

~ 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.

WHAT HAPPENED?

This is kind of a continuation of my last letter. I got to thinking that maybe some clarification might be in order. My perspective may be a little different than the gal with the election tears due to the generation in which I was raised. So let me go back a bit. There was a time when things were quite different. There was a definite moral code most people lived by. Not everyone went to church but knew they probably should. People believed in God and the Bible and knew the Ten Commandments were something to take seriously. Patriotism, hard work, good grades, charity, respect for parents and police were all standards to strive for and be admired. Bad guys were easy to spot, and many were in jail where they belonged. Parents disciplined their kids and teachers backed them up... but the last word belonged to the parents. Foul language was usually mild and reserved for smashed thumbs. The F word would get you grounded or fired. We all knew the reality of good vs evil and society leaned toward the good side.

Back then, you couldn't tell much difference between Democrats and Republicans. There was no Far Left or Far Right. We were all closer to the middle. We listened to the Nightly News and had the privilege of forming our own opinions. No commentary.... no twisting of the facts to promote an agenda.... just the news.

So why the change? What happened? Somewhere along the line we decided to boot God out of everything. Government, schools, and media became off limits. Separation of Church and State went from "Freedom OF Religion" to "Freedom FROM Religion" (not what they meant....

look it up). Bible thumpers need to stay home. Oh, and don't pray on the street, unless you wanna go to prison for 10 years.... true story. But the God of Self is welcome and thriving, and the Golden Rule is now "Love yourself above all others".

Let's look at how that's working out for us. Hmmmm.... since we've designed a society of man-made morals aka do your own thing (but make sure everyone else agrees), it's been getting a little rough.... especially for the young. Celebrating the slaughter of the unborn, sexualization of little kids, normalizing perversion, excusing criminal behavior, and promoting a bunch of other idiotic ideas all in the name of "self-expression". For those who love the self-first idea.... I have a question. What if pushing you off a cliff works best for me? Who are you to argue? Ooops...you can't now. So sorry. My truth.

And now Trump is gonna ruin it all.... bringing back the old moral code with secure borders, freedom of speech, justice, self-defense, smaller government, fiscal responsibility, strong military, protection of the unborn, and maybe even letting God back in where He belongs. If this still brings you to tears, you haven't been listening. Open your ears, and your eyes and really look at how our world has been since we've put our faith in everything but God. The Creator of the universe exists (look around you) and made you for a reason. I pray you put your faith in the One who cares more about your soul than your carbon footprint.

"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3

By Susie Crosby
Prinville

Free fishing, clamming and crabbing weekend in Oregon Nov. 29 – 30

SALEM, Ore.—Make fishing part of your Thanksgiving weekend plans with friends and family. Everyone can fish, clam and crab for free in Oregon on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 29-30, 2024.

No fishing/shellfish licenses or tags (including a Combined Angling Tag, Columbia River Basin Endorsement or Two-Rod Validation) are required those two days. Both Oregon residents and nonresidents can fish for free.

All other fishing regulations apply including closures, bag limits and size restrictions. See the [Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations](#) for rules and remember to check for [any in-season regulation updates](#) too, especially for salmon and steelhead fishing. Click on the [zone where you want to fish](#) to see regulation updates.

The [Recreation Report](#) is updated weekly and features the best spots for fishing for the upcoming week. Depending on water levels and conditions, fishing could be good for Chinook or coho salmon; again be sure to check regulations first because not all rivers are open. [Trout will also be stocked](#) the week before Thanksgiving at several popular lakes in the Willamette Valley.

For beginners, Easy Angling Oregon is a great guide to getting started

fishing in Oregon, <https://myodfw.com/articles/easy-angling-oregon-introduction>. And if you live near [Portland](#), [Bend](#), [Medford](#), [Roseburg](#) or in [Lane County](#), there are lots of nearby options.

