

As clockmaking boy leaves, Muslims feel 'under siege'

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The decision by the family of a Texas teenager to move to Qatar is not surprising in light of lingering anti-Muslim sentiment that makes many U.S. followers of Islam feel as if they are "under siege," a spokesman for a national Muslim-American group said Wednesday.

The teen, Ahmed Mohamed, shot to national prominence last month after he was arrested for bringing a homemade digital clock to school that a teacher mistook for a possible bomb.

On Tuesday, the family announced that they would soon leave their modest home in the Dallas suburb of Irving and move to Qatar, a wealthy oil nation on the Persian Gulf. There, a foundation has offered to pay for Ahmed's high school and college education in Doha.

Yaser Birjas, imam of the Valley Ranch Islamic Center in Irving, said he wishes the 14-year-old well but worries about the stress that can come with celebrity.

"I hope that he does not get overwhelmed and consumed with that because now the expectation of him is so high," Birjas said. "And he's just a kid."

Birjas cautioned that people who move from America to Muslim countries are often disappointed when they discover restrictions they

never experienced in the U.S.

"Here in America, you have much more freedom practicing the faith," he said.

For others, the family move to the Middle East sends an unfortunate message.

Yousuf Fahimuddin, a Muslim journalist in the San Francisco Bay area, believes the family's departure will only perpetuate the idea that Muslims are not loyal to the U.S.

"I don't think moving to Qatar, a country with its own share of problems, constructively helps fight prejudice," Fahimuddin said in an email. Instead, he said, "Muslims should try to share their common humanity with others to demonstrate that they are regular people."

Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said the U.S. has seen a significant rise in the level of anti-Muslim sentiment — feelings he said were reflected by the political attacks of GOP presidential candidates such as Donald Trump and Ben Carson.

"The Muslim-American community feels under siege by all this," Hooper said.

Ahmed's father, Mohamed Elhassan Mohamed, told *The Dallas Morning News* that the family was moving "to a place where my kids can study and learn and all of them being accepted by that country."

BRIEFLY

Baptist church welcomes Walker

PENDLETON — Christian country musician Charlie Walker will perform at Pendleton Baptist Church.

Walker, who formed the band Countryfied with a friend, has performed at fairs, conventions and concerts across the Pacific Northwest.

The free performance is Sunday at 11 a.m. at 3202 S.W. Nye Ave., Pendleton.

For more information, call the church at 541-276-7590. For more about Walker, visit www.charliewalkermusic.com.

Liberty Quartet to perform area concerts

STANFIELD — A popular southern gospel quartet will perform in Stanfield and Pendleton.

Liberty Quartet will play Friday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. at Stanfield Baptist Church, 310 N.E. Wheeler Ave., and Saturday, Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. at the Pendleton Free Methodist Church, 1711 S.W. 44th St. There's no admission charge for either performance, but freewill offerings will be taken.

Based in Idaho, the group has a full-time concert ministry, performing for church services, nursing homes, prisons and music

festivals.

For more information about the group, visit www.libertyquartet.com.

Ione church offers J.a.M. session

IONE — Children in kindergarten through fifth grades are invited to attend J.a.M. session.

For the next four weeks, students are invited each Wednesday after school to enjoy snacks, music, Bible stories, games, crafts and science projects at the Ione Community Church, 375 E. Main St. The program runs until 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact 541-422-7530 or stacy.shelton@gmail.com.

Nazarene church plans fall festival

HERMISTON — The Fall Fest hosted by the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene offers family fun.

The event includes hay rides, s'mores, games and candy. In addition, people are invited to decorate their vehicles for a trunk or treat. Also, a \$2 meal is available for purchase.

The Fall Fest is Saturday, Oct. 31 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.

For more information, call 541-567-3677 or visit www.hermistonnazarene.org.

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PENDLETON



Members of Berean Baptist Church celebrate during a burning of the mortgage service Feb. 1, 2015. The Pendleton church will celebrate 35 years in ministry this Sunday.

