

BAKER CITY

Faith-based concert fires up organizers

Free concert features tribute to firefighters

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

A trio of musical acts will heat things up as Baker area churches and faith-based radio station KTSY 91.1 FM sponsors a free community concert for Eastern Oregon.

“A lot of us have been hit hard by the fires, and KTSY is doing this to provide encouragement and support,” said Baker City resident Elissa Morrison, who is assisting the Boise-area radio station with the event.

Morrison had been in preliminary talks with Michelle Yeager of KTSY about organizing a local concert. When the fires blazed out of control, Morrison said it seemed like the perfect time to offer the community a reprieve.

“We thought the best thing would be to provide a night of fun and not have to focus on the devastation of the fires,” she said. “It’s just a sad time, so many people have lost things.”

The special outdoor event also features a tribute to firefighters. The concert is Thursday, Sept. 3 at 6:30 p.m. The gates open at 6 p.m. at Baker Bulldog Stadium, Ninth and E streets, Baker City. In addition to stadium and handicap accessible seating, people are invited to bring a blanket or lawn chair to get closer to the stage.

The event features door prizes, including a chance to win a backstage pass. There will be concessions, information tables and special fundraising activities to support youth organizations. And artist merchandise will be available for purchase. Although there’s no admission charge, freewill donations will be accepted. Each of the artists is performing free of charge and this is a way to provide travel expenses and support for their appearances, Morrison said.

Headliner Ryan Stevenson, a 2014 Grammy nominee who has toured with TobyMac, understands the great pres-



Contributed by Life in Realtime Photography
Ryan Stevenson is headlining a free concert that includes a tribute to firefighters Thursday, Sept. 3 in Baker City.

sure on first responders. He was a paramedic for seven years before pursuing a full-time career in music. Stevenson’s urban/hip hop/pop style sends an honest and vulnerable message about the grace and love that guides him through life’s trials.

Hailing from Boise, the singer/songwriter first started playing guitar at the age of 18 when a youth pastor felt God leading him to purchase the instrument for Stevenson. His 2015 release “Not Forgotten” topped Billboard’s Hot Christian singles chart.

Other performers include the duo of Desirae Bronson and Julie Turner, and The Middle Eight.

Bronson and Turner, both solo singer/songwriters, have recently joined together and are currently in Nashville recording a new album. Their duo performance blends country and folk, showcasing their individual talents.

Turner’s single “More Like You” charted at No. 7 in the United Kingdom. The collaboration with Bronson will be her third album. The title track from Bronson’s album, “This is Me,” was

featured on the TV show “The Big Bang Theory” in 2014. She is the 2013 RAW Artist Musician of the Year.

The Middle Eight is an alternative pop/rock band. They have performed at a number of festivals throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Creation Festival 2015. They are among the featured musicians on the recently released ReCreation Sampler, a 23-song compilation of Creation Festival artists.

Morrison is excited about the free concert. She said people who live in rural communities often have to drive quite a distance for quality faith-based events.

“We always have to take our kids to Boise or Seattle or California to see great concerts,” she said. “And with this, they are bringing the concert to us.”

For more information, contact 208-459-5879, family@ktsy.org or visit www.ktsy.org.

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

School changes policy on gay hiring after backlash

By STEVEN DUBOIS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A Roman Catholic school in Portland has changed its policy on hiring gay employees following the uproar over its decision to withdraw a job offer to a lesbian woman.

The St. Mary’s Academy board voted for the reversal Wednesday night, about 24 hours after it became public that the school rescinded the offer to 27-year-old Lauren Brown, a college counselor. St. Mary’s had also offered Brown six months of pay to not disclose the terms of the proposed settlement and refrain from criticizing the school.

In an email to parents, St. Mary’s president Christina Friedhoff said the school — though still “deeply committed” to its Catholic identity — was immediately adding sexual orientation to its equal employment opportunity policy.

“St. Mary’s is a diverse community that welcomes and includes gay and lesbian students, faculty, alumnae, parents and friends, including those that are married,” she wrote.

The position offered to Brown has since been filled, but the school says it will reach out to her and her attorney for a possible reconciliation.

Brown’s attorney, Gloria Trainor, did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

The Willamette Week newspaper posted a story about the rescinded job offer Tuesday night, and the backlash in progressive Portland was immediate.

