

STANFIELD

Benefit event to support Ugandan orphanage

By TAMMY MALGESINI
 East Oregonian

A Stanfield couple is putting their talents to use to raise money to support an orphanage in Lira, Uganda. Scott and Kelly Zielke are heading up a concert fundraiser to help with a sustainable chicken farm at Otino Waa Children's Village. The project provides food for nourishment and teaching skills in caring for the chickens. Additional eggs will be sold to help sustain the program. The fundraising event features a band of local musicians, including Kelly Zielke (vocalist/songwriter), Scott Zielke (rhythm guitar), Nicolas Pando (drummer), Paul Eaker (bass), Mark Douglass (keyboard) and vocalists Denise Eaker and Maria Hurty. The concert is Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Stanfield Baptist Church, 310 E. Wheeler Ave. Donations will be accepted. Also, Bob and Carol Higgins of Bend, founders of the orphanage, will share during the event. In addition, artwork created by inmates incarcerated in several Oregon prisons will be available for purchase through Visions of Hope. The nonprofit organization raises money to help support the children and widowed housemothers at Otino Waa. The Zielkes learned about the needs of Otino Waa Children's Village during a missionary trip in 2013 with other members of the



Residents of the Otino Waa Children's Village in Uganda participate in classroom learning. A benefit concert event to provide support for the village is Sunday at the Stanfield Baptist Church.

Photo contributed by Scott Zielke

Stanfield Baptist Church. The couple has been active in church through Bible studies and leading worship music over the years. However, participating in the mission trip, Scott said, further impressed on his heart about the importance of reaching out. "When I learned more and more about the orphanage, it seemed to be the right thing to do," he said. "It wasn't just another Bible study, it was actually going out and doing something." In addition, Kelly said the Bible in James 1:27 implores people to minister to widows and orphans. Supporting Otino Waa, she said, offers an opportunity to impact both. With approximately

300 children, residents of the orphanage are divided into groups with eight kids. Serving as house moms, widows from the community care for the "family units." Rather than looking to adopt the kids out, Kelly said the mission of the orphanage is to provide the children with tools to survive and thrive. "The focus is to make them future leaders in their own country by educating them and giving them the skills to be self-sufficient," she said. "They also learn about God and his love and mercy." The couple, along with Judy Weidert of the Athena First Christian Church, will head to Uganda June 23 through July 7. The trio plans to take books to help stock

the library at the children's village. All types of books are needed for kids in kindergarten through 12th grade. People can help support that effort by donating new or slightly used educational books, biographies, craft books and other publications that the kids can read for enjoyment. For more information, call the Zielkes at 541-571-8153. For more about the children's village, visit www.otinowaa.org and for the inmate art program, visit www.visions-hope.org.

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

BRIEFLY

Nazarene church hosts yard sale
 HERMISTON — A yard sale to raise money for a 2017 summer mission trip is planned this weekend at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene. The public is invited to shop for bargains and help support the church's missionary effort. The yard sale is Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 1520 W. Orchard Ave, Hermiston. For more information, contact 541-567-3677, hermistonnaz@gmail.com or visit www.hermistonnazarene.org.

Former atheist to speak at church
 HEPPNER — Spike Psarris, a former engineer in the United States' military space program, is the special speaker at the First Christian Church in Heppner. The public is invited to hear Psarris as he shares about his transformation from being an atheist and an evolutionist to a creationist and Christian. The presentations are Sunday at 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. at 293 N. Gale St., Heppner. For more about Psarris, visit www.

creationastronomy.com. **Concert tour includes outreach to needy**
 PENDLETON — A gospel and country music concert featuring Ed and Lajay Dailey will also serve to accept donations for the homeless and others in need. As part of the Wayfaring Stranger Small Places Tour, the Daileys will perform Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Pendleton VFW, 1221 S.E. Court Place. Admission is free, but donations of non-perishable food items, hats, socks, personal care items and blankets are encouraged. The donations will be distributed locally through food banks and to people that are homeless, including through veteran's groups and Project Warm-Up. Dailey has been the host of Legends of Country, a syndicated radio show, for 20 years. His latest album, "Wayfaring Stranger," will be available for purchase at the concert. Proceeds from sales will go to nonprofit groups that help the homeless. For more about the concert event, call 541-377-0221. For more about Dailey, visit www.facebook.com/ed.dailey.37.

