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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

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GAZETTE-TIMES
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MCHS donates to Hardman Community Center upkeep



L-R: Morrow County Historical Society Treasurer Neva McMahon, William McMahon and his sister Patty Harshman, both of whom attended elementary school in Hardman, Sam Martin and Cheyenne Martin. Seated is long-time resident Judy Stevens. -Photo by Kay Proctor

By Kay Proctor

Morrow County Historical Society members recently donated \$1,000 to the Hardman Community Center for the upkeep and continual restoration of the 1900 building. The building is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

Some of the updates needed are new siding and windows.

MCHS members were given a tour of the center after their annual meeting there. Sam or Cheyenne Martin, who led the tour, live next door and have done extensive work with repairs and displays, along with other dedicated locals.

Either of the Martins may be contacted about renting the historic building for events, reunions or meetings.

South Morrow MS Walk Saturday

The South Morrow County MS Walk will take place this Saturday, April 26. Participants will meet at Hager Park in Heppner at 10 a.m. The walk is about a mile long over even ground, but participants are warned to watch for vehicles and dogs.

The event will include picture-taking opportunities, prizes and, of course, a no-host brunch at Bucknam's Tavern.

Those who cannot attend but want to support that cause can send contributions to Barb Orwick.

BOC approves \$40k for Irrigon senior center

The Morrow County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a \$40,000 funding request from the Stokes Landing Senior Center in Irrigon during a meeting earlier this month.

Representing the center, president Sharon Tinnes and treasurer Karen Cooley shared the financial and operational challenges the all-volunteer organization has faced in recent years, including prolonged closures due to COVID-19 and the loss of a volunteer cook.

"We were closed down for several years during COVID, which made it difficult," said Tinnes. "Then we closed down for two years again because we lost our cook. And since we are a strictly all-volunteer organization, it was very difficult to find someone to come in to cook that didn't expect to be paid, even though it's only one day." The center provides

weekly meals, social activities like music performances and game days, a lending library, and free medical equipment to local seniors.

"We have walkers and wheelchairs and crutches," said Tinnes. "So anyone in the community actually is able to come."

Tinnes emphasized the center's role in combating isolation and supporting mental health for the elderly. At the same time, she said the senior center has to rent out the facility to cover basic expenses like utilities.

"That's the only way we can make a go of it," she said.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the center's contributions to senior well-being and acknowledged the importance of continued support.

The approved funding will assist with general operations and help expand community programs.

Holly Rebekah dinner and bingo April 27

On Sunday, April 27, starting at 2 p.m., visitors can enjoy a Mexican fiesta at the Holly Rebekah Lodge in Lexington.

For only \$5, the Rebekahs will be serving a chicken enchilada, Spanish rice, dessert and a drink.

Bingo will commence at 3:30. A packet of 10 Bingo cards can be purchased

for \$5—that's enough for 14 regular games and three blackout games. Winners might even walk away with prizes.

All ages are welcome to come to either or both events and enjoy visiting and having a fun afternoon. The Holly Rebekah Lodge is located at 135 W Main Street, Lexington.

Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph



Misery – Mercy & Mystery

My Easter wish for all of you is that the Risen Christ fill you and your families with the gift of peace.

This coming Sunday, Catholics will be celebrating the feast of Divine Mercy. As I sat and pondered this feast, I received the news that Pope Francis had died. He worked to make humanity like the Divine in the world. Through his encyclical letters, he made us think and reflect on the face of God in the world. His teachings were always an inspiration for us about divine love, care, affection and concern for human suffering.

The Gospel reading of the day reminds me of the psycho-social aspect that the disciples experienced 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 when I read it. We have gone through a tough time of this sort in the recent past when the pandemic hit the universal world, which shut down our economy, our freedom of movement and coming together—everything was in a stand-still condition.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, I have chosen a title "Mercy and Mystery" for our reflection. I hope it may be very apt for us all. During the Good Friday reflections, I was very touched by a character whom we meet on our meditation of the Stations of the Cross. We may meditate on 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 Calvary, the place he needs to be for crucifixion, after His condemnation by Pilate. Veronica observes the misery/agonny the Lord was going through and at that moment, 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. She doesn't waste time and opportunity but comes up, wipes His bloody face, and consoles Him with her handkerchief. She reaches out as empathy personified.