Photo contributed by Gloria Larson

Berean Baptist turns 35

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

A Pendleton church with a building rich in history is celebrating 35 years of ministry.

The sanctuary portion of Berean Baptist Church is the original military chapel that housed Doolittle's Raiders before their bombing of Japan during World War II. The chapel originally resided on the Pendleton Army Air Base near the present Eastern Oregon Regional Airport. It was moved in 1948 to its present location at 8 N.W. Ninth St., Pendleton.

The church invites the community to join the Sunday celebration. The schedule includes Sunday school at 10 a.m., followed by the anniversary service at 11 a.m. Four of the church's five pastors who have served during Berean's history will share. Each family attending will receive a commemorative gift.

An anniversary meal will be served at 12:30 p.m.; although there's no charge, a freewill offering will be accepted. Due to limited space, people

are asked to RSVP for the meal.

Founded in 1980 as Berean Baptist Temple by Pastor Clifton Cooley, Berean is taken from the book of Acts, regarding a group of people who eagerly examined the scriptures. The church was originally housed in what is now G&R Sari-Sari Store.

In 1985, Pastor James Jobe became the church's leader and moved the ministry to an old church building at 624 S.W. Second St. He remained until 1992.

Charles Bray then became the pastor, changing the name to Berean Baptist Church. Under Bray's leadership, the church entered a period of sustained growth, which included outreach, prison and radio ministry.

Having filled the small church building to capacity, Berean Baptist purchased its current church building in 2004. Pastor Carl Loturco came on board in 2006, presiding over the mortgage debt retirement and the construction of an ADA accessible ramp in front of the building.

The current pastor, Mark Watkins, arrived in summer 2014. Watkins, a

native Oregonian, has ministered in the Willamette Valley, Montana and Washington.

On Feb. 1, 2015, Watkins and Loturco conducted a service for the burning of the mortgage, representing full payment of the building.

With regular attendance of about 50-60 people, the ministry is committed to reaching Pendleton with the gospel of Jesus Christ, Watkins said.

Regular outreach ministries include providing weekly transportation for children to have a way to attend Sunday school and church. Also, each year during the Main Street Cowboys Dress-Up Parade, members of the church hand out "Get out of hell free" cards.

"It's a little tract that looks like a Monopoly card," Watkins said.

For more information about the church's ministries or to RSVP for the anniversary meal, contact 541-276-5239 or bbcpendleton@hotmail.com.

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Worship with us!

<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>GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR www.graceandmercyelca.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 <i>Scripture, Tradition and Reason</i> Family service 9am Sunday Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-6672</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 SW Nye Ave Pendleton, OR 541-276-7590 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM Mon. Community Women's Study 9:30 AM & 6 PM Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade) Wed Men's Study 6 PM MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM</p>
<p>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</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 <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</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 Worship 10:30 am Praise, Prophecy & Prayer Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) 215 N Main • Pendleton Sunday Worship 10:40a Bible Class 9:30a Office 276-5358 M-F 8:30-12:30 WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG</p>	<p>NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston Sunday Worship Services English- Pastor Dave Andrus 9:00 & 10:45 am Spanish- Pastor Genaro Loredó 9:00 & 10:15 am <i>Classes for kids during all services</i> For more information call 541-567-8441</p>
<p><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</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>THE COUNTRY CHURCH Pastor James Becker 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</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church 362 SE 2nd Street Pendleton, OR 541-276-2616 Sunday Worship 9am <i>Open Hearts, Open Hands, Open Doors</i> Facebook: www.facebook.com/FUMCPendleton Services are broadcast every Sunday on KUMA-1290 AM @ 11am Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor</p>
<p>St. Paul Anglican Church, APA Currently Located at 119 SW Quinney Pl., Home Church in Pendleton @ Sunridge Estates 541-215-3316 Holy Communion - 1st & 3rd Sunday Morning Prayer - 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday All Services - 10:00am Sundays The Rev. Fr. Vincent Varnas facebook.com/stpaulanglicanchurchapa</p>		<p>To share your worship times call Amanda Jacobs 541-278-2683</p>	