

Find AA meetings in your area at www.district3AA.org

- DAILY OPEN AA MEETING, 12 noon, 680 Harper Road, Hermiston. (800-410-5953).
- OPEN AA MEETING, 12 noon, Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 241 S.E. Second St., Pendleton. Coffee is provided. (Ed 541-207-2548).
- FRIDAYS NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS, 10:30 a.m., Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 241 S.E. Second St., Pendleton.

- Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. OPEN AA MEETING, 8 p.m., 680 Harper Road, Hermiston. (800-410-5953).
- SATURDAYS OREGON GREEN FREE MEDICAL MARIJUANA SUPPORT GROUP, 12 noon, 1607 Gekeler Lane, La Grande. Lunch will be provided. (Doreen 541-963-2529). Second Saturday AA BOOK MEETING, 10 a.m., St. Johns Episcopal Church, 665 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

- HEPPNER MIRACLES OPEN AA MEETING, 8 p.m., St. Patrick's Church parish hall, 525 N. Gate St., Heppner. (800-410-5953).
- SUNDAYS HUNGRY SPIRIT OPEN AA MEETING, 8:30 a.m., Roosters Restaurant, 1515 Southgate, Pendleton (800-410-5953).
- OPEN AA MEETING, 8 p.m., 680 Harper Road, Hermiston. (800-410-5953).

- the Redeemer, 241 S.E. Second St., Pendleton.
- PARKINSON'S DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP, 1 p.m., Desert Lanes Bowling Alley, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. (Carol and Charles 541-720-4256 or 541-567-9420). First Monday
- PENLETON PARKINSON'S SUPPORT/TELEHEALTH FAMILY, 2-4 p.m., Pendleton City Hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (Sue Peterson 541-276-4569). Second Monday

- 561-7404 or Esmeralda 541-720-7595). Third Monday
- EASTERN OREGON DOWN SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP, 6:30-7:30 p.m., The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. (Angela Bonzani 541-720-7880). Third Monday
- OPEN AA MEETING, 6:30 p.m., Echo Methodist Church, 21 Bonanza Street. (541-571-6257, 800-410-5953).

- ist Church, 241 S.E. Second St., Pendleton. Children are welcome.
- DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP, 1-2:30 p.m., Good Shepherd Medical Center Wellness Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. (Marian 541-377-9761). Third Tuesday
- LOST AND FOUND YOUTH OUTREACH, 4 p.m., Hailey Place Apartments community room, 696 S.W. 30th St., Pendleton. Help for youth 12-18 facing challenges. (Danny 541-379-4250 or Leslie 541-276-3987)

PARENTS TALK BACK Mother of trans daughter faces down haters



Julie Williams and her daughters had enjoyed a casual lunch and were strolling along a historic street in the St. Louis area when she heard a startling comment.

AISHA SULTAN Parents Talk Back

"You need ISIS," a street preacher called out to her. She had heard the group of three young men spewing slurs against homosexuals when they had passed by them. It was ugly stuff, but she figured it was their prerogative and kept walking.

But when one of them invoked ISIS, it stopped her cold. Not today. It was less than three days since the mass shooting in a gay club in Orlando killed 49 people. Not here. This was a diverse and welcoming street — a popular tourist attraction that always felt safe to her transgender daughter, Alice.

She told her daughters to keep walking and wait for her further down the street. They moved further ahead, but not as far as she would have liked.

"Excuse me? What did you say?" Williams asked the man on the street, who had been recording the two preachers next to him with a cellphone. "Are you referring to the Islamic State?"

"You will be blown off the face of the Earth," she says he told her.

He and the two other men with him kept referring to the Bible, citing passages from Leviticus. Williams, 52, of Creve Coeur, Missouri, asked them if they were affiliated with the terrorist group, which they denied. But they seemed to share some common ideology, and the harassment terrified her.

The men didn't appear to fit the stereotype of potential terrorists in America. "I had no sense that they were foreign-born. No real sense that they were Muslims, because they were citing the Bible," Williams said. "They had so much hate, they were finding validation in a religious sort of teaching."