In similar situations, when we meet our family members or members of our community, what are my first reactions? Like the apostles in the Gospel, we are also going through emotional bankruptcy 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 these miserable conditions, like Veronica, we need to reach out to others without being bothered by the opinions of others. We need to become God's mercy in similar conditions.

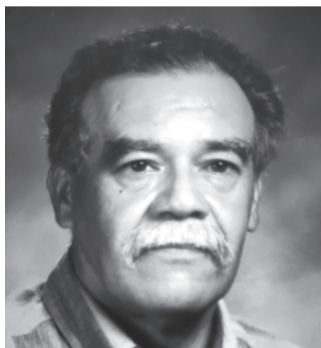
The second reading of this week from the Acts of the Apostles helps us to practice mercy and re-live mercy: "All who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need" (Acts 2:44-45). I think the Divine Master invites every one of us to continue the same acts of kindness and benevolence to the people around us, even in this present time to become like Veronica. The Divine Lord is inviting each one of us to stretch our helping hand and reach out to someone who needs our services.

The Gospel of John (20:19-31) narrates an experience of the apostles, the lockdown/shutdown that the apostles immediately experienced after the death of the Lord, which is very fresh in our minds and hearts; the shutdown is actually in God's plan. 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 into our ears about the same words of consolation, "peace be with you."

Obituaries

Robert H. 'Bob' Davidson, Jr.



Robert H. "Bob" Davidson, Jr. passed away March 29, 2025, at Milwaukie, OR, from complications associated with diabetes. Services and burial will be at the Lexington Cemetery at a later date.

He was born to Robert H. Davidson and Mildred Pollard Davidson on September 4, 1942, during his father's service in World War II. Bob was the second of six children. A native of Eastern Oregon, he grew up in Lexington and graduated from Heppner High School in 1960.

Bob received a bachelor's degree from Eastern Oregon College in 1964, a master's degree from Portland State College in 1968, and did further graduate work at the University of Oregon, Oregon State Uni-

versity, and Portland State University.

Bob taught and coached for 40 years at various Oregon schools: Warrington Junior High, and Clackamas, Monroe, La Salle (Milwaukie), and Riverside (Boardman) High Schools. He retired in 2002. Bob coached multiple sports, mainly basketball and golf, and was particularly proud of his teams winning Oregon State golf titles in 1988, 1989 and 1991, as well as finishing runner-up five additional times. He was named Oregon's Golf Coach of the Year four times.

He was a voracious reader of fiction and nonfiction and enjoyed crossword puzzles and working in the yard. He also enjoyed following high school, college and professional sports.

Bob was married to Patricia D. Partlow of Boardman for 60 years and they had two sons, Robert of Salem and Christopher of Milwaukie, and two beloved granddaughters, Erika and Kat. He is further survived by two sisters, Dora Sue, now living in McMinnville, and Anita, in Tennessee, and a brother, Gregory, in San Francisco.

Bob was preceded in death by both parents, a brother, Herbert, and sister, Beverly.

Volunteers needed at Neighborhood Center

The Neighborhood Center is looking for three enthusiastic, hardworking volunteers over the age of 18 to work in its food pantry. Volunteers will assist clients with grocery shopping, stock shelves, carry out groceries and more.

"Food truck week is a very busy week here at the Neighborhood Center," says center coordinator Nikki Clark. "This is a small commitment that will

have a huge impact."

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in the center three days a month, the center is offering volunteer training with dinner May 8 at 4:30 p.m. Please RSVP to 541-676-5024 by May 5 if you plan to attend.

Other volunteer positions are also available. Please inquire with Clark at the Neighborhood Center.

Health District Candidates Forum Planned April 23

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce invites the public to attend a candidates forum to hear from those running for positions on the Morrow County Health District Board.

The MCHD candidates forum will take place on

Wednesday, April 23, at 6 p.m. at the Gilliam & Bisbee Building.

Candidates will present their platforms and answer questions. Submit questions in writing at the event, or via Facebook Messenger or livestream.

Port of Morrow Candidates Forum April 28

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce invites the public to attend a candidates forum to hear from those running for office on the Port of Morrow Com-

mission.

The Port of Morrow candidates forum will take place on Monday, April 28, at 6 p.m. at the Gilliam & Bisbee Building in Heppner.

Candidates will present their platforms and answer questions. Submit questions in writing at the event, or via Facebook Messenger or livestream.

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