



AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall
Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush speaks to residents during a town hall meeting Wednesday in Pella, Iowa.

Jeb Bush: 'I don't think we should politicize our faith'

By THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Iowa — Jeb Bush cautioned against blending politics and religion Wednesday, signaling he will not necessarily heed the pope or pander to social conservatives on policy in his campaign for the Republican nomination.

"I don't think we should politicize our faith," he said, speaking in a state where evangelical Christians wield significant political influence. "I think religion ought to be about making us better as people and less about things that end up getting into the political realm."

His comments came on the eve of an encyclical by Pope Francis that is expected to endorse the scientific view that human activity contributes to climate change — a conclusion challenged by many Republicans and several of the party's candidates for president.

Bush, who converted to Catholicism, suggested he will not be beholden to a faith-driven policy agenda wherever it comes from because his religion is a personal beacon, not a political roadmap.

"I go to church to have my faith nourished, to have my faith challenged," the former Florida governor told reporters after the outdoor meeting with about 75 eastern Iowa Republicans in the back yard of a local supporter. "That's why I go to Mass. I don't go to Mass for economic policy or for things in politics."

On the coming encyclical, he said he would read and reflect on it. "I think Pope

Francis is an extraordinary leader of a church whose teachings I try to follow, and it doesn't need to get any more complicated than that," Bush said. "But I think it's better to solve this in the political realm."

Bush has said he accepts the scientific premise that the climate is changing and believes that examining the causes should be a priority. But he's contended that the science is not clear on how much global warming comes from human activity.

Bush, on his first visit to Iowa as a candidate, was asked at a public event what he would do to put God in public life. He sidestepped somewhat, saying he would more broadly promote the defense of religious liberty. "The next president needs to establish religious freedom as one of the first freedoms," he said.

Daniel Wright, a 32-year-old electronics salesman from eastern Iowa, said Bush was unafraid of the question, which impressed him, but he felt he dodged it.

"Specifically, I was talking about God, not religion collectively, from a Christian point of view," Wright said. "I would have loved to have kept the question on God and not religion as a whole."

It was a rapid introduction to Iowa caucus politics for Bush, whose positions on immigration and education have raised questions among some on the right about whether he's conservative enough. He's been reaching out to influential Christian conservatives for months but has spent less time in Iowa than some other leading rivals.

Cowboy pastor teaches brokenness

Lesson for EOCI inmates centers on obedience to God

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The 100 inmates gazed at something they hadn't seen for a while — a horse.

A Tovera mare nervously circled the pen as the men soaked in the sight on Monday on the grounds of the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution. During the next 30 minutes, Pastor Todd Pierce, of Riding High Ministries, would use his horse whispering skills to break the colt.

Pierce, a former jockey and professional bronc rider from Idaho, doesn't bother hiding his faith under a bushel, or his cowboy hat. He quoted scripture during his microphone check. "I am the way, the truth and the life," he intoned. "No one comes to the Father except through me."

While Pierce tested his equipment, Roses and Champagne (aka Summer) flicked her ears and eyeballed the inmates. She seemed oblivious to the Brown Family Band performing a Patsy Cline song on the prison lawn. The musicians eased into "I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow," a song that no doubt resonated with many of the men.

"I am a man of constant sorrow. I've seen trouble all my days."

Pierce himself experienced trouble in days past with addiction and violence, eventually evolving into a man of faith. As a professional cowboy, Pierce competed in the Pendleton Round-Up six times, and now serves as chaplain for



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Todd Pierce, of Riding High Ministries, breaks a colt as inmates from Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution watch Monday.

Professional Bull Rider athletes.

Pierce stepped into the enclosure and sized up the mare as she began running in circles. Summer's owner, Jackie Peck, executive assistant to EOCI Superintendent Jeri Taylor, watched with curiosity as Pierce approached her horse.

"She's only been broke to the lead," Peck said. "She hasn't been saddled."

The inmates observed as Pierce drove the mare around and around the rail using a rope that never actually touched the animal. As he worked, the cowboy

talked to the men about people who feel trapped and directionless and go in circles.

Finally, the horse slowed and approached Pierce. He stroked her head. Before long, he had slipped a bridle over Summer's nose with only mild protest. When he eased onto her back like a human blanket, she did some quick stomps and turns. She calmed as he repeated several times. Slowly, Pierce said, Summer was opening her heart to him.

Pierce isn't a guy who gets easily ruffled. This personality trait serves him well.

"As long as she's looking at me, she's feeling peace," Pierce said. "I'm communicating to her that she's safe. As long as I have peace, she senses that."

Soon, the horse allowed Pierce to climb onto her bare back and they circumnavigated the enclosure several times. Then, he signaled his son, Colton, to carry in the final piece of equipment — a saddle. The horse expressed irritation, but allowed Pierce to strap it on. As he worked the buckle, he warned the men to step back from the fence. Summer would need to buck. They watched as the horse got wild and airborne, before again returning to Pierce.

