading. He teaches the importance of faith in action, and he defines for us what true devotion is. True devotion is not a matter of hearing good preaching and celebrating inspiring liturgies. Good preaching and inspiring liturgies are wonderful. Yet the litmus test of true devotion remains how we live out the word of God that we hear. The words of James: "But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like." (1:22-24)

James uses the analogy of a man who looks in the mirror and sees his dirty face and untidy hair and goes away without doing anything about it. The word of God, like the mirror, shows us how dirty our faces are and how unkempt our hair is. A wise man would immediately take steps to wash his face and shave his beard to improve his looks. That is the purpose of the mirror. Hearing the word of God alone does not make us holy. It is when we take steps to put into action what the word of God teaches us that we make progress in the journey of faith. James shows us that there are two practical ways of doing the word of God. One is in reaching out to our neighbors in need and the other is in disciplining ourselves and keeping oneself pure.

GT corrections GT closed
Sept. 2nd

Summer Huston was the Co-Winner of the OTRP Barrel Racing, she was not pictured in last week's edition.

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed Monday September 2nd for Labor Day.

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