Students and alumni and people throughout the city criticized St. Mary’s, including Columbia Sportsweat CEO Tim Boyle and Mayor Charlie Hales. Boyle is a major donor to the all-girls school his wife attended.

Girls festooned a statue outside the downtown school with rainbow colors, a quote from Pope Francis and messages such as “Where’s the SMA we know and love?” The hashtag (hash)fightforsma emerged on Twitter.

“St. Mary’s flunks a basic test of fairness. I stand with Lauren Brown,” tweeted City Commissioner Nick Fish.

Parents interviewed before Wednesday’s reversal said their daughters love the school and are encouraged to be outspoken. They said students were bewildered by the administration’s decision to reject Brown.

Stacey Ufer said her daughter, Sabrina, was shocked because it went against everything she learns at school.

“My religion teacher tells me to accept everybody — my religion teacher,” Ufer was told by her daughter. “She couldn’t process it in her 16-year-old brain. It didn’t jibe with her reality of what the school promotes.”

Oklahoma court says Ten Commandments must be removed

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Oklahoma Supreme Court Thursday ordered a County judge to implement a ruling that said a Ten Commandments monument on the state Capitol grounds is unconstitutional and must be removed.

The state’s highest court issued a mandate to “take further action as required” by its June 30 decision that said the monument is a religious symbol and must be removed from the Capitol grounds because it violates a state constitutional ban on using public property for the benefit of religion. The 7-2 ruling was reaffirmed last month when the court denied a rehearing sought by Attorney General Scott Pruitt.

The Supreme Court’s decision reversed a ruling by Oklahoma County District Judge Thomas Prince, who ruled last year that the privately-funded monument could stay. Prince scheduled a Sept. 11 hearing to discuss how the Oklahoma Capitol Preservation Commission will comply with the Supreme Court’s order.

A spokesman for Pruitt, Aaron Cooper, said his office had not yet received the order and declined comment. Brady Henderson, legal director for the ACLU of Oklahoma which filed the legal challenge, said his agency will likely work with the attorney general in determining how to comply with the order but the next move is up to the state.

The Supreme Court’s mandate includes no dead-

line for the monument’s removal and there is no timeline for complying with the order. What happens to the monument once it is removed from the Capitol grounds has also not been determined.

The 6-foot-tall granite monument was authorized by the Legislature in 2009 and was erected in 2012 after Republican state Rep. Mike Ritze of Broken Arrow and his family paid nearly \$10,000 for it.

The ACLU sued the commission on behalf of the Rev. Bruce Prescott of Norman, a Baptist minister, and others who alleged the monument’s location on the Capitol grounds violated the state constitution’s ban against using public property to support “any sect, church, denomination or system of religion.”

Pruitt’s office argued that the monument was constitutional because of its historic nature and was nearly identical to a Texas monument that was found constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2005.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court’s June decision prompted an outcry from some conservative legislators who vowed to impeach the justices or amend the constitution to remove the provision prohibiting the use of state money or property for religious purposes.

Ritze has said he is optimistic the Legislature will pass a resolution seeking a vote of the people on whether to amend the constitution so that the monument can stay.

Improvements planned for church

HERMISTON — The Hermiston and Anchor Point Seventh-day Adventist churches are looking for help to fund significant improvements to their yearly Journey to Bethlehem event.

The living nativity, presented as a 20-minute journey complete with dozens of costumed volunteers and live animals, is free and open to the community the first weekend of each December.

Darla Hanson, a member of the steering committee,

said in the past the church has always declined donations, classifying the event as a “gift to the community.” But this year members would like to make the path wheelchair and stroller-accessible, replace tents with buildings, put in permanent fixtures for the torches that light the way and rearrange the set to help block the wind.

She said people who have enjoyed the presentation in the past and want to support the changes can mail or drop off donations to the Hermiston Seventh-day Adventist Church, 855 Highland Ave.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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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	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
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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH <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.livingwordcc.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 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
<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	THE COUNTRY CHURCH <i>Pastor James Becker</i> 32742 Diagonal RD Hermiston OR 97838 Sunday School 10 am Worship 7 am Evening Service 7 pm Bible Study Wednesdays 7 pm Firestarter Youth Ministry (Ages 12-17) Monday @ 6 pm	To share your worship times call Amanda Jacobs 541-278-2683