

IRRIGON



Photo contributed by The Power Team
Hermiston High School graduate John Kopta crushes a stack of bricks with his forearm during a performance with The Power Team. While in the area, the group will present a number of school assemblies and give nightly public performances April 15-19 in the gymnasium at Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School.

Power Team smashes bad messages

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

The struggles of today's youths tug at the heart of John Kopta.

Traveling and performing with The Power Team, the 1983 Hermiston High School graduate has had an opportunity to spread a message of hope with youths across the United States for 30 years.

He was recently in Chicago where a 17-year-old had committed suicide due to bullying on social media.

"We talk about those issues," Kopta said. "That's a big thing for me, I tell people suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem."

Next month Kopta and other members of The Power Team will be in the area to put on assemblies at area schools. In addition, they will perform and share a message of faith April 15-19 at Irrigon Junior/Senior High School, 315 E. Wyoming Ave. The evening performances are at 7 p.m., except Sunday's event is at 4 p.m.

Rev. Rick Yardley of Columbia View Community Church is excited about the spark The Power Team can bring and is hopeful their visit can help affect a change of direction with some youths. Yardley is particularly disturbed by bullying and a suicide earlier in the school year.

"When we're talking about a generation of kids, we can't keep losing them," Yardley said. "These kids' lives are important."

Kopta, who hits the gym regularly, is a wrestling and bodybuilding champion. With The Power Team, he has blown up more than 2,000 hot water bottles, and has crushed countless tons of ice and concrete with his fist, forearm and head.

Kopta said the feats of

strength serves to grab people's attention so they are captivated to hear the message.

"That's what makes our assemblies and presentations so powerful," he said. "We can talk to them. We can let kids know that people care."

And that's one of the reasons Craig Bensen reached out to The Power Team. The Irrigon Junior/Senior High School principal searched online for the group as his Associated Student Body leadership group was looking to bring a strong positive message to the school.

Bensen has seen the team perform before. He's looking forward to the impact they can make in sharing about making good choices, academic excellence, working together and supporting one another.

"What a powerful group," Bensen said. "They have a positive message and focus on helping one another. I think everyone will be pretty jazzed once they see them."

Yardley, who has been pastor of the church for 14 years, has only solicited money from the community once previously — that was for building the skate park for youths. And, again, it's kids that are motivating Yardley to ask for money.

"I think The Power Team has a way of reaching kids and letting them know that are worth something," Yardley said. "They can help provide direction and encouragement."

For more information, call Yardley at 541-922-4531 or Bensen at 541-922-5551. For more about The Power Team, visit www.thepowerteam.com.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

Pope's sex abuse commission alarmed by bishop appointment

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Several members of Pope Francis' sex abuse advisory board are expressing concern and incredulity over his decision to appoint a Chilean bishop to a diocese despite allegations from victims that he covered up for Chile's most notorious pedophile.

In interviews and emails with The Associated Press, the experts have questioned Francis' pledge to hold bishops accountable, listen to victims and keep children safe, given the record of Bishop Juan Barros in the case of the Rev. Fernando Karadima.

Barros was installed last week as bishop of Osorno in southern Chile amid nationwide political opposition, violent protests in the cathedral and a boycott by most of the diocese's priests and deacons. It was an almost unheard-of vote of no-confidence for a bishop in an overwhelmingly Catholic country in a part of the world that the Argentine pope knows well.

While the Holy See is loath to be bullied by public opinion, the concern about the appointment expressed by the commission members is hard to ignore given that they are not victim advocacy groups. Rather, they are professionals appointed by Francis himself to advise the Vatican on best practices to protect children and educate the church on how to respond to and prevent sexual abuse by priests.

The five commission members spoke to the AP in their personal and professional capacity and stressed that they knew about the case only from news reports and were not speaking on behalf of the 17-member commission, which Francis formed in late 2013 and named Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley to head.

"I am very worried," said commission member Dr. Catherine Bonnet, a French child psychiatrist and author on child sex abuse. "Although the commission members cannot intervene with individual cases, I would like to meet with Cardinal O'Malley and other



AP Photo/Mario Mendoza Cabrera
Rev. Juan Barros, center, leaves after his ordination ceremony as bishop in Osorno, southern Chile.

members of the commission to discuss a way to pass over our concerns to Pope Francis."

Another commission member, Marie Collins, herself a survivor of abuse, said she couldn't understand how Francis could have appointed Barros given the concerns about his behavior.

"It goes completely against what he (Francis) has said in the past about those who protect abusers," Collins told AP. "The voice of the survivors is being ignored, the concerns of the people and many clergy in Chile are being ignored and the safety of children in this diocese is being left in the hands of a bishop about whom there are grave concerns for his commitment to child protection."

Barros, the former chaplain of Chile's armed forces, has faced unprecedented opposition ever since he was named in January to lead the Osorno diocese. The demonstrators say he is unfit to lead and point to his close association with Karadima, a charismatic and popular priest who was sanctioned by the Vatican in 2011 for sexually abusing minors.

Three of Karadima's victims told

the AP this month that Barros witnessed the abuse decades ago at the Sacred Heart of Jesus church in Santiago, the Chilean capital, and that he did nothing. They accused Barros of destroying a letter detailing allegations against Karadima that was sent to the then-bishop in 1982.

