

MLK’s legacy honored with tributes, rallies

ATLANTA (AP) — Speakers honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at his spiritual home in Atlanta repeated the same message on his national holiday Monday: We’ve come a long way, but there’s still much to be done to fulfill King’s dream.

King’s daughter, the Rev. Bernice King, urged those gathered at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta for the 47th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Commemorative Service to act out against injustice. But she also said they should heed her father’s message of nonviolence.

“We cannot act unless we understand what Dr. King taught us. He taught us that we still have a choice to make: nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation,” she said. “I challenge you to work with us as we help this nation choose nonviolence.”

The courage and sacrifice of those who participated in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s provides a model for those seeking to effect change today, Bernice King said, adding, “We praise God for a new generation of activists.”

Commemorative events and service projects were organized nationwide to celebrate King’s life and legacy. In cities nationwide, demonstrators also used the occasion to protest persistent inequality.



AP Photo/The StarTribune, Richard Tsong-Taata
Black Lives Minneapolis held an MLK march from Snelling and University in St. Paul, Minn., to the Capitol. Relatives of Marcus Golden became emotional as they approached the steps of the Capitol Monday.

WALK: ‘... in a moral universe, it’s always wrong to hate’

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use. White students and black students sat in classrooms side by side. But every day when the bell rang for lunch the students divided themselves by race anyway.

“Even though the laws of segregation were no longer in the books, they were still ingrained in our minds and hearts,” he said.

Clay said studying the life of Martin Luther King Jr. helped him change that way of thinking. And one of the things that inspired him the most was that King was not content to merely better his own situation, but sought to make the trail he blazed into a “freeway” wide enough for all to follow.

“He took the approach that if it’s not right for all of us, it’s not right for any of us,” Clay said.

Other religious and com-

munity leaders who spoke at Monday’s community walk and ceremony honoring the civil rights leader echoed Clay’s admiration of King and urged everyone to continue his legacy.

Byron Smith, Hermiston city manager, challenged everyone to commit to applying King’s vision to Hermiston and read from King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech.

“I would echo the same words,” Smith said, “that my five children, who are not all white, will be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin.”

In many U.S. cities this year, Martin Luther King Day was marked by protests against the deaths of Michael Brown and other black men at the hands of law enforcement. But in Hermiston people tended to agree that the city, while not perfect, is for the most part a community

that is truly inclusive of all races.

During the open microphone portion of the event one woman said in all her years of being an “Army brat” she had never lived in a city so accepting of her mixed race heritage. And Eddie de la Cruz, chair of the Hispanic Advisory Committee, said city hall had embraced its Hispanic population with open arms.

Jody Frost, who is white, said Hermiston has come a long way from her 1960s childhood, when she never mixed with people of color from the “other side of town” and her parents wouldn’t let her hang a teen magazine centerfold of the Jackson Five on her bedroom wall.

“I had to hang Donny Osmond on the wall,” she said. “I hated Donny Osmond.”

Now, however, she said she feels comfortable raising

her adopted children of various races here.

Pastor Albert Wilkins of Morningstar Baptist Church said participants in the morning’s march and ceremony came from all different racial backgrounds but were united by their commitment to the values that King held dear.

“We live in a moral universe, and in a moral universe it’s always wrong to hate,” he said. “It was wrong to hate in 2000 B.C. and it’s wrong to hate in 2015.”

The annual event, which featured more than 100 participants, was organized by the Black International Awareness Club of Hermiston. The club meets at 2 p.m. the second Saturday of each month at Starbucks and anyone is welcome to attend.

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PENDLETON: The 50s was a dark time in tribal/U.S. relations

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King by offering their collaboration. A sizable contingent of American Indians participated during the March on Washington in 1963.

Genuine understanding of American Indian history — the good, bad and the ugly — was the topic at an event celebrating Martin Luther King’s birthday Monday evening at First Christian Church in Pendleton. Charles Sams III, communications director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, nimbly transported the crowd through hundreds of years of history.

Some of his statements served to shatter some paradigms. For instance, the notion that native people traveled to North America on a Bering land bridge from Asia isn’t embraced by Indians, Sams said. He said current western science hypothesizes that native people have inhabited the Americas for at least 30,000 years.

“Most Native people believe we have been here since time began,” Sams said. “We didn’t cross any land bridge or set out on canoes from Asia.”

Also, the notion that tribes were nomadic is another misnomer.

“We were not nomadic — we were seasonal,” he said. “It’s no surprise that Pendleton is where it is. This was our winter camp.”

Sams described the Discovery Doctrine — the practice of invalidating or ig-



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Charles Sams III, communications director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, spoke about American Indian history during a celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday at First Christian Church in Pendleton.

noring aboriginal possession of land. He talked about the period between 1828 and 1887 when many whites on the East Coast decided to move west. Under the barrage of settlers, tribes traded land for the right of self-governance under U.S. protection. Only about half of tribes were defeated in battle before making treaties.

“In Pendleton, we have a treaty of peace,” Sams said.

Treaties, called “the supreme law of the land” in the U.S. Constitution, establish such things as ceding land in turn for a place to live and certain benefits

and services.

In the Treaty of 1855, the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla Tribes ceded 6.4 million acres to the U.S. government with 510,000 acres reserved for the Umatilla Reservation, though, Sams said, surveyed acreage actually amounted to only 245,000. Current CTUIR acreage is 172,000 after federal legislation in 1885 and 1887 where the tribes ceded land for additional fishing and other rights. CTUIR governs with a nine-member body called the Board of Trustees, elected every two years by tribal members who are 18 or older.

