

# Rodeo announcer speaks up for God

## Cowboy Church service brings message to the grandstands

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

A former bareback rider turned rodeo announcer will share about God’s love at the annual Cowboy Church service during Pendleton Round-Up.

Al Parsons of Diamond J Ministries also led the service — which is presented by the Blue Mountain Christian Cowboys — 15 years ago. The Oroville, Washington, man savors the opportunity to come to Pendleton.

“In my opinion, Pendleton is the last great rodeo we have left,” he said. “The history behind the town will send chills up your spine.”

The grass arena and the excitement with the rodeo season winding down makes Round-Up a magical place to be in September, Parsons said. The top cowboys, he said, come to town with their sights set on making it to the National Finals Rodeo.

The Cowboy Church service is Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. in the South Grandstands at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds, 1205 S.W. Court Ave. Everyone is welcome to attend and



Contributed photo

**Al Parsons of Diamond J Ministries is the featured speaker for the Cowboy Church service Sept. 13 in the south grandstands of the Pendleton Round-Up Arena.**

### Cowboy Church

- Tuesday, Sept. 13; 6 p.m.
- South Grandstands
- Pendleton Round-Up Grounds
- 541-449-3280 or 541-276-8540

there’s no admission fee.

Parsons and his wife, Joanie, a former trick rider, are both ordained ministers. They founded Diamond J Ministries in 1990, which includes a rodeo camp program.

Parsons said cowboy church services and other outreach efforts provide opportunities for rodeo

participants to learn about God or maintain their faith. Because of all the travel involved in the sport, Parsons said contestants don’t always have a chance to attend church during regular hours.

“What we’re trying to do is bring church to the cowboys,” he said. “So, instead of having them have to research and drive all around and find one, we bring it to them.”

The outreach ministry happens in the grandstands, over a cup of joe or in hospitality rooms at rodeos. It’s Parsons’ mission to share

about God where the people are.

“We talk to real people about a real God,” he said. “We’re making it hard for people to go to a real hell.”

Patti Clark of the Blue Mountain Christin Cowboys said there is a core group of people that are committed to making sure God has a presence at rodeo events. The annual Round-Up service, she said, brings in lots of area residents and out-of-town visitors, as well as rodeo contestants.

“It’s just a really good outreach for people,” Clark said. “It’s kind of a relaxed thing that everyone is welcome and feels comfortable.”

In addition to Parsons’ sharing, music will be presented by Dick and Jill Schoenberg. The couple also led the music portion of the program the last time Parsons spoke.

Dick Schoenberg, Clark said, is a large-animal veterinarian in the Tri-Cities. His involvement with the western lifestyle, Clark said, is a perfect match for the ministry’s outreach.

For more about the Blue Mountain Christian Cowboys, call Clark at 541-276-8540 or Gloria Rodriguez at 541-449-3280.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539

### BOARDMAN’S LIMEY PASTOR

## The really big one

It is a most wonderful gift to be in Eastern Oregon and to witness the majestic landscape of God’s work in time, a record of great changes and catastrophes of the earth. The relic river of the Missoula floods and the

Columbia’s channel is both awe-inspiring and humbling. Traveling through the Gorge is like being in a temple of unimaginable proportions.

Being involved in the dizzying whirlwind of peoples’ lives, and also to see the massive stillness of the earth, with a heartbeat of eons, one gets a sense of the divine intent. A deity who watches and breathes the peace of great nature — while we play a role that is in many ways diminutive. In the book “Cataclysms on the Columbia,” authors John Elliot Allen, Marjorie Burns and Sam Sargent reflect on the changing nature of geologic theory. Not so long ago, catastrophism, associated with biblical scales of disaster, was seen as nonscientific and foolish. Yet, now, as we know, the history of plate tectonics in the Pacific Northwest shows major catastrophes (11 estimated quakes of great magnitude) on the plate boundaries impacting the Pacific Northwest almost every 300 years. For which, I might add, we are 50 years overdue.

In the Columbia River Basin, we have had “for slightly more than 2,000 years ... at least 40 tremendous cataclysms of almost inconceivable force and dimensions swept across large parts of the Columbia River Basin.”