Barros, 58, was not Karadima's superior but was rather a protege of the now 84-year-old prelate, who has been confined to a cloister to live a life of "penance and prayer" for his crimes.

Barros had long refused to comment publicly on the allegations, but on the eve of his installation insisted he didn't know about any abuse until he read about the allegations in 2010 news reports.

The outrage over Barros appointment has been noteworthy in a country that is slowly coming to grips with the church sex abuse crisis that has afflicted the United States, Europe and Australia in particular: More than 1,300 church members in Osorno, along with some 30 priests from the diocese and 51 of Chile's 120 members of Parliament, sent letters to Francis in February urging him to rescind the appointment.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Adams Community Church <i>Duane Geyer, Pastor</i> 140 N. Main, Adams, OR 566-9457 <u>Worship</u> 9 am	GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR www.graceandmercy Lutheran.org Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School Check Out our Facebook Page or Website for More Information 541-289-4535 Tom Inch, Pastor Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA 164 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838	St. Johns Episcopal Church All People Are Welcome <i>Scripture, Tradition and Reason</i> Family service 9am Sunday Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-4672	Redeemer Episcopal Church 241 SE Second St. Pendleton (541)276-3809 www.pendletonepiscopal.org Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship Noon Wednesday Evening Prayer and Pot Luck 6:00 p.m. All Are Welcome
Grace Baptist Church 555 SW 11th, Hermiston 567-9497 <i>Nursery provided for all services</i> Sunday School - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM 6:00 pm Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM "Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"	FIRST CHURCH OF GOD First Service @ 8:30am Second Service @ 10:30am 712 SW 27th Pendleton 541-276-1894 www.fcogpendleton.com	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -Presbyterian Church (USA)- 201 SW Dorion Ave. Pendleton Service of Worship - 10:00 am Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am Fellowship - 11:00 am www.pendletonpresbyterian.com Open Hearted...Open Minded	<i>Come meet Jesus at</i> PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH 3202 S.W. Nye Avenue, Pendleton, OR 541-276-7590 Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 AM Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM Awana Kids Club Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:00 PM K - 6th Grade (Sept-May)
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>Pastor Jon Jensen</i> <i>in Mission for Christ LCMC</i> Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room) www.faithpendleton.org	Living Word Christian Center Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM Sharon Miller, Pastor 401 Northgate • Pendleton 278-8082 www.livingworddcc.com	The Salvation Army <i>Center for Worship & Service</i> Sunday Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship Service Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study COME AS YOU ARE 150 SE EMIGRANT (541)276-3369	Peace Lutheran Church ELCA 210 NW 9th, Pendleton Join us Sundays 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Class ~Come and be at Peace~ on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday
Community Presbyterian Church 14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250 Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30	Faith Center Church Worshipping God • Loving People 108 S. Main • 276-9569 Sunday School 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org	FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) 215 N Main • Pendleton Ph:541-276-5358 Web: www.fccpendleton.org Join us for 10:40am Sunday Worship with Sunday School at 9:30am. Wednesday Fellowship Meal & Study Groups-Open to All Ages-at 5:15pm. Quality Nursery Care is Offered at No Charge.	New Hope Community Church <i>Ministries for the entire family</i> 1350 S Hwy 395, Hermiston Sunday Worship Services: 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Classes for kids during both! Call 567-8441 Servicios en Español
<i>a place to belong</i> Pendleton First INVITING ENRICHING INVOLVING EMPOWERING SUNDAY SERVICES AM Celebration-10:00am AM Kids Place -10:00am The Connection--6:00pm Groups for all ages: Adults, Children, Youth, & College Thursdays Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm Celebration Place-6:00pm Other Groups Available Weekly For more info visit WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM 1911 SE Court Ave 541-276-6417 Assembly of God Church	Seventh-Day Adventist Church Saturday Services Pendleton 1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882 Sabbath School 9:20 am Worship Service 10:45 am	First United Methodist Church 352 SE 2nd St., Pendleton, OR Office 276-2616 <i>New Pastor Dr. Jim Pierce</i> Worship Service 9:00 AM Fellowship 10:15 AM Broadcast KUMA 11:00 AM Childcare Available Choir practice Sundays 8:30 AM	PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH 585 SW Birch, Pilot Rock, OR 97868 (541) 443-2500 prbconline.blogspot.com Sunday School: 9:30 am Worship Service: 10:45 am Wednesday Services: Kids' Club: 6:00 pm Youth Group: 7:00 pm

To share your worship times call Amanda Jacobs

541-278-2683

BRIEFLY

Redeemer plans Holy Week celebrations

PENDLETON — The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Pendleton will be celebrating Holy Week and Easter in grand style.

Rev. Alice Dingley will celebrate services beginning Sunday and continuing throughout the week at the church, 241 S.E. Second St.

Palm Sunday, March 29, features the blessing of the palms, a procession to the church entrance, reading the story of Christ's Passion from the Gospel of Mark and a celebration of the Eucharist. Thursday

the congregation celebrates Jesus' last supper with his disciples, foot washing and the Eucharist. On Good Friday, Redeemer will read the Passion from the Gospel of John, pray at the cross and share communion from the bread and wine remaining from previous Eucharists.

Saturday evening, April 4, is the Great Vigil of Easter, with the lighting of the Pascal candle, scripture readings and the first Eucharist of Easter. A grand celebration of Christ's resurrection will be shared Easter morning at 9 a.m.

For more information, contact Rev. Dingley at 541-276-3809.