

Shoebox ministry opens path to overseas giving

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

A number of area youths are learning how to give back to others who are less fortunate.

Kelsie Schaefer, 12, Bethany Schaefer, 14, and Claire Anderson, 9, worked on a yard sale this summer to raise money for shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child. The program, an outreach ministry of the international Christian relief organization Samaritan's Purse, provides Christmas gifts to disadvantaged children across the globe. A shoebox-sized box is filled with toys, personal hygiene items, school supplies and other gifts for the recipients.

In addition to the effort of the trio of Hermiston girls, Alexis Ackerman, 10, has been making bracelets to insert in boxes being packaged at Stanfield Baptist Church, where she attends.

A friend taught Alexis how to make the bracelets, which can be crafted for boys or girls. Although it took her awhile to catch on in making them, she has shifted her efforts into overdrive with a goal of making 200. Alexis works on the bracelets while riding in the car, when her sister is sleeping or when the pastor is giving a sermon at church.

"I think this is important because I've learned so much about how people don't have what we have," she said.

With the yard sale behind them, the Schaefer sisters have been going shopping to purchase items to place in boxes. The yard sale brought in nearly \$600, said their mother, Stacy Schaefer.

That money is being used to buy things like stuffed animals, pens, toothbrushes, toothpaste, small toys and other gifts, Kelsie said.

Alexis, a fourth grader at Rocky Heights Elementary School, also uses her Rocky Dollars, which are earned for good behavior, to buy things like bouncy balls, pencils and erasers at the student store for shoebox gifts.

Kelsie and Bethany's enthusiasm for the project resulted in Oasis of Hope youth leaders Holly and Jason Lambert asking the girls to head the church's effort to fill boxes.

"It almost brings me to tears when you realize how much they can have an impact on other children around the world," the girls' mother said. "They have been working hard at this."

Alexis' grandmother, Carol Frink, has rallied

Operation Christmas Child Collection Week

New Hope Community Church
1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston
•Nov. 16, 18, 20-21, 23; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
•Nov. 17, 19; 11 a.m.-1 p.m. & 5-7 p.m.
•Nov. 22; noon-2 p.m.
Barb Wattenburger, 541-626-3159

Calvary Chapel
1909 S.W. Athens Ave., Pendleton
Nov. 16, 19-21; 4-7 p.m.
Nov. 17-18; 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Nov. 22; 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Nov. 23, noon-3:30 p.m.
Denise Skeen, 541-377-2103

Seventh-day Adventist Church
1244 N. Elizabeth St., Milton-Freewater
•Nov. 16-18, 20; 9 a.m.-noon & 5-8 p.m.
•Nov. 19; 9 a.m.-noon
•Nov. 21; 5-8 p.m.
•Nov. 22; noon-5 p.m.
•Nov. 23; 9-11 a.m.
Jessica Dougherty-Burt, 541-969-6898

the business community to get involved with either packing or collecting boxes. In addition, monetary donations are accepted, which can be used to purchase items for the shoebox gifts or to help in defraying shipping costs.

Frink became familiar with the project through church several years ago and is amazed at the impact the simple gifts provide to the recipients.

"The stories are so incredible," Frink said. "It's changing lives."

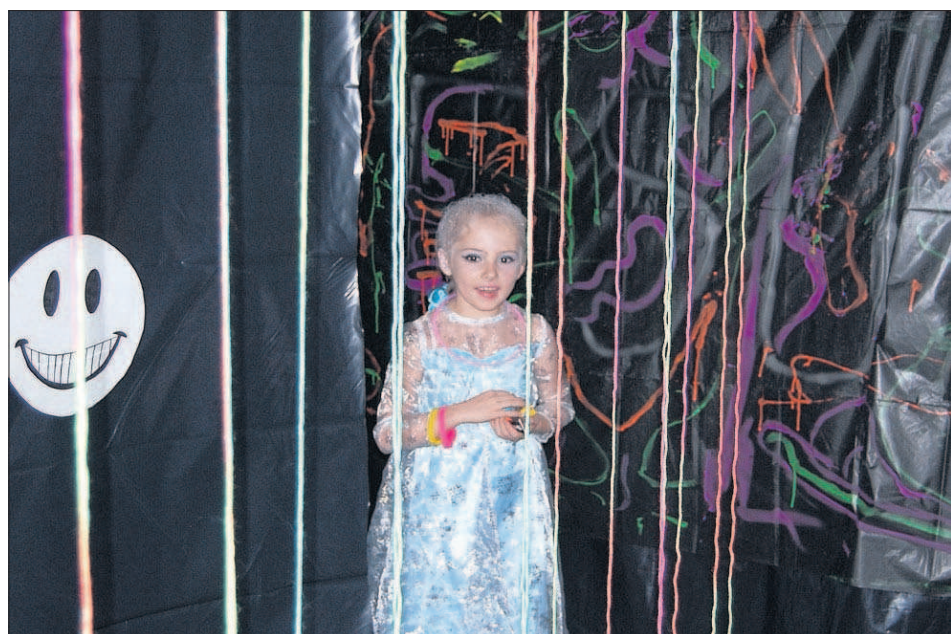
Owner of Real Business Solutions, LLC, Frink also has supplies at her office for people interested in building boxes. For more information, stop by at 505 E. Main St., Suite B, Hermiston, during regular business hours or contact Frink at 541-567-0869 or info@realbusinessolutionsllc.com.

