

Idaho to delay new school science standards

By **KIMBERLEE KRUESI**
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — State officials say new K-12 science standards — which include for the first time references to global warming and the Big Bang theory — won’t be submitted to the conservative Idaho Legislature until 2018 after receiving a surprise rejection from lawmakers earlier this year.

Lawmakers spiked the first version of the standards in February after criticism built at the beginning of the session that the Idaho Department of Education violated state laws while forming them. No evidence of wrongdoing was ever proven, but both lawmakers and the agency received accusations that the new standards did not mention creationism and skewed too heavily on topics like human involvement in climate change and evolution. The state has since agreed to start the process over again, and this time it’s taking a slower pace.

“It’s just a decision from the executive team here to ensure that we are reviewing (the standards) thoroughly.”

— **Jeff Church,**
 spokesman for the Idaho Department of Education

“It’s just a decision from the executive team here to ensure that we are reviewing them thoroughly,” said Jeff Church, spokesman for the education agency. “We just want to make sure they’re fully vetted.”

No other standard on classroom standards is being given the same scrutiny. The agency will hand over proposed standards on English, mathematics, humanities and other subjects to the state board of education for review later this week, if approved they will be sent to the Idaho Legislature for final approval.

Content standards are reviewed every six years, but Idaho’s science section hasn’t changed since 2006, even though they have long been criticized for being too

vague and lacked depth. For example, Idaho’s current standards ask students in K-3 grades to “make observations” and “use cooperation and interaction skills.”

Under the new proposals, the standards call for hands-on exercises and performance expectations.

After the legislative session adjourned, the state began collecting new public comments by holding meetings across the state. Now a review committee will evaluate the standards over the next year.

The 17-member review committee is made up primarily of teachers and school administrators, but it also includes a member who is a creationism advocate who opposes the theory of

evolution.

“If the goal is to put more kids in the (science, technology, engineering and math) pipeline then I feel like these standards met that goal,” said another review committee member, Jason George, who leads the science department at Vision Charter School in Caldwell. “The current standards are vague and don’t give a lot of direction.”

Fellow committee member Chris Taylor, with Boise Independent School District, said that he plans on taking the extra year given by the department to meet with lawmakers to address any concerns about science standards.

“There’s still some issues legislators have with some of the terms used in the new standards, but we’re hopeful we can take this time to educate and let them know why we need to consider these, especially in the world of STEM and getting our students to think and act like scientists,” he said.

BRIEFLY

Faith Center hosts workshop, music ministry

PENDLETON — The Rev. Dick Williams will present a Prophetic Workshop Friday and Saturday at Faith Center Church, 108 S. Main St., Pendleton. The free workshop is offered Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9-11:30 a.m. A love offering will be taken.

Williams also is bringing his music ministry to Faith Center Church Sunday during the 10 a.m. worship service, sharing the simple truths of God’s word through music. Williams ministers to all kinds of Spirit-filled churches in the western United States.

For more information, contact Pastor Ray O’Grady at 541-276-9569.

Austria missionary to speak

PENDLETON — Dougg Custer, a missionary to Austria with World Venture, is guest speaker Sunday at 9:45 and 11 a.m. at Grace Baptist Church, 2809 S.W. Goodwin Ave., Pendleton.

Custer is recruiting and training missionaries to travel the world spreading the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in his new position with World Venture. Anyone interested in learning how the organization’s missionaries are impacting the world for Christ are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Pastor Alan Chapman at 541-276-3031.

Boardman church hosts movie night

BOARDMAN — The story of a dishonest used car salesman and how God changes his life will be screened during Saturday Night at the Movies.

As a born-again Christian, Jay Austin begins trusting in God to take care of him in the film “Flywheel.” The 2003 drama is rated PG.

The public is invited to the free viewing Saturday at 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 200 Willow Fork Drive, Boardman. There is no admission charge. Refreshments and popcorn will be available.

For more information, call 541-481-9437.

Helping Hand seeks donations

PENDLETON — The board of Episcopal Church of the Redeemer recently heard the needs of Helping Hand, which works in collaboration with the food pantry at St. Mary’s Outreach.

Food items needed include chicken noodle soup, crackers, tuna, instant oatmeal, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, cereal, juice and canned meals, such as stew, ravioli and chili. Donated items can be left

at the church in Redeemer’s food collection shopping cart, 241 S.E. Second St., or they can be taken to St. Mary’s Outreach, 440 S.W. Emigrant Ave.

