

HIGHLIGHTS

Community invited to block party

JOSEPH — The Joseph United Methodist Church invites the community to a BBQ Block Party Aug. 18, offering free food and beverages, treats and games. All are welcome to come enjoy a meal and hang out from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Place, 303 S. Lake St., next to the Joseph Methodist Church. For more information, call 541-432-3102 or email JosephUMC.BlockParty@gmail.com.

Message on adoption based on Ephesians

ELGIN — “Adopted by God” will be the message given by Gerald Hopkins, lay pastor, at the Elgin United Methodist Church’s 11 a.m. Sunday service. The message will be based

on Ephesians 1:3-14. The service will be followed by fellowship, treats and coffee.

No-host lunch follows service

LA GRANDE — God sees our value even when we don’t. Pastor Ray Smith will expand on this message at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Sunday at the 10 a.m. worship service. His sermon, “You Have Value,” will be drawn from 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Worshipers are invited to a no-host lunch at the Smokehouse Restaurant following the service and fellowship time.

Church meeting held during fellowship time Sunday

COVE — Cove’s Grace Community Lutheran

Church will worship Sunday at the Cove Adventist Church at 10 a.m. Pastor Carl’s sermon title will be “Sealed for Redemption,” taken from Ephesians 4, in which Paul tells the Gentiles to be kind and gentle to one another. Adult Sunday school is held at 9 a.m. and a congregational meeting will be conducted during fellowship after the service.

La Grande Lutherans enjoy service and picnic in the park

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship Sunday at 10 a.m. with Pastor Colleen Nelson at Riverside Park. The service will be followed by a picnic.

Neighbors Together will meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, and

the non-denominational Bible study will meet at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday.

Sermon drawn from Ephesians 4

LA GRANDE — Sunday school begins at 9:15 a.m. at the La Grande Church of the Nazarene, followed by a worship service at 10:30. Pastor Al Mortimer will bring a message from Ephesians 4:17-32 entitled “New, God-Fashioned Clothes,” referring to the exhortation to “put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Jesus wants us to be prepared

LA GRANDE — Jesus said much in the gospels about his second return to this earth. He warned not to be deceived, uninformed or

disinterested. Pastor Mike’s sermon, “Jesus Is Coming — Seriously,” will expound on what we have to anticipate, whether we are ready or not. The

service will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, at the La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church. Before the service, there is a 9:30 a.m. Revelation seminar that is open to the community.

Faith Lutheran continues sermons from John 6

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — The message at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday will continue to look at John 6, the the “Bread of Life” chapter. In verses 39-40, Jesus shares that God wants people to believe in him and receive eternal life.

Observer seeks Spiritual Life columns

The Observer is seeking columns from community members on spiritual matters. If you would like to share how you experience spirituality, email news@lagrandeobserver.com or call Observer Editor Cherise Kaechele at 541-963-3161. An ongoing monthly column is preferred but one-time submissions will also be considered. Columns are generally 500-600 words and will include a photo of the writer.

There will be a service at 10 a.m. in La Grande and at 2 p.m. in Enterprise.

Jesus and Jackie: Meekness is not weakness

We know that atheists and agnostics have been around since the beginning. There is always someone in the crowd who will disagree about the existence of God, and sadly this view seems to be growing. I admit that our free will and independent thinking are beneficial components to establishing what we believe but it never ceases to amaze me that we would argue over the reality of a divine creator. I can understand different worldviews about science, social issues, politics and even some religious differences, but the debate over whether or not there is a God troubles me deeply. I have also noticed an increased animosity from those who do not believe in the Bible toward those who do.

As a Christian minister, I’ve had my share of attacks from individuals who declare I am insane for accepting the God of the Bible as a legitimate source of spiritual truth. My columns are a regular target, and often non-believers do not exhibit their disagreements with civility but instead choose to unleash



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

their perspectives with aggressive hostility. It is Christ within us that can sense their internal misery and this causes us to have compassion as we hope that somehow their eyes will be opened before it’s too late. However, at the same time, we must admit that it’s also tempting to argue and fight back against those who are intentionally trying to insult us. So, what is the right way to handle these offensive and slanderous personal attacks? Jesus Christ as the greatest role model of grace and humility in the history of the world, demonstrated that meekness is not weakness but strength under control.

There are many men and women who have faced incredible persecution and we can admire how they also embraced the attitude of Jesus in their life. Jackie Robinson is one of those individuals. He was the first African American to break the color barrier as a major league baseball player. He won rookie of the

year in 1947 and went on to become a baseball legend. There is not enough room on this page to describe his talents and abilities, but what I want to emphasize is the type of person he was. It’s difficult to imagine everything Jackie Robinson endured when he stepped into the spotlight of a world filled with prejudice. The horrific name-calling, the nasty and hate-filled insults and people spitting on him were all intended to hurt him and cause him to quit. But instead of railing against them with bitterness and hostility, he displayed a remarkable presence of grace and integrity. An important part of this story that is often not mentioned is that Robinson and Branch Rickey, the man who signed him with the Brooklyn Dodgers, were both devout Christians. It was no secret this was a huge step toward desegregating the sports world and they were fully aware of the resistance they were going to face. Their strategy was to maintain self-control and refuse to retaliate no matter how fierce the persecution. This mindset would eventually become

the standard for the civil rights movement.