Anyone can contribute a box for Operation Christmas Child. For uniformity in packaging and distribution, items must be placed into a shoebox-sized container.

More information, guidelines for shoebox gifts and an option for people to virtually "Build a Box" is available at www.samaritanpurse.org/occ.

National Collection Week is Nov. 16-23.

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



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Bethel church glows on Halloween

Miriam Olds, 9, rounds the corner in the glow maze during the Halloween Glow Night at Bethel Assembly of God Church in Pendleton. Pam Weston organized the event, which included glow-n-dark games, a slime craft, hot dogs and other treats.

BRIEFLY

Veterans program and song

HERMISTON — Patriotic songs and other special music is planned during a special veteran's program at New Hope Community Church.

Open to the public, the event is Sunday at 6 p.m. at the church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston.

For more information, call Doug Fehrenbacher at 541-561-8327.

Presbyterian Preschool has openings for students

PENDLETON — The Presbyterian Preschool is accepting applications for its 4-year-old class.

The sessions are Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon at the Pendleton First Presbyterian Church, 201 S.W. Dorion Ave.

Eligible children must have turned 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2015. Tuition is \$120 per month and there's a \$50 non-refundable registration fee.

The curriculum is based on social development and creative skills with a foundation in reading and writing. Children are encouraged to make new friends and to participate in muscle development.

For more information or a registration card, stop by the church or call 541-276-7681.

Teens get ready to jam

PORTLAND — A field trip to Portland includes an evening of listening to Christian bands and speakers.

The Winter Jam trip is organized by Hermiston Church of the Nazarene. The event is Friday, Nov. 13 at the Moda Center in Portland. Those planning to attend must call or text Janet Breshears at 541-571-0700 by Wednesday.

The cost is \$15 per person, plus extra money for dinner. Also, participants can bring additional money for concessions and band merchandise purchases.

For information about the event, visit <http://2015.jamtour.com>.

The convent of perpetual prayer

Wisconsin convent says prayer has gone on nonstop since 1878

By CARRIE ANTLINGER
Associated Press

LA CROSSE, Wis. — Flooding, snowstorms, a flu outbreak, even a fire — any of those might have slowed a group of Wisconsin nuns who say none of it has kept their order from praying nonstop for hundreds of thousands of people over the last 137 years.

The La Crosse-based Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration claim to have been praying night and day for the ill and the suffering longer than anyone in the United States — since 11 a.m. on Aug. 1, 1878.

"When I walk into the chapel I can feel this tangible presence kind of hit (me)," said Sister Sarah Hennessey, who helps coordinate the prayers.

The tradition of perpetual Eucharistic adoration — uninterrupted praying before what is believed to be the body of Christ — dates to 1226 in France, according to Sister Marlene Weisenbeck. Catholic orders around the world have done it since then. It grew in popularity in 19th century and again under Pope John Paul II, said Father Steven Avella, a history professor at Marquette University.

In La Crosse, the nuns estimate they've prayed for hundreds of thousands of people, including 150,000 in the last decade.

"Sometimes it's overwhelming with the pain that people have and the illnesses that they are suffering," said Donna Benden, who is among 180 lay people known as "prayer partners" who help the 100 sisters. Benden prays from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. every Wednesday before going to work.

The order started asking for community help in 1997, when the number of nuns began dwindling. Nowadays, the sisters usually take night shifts and lay people cover the day, according to Sister Maria Friedman, who schedules two people for every hour. "Even the

sisters go away frequently or take on other tasks, it's the complexity of modern life," she said.

She said she's constantly trying to find ways to make it easier, like getting a bed on campus where lay people can sleep. If necessary, the sisters will find more creative solutions. "We will make it work," she said.

