

HIGHLIGHTS

Trio offers message on being a servant

LA GRANDE — The La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will celebrate Labor Day weekend at 10 a.m. Sunday with the message, "Make Me a Servant," delivered by Dale De Long, Sharon Hohstadt and Stacy Webster. One reference will be to Romans 12:4-8, asking: As members of one body, what gifts can we share?

SHINE Preschool has a few openings

LA GRANDE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church in La Grande on Sunday will expound on Mark 7:14-23 where Jesus clarifies that moral filth from within is what defiles a person. Mankind is in great need of a fresh start, born from above. Following the 10 a.m. Divine Service will be the first Sunday potluck. There will be an elders' meeting after lunch.

SHINE Preschool at Faith Lutheran Church will begin classes on Sept. 4. There are a few openings left for students. Call 541-963-2831 for details.

Sermon addresses hearing God

NORTH POWDER — The service Sunday at the North Powder United Methodist Church will begin at 10 a.m. Gerald Hopkins will give a sermon titled, "Listening for God," based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10. The service will be followed by fellowship, treats and coffee.

The heart is stronger than habit

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with Pastor Colleen Nelson. The theme will be "Heart Is Stronger than Habit." Fellowship and coffee will follow the service.

The Quilters will meet at 9 a.m.

Tuesday at the church.

Transportation available to Union service

UNION — The Union Methodist and Grace Community Churches will worship together at 10 a.m. Sunday in Union. Pastor Carl's message will come from Mark 7 where Jesus talks about unclean things. Adult Sunday school will be held before the service at 9 a.m. and fellowship will follow the service. Transportation is available from La Grande to Union.

Message examines 'Christlikeness'

LA GRANDE — The Sunday worship service at the La Grande Church of the Nazarene will begin at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Al Mortimer will bring a sermon from Ephesians 5, focusing on the church, marriage and family as "Houses for Learning and Growth in Christlikeness." Sunday school is offered at 9:15 a.m.



Courtesy Photo

The Elgin Ministerial Association and the Elgin Lions joined forces to collect school supplies for students needing assistance for the year. Principal Tom Sorensen (left) holds a thank-you sign, along with (from left) Lions Gerald Hopkins, Mary Hopkins, Kathy Oliver, Everett Grandeen, Steve Oliver and Joe Johnson. The sign reads, "Thank you for supporting our school children! Elgin Ministerial Association in partnership with Elgin Lions Club."

Nothing can prevent God's love from healing our mind and soul

Memories can be a wonderful place to visit when they are pleasant and filled with peace and joy. On the other hand, not all of our experiences have been good and remembering them can be more like being trapped in a haunted house on a dark and stormy night. As most of us know, there are positive ways and negative ways to handle our past experiences. We can look around and see that many people are not doing such a good job when it comes to emotional management. The Lord wants us to give our problems to him and allow him to bring true healing, as his way is always the best way.

Some will say, "You have not walked in my shoes," and this is very true. However, this does not mean the light of God's love cannot bring you comfort, forgiveness and happiness. His promises are true and cannot fail, which to say the least is a tremendous offer to consider. His love, mercy and hope are available to anyone who has the faith



LIVING ON PURPOSE

DR. BILLY HOLLAND

to believe that he can transform their disappointments and stumbling blocks into victorious stepping stones.

In Psalm 57, we read where David is in great danger and is hiding in a cave to escape the wrath of Saul. However, even in this dark hour, in verse one he is singing God's praises: "Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until this difficulty and burden has passed." There are many different types of trials and sorrows, but God's arms are always open to those who trust him.

Maybe you were the one who was always picked last for games in gym class or in the neighborhood. Maybe someone spread a hurtful rumor about you that caused you much pain and distress. There are many individuals

who for whatever reason have a nonexistent relationship with parents or children, which is very painful. Some have been betrayed by a person they loved very dearly and are deeply wounded. Have you ever felt forgotten, rejected, alone and unwanted? Sometimes discouragement punches you in the gut and then slowly dissipates, and then there are times when the voices that tell you no one cares seem to hang over your head for weeks or months on end. Whatever the situation, even if you have made huge mistakes and hurt others, God wants you to know today that he cares about you more than you can imagine. Since you were in the womb, he has never taken his eyes off you. He knows every thought, seen every tear and wants a personal relationship with you more than anything.

I heard a testimony one time from a young woman who shared about her painful childhood experiences

with an uncle. He would always tease her for being skinny and make derogatory comments about her body. Sadly, these rude and tawdry remarks are the only words she can ever remember him saying to her. She went on to say this definitely had a negative impact on her self-esteem, and later in life when he passed away she felt distant and numb as he seemed like a total stranger. Her deep wounds, though, were healed when she understood that God will never hurt or abandon her. Nothing can prevent his love from healing our mind and soul.

"No, in ALL these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-38).

Oregon construction worker fired for refusing to attend Bible study

By Aimee Green

The Oregonian

PORTLAND — A 34-year-old man has filed an \$800,000 lawsuit against an Albany construction company, claiming the owner fired him after he refused to attend weekly Bible study.

Ryan Coleman's lawsuit states that he discovered only after he was hired as a painter for Dahled Up Construction that the job entailed more than just fixing up homes. According to Coleman and his lawsuit, owner Joel Dahl told him all employees were required to partake in regular Bible study sessions led by a Christian pastor during the work day, while on the clock.

Coleman told Dahl that the requirement was illegal, but Dahl wouldn't budge, according to the lawsuit. In order to keep his job, Coleman obliged for nearly six months but ultimately told Dahl he couldn't go, the suit says.

"I said 'I've kept an open mind, and it's just not my thing.' And he said, 'Well, I'm going to have to replace you,'" Coleman told The Oregonian/OregonLive.

"He said, 'You're not going to tell me how to run my own company,'" Coleman continued. "I said, 'I'm not trying to tell you how to run your own company, but you're not going to tell me what god to pray to.'"

Coleman said his religious beliefs are indigenous: He's half Caucasian and half Native American, with Cherokee and Blackfoot heritage.

Coleman worked for the small construction company from October 2017 to this past April, when he was fired, the suit states.

"This is so illegal," said Corinne Schram, a Portland attorney representing Coleman. "Unless you are a religious organization like a church, you cannot force your employees to participate in religious activities."



Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches



Services This Week

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| <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 A Place for You</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>IS 40:31</p> | <p>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC 667 N. Main in Union "We are called to Serve" Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Seelhoff Phone: 541-786-0447 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: vfcchurch2@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@eoni.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 A Place where hope is found in Jesus 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 Learning for Today and Eternity</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 We use the King James Version Bible 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 SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE 541-963-3911</p> <p>Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p> |