

HIGHLIGHTS

Open house celebrates Kirkeby career

LA GRANDE — Steve and Verla Kirkeby are retiring from La Grande’s Valley Fellowship Church. Friends are invited to an open house to celebrate the Kirkebys’ career of service dedicated to God, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1 at Le BeBe Cakes Bakery Coffee House, 1101 Washington Ave., La Grande. Hors d’oeuvres and cake will be served. No gifts, please. There will be a basket for cards.

Pastor examines ‘Upside Down Kingdom’

LA GRANDE — Sunday school will begin at 9:15 a.m. Sunday at the La Grande Church of the Nazarene. The worship service will be at 10:30 a.m. and Pastor Kevin Goss will continue the “Upside Down Kingdom” sermon series. His message will be “Salt & Light Righteousness” from Matthew

5:13-20. Faith in Christ calls us to a distinctive way of life where we no longer live the way we used to. Jesus preaches about righteousness that changes the way we see everything.

Old-fashioned hymn sing on the schedule

LA GRANDE — First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of La Grande will enjoy an old-fashioned hymn sing during the 10 a.m. worship service Sunday. Scripture references will come from Ephesians 5:19-20 and Colossians 3:16.

‘The Messiah’ auditions held in October

LA GRANDE — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will have two weeks of the “Come Follow Me” lessons, as the 189th Churchwide General Conference will be held on Oct. 5 and 6. The

lesson is from Ephesians where Paul teaches of the armor of God. Three videos can be watched at the Church of Jesus Christ website.

Members of the congregations will be the speakers during Sunday’s Sacrament Service. The new youth initiative, beginning Jan. 1, 2020, will be announced during a second-hour special pre-recorded presentation featuring President M. Russell Ballard. All adults and youth age 7 and older will be attending these meetings while the younger children attend primary classes as usual.

In December, “The Messiah” will again be performed by members of the La Grande community. All are welcome to participate. Auditions and practices will begin in October. For information contact Wes and Marie Rampton at 541-805-8902.

Blessing of the Animals service begins at 10 a.m.

LA GRANDE — On Sunday, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church of La Grande will celebrate a Blessing of the Animals service in the basement, beginning at 10 a.m. (an hour earlier than the usual meeting time). All animals are welcome with a leash, harness or carrier. Pastor Roberta Smythe will officiate. Coffee hour and fellowship will follow in the Parish Hall.

Altar Guild will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, followed by a Girl Scout leader meeting at 10 a.m.

Guest speaker addresses overcoming fear

LA GRANDE — Fear can be a crippling experience, but the Bible reveals how to deal with it. The La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church will welcome a guest speaker Saturday, whose message will be “How to Handle Fear.” The service will be at 11 a.m.

Faith Lutheran monthly newsletter available

LA GRANDE — The Sunday morning adult Bible study will begin at 8:45 a.m. at La Grande’s Faith Lutheran Church. The lesson will be “Nurturing Your Faith — Called by God.” Faith is a nurturing gift from God. The sermon at the 10 a.m. service will be from Matthew 18:4, in which Jesus speaks of humbling yourself like a child.

Faith Lutheran’s monthly newsletter will be available Sunday.

Zion members worship at St. Peter’s Sunday

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church members will attend a special service at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church at 10 a.m. Sunday in La Grande. There will be no service at Zion this week.

The Quilters will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday at Zion.

Everyone has inside them a piece of good news

I was talking with a Christian brother the other day about how it seems that many people are living in sadness and discouragement, when he made a comment that really caused me to think. He said that according to his studies about the Christian life, it seems to be impossible to be depressed and to walk in the joy of God’s presence at the same time.

After our conversation, I continued to ponder this statement — and, by the way, I do agree with him. We know that being joyful in the Lord is a direct result of our personal relationship with him, but maintaining an optimistic lifestyle is not always easy. In order to live in this state of mind, it’s obvious we must not only restructure the way we think but have a sincere desire to embrace Christ as our Lord and master.

So, why do I at times allow the



LIVING ON PURPOSE
BILLY HOLLAND

melancholy feelings of despondency to influence me? It has everything to do with losing my focus on Christ, who is the source of my strength and hope. It’s so easy to drift away, especially with all the distractions that surround us and tempt us with negative persuasions. It takes a strong determination to maintain a serious relationship with God and to abide in the awareness of his presence, but the more we think about God, the more we will desire to be with him. Sometimes I allow my enthusiasm to be quenched by allowing my circumstances to bring fear and worry upon me. When I’ve neglected to pray, study or to just spend quiet time with him, I find myself

becoming spiritually weak and doubting that he cares or will take care of my problems and needs. I’ve also felt discouragement and condemnation because of my mistakes, and I often forget that forgiveness is only a prayer away.

