

## SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

### All are welcome at the Lord's table

LA GRANDE — Pastor Archie Hook's message on Sunday, July 10, at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will ask "Whom Do We Serve?" His message will be drawn from 2 Samuel 23:15-17. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. and will include Communion. All are welcome to partake at the Lord's table.

### Mother-daughter stake activities held this week

NORTHEASTERN OREGON

### SUBMISSIONS

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by noon Tuesday for publication Thursday. Submit by email to news@lagrandeobserver.com (with Highlights in the subject line).

— The La Grande Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will hold mother-daughter activities this week for girls and women of all ages in both Baker City (Friday, July 8,

5-8 p.m. at the church's pavilion) and La Grande (Saturday, July 9, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Island City pavilion). Check your stake calendar and/or with ward leaders for more details.

On Sunday, July 10, members of the congregation will speak during the Sacrament service, and Priesthood, Relief Society and youth meetings will be held during the second hour.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of July 11 is based on 2 Kings 17-25 during the time when the 10 tribes of Israel were

scattered by the Assyrian Empire, followed by the fall of Judah to Babylon.

The annual Pioneer Day stake celebration will be held July 16 from 5-8 p.m. at the Island City pavilion and ball field. Dinner is from 5-6 p.m. with activities to follow.

### The Observer wants to hear from you on spiritual matters

LA GRANDE — The Observer welcomes thoughts and comments from community members on spiritual matters. If

you would like to share how you experience spirituality, email lkelly@lagrandeobserver.com or leave a message at 541-624-6019. Ongoing monthly columns and one-time submissions will be considered. Columns are generally 500-600 words and include a photo of the writer.

Also, we invite announcements and photographs of local faith-based events and activities for inclusion on the Spiritual Life page.

— The Observer

# Loaves and fishes: Cross the Divide has successful transition

By BILL BRADSHAW  
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA LAKE — Cross the Divide in June put on its first local event since it transitioned Dec. 31 from the longtime veterans-support organization Divide Camp into one that has a stronger focus on the Gospel message.

"The cross (in the name) reminds of Jesus — our Creator, our Savior, the Author and Finisher of our faith and the only One who can provide true power for real inner change," Emile "Mo" Moured, the new executive director of Cross the Divide, wrote in a newsletter announcing the change.

He emphasized that the change was a subtle one from Divide Camp Director Julie Wheeler's direction for that organization.

"Julie's deepest conviction has been that Divide Camp focus more and more



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Cross the Divide Executive Director Emile "Mo" Moured addresses those attending a fundraiser dinner at Enterprise Christian Church, while Outdoor Director Andy Marcum listens Friday, June 10, 2022.

on God in its ongoing future growth," Moured said. "My goals and desire are absolutely aligned with hers."

He noted that the Gospel message is more integrated into the program now.

"It's incorporated in each of our programs," he said.

Moured said Cross the Divide has held two other events outside of Eastern Oregon. Earlier this year, two outdoor

events were held in Western Washington.

He said there will be four to six events held in Wallowa County this year, the next being in September. The first official Cross the Divide event in the county was a kokanee fishing derby on Wallowa Lake on Friday and Saturday, June 10-11. About 45 competitors took part, but there were many more in support.

A fundraiser dinner that included a raffle and silent auction took place at the end of the first day at Enterprise Christian Church. Moured said more than 120 people attended — and there was plenty of food. A smoked brisket prepared by Tyrell Burns was the entree, with side dishes donated by a wide variety of those in attendance.

"The most important thing is people had fun," Moured said. "It was a real loaves-and-fishes-type of moment. We did not run out of food."

Kris Crowley, pastor of Tenderfoot Christian Fellowship in Joseph, serves as vice president of the Cross the Divide board of directors.

"I thought it was a huge success for our first year. We exceeded the expectations we had for the amount of people who came to the dinner and the participation we got there," he said.

"People were in really good spirits, considering the weather."

Crowley said his main role with Cross the Divide is to offer spiritual guidance and direction.

The nonprofit remains committed to veterans, but unlike Divide Camp, which catered solely to post-9/11 veterans, Cross the Divide addresses the needs of all veterans and their families. Moured said that between the fundraiser and the fishing derby, just over \$6,000 was raised.

"We definitely covered our costs," he said.

Plans for the funds raised are primarily to boost Cross the Divide programs in Wallowa County, Moured said.