Other U.S. orders also pray 24 hours, seven days a week, like the 16 nuns who take two-hour shifts at Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration in Cleveland, Ohio. Their order has done so in the U.S. since 1921, a carryover from an effort that began in 1856 in France, according to that order's Sister Mary Thomas. One or two nuns are there at all times, with no help from lay people. Some orders, though, have scaled back to part-time because of aging nuns or other reasons.

Since the La Crosse nuns began, they've prayed through a fire in an adjacent building in 1923, a flood in La Crosse in 1965, the flu and many storms. Sister Hennessey compiles the requests for each day from paper slips people leave in person, phone calls, emails and online forms.

On the list recently was Laura Huber, 52, a principal of two La Crosse-area schools, who was diagnosed with breast cancer 10 months ago. A school board member requested the prayers for her, she said.

"The prayer sustained me in ways I haven't been able to articulate," she said, adding, "I felt warm and loved and cared about by strangers and that's an incredible feeling."

Sister Friedman says she never has problems finding people to help. She has a list of substitutes, but the prayer partners and nuns often take extra hours.

"If it's 11 o'clock at night and it's my hour and another sister doesn't show up, I can't just go to bed," said Sister Hennessey. "You're like, 'It's 137 years — I have to stay awake.'"

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Worship with us!

<p style="text-align: center;">PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>585 SW Birch, Pilot Rock, OR 97868 (541) 443-2500 prbconline.blogspot.com</p> <p>Sunday School: 9:30 am Worship Service: 10:45 am Wednesday Services: Kids' Club: 6:00 pm Youth Group: 7:00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR www.graceandmercy.lutheran.org</p> <p>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</p> <p style="text-align: center;">541-289-4535</p> <p>Tom Inch, Pastor Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA 164 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Johns Episcopal Church</p> <p>All People Are Welcome <i>Scripture, Tradition and Reason</i></p> <p>Family service 9am Sunday Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-6672</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Redeemer Episcopal Church</p> <p>241 SE Second St. Pendleton (541)276-3809 www.pendletonepiscopal.org</p> <p>Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship Noon Wednesday Evening Prayer and Pot Luck 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Are Welcome</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Grace Baptist Church</p> <p>555 SW 11th, Hermiston 567-9497</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD</p> <p>FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM 712 SW 27TH ST. 541-276-1894 www.fcgpendleton.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</p> <p>-Presbyterian Church (USA)- 201 SW Dorion Ave. Pendleton</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">Peace Lutheran Church ELCA</p> <p>210 NW 9th, Pendleton Join us Sundays</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> <p><i>in Mission for Christ LCMC</i> Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room) www.faithpendleton.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Living Word Christian Center</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">The Salvation Army Center for Worship & Service</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship Service Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COME AS YOU ARE</p> <p>150 SE EMIGRANT (541)276-3369</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH</p> <p>1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">Community Presbyterian Church</p> <p>14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250</p> <p>Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Faith Center Church</p> <p>Worshipping God • Loving People 108 S. Main • 276-9569</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Worship 10:30 am</p> <p>Praise, Prophecy & Prayer Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)</p> <p>215 N Main • Pendleton</p> <p>Sunday Worship 10:40a Bible Class: 9:30a Office 276-5358 M-F 8:30-12:30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">First United Methodist Church</p> <p>362 SE 2nd Street Pendleton, OR 541-276-2616</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;"><i>a place to belong</i> Pendleton First</p> <p>INVITING ENRICHING INVOLVING EMPOWERING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY SERVICES AM Celebration-10:00am AM Kids Place -10:00am The Connection--6:00pm Groups for all ages: Adults, Children, Youth, & College</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursdays Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm Celebration Place-6:00pm Other Groups Available Weekly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For more info visit WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM 1911 SE Court Ave 541-276-6417 Assembly of God Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Seventh-Day Adventist Church</p> <p>Saturday Services Pendleton 1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882 Sabbath School 9:20 am Worship Service 10:45 am</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: #e67e22;">Pendleton</p> <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; color: #e67e22;">FREE METHODIST CHURCH</p> <p>Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Mid-Week Children & Youth • Weekly Adult Life Groups 1711 SW 44th St. • 541-276-6015 • www.pendfmc.org</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">St. Paul Anglican Church, APA</p> <p>Currently Located at 119 SW Quincy Pl., Home Church in Pendleton @ Sunridge Estates 541-215-3316</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">THE COUNTRY CHURCH</p> <p>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>	