The enemy of our soul never takes a vacation and is devoted to making our lives miserable for the missed opportunities we have blown and wrong decisions we have made. There are many faithful workers in the Kingdom of God who are tired and discouraged and sometimes do not feel appreciated in their calling, but the Lord sees their labors and considers them a success not because of their abilities but because of their obedience and sincere love for him.

The Bible tells of a man named Barnabas who was one of those positive and optimistic personalities that we all enjoy being around.

He saw the good and the potential in others along with having a great attitude and a hopeful outlook on life. The Collins Dictionary defines the name Barnabas as “son of consolation,” and the word “consolation” means a person or thing that is a source of comfort in a time of suffering, grief, sadness and disappointment. In Acts 11:22-24 we find a description of his personality. “And they sent out Barnabas to go as far as to Antioch. Who when he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and exhorted (encouraged) them all that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: And a great many people were added to the Lord.”

The ministry of encouragement is one that every Christian has been called to demonstrate, and I definitely need to constantly

remind myself about this important responsibility. The word “encourage” means to inspire others with hope and confidence, to stimulate, motivate, support, advise or urge by approval or help. I wonder when was the last time we went out of our way to encourage someone? Unfortunately, it seems we seldom realize that we all need encouragement. Maybe it’s because we are so focused on seeking it for ourselves that we forget to help others. What a difference it makes when someone comes alongside and tells you they believe in you, that you are doing a great job and are a light of inspiration and hope to the world. Anne Frank is quoted as saying, “Everyone has inside them a piece of good news. The good news is you don’t know how great you can be. How much you can love. What you can accomplish. And what your potential is.”

Veterans group pushes to dismiss suit over Bible on display

By Michael Casey
The Associated Press

CONCORD, NH — A battle over a Bible on display at New Hampshire’s veterans hospital was the focus of a federal court hearing Wednesday, with lawyers for the government arguing that a lawsuit demanding its removal should be dismissed because

the Air Force veteran who filed it hasn’t shown he was harmed in any way.

Justice Department attorney Cristen Handley told a judge Wednesday that James Chamberlain has acknowledged he was a devout Christian who wasn’t offended by the display at a table honoring missing veterans and POWs.

But Chamberlain’s lawyer, Lawrence Vogelmann, said his client’s religion should not matter and that he was filing the lawsuit on behalf of his fellow veterans who might feel the VA is choosing Christianity over other religions.

“My client seriously believes that it diminishes him as a veteran and as a Christian to

exclude these other people he served with,” Vogelmann said, adding he may consider adding another plaintiff to the case who is not Christian to bolster his case.

The Bible became part of the missing man table honoring missing veterans and POWs at the entranceway of the Manchester VA Medical

Center. The Department of Veterans Affairs said the table was sponsored by the Northeast POW/MIA Network and has been up since last September. The POW organization said the Bible was owned by a prisoner of war in World War II from New Hampshire.

Vogelmann said that the Bible’s inclusion is in violation

of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits discrimination of anyone based on their religious beliefs. He said the issue was that the group had chosen to put the display up inside the VA.

“They could put up in front of their office anytime,” Vogelmann said. “But they have chosen to involve the government.”

Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

Services This Week

IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH 440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	First Christian Church <i>(Disciples of Christ)</i> 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com Worship 10:00 a.m. ~Join us at The Lord’s Table~	SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH <i>A Place for You</i> Sunday Services: Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children’s Church & Worship Service 11:00AM Family Worship Service 6:00PM Wednesday: Prayer Mtg, Children’s Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM A church for your whole family Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org	LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 109 18th Street • 963-3402 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.	CALVARY CHAPEL 1433 Jefferson Ave. 963-5884 Contemporary Worship Expositional Teaching Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m. <i>Studying The Book of First Corinthians</i> Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m. <i>Studying The Book of Revelation</i> Wednesday Night Youth - 6:00 p.m. Tune in to Calvary Radio 88.1 CSN
COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 390 E. St., North Powder, OR JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder	ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES <i>La Grande - Our Lady of the Valley</i> 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	LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>“OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”</i> 1612 4th Street – 963-2498 Pastor Taylor Gould lgumc@conl.com www.lgumchurch.org Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am - Nursery provided -	GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC 667 N. Main in Union <i>“We are called to Serve”</i> Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Seelhoff Phone: 541-786-0447 grace.lutherancove@gmail.com	Amazing Grace Fellowship 1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m. <i>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</i> - IS 40:31
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> Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203	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 <i>“Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures”</i> www.flmbclagrande.com	Zion Lutheran Church <i>(an ELCA church)</i> 902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Fellowship & Refreshments 10:30 am - Classes Pastor: Roberta Smythe www.zionlagrande.org	UNION BAPTIST CHURCH 1531 S. Main Street, Union 541-562-5531 www.UnionBaptistOregon.org Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm <i>Birthing, Building and Being the Body of Christ</i>	SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE 541-963-3911 Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Sun. 8:45 AM - Exploring the Bible Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA