



AP Photo/Jim Mone
Council on American-Islamic Relations-Minnesota Executive Director Jaylani Hussein, center with microphone, speaks to growing Somali community concerns about the proposed government-initiated Countering Violent Extremism program during a news conference, Thursday in Minneapolis.

Activists want more transparency in counterterrorism

By PHILIP MARCELO and AMY FORLITI
Associated Press

BOSTON — Muslim groups and civil rights activists across the nation Thursday called for greater transparency in a program by President Barack Obama’s administration that’s aimed at countering homegrown terrorism.

Organizers, including representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council on American-Islamic Relations, spoke out at coordinated events in Boston, Los Angeles and Minneapolis — the three cities where the Countering Violent Extremism program is being piloted.

Among their concerns is that organizers still refuse to share basic information about what the localized efforts will actually look like. They also object to federal authorities conducting invitation-only discussions about the program, referred to as CVE, to the exclusion of dissenting groups.

Last week, more than 200 academics, terrorism experts and government officials gathered for a conference in Arlington, Virginia, sponsored by the Department of

Homeland Security and the Department of Justice. It was titled “Radicalization and Violent Extremism: Lessons Learned from Canada, the UK and the US.”

Among the attendees and panelists were leaders of the CVE efforts in the pilot cities, according to a copy of the program provided to The Associated Press.

“This isn’t a community-based process,” Nadeem Mazen, a city councilor in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and board member of the local CAIR chapter, said during a small gathering in front of Boston City Hall. “This is a whole different level of federally coordinated assault on our civil liberties.”

In Los Angeles, opponents announced Thursday they’ve filed public records requests of federal, state and local authorities in an effort to obtain all available information about the operation of the program in California. Boston opponents said they, too, were crafting a similar request.

In Minnesota, opponents speaking at a Somali marketplace delivered a message shared by their Boston and Los Angeles counterparts — that Muslims are being unfairly targeted by the pilot programs.

Christian school sued over firing pregnant, unmarried educator

EUGENE (AP) — A private Christian university in Eugene is being sued by a former assistant professor who says she was fired when she became pregnant.

The lawsuit seeks \$650,000 in various damages from Northwest Christian University, saying Coty Richardson told the school about her pregnancy in May and was given the options of either breaking up with her boyfriend of 12 years or marrying him, the *Register-Guard* reported.

The lawsuit says Richardson was informed she was fired in a July 30 letter from

vice president of academic affairs and dean of faculty Dennis Lindsay. He wrote that “sexual relations outside of marriage” are “contrary to the university’s core values.”

Lindsay has not responded to a request for comment from the Associated Press.

Richardson argues in the suit filed Tuesday that the school was discriminating against “her religious views that it is entirely appropriate for her, as a Christian, to wait until she and her partner are financially, practically and emotionally ready to get married.”

BRIEFLY

Hermiston church fires up the barbecue

HERMISTON — The public is invited to a free community barbecue planned by the Hermiston First Christian Church.

The event is Sunday at 5 p.m. at 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. In addition to lots of food, there will be a slip n slide and games for kids.

For more information, call 541-567-3013.

Redeemer church continues rector search

PENDLETON — Episcopal Church of the Redeemer is hosting visitations as it searches for a new rector.

Candidate visits include Rev. Charlotte Wells, who visited July 29-31. Upcoming visits are planned with Rev. Richard Stevens from Aug. 14-16 and Rev. Roberta Taylor from Aug. 28-30. During both visits, an evening prayer time, meet and greet and barbecue is planned Saturday evenings at 5 p.m. at 241 S.E. Second

St., Pendleton.

Burgers, lemonade, tea and water will be provided. Those in attendance are asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.

For more information, contact 541-276-3809, redeemerchurch1897@gmail.com or visit www.pendletonepiscopal.org.

Nazarene youths head to the river

HERMISTON — Water-skiing, inner-tubing and water fun is planned during a Teen River Day.

Hosted by the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, youths are invited to enjoy lunch in the ministry center after the morning service and then head to Warehouse Beach for water fun and fellowship. The church is located at 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Participants will return at 5:30 p.m.

Those attending are asked to bring life jackets, modest swim wear, a towel, change of clothes and sunscreen.

For more information, call 541-567-3677 or search Facebook for “Hermiston Church of the Nazarene.”

Mormon church opens history books

By BRADY MCCOMBS
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The Mormon church took another step toward transparency Tuesday with the first published pictures of a small sacred stone it believes founder Joseph Smith used to help translate a story that became the basis of the religion.

The new photos peel back another layer of secrecy for a relatively young world religion that has come under scrutiny for some of its beliefs as its numbers swelled in the Internet age.