She called 911. The local police showed up; Williams gave a statement and filed a report.

Capt. Larry Hampton with the University City (Missouri) Police Department said the group is well-known in the neighborhood. They have been showing up every week for years to speak on street corners.

"This is a group that calls themselves a religion. They were just reading off a paper they call 'Scriptures,'" he said. "I don't think she was targeted."

Williams wonders if the men were tipped off to Alice's transgender status because Alice, 20, is over 6 feet tall. She doesn't know for sure what provoked their

hateful commentary. Hampton said the department enforces local ordinances against trespassing, street blockages or peace disturbances, but this group was within its rights to speak its views.

"The freedom of speech does apply to everyone," he said, adding that the department would share the information with the federal authorities. He does not believe the men have any connection to ISIS, and none of them has a felony record.

The incident shook Williams, who volunteers at St. Louis' Holocaust Museum. She contacted the Anti-Defamation League, which advised her to report the incident to the FBI. She realized that the men who called her an abomination and said her family should be "blown off the face of the earth" could legally purchase an assault weapon in Missouri. That thought scares her.

"It was not just upsetting to me and my children, but an issue of public safety," she said.

When Alice transitioned a few years ago, her family became her posse. They didn't let her go into public alone because they feared for her safety.

Her daughter had never faced any overt discrimination before, Julie said.

The incident raises questions about when free speech crosses the line into punishable hate speech. It illustrates the potential lure of ISIS by those who may only share an extremist ideology across so-called religious or ethnic backgrounds. It suggests the ability of hatemongers to exert greater intimidation or power by invoking the horror of ISIS.

For Williams, it made the debate about better gun regulations feel even more personal. Most of us would back off a confrontation with a stranger acting like an unhinged extremist — especially in a state with some of the loosest gun laws in the country. It's just too risky.

Her mother's actions made an impression on her daughters.

"Even now, I think about how brave she was," Alice said. "Her strong sense of justice was amazing."

Her mother admitted that she was scared, and said she would have ignored the hecklers if they had simply insulted her.

"I felt like they were threatening my child, and I wasn't going to stand for it," she said. "I didn't use to be brave until I had these kids."

Aisha Sultan is a St. Louis-based journalist who writes digital age while trying to keep up with her tech-savvy children. Find her on Twitter: @AishaS.

Friday Morning

Table with columns: STATION, 6 AM, 6:30, 7 AM, 7:30, 8 AM, 8:30, 9 AM, 9:30, 10 AM, 10:30, 11 AM, 11:30. Lists programs like AgDay, Friends, Paid, The Office, Mother, Paid, Law & Order: C.I., Crime Watch Daily.

AFTERNOON

Table with columns: STATION, 12 PM, 12:30, 1 PM, 1:30, 2 PM, 2:30, 3 PM, 3:30, 4 PM, 4:30, 5 PM, 5:30. Lists programs like Paid, Pat. Court, Divorce, Divorce, Judge Mathis, The People's Court, The People's Court, Mike&M, Mike&M.

EVENING

Table with columns: STATION, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30. Lists programs like Modern Family "Australia", Modern Family "Fears", 2 Broke G., 2 Broke Girls "And the Cupcake War", Rosewood, Rosewood, The Cooks are Chopped.

Table with columns: STATION, PEN, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30. Lists programs like The First 48 "House of Pain/ Into the Night", The First 48 "Missing Waters", The First 48 "Dark Waters", The First 48 "Cold Betrayal", The First 48 "Red Brick/ Last Kiss".

NIGHT OWL

Table with columns: STATION, 12 AM, 12:30, 1 AM, 1:30, 2 AM, 2:30, 3 AM, 3:30, 4 AM, 4:30, 5 AM, 5:30. Lists programs like AngerM., :35 Hot In, :05 CR TV Featuring a selection of products and services, Loves Ray, TMZ, Dish, Queens, Raising, Commun., Cougar T, Paid, Crazy Talk, Paid, Paid, Paid.