Prefer to crab or clam instead? MyODFW.com has all the information you need to get started [clamming](#) or [crabbing](#). Remember to check ocean conditions and take safety precautions—always clam with a friend and never turn your back on the ocean.

Call the ODA Shellfish safety hotline at 1-800-448-2474 or check their [Shellfish Closures page](#) before you go clamming or crabbing. The Oregon Department of Agriculture regularly tests shellfish and closes areas when naturally occurring biotoxins get to levels that make crabs and clams unsafe to eat.

Currently, crabbing is open in bays, beaches, estuaries, tide pools, piers and jetties along the entire Oregon coast. Crabbing is closed in the ocean due to the annual closure from Oct. 16-Nov. 30 each year.

As of mid-November, razor clamming is closed from Cascade Head to the California border due to high levels of the marine biotoxin domoic acid, but closures may change by Thanksgiving Weekend so check before you go.



Joann Dickson

Heppner, OR — On October 26, Joann Dickson, pastor of Hopeful Saints Episcopal Church, was ordained as an Episcopal minister. While already serving as the congregation's pastor, her ordination officially authorizes her to consecrate bread and wine for communion, a key element of Episcopal worship.

A Life of Service
Joann Dickson has a longstanding connection to faith and community service. She grew up attending Methodist church services with her mother, which instilled in her a desire to help others through faith. Over her career, she has worked in various roles, including managing two school libraries and directing the theater program.

Originally from Southern California, Dickson moved to Bend, OR, in 1974. She later lived in Lakeview for 30 years and La Grande for five years before taking on the pastoral role in Heppner.

Dickson has four adult children—two sons and two daughters—three grandchildren, and five "grandcats." Her personal interests include reading mysteries, yoga, and travel. She also enjoys discussing faith and its practical application in daily life and encourages others to talk about

their faith in conversational ways.

Pathway to Ministry
Dickson earned a Bachelor of Science in English and Philosophy from Eastern Oregon University (EOU). She later received a certification in spiritual direction from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, where she learned and continues to guide others in their spiritual journeys.

In 2022, Dickson completed the three-year formation program at The High Desert School of Ministry (HDSM) in Cove, Oregon, part of the Iona Collaborative developed by the Seminary of the Southwest. The program, a joint effort between the dioceses of Eastern Oregon and Idaho, prepares candidates for ordained ministry.

Continuing in Her Role

Now officially ordained, Dickson's responsibilities include performing communion ceremonies, among other pastoral duties. She noted that becoming ordained fulfills a goal she has worked toward for many years.

Moving Forward

Dickson's move to Heppner has been a positive experience, as she has quickly developed a fondness for the town. Her permanent role as an ordained leader is an exciting milestone for the congregation, as Hopeful Saints Episcopal Church has been awaiting its own ordained pastor. Dickson looks forward to continuing her mission of faith-based support and connection, bringing her passion and knowledge to her role as pastor of Hopeful Saints Episcopal Church.

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Deadline: Monday 5pm

DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5PM

Pendleton Ballet Theatre
PRESENTS
The Nutcracker 2024

THURSDAY December 5 7:00 PM
FRIDAY December 6 7:00 PM
SATURDAY December 7 2:00 PM
SUNDAY December 8 2:00 PM

BOB CLAPP THEATER / BMCC
Reserved Seating • Adults \$14, Children under 12 - \$12

PURCHASE TICKETS
at the Pendleton Ballet Theatre
Thursday, Nov. 21 6:30pm - Friday, Nov. 22 5:7pm
or visit us at the **Altrusa Holiday Bazaar** at the Pendleton Convention Center on Saturday, Nov. 23 9am - 4pm

"FALL" IN LOVE WITH HEPPNER MARKET FRESH

COME JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE
NOVEMBER 22ND
5:30 TO 7:30
LOTS OF GREAT FOOD AND DRINKS TO SAMPLE
A DRAWING WILL BE HELD THE SAME NIGHT TO WIN ONE OF OUR HOLIDAY MEAL DEALS