The pictures of the smooth, egg-sized rock are part of a new book that also contains photos of the first printer’s manuscript of the Book of Mormon. Officials with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints unveiled the photos at a news conference in Salt Lake City.

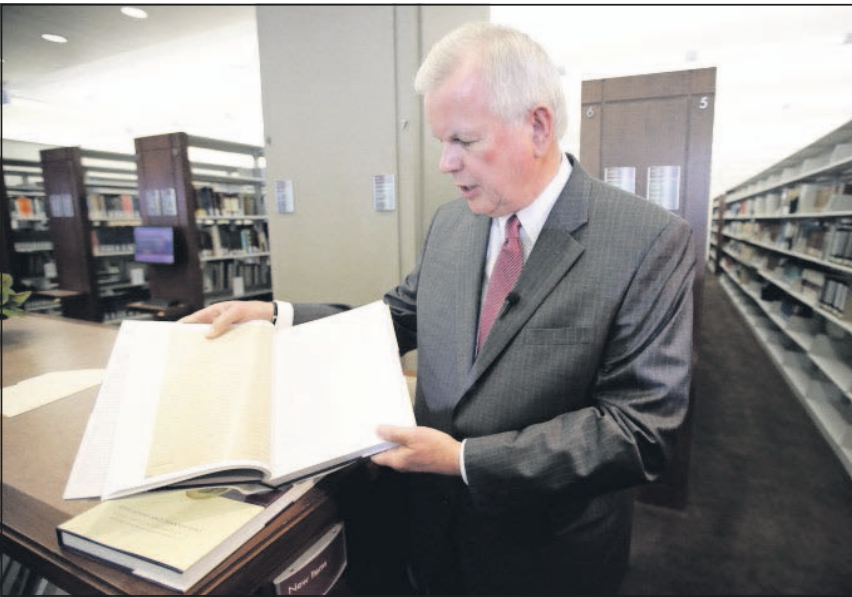
The religion’s drive in recent years to open its vaults and clarify sensitive tenets is aimed at filling a void on the Internet for accurate information as curiosity increased while church membership tripled to 15 million over the past three decades, Mormon scholars said.

Church historian Steven E. Snow acknowledged that dynamic, saying: “The Internet brings both challenge and opportunities. We’re grateful for the opportunity to share much of collection through the use of the Internet.”

The church’s campaign seems aimed at preventing current members from leaving and showing non-Mormons the faith has nothing to hide, said Terryl Givens, professor of literature and religion and the James Bostwick chair of English at the University of Richmond.

As an American-born religion much younger than most world religions, the origins of Mormonism have come under greater scrutiny and put pressure on the church to prove its stories, Givens said.

“The other churches’ origins are concealed by the mist of history,” Givens said. “Mormonism is the first world religion in which the origins were exposed to public view, to documentation, to journalists and newspaper reporting.”



AP photo by Rick Bowmer
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints historian Steven E. Snow displays the third volume of the Joseph Smith Papers, which includes the printer’s manuscript of the Book of Mormon, during a news conference Tuesday in Salt Lake City.



AP Photo/Rick Bowmer
A picture of a smooth, brown, egg-sized rock is shown in the printer’s manuscript of the Book of Mormon. The Mormon church for the first time is publishing photos of a small sacred stone it believes founder Joseph Smith used to help translate the story that became the basis of the religion.

The pictures in the new book show different angles of a stone that is dark brown with lighter brown swirls. The photos also show a weathered leather pouch where the stone was stored that is believed to be made by one of Joseph Smith’s wives, Emma Smith.

The church has always possessed the stone, which was transported across the country during Mormon

pioneers’ trek from Illinois to Utah in the mid-1800s. But it decided to publish the photos to allow people who prefer visuals to words to better understand the religion’s roots, said Richard Turley, assistant church historian. The stone will remain in the vault.

“The picture brings a kind of tangibility to something that has been previously been talked about just in words,” Turley said. “That helps people connect with the past.”

Mormons believe that 185 years ago, Smith found gold plates engraved with writing in ancient Egyptian in upstate New York. They say God helped him translate the text using the stone and other tools, and it became known as the Book of Mormon.

The manuscript in the new book belongs to the Community of Christ, a faith that was created by early Mormons who stayed behind when most members of the religion moved west to Utah. A Community of Christ leader joined LDS officials at the press event Tuesday in what both said demonstrated the two faiths have moved on from past squabbles.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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To share your worship times call Amanda Jacobs 541-278-2683	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: 567-6672	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 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”	PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM 712 SW 27th ST. 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	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)
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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 Summer Sunday Worship 10:00 am Wed. 7:00 pm Praise, Prophecy & Prayer Sr. Pastor, Ray O’Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org	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	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
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