It is told that Rickey encouraged Robinson and said this will require a person with deep faith and the character of Christ. They both discussed the need for a fervent commitment to the scriptures, which Christ himself exhibited when he went to the cross: “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles” (Matthew 5:38-41).

Rickey issued Robinson this pointed challenge: “I’m looking for a ballplayer with guts enough to not fight back.” With the grace of heaven, Robinson was used as an instrument to accomplish God’s will. Let us be reminded today that we are not called to fight back against those who hate us but to demonstrate love, integrity, humility and self-control.

Evangelist seeks prayer for yoga-practicing Oregon governor

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

SALEM — The evangelist Franklin Graham recently asked thousands of people at an Oregon rally to pray for the state’s Democratic governor, saying she should be a Christian.

Yoga and meditation suit Gov. Kate Brown just fine, she told reporters Thursday when asked if she follows a certain faith.

“I believe very much that each of us is a spiritual being, and that’s how I see the world,” Brown said, adding that she feels the people should treat human beings with respect.

Brown, who is up for re-election in November, was specifically named by Graham at a sermon to more than 12,000 people near Portland on Sunday, Willamette Week reported.

“Let’s pray for your governor, Gov. Brown. Wouldn’t it be something if she got saved? Amen,” Graham said, the Portland weekly reported.

“We pray for Kate Brown. And Lord, I pray that she would come to know your son Jesus Christ as her lord and savior one day.”

Oregon is one of America’s most liberal states, with Democrats also controlling the state Legislature. Graham, son of the late superstar evangelist Billy Graham, is an outspoken ally of President Donald Trump.

“If the church went to the polls and voted, you could turn this state around,” Graham told the crowd at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds. “The enemy out there thinks the church is asleep.”

Asked by reporters during a phone-in news conference about her religious beliefs, Brown said she is a yogi, or one who practices yoga.

While in India, yoga for many is a spiritual or religious practice, in America it is generally secular.

Graham is president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Services This Week</p>				
<p>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH 440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</p> <p>Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p>Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>~Join us at The Lord’s Table~</p>	<p>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>Sunday Services: Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children’s Church & Worship Service 11:00AM Family Worship Service 6:00PM</p> <p>Wednesday: Prayer Mtg. Children’s Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM</p> <p>A church for your whole family Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org</p>	<p>Amazing Grace Fellowship 1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC 502 Main Street In Cove (in the Seventh Day Adventist Church building) “We are called to Serve” Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Seelhoff Phone: 541-805-0764 grace.lutherancove@gmail.com</p>
<p>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p>JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>	<p>ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES La Grande - Our Lady of the Valley 1002 L Avenue Saturday 5:30 pm Mass Sunday 10:00 am Mass Weekdays 8:00 am Mass Union - Sacred Heart 340 South 10th Avenue Sunday 8:00 am Mass No Weekdays Elgin - Saint Mary’s 12th and Alder Sunday 12:30 pm Mass No Weekdays</p>	<p>VALLEY FELLOWSHIP 963-0340 507 Palmer Ave (just east of city pool) Sunday Worship 10:02 am Come and share in a time of worship, prayer and the study of God’s word with us. Worship includes communion on Sunday. www.valleyfellowship.church Email: vfchurch2@gmail.com</p>	<p>La Grande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 109 18th Street • 963-3402</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH “OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS” 1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Al Trachsel lgumc@conl.com www.lgumchurch.org Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am -Nursery provided-</p>
<p>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church <i>A Place where hope is found in Jesus</i> Join us in Fellowship & Worship Every Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study/Fellowship 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service 2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande • 963-4018 Pastor: Mike Armayor www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org <i>Learning for Today and Eternity</i></p> <p>Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 <i>We use the King James Version Bible</i> Sunday School - 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday Evening Bible Study - 3:00 pm (Effective June 10) Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm “Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures” www.flmbclagrande.com</p>	<p>Zion Lutheran Church (an ELCA church) 902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</p> <p>9:30 am - Worship 10:30 am - Fellowship & Refreshments 11:00 am - Classes Pastor: Rev. Colleen Nelson www.zionlagrande.org</p>	<p>Union Baptist Church 1531 S. Main St., Union 541-562-5531 www.unionbaptistoregon.org Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Sunday Night 6:30 pm Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm Knowing, Loving and Proclaiming Jesus Christ</p>	<p>First Baptist Church</p> <p>SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE</p> <p>541-963-3911</p> <p>Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>