Pope says he's willing to study whether women can be deacons
 VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis said Thursday he is willing to create a commission to study whether women can be deacons in the Catholic Church, signaling an openness to letting women serve in ordained ministry currently reserved to men. Francis agreed to the proposal during a closed-door meeting with some 900 superiors of women's religious orders. Deacons are ordained ministers but are not priests, though they can perform many of the same functions as priests: preside at weddings, baptisms and funerals, and preach. They cannot, however, celebrate Mass. Currently, married men — who are also mostly excluded from the Roman Catholic priesthood — can serve as deacons. Women cannot, however, though historians say women served as deacons in the early Church.

BOARDMAN'S LIMEY PASTOR
 Grandfather of the Church

Pastor Paul pulled up his trouser legs to show me his new knees. "They look like zippers, don't they!" he exclaimed proudly. They did indeed. The healed pink scars of such dramatic surgery did indeed look like zippers. From six inches above to six inches below the knee cap. Pastor Paul, the retired pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, who had endured agonizing years of worn-out knees and had retired because of their torture, had now been gifted with two new joints of space-age metal on plastic and was enjoying a pain-free existence at long last. He bounded up the stairs to show me the contents of the rooms above. I followed, slowly, with my natural stiff knees. With his new freedom he came up to visit me at the church last week and give me a tour of duties he had performed there: books of parish records, locations of clerical equipment, his daily rhythms and visitations. He also kept up the supply cabinet with its list. It is a good thing to know about, as I had assumed that toilet paper supply somehow managed itself. It would be a terrible thing to lose a congregant because of this omission. Pastor Paul told me that our church was an amalgam of folk from other denominations who had visited and stayed. I liked that quality, too. It enlarged us and gave us more open ears. The relationship between a church and its pastor is like a love affair, and for both the pastor and his flock — a parting, for whatever reason, is a grieving. The usual view, held by some church organizations, is that a pastor should stay away once having left and allow a new formation to take place. I think that is unnatural, wrong and very unwise. Human relationships including these are to be respected and honored, and revisited (in most cases) in celebrations of remembrance. (Of course there are some pastors, as we know, who have dishonored their profession, their church and themselves who, as the Bible says, are wolves in sheep's clothing. This does

not apply to them.) I have two weddings to perform in the summer, and so I asked Pastor Paul if he would like to stand in on his new knees on those occasions when I will be away and take those services. His eyes lit up and he said yes. I asked my congregation the following Sunday and they said yes. A done deal! I know that my people miss him and he misses them. On Wednesday this week I first met two of the young people I will be performing that service for. I went through the people who will be attending the wedding. The bride will have her father and her stepfather walk her down the aisle. It is a very gentle and kind way of recognizing the honest truth of the complexity of humanity and their relationships. I remember Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman in John 4: "He said to her, 'Go, call your husband and come here.' The woman answered and said, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You have correctly said, 'I have no husband;' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.'" Jesus knows. He loves all of them anyway. Pastor Paul may have left, but he is like a grandfather to our church, so is Pastor Wes, also retired. Both of these men have not just received a place at the table of the church, but also a place in the hearts of all those who share its life of faith. They are the patriarchs of our church. I believe that churches of whatever denomination must celebrate the fathers and mothers of its many years. My next wedding will be that of my own son, Matthew, to Kylene, on July 31. Having been boyfriend and girlfriend for six years, this will be a delight for me. Although the responsibility makes me quake in my vicar boots a little bit more. I will probably have to have my family dynamics piece of my initial counseling of them done by another pastor, as I am not exactly an independent eye here. ■ Colin Brown is pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman.



COLIN BROWN
 Comment

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