"It's a battle," Pierce said. "Her instincts are saying one thing and her heart is saying another."

The cowboy climbed aboard.

As horse and man trotted around the ring, Pierce made sure the inmates didn't miss the metaphors. The colt breaking was something of a life lesson for anyone focused on life's distractions instead of the man upstairs.

"Every one of us is born with an instinct of independence ... it robs most people of the freedom they can have in Him," Pierce said. "God's not wanting to have control over you, he's wanting to have connection with you."

The horse trainer assured the inmates they could experience God's peace even inside a prison.

"Although you can't change your address right now," he told the inmates, "freedom is available to you."

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or call 541-966-0810.

BRIEFLY

Free workshop traces genealogy

HERMISTON — A genealogy workshop designed to help people learn more about their roots will feature live presentations, videos and hands-on computer labs.

The Family Discovery Day is hosted by the Hermiston Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The free event is Saturday, June 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 850 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. A brown bag lunch will be provided.

The event will include activities for all ages. Specific programs for children from ages 5-11 run from 12:15-3 p.m.

For more information, call 541-571-1706. Due to some class size limitations, those planning to attend are asked to register at www.lds.org/familydiscoveryday.

In addition, the Family History Center is open to the public for research Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call Jeanette Byers at 541-667-7668.

Nazarene church celebrates with special service

HERMISTON — A special God & Country Day is planned at the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene.

The church invites everyone to attend and celebrate God and his blessings on the country. The special service is Sunday, June 28 at 10:30 a.m. at 1520 W. Orchard Ave.,

Hermiston. A barbecue will follow the service.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/1430590223916887 or call 541-567-3677.

Aglow fellowship meets in July

WALLA WALLA — Shellie Canada, who has served for many years with Aglow International, will share about her experiences in the upcoming gathering of Walla Walla Aglow Community Lighthouse.

Aglow, which started in 1967, is an international organization that seeks to minister to its members and share God's word in the community.

Everyone is invited Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Whitman Court, 305 Ash St., Walla Walla. A freewill offering will be taken for the event, which includes lunch.

For more information, call Paula McKee at 509-220-1408 or Darya Tucker at 509-876-1668. For more about Aglow, visit www.facebook.com/aglowtricity or www.aglow.org.

Father's Day car show benefits Made to Thrive

HERMISTON — New Hope Community Church will host a Father's Day Show N' Shine car show from 9 a.m. to noon June 21 at the church, 1350 S. Highway 395. Registration begins at 8 a.m. There is a \$10 entry fee, and trophies will be awarded by class. For more information, call 541-567-8441.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Worship with us!

<p>Adams Community Church Duane Geyer, Pastor 140 N. Main, Adams, OR 566-9457 Worship 9 am</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>St. Johns Episcopal Church All People Are Welcome Scripture, Tradition and Reason Family service 9am Sunday Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-4672</p>	<p>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</p>	
<p>Grace Baptist Church 555 SW 11th, Hermiston 567-9497 Nursery provided for all services 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"</p>	<p>PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM 712 SW 27th ST. 541-276-1894 www.fcgpendleton.com</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Come meet Jesus at 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)</p>	
<p>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH in Mission for Christ LCMC Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room) www.faithpendleton.org</p>	<p>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.livingwordcc.com</p>	<p>The Salvation Army Center for Worship & Service Sunday Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship Service 11:00 am Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study COME AS YOU ARE 150 SE EMIGRANT (541)276-3369</p>	<p>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</p>	
<p>Community Presbyterian Church 14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250 Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30</p>	<p>Faith Center Church Worshipping God • Loving People 108 S. Main • 276-9569 Sunday School 9:30 am Summer Sunday Worship 10:00 am Wed. 7:00 pm Praise, Prophecy & Prayer Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) 215 N Main • Pendleton Summer Worship begins at 9:40am Office 276-5358 M-F 8:30-12:30 WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG</p>	<p>New Hope Community Church Ministries for the entire family 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</p>	
<p>a place to belong 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</p>	<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church Saturday Services Pendleton 1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882 Sabbath School 9:20 am Worship Service 10:45 am</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church 352 SE 2nd St., Pendleton, OR Office 276-2616 New Pastor Dr. Jim Pierce Worship Service 9:00 AM Fellowship 10:15 AM Broadcast KUMA 11:00 AM Childcare Available Choir practice Sundays 8:30 AM</p>	<p>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</p>	
<p>CORNERSTONE ON THE MOVE! Starting Sunday, June 21 Cornerstone will be worshipping at 10:30am at 200 SE Hailey Avenue (in the John Murray Building) Come early for Italian sodas & espressos! 541.276.3987 - www.cnrstone.org</p>				<p>cornerstone COMMUNITY CHURCH Church on the move!</p>

To share your worship times call
 Amanda Jacobs
 541-278-2683