

~ 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.

**Support local news**

To the Editor:

I encourage the individuals who have voiced regret over the demise of the *Good News Only* column to submit their news to the staff at the *Gazette-Times*. They can help, if needed, to get the write-ups in good shape, and the interest level of the paper will certainly go up, at least for readers who appreciate straight news and human-interest stories. If you don't have something to share, you might have enough info on a topic or be curious enough about a topic to suggest to the *GT* staff that they check it out.

Last week's paper was an example of a combination of useful information about what is going on in our area and how this can affect us and about fellow citizens—who they are and what they are contributing to the comings and goings of our communities. (I, for one, preferred this to outdated "Sheriff's Reports.")

I also encourage readers to suggest to people who do not subscribe to our paper to give it a try. Subscriptions and advertisements are critical to our small paper, our one reliably accurate, fact-based source of information, which is critical.

Since I am taking up space, I will just add a tidbit that would have gone into the *Good News Only*: A thoughtful individual, when I wasn't looking apparently, bladed the snow from my driveway last week! If that kind-hearted person will come forward, I will offer a reward of hot chocolate and cookies. Otherwise, this heart-felt thank you will have to suffice.

Doris Brosnan  
Heppner, OR

**Wokexico**

Just when you think it couldn't get any weirder. But then we should never underestimate the Woke when they put their heads together. The DNC recently rolled out its new rules with this intellectually muddled statement: "The rules specify that when we have a gender-nonbinary candidate or officer, the nonbinary individual is counted as neither male nor female, and the remaining six officers must be gender balanced." Just make it stop. This, folks, is what you get when you let Jello-filled brains make rules.

Can we please just send these people to a new planet, preferably in a galaxy far, far away? It does need to be one that's uninhabited though. Any intelligent life would probably send them back. This gives me an idea. How about we relocate them? Let's make it easy. Since we're in the process of deporting criminals anyway, let's send the Woke folks south too. I'm sure they'd love to share a country with criminals, gang members, and Cartels. All that marching in the streets, yelling obscenities, flag-waving (not ours), and snitching on ICE won't be in vain.

Of course, they would be looking for someone to lead them. And since

**Spiritually Speaking**  
Father Thankachan Joseph



**Blessed Are You: If You Abide by Christ**

Last Sunday, we reflected on the call to Peter and the first apostles in the Lucan narration. Trusting in the words of Christ always impacts people's lives. The same idea runs through this Sunday's readings, as well.

"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in the Lord. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the streams: it fears not the heat when it comes; its leaves stay green; in the year of drought, it shows no distress but still bears fruit." (Jeremiah 17:6-8).

How often do we trust these scripture passages as Simon and his companions did? It calls us for a deeper trust and faith in the Lord. The church is gradually moving towards the season of Lent. That calls us for a change of heart and mind. The main theme of Lent will be "repentance" and "come back to the Lord."

The first reading and the Gospel of the day stress a similar theme dealing with cursed and blessed. Anyone who leaves the statutes of Christ and lives by worldly norms and designs is considered as cursed and the one who lives and moves according to the words of Christ is described as blessed. The first reading from the prophet Jeremiah pronounces it like this; "Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the Lord" (17:5). This verse doesn't require any more descriptions. It is very apt and touching words of the Messiah to return to Him if we have gone astray from Him.

The Gospel reading is from Luke (6:17, 20-26), which is described as the Beatitudes. I was reminded of one of the old stories I read some time back. A priest began his homily on this week's Gospel by asking for a show of hands from all in the congregation who would love to be poor, starving, weeping, and hated by everybody. No hands went up. Then he asked who, on the contrary, would love to be rich, happy, joyful, wealthy, well-fed, laughing, and well-spoken of in the community. All hands went up. A similar survey in any church would probably yield similar results. Yet Jesus in Luke declares a blessing on those who are poor, hungry, weeping and hated. To make sure we get the point, He goes on and explicitly pronounces a woe on those who are rich, well-fed, laughing, and well-spoken of. What is happening here? Does Luke want us to understand that material poverty in itself is a sign of divine approval and material prosperity a sign of divine disapproval? Certainly, not!