The 50s was a dark time in tribal/U.S. relations, Sams said. Congress voted to terminate assistance and recognition of more than 100 tribes and move their members to urban areas. He said the termination spelled disaster for those tribes and meant the loss of over five million acres of natural resources. The CTUIR escaped termination by sending representatives to Washington D.C. “to shame the federal government,” said Sams. In the late 60s, the pendulum swung back and legislation once again favored tribal control over their own destinies.

Music from the MLK era bookended Sams’ talk, performed by the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Choir, the Pendleton Men’s Chorus and the First Christian Church Praise Band.

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LUMBER: The move would have doubled Tum-A-Lum’s capacity

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options to extend their lease.

“It was all cordial,” Darby said. “I just think it was disappointing to both parties.”

The move would have allowed Tum-A-Lum to double its capacity, Darby said, and offer a wider selection of finished products such as doors, windows and cabinets. Space is tight in their current location, which has been home to Tum-A-Lum since the early 1930s.

With their lease previously set to expire Dec. 31, Tum-A-Lum began looking at other properties to better serve customers. PGG, meanwhile, unloaded its entire retail division in Sep-

tember as part of a broader restructuring of services. Stores in Pendleton, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater, Athena and Joseph were all closed, and the Island City store was reorganized under a new LLC specializing in irrigation equipment.

The Pendleton outlet and automotive center have been closed since Sept. 5. Auctions were on held Dec. 17 to clear out leftover merchandise from both Pendleton and Hermiston, where Darby said Tum-A-Lum spent between \$7,000-\$10,000 on items originally intended for the new, bigger location.

Instead, fixtures such as shelves and specialized displays will be distributed

where needed among Tum-A-Lum’s stores in Redmond, Hood River and The Dalles. Darby said they are already in the process of reselling surplus merchandise bought from PGG.

“There’s not too much heartburn over that,” he said.

In November, Tum-A-Lum agreed to enter a month-to-month lease with their current property owner that runs through June. The company is evaluating its options, Darby said, which could include upgrades or an entirely new building.

“We’ve talked about what we can do with the building,”

Darby said. “We’ll reopen negotiations now that we’ve left the table with PGG.”

Tum-A-Lum has been in Pendleton for more than 100 years, and isn’t about to leave now, Darby said. “We have some great long-term employees,” he said. “The company is in good financial shape. We want to make an investment in Pendleton.”

A spokesperson for PGG could not be reached Monday for comment.

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Staff photo by Antonio Sierra
U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, talks to his audience at a town hall meeting at Blue Mountain Community College Saturday.

WALDEN: Hopeful 2015 will be a more productive year for Congress

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allocate more money for border security.

Walden was critical of Obama’s executive order shielding 4.3 million undocumented immigrants from deportation, saying it was outside of the president’s constitutional powers.

“It sets up a bad position for those that are covered by his executive order,” he said. “It doesn’t mean they’re covered forever. They’re really not legal, there’s just no action taken. They’re in never-never land.”

Although not mentioned at the town hall, the House’s Homeland Security bill also would end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which is the initiative Obama is using to keep undocumented immigrants in the country.

If the bill passes through the senate, Obama has threatened to veto it.

Despite a healthy round of partisan conflict to start of the year, Walden said he was hopeful that 2015 would be a more productive year for Congress.

On U.S. Army’s decision to reverse course on ceding control of the Umatilla Chemical Depot to local entities, Walden said he would talk about the matter with Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee as well as study other Army facilities in similar situations.

Last week, Walden joined U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley in sending a letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel in voicing concern over the Army’s decision.

Walden is also confident 2015 will bring a better result for the Secure Rural Schools program, which allocates \$100 million for timber-dependent counties.

Despite strong support from both Walden and Wyden, the program didn’t make it into the omnibus spending bill at the tail end of 2014.

Considering the town hall meeting’s location, Walden was surprised he wasn’t asked about the president’s recent proposal to cover community college tuition for all students.

Under Obama’s proposal, the federal government would use \$60 billion over 10 years to cover three-quarters of a two-year community college education, while states covered the rest.

In an interview after the meeting, Walden said Obama’s proposal wasn’t “chump change” and suggested the president focus on more feasible goals, like funding K-12 special education.

Even though Republicans captured both the House and the Senate during midterm elections, Walden admitted that the president and Republicans needed to work together to pass legislation before criticizing Obama for publicly threatening to use his veto powers before sitting down with GOP leaders.

While conversation surrounding national topics proved lively, Walden also spent time discussing local issues.

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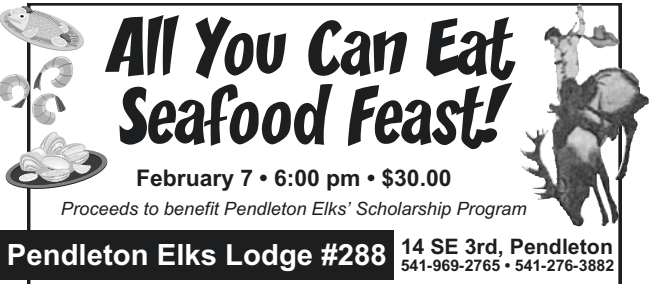
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