The resident of Western Washington said he was pleased to get to put faces on names he's become familiar with in the area. He was already familiar with Crowley and Andy Marcum, the outdoor director, as well

as Jan Goertzen, who runs the group's lodge in Joseph, and spoke highly of each. Becoming acquainted with people at Viridian Property Management, Umpqua Bank and other businesses around the county that donated prizes for the derby and the fundraiser was meaningful.

"We've got a great team here who are riding herd on things," he said. "Our goal is to step up and make the Eastern Oregon part of Divide a really solid part of our program as we expand into Western Washington and other places."

But, he said, Wallowa County remains the heart of Cross the Divide.

"I told them, kind of jokingly, that if you're not careful, you're going to make people want to move down to Wallowa County," he said. "All those folks care deeply for veterans and the ministry of Cross the Divide. They motivate me."

# We have the means and responsibility to work toward peace

"The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens." Baha'u'llah wrote these words in the 19th century, calling for all peoples to put aside their perceived differences and recognize the essential oneness of humanity. The general consensus of the world has taken some time to catch up to that vision, but here in 2022, many people throughout the world — and I optimistically might even say most — recognize that someone living halfway around the globe is not only equal in essence, but genuinely connected in spirit.

Long before the creation of the League of Nations, much less the United Nations, the EU or NATO, Baha'u'llah also called for "an all-embracing assemblage" that all the rulers of the earth must attend "and participating in its deliberations, must consider such ways and means as will lay the foundations of the world's great peace among men."



SARAH HAUG  
LIGHT OF UNITY

Rather than turning the world into a homogenous whole, this assemblage was to create a sense of "unity in diversity" and most important, establish peace as a central operating principle of the entire planet. Even then, however, the Baha'i Writings acknowledge that the road toward peace might be rocky — as we have witnessed since March with the invasion of Ukraine — and provides a means to deal with such an occurrence. We are taught that if one ruler decides to take up arms against his neighbor, "all should unitedly arise and prevent him."

Popping up in my Facebook feed since the invasion was a rerecording by Sting of his song Russians, which came out in 1985 and everyone hoped would never become relevant again. The line that keeps

coming back to me, day after day, goes, "What will save us, me and you, is that the Russians love their children too."

Back in 1985, maybe we weren't entirely sure the Russians did love their children. After 40 years of the Cold War, we didn't know enough about them. But that's not the case anymore. And maybe that knowledge can be a source of hope moving forward.

Baha'u'llah writes further: "Compose your differences and reduce your armaments that the burden of your expenditures may be lightened, and that your minds and hearts may be tranquilized. Heal the dissensions that divide you, and ye will no longer be in need of any armaments except what the protection of your cities and territories demandeth. Fear ye God, and take heed not to outstrip the bounds of moderation, and be numbered among the extravagant."

The Baha'i Writings don't promise there will be

no more war or won't be failures. The assurance is that we have the means, and the responsibility, to always

work toward peace.

■ Sarah Haug, of Pendleton, is a member of the Baha'i Faith.

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# Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

<p><b>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p><b>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 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><b>First Christian Church</b> (Disciples of Christ) 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Worship</b> 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p><b>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b></p> <p>440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblercc@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Sunday Services</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p><b>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> The Place 62848 Phylinda Loop in Island City "We are called to Serve"</p> <p>Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am</p> <p>Phone: 541-568-4230 grace.lutherancove@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>CHURCH Service DIRECTORY</b></p>
<p><b>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b></p> <p>Sunday Services: Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children's Church &amp; 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 <a href="http://summersvillebaptistchurch.org">summersvillebaptistchurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b></p> <p>"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"</p> <p>1612 4th Street - 963-2498</p> <p>Pastor Roberta Smythe</p> <p>For service information go to <a href="http://www.lagrandeumc.org">www.lagrandeumc.org</a></p>	<p><b>LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b></p> <p>109 18th Street • 963-3402</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church A Place where hope is found in Jesus Join us in Fellowship &amp; Worship Saturday all age classes 9:30 am Saturday Worship 11:00 am</p> <p>2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande 963-4018 lagrandeor.adventistchurch.org</p> <p>Learning for Today and Eternity Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p><b>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 1812 1st St. La Grande 541-605-0215 We use the King James Version Bible</p> <p>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" <a href="http://www.flmbclagrande.com">www.flmbclagrande.com</a></p> <p><i>Services This Week</i></p>