Poverty in itself is not a blessing but an evil, a lack. In fact, all the qualifying factors mentioned in Luke's Beatitudes—poverty, hunger, weeping, hatred, rejection, reviling, defamation—are all evils. These are things no good parents would want for their children. Neither would God want these things for us, God's children. How are we then to understand Luke's beatitudes? The key to Luke's Beatitudes is to be found in an important clause which he adds at the end of the last beatitude: "on account of the Son of Man." What Luke is saying is that those who accept these evil conditions as the price that they must pay for following Christ, are the blessed ones. Some knowledge of the social background of Luke's Gospel would help us here.

Luke wrote his Gospel at a time of terrible social and religious persecution taking place against the believers in Christ. It was so severe that anyone professing to be a follower of Christ knew for sure that he or she would be disowned by family, rejected by friends, and excluded from the synagogue. One immediately lost one's birthright, free association, and social relationship in the community. Even if one was a very rich person with lots of land and farms, the moment they declared their faith in Christ, they were automatically dispossessed and reduced to a state of stark poverty. But the love of Christ and His message attracted them and enabled them to go through all these difficulties and hardships; because they knew for themselves that the one who called them will never leave them. I was reminded of the beautiful words of Paul to the Philippians, "There is nothing I cannot do in the One who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).

**From the Archives**  
February 16, 1978 Gazette-Times



**...kiss and a hug!**

Sunshine Blue Bird Sandy Turner rates a big hug from Grandma Nora Turner for the handmade Valentine she gave her during a soroptomist-Blue Bird party held for Pioneer Memorial Hospital nursing home residents Tuesday.

**Blue Birds , Soroptomists treat PMH residents on Valentines Day**

Heppner Soroptomists and the Sunshine Blue Birds combined forces Tuesday to treat residents in the Pioneer Memorial Hospital nursing home to a Valentine's party that included goodies, music and, of course, lace-trimmed paper hearts.

Thirteen first-grade Blue Birds, under the leadership of Irene Plocharsky made and distributed the hearts, to each senior citizen. They also sang appropriate Valentine's songs, including, "Make New Friends, But Keep the Old".

A table loaded with cookies, jelly rolls, coffee and punch was provided by the Soroptomists for the occasion, who also donated small bottles of hand lotion passed out by the Blue Birds. Marlene Gray, chairman of the service objectives committee, was in charge of the Valentine's project.

Piano music by Ola Mae Groshens and her music student Jojean Stevens, provided a backdrop for the afternoon's festivities.

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

**Seniors Matter February Menu**

**Feb 4 - Pork and Hashbrown Casserole**  
Buttered Carrots  
Dessert

**Feb 11 - Mini Pizzas**  
Garden Salads  
Dessert

**Feb 12 - Vets Meal**  
Chicken Pot Pie, Peach Cobbler

**Feb 18 - Beef Stroganoff over**  
Mashed Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Dessert

**Feb 25 - Tacos on a Plate**  
Dessert

Ad sponsored by Bank of Eastern Oregon



**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!**

Submit Ads  
**heppner.net**  
Call  
**541-676-9228**  
Email  
graphics@rapidsolve.net

We also offer design and printing services

Heppner Gazette-Times  
Sykes Printing

**Print & Mailing Services**

\*Design \*Print \*Mail

**Sykes Publishing 541-676-9228**

**WWW.HEPPNER.NET**

SUBMIT NEWS, ADVERTISING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEND US PHOTOS

START A NEW SUBSCRIPTION

SINCE 1988

**SYKES BROTHERS PRINTING**

DESIGN.PRINT.PUBLISH

**DISTRICT GIRLS WRESTLING**

LaGrande High School

Friday, February 14 Starts at 2:00 pm

Saturday February 15 Starts at 10:00 am

**1A - 4A Special District 3**



Back Left: Sarah Munkers, Keeley Nairsns, Coach, Journey Cavan-Harris, Denisse Bracamontes Front Left: Loren Trujillo, Emillian Cavan-Harris, Harlee Cotton, Luiza Couto-Oliviera

**Tires LES SCHWAB**

124 N. MAIN STREET  
HEPPNER OR  
(541) 676-9481