In addition, rental assistance is needed for people facing eviction. Clients who meet requirements may qualify for up to \$400. The assistance may be available for a client once every 18 months. Checks can be made out to Episcopal Church of the Redeemer with “Helping Hand Client Aid” in the subject line.

For more information, call 541-276-3809 or 541-276-2878.

Tourney tees off for Campus Life

UMATILLA — A two-person flighted scramble will serve as a benefit for Hermiston Campus Life.

The golf tournament is Saturday, Aug. 27 with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. at Big River Golf Course, Umatilla. The cost is \$50 per person. Sponsored by the Big River Men’s Club, book money will be awarded for gross and net team scores. A limited number of carts are available and will be rented on a first-come basis.

A faith-based program for youths, Campus Life provides mentors, a place to gather and programs that introduce teens to Jesus. Organizers encourage golfers to help be a part of an event that helps serve thousands of kids.

For more information, contact info@campuslifegolf.com, 541-567-6003 or Big River at 541-922-3006. In addition, people can register at www.campuslifegolf.com.

Nazarene church books teen activity

HERMISTON — As students are preparing to return to school, Hermiston Church of the Nazarene is planning a teen event.

The Teen Back to the Books Video Scavenger Hunt is Sunday, Aug. 28 from 5-8 p.m. at 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. All area teens are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact 541-567-3677, hermistonnaz@gmail.com or visit www.hermistonnazarene.org.

BOARDMAN'S LIMEY PASTOR

Knocking at the neighbors, finding more flock

In August, the languid and mellow air of Boardman, the summer warmth and glow of the sky and glorious joy send the Boardmanians in many directions. Traditionally the families vacation and rest in the bounty of the season. So I decided to do a bit of flock fishing, going door-to-door to introduce myself to my neighbors and find out if they had church-going habits, and if not, then to invite them to a morning of soulful singing, sermonizing and surrender to the Will of God, in a sturdy chair at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.

To God’s delight, and my surprise, the streets I roamed were equipped with a multitude of Catholics, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons and Baptists. Could it be that the streets I traveled were somehow already evangelized by others long before me? I felt like a Johnny-Come-Lately. The Word has been galloped into town by many, many disciples with care and love. This is very good. I find no one dissatisfied with their lot — yet. But I have good conversations with many and this is an excellent way to make friends.

My own denomination of Lutherans, the LCMC (Lutherans in Congregation in Mission for Christ) is a denomination that sees itself as a remodel of a First Century church, operating without the additional weight of bishops, and a organization that is nimble yet relies on a continual assessment of its own capabilities and its own relationship with the Holy Spirit.

One of our mentors in the Church body (the LCMC structure) is Pastor Steve Lien, a galvanizing pastor who wears a continual smile. A Norwegian, he shares the sort of Ole and Lena jokes popularized by Garrison Keillor. (In truth he is a lot like a bishop in that regard.) Pastor Steve said that in the past we had been subject to the captivity of the clergy. Jesus told his followers to go from house to house,

two-by-two, and with a staff for the journey, no money in their belts, no bread and no bag. So I am being a little disobedient. I can’t imagine that I would glide up to a doorstep with a staff without getting some kind of armed response. I’ve tried

doing this in other Lutheran churches and, to be honest, very few have wanted to do the two-by-two approach with me. It sounds scary. When I was an intern a few of us tried to evangelize a bar, which is also not easy, and at the time did not work at all.

We shouldn’t be afraid of sharing who we are and who our own Lord is. We bring very good news to most people, that of the continual love and forgiveness of Christ entering into their lives.

Later this week I found a woman sitting on the grassy curb. She was gaunt, sad and very lost. I drove her to a center that supports women in crisis, which apparently had tried to help her last year. She promised me that she would try to overcome her addiction to methamphetamine, a scourge in Eastern Oregon. I ask you to pray for her, and all those others hiding the lies that will kill them. Talk to your pastor if you are imprisoned by sin, allow the love of God to set you free. He will forgive you, at least seventy times seven!

■
Colin Brown is the pastor of, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road in Boardman.



COLIN BROWN
 Faith

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Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

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Sunday School at 11:30

Living Word Christian Center

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Wednesday Bible Study 6:00pm
Youth Classes: Nursery - 6th grade Sun & Wed Jr & Sr High Discipleship Program Wed

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To share your worship times call
 Terri Briggs
 541-278-2678