As a person who was in charge of “business continuity and disaster planning” for a major company in Portland, this was foremost in my mind. Located in Portland, the expected earthquake at the coastal fault of 9.5 magnitude would manifest

as a 6.5-7 earthquake in Portland. The University of Washington geologists told me that such a quake on the coast would likely send a tidal bore up the Columbia into Portland. The Portland fire brigade told us that the scale

of injuries would probably cause the death or injury of 30,000 people in that town. The Department of Homeland Security says that all west of Interstate 5 “will be toast.”

I met with Peter Courtney, the Oregon Senate president, sharing my concerns. He has spearheaded legislative action to help retrofit schools and also the legislature itself, which in times of business may have 1,000 children visiting. At the coast, frugal lawmakers decided not to pay for such aid. Many in government are preparing for this.

I came to Eastern Oregon partly driven by a sense that the next large event (called the “Really Big One” by some) is near — and that I need to get my own family and loved ones to a place that will be safe from the chaos that will ensue. I think Boardman will be far enough away and central to water, food and power that our nexus of little cities may form a place of reconstruction and growth after the certain eventuality. You may note that Google and Amazon are constructing hubs up here.

I’ve described this city to my friends as the Ark of Boardman, because it has the ability to quickly spring into a larger life. My little Church of Good Shepherd will be ready to welcome them, when they come, as the Good Shepherd will always try to get his sheep to the high ground when needed.

Colin Brown is pastor of Boardman’s Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.

## Ministerial group sets community worship Sunday before Round-Up

PENDLETON — Local churches host the annual outdoor community worship service as a kick-off to the Pendleton Round-Up.

Presented by the Pendleton Ministerial Association, the service is Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court

Ave., Pendleton. The event will feature a special speaker and music.

People are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair and attend the event. A free barbecue will follow the service.

For more information, call 541-276-6350.

## Army pulls postgame football video after prayer complaints

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) — The U.S. Military Academy removed a video clip of the football team’s postgame locker-room celebration after its upset win over Temple and is investigating whether a team prayer violated the religious freedom of the players.

West Point spokesman Francis J. DeMaro Jr. said Thursday that a third party made allegations the video violated the First Amendment rights of some of the cadets. DeMaro said the video, which was posted on social media, was removed pending the inquiry, which was first reported by *Army Times*.

Mikey Weinstein, president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, said head coach Jeff Monken crossed the line after the game last Friday night in Philadelphia when he asked a staff assistant to conduct a prayer that ended with Jesus.

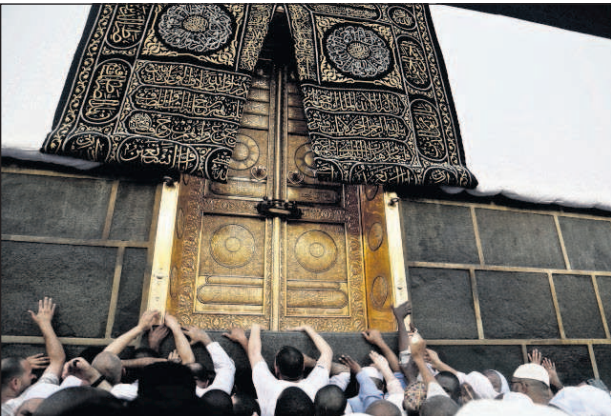
“In this case, Coach Monken chose the wrong

time, the wrong place and the wrong manner,” Weinstein said Thursday. “He can’t tell anybody, put your hand on someone and let’s pray. You can’t do it, particularly when you’re the head coach (of a public school).”

Weinstein said the video received 232,000 views and 2,000 Facebook shares. He said he started getting “inundated” with phone calls, texts and emails, including 44 from West Point graduates, 40 members of the academy faculty and staff, and six football players, prompting a call to West Point Superintendent Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen.

Weinstein, who said the video was replaced by an edited version, said he was expecting Monken to offer an apology later Thursday.

“We assume that there’s going to be an apology from the coach to the team,” Weinstein said. “We are assuming there’s an admission there was a misstep.”



AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty

**Muslim pilgrims touch the golden door of the Kaaba, Islam’s holiest shrine, at the Grand Mosque in the Muslim holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia.**

## Muslim pilgrims arrive at holy site ahead of hajj

MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Muslim pilgrims have begun arriving at the holiest sites in Islam ahead of the annual hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, with some weeping with their hands outstretched for a fleeting touch of the Kaaba.

The cube-shaped shrine, at the center of Mecca’s Grand Mosque, is the site the world’s 1.6 billion Muslims pray toward five times a day.

Ahead of Saturday’s start of the hajj pilgrimage, required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their life, tens of thousands have come to the Kaaba

to circle it, to reach out to its golden gate and to pray. To touch the Kaaba, the metaphorical house of God, offers the faithful a moment of physical contact with Islam’s holiest site on a pilgrimage intended to erase past sins.

On Thursday, a young boy wearing white terry-cloth robes similar to those of other men gripped his father’s hand while walking past the Kaaba. Women from across the world, wearing loose-fitting clothes and forgoing makeup and perfume, joined the worshippers with their hair covered in respect.

# Worship Community

*a place to Belong*  
**Pendleton First**  
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

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

**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

**Faith Center Church**  
**Worshiping God Loving People**  
108 S. Main • 276-9569  
**Sunday Worship 10:30 am**  
Sr. Pastor, Ray O’Grady  
[pendletonfaithcenter.org](http://pendletonfaithcenter.org)

**NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston  
**Sunday Worship Services**  
English- Pastor Dave Andrus 9:00 & 10:45 am  
Spanish- Pastor Genaro Loreda 9:00 & 10:15 am  
*Classes for kids during all services*  
For more information call **541-567-8441**

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
Saturday Services  
**Pendleton**  
**1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882**  
**Sabbath School 9:20 am**  
**Worship Service 10:45 am**

**Community Presbyterian Church**  
**14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250**  
**Worship: 10 AM**  
**Sunday School at 11:30**

**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”

**PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
585 SW Birch  
Pilot Rock, OR 97868 (541) 443-2500  
[prbcnline.blogspot.com](http://prbcnline.blogspot.com)  
Sunday School: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 10:45 am  
Kids’ Club: 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Services: Youth Group: 7:00 pm

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH** (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
215 N Main • Pendleton  
Sunday Worship: 9:40a  
Office 278-5358 M-F, 8:30-12:30  
[WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG](http://WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG)

**GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
OPEN HEARTS – OPEN DOOR  
[www.graceandmercyllutheran.org](http://www.graceandmercyllutheran.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

**Redeemer Episcopal Church**  
241 SE Second St. Pendleton (541)276-3809  
[www.pendletonepiscopal.org](http://www.pendletonepiscopal.org)  
Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Holy Communion Noon  
Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group  
**All Are Welcome**

**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](http://www.pendletonpresbyterian.com)  
**Open Hearted... Open Minded**

*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

**The Salvation Army**  
*Center for Worship & Service*  
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**

PENDLETON FIRST  
**CHURCH OF GOD**  
FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM  
SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM  
712 SW 27<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
541-276-1894  
[www.fcogpendleton.com](http://www.fcogpendleton.com)

**St. Johns Episcopal Church**  
All People Are Welcome  
**Scripture, Tradition and Reason**  
**Family service 9am Sunday**  
Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston  
Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-6672

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*in Mission for Christ LCMC*  
Bible Study.....9:00 AM  
Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM  
**Red Lion Hotel ( Oregon Trail Room )**  
[www.faithpendleton.org](http://www.faithpendleton.org)

**Living Word Christian Center**  
**Sunday Worship 10:00am**  
**Wednesday Bible Study 6:00pm**  
**Youth Classes:**  
Nursery - 6th grade Sun & Wed  
Jr & Sr High Discipleship Program Wed  
**Overcomer’s Outreach**  
Tuesday at 6:00pm - Annex  
A Christ-centered, 12-Step  
**Pastor Sharon Miller**  
**401 Northgate, Pendleton 541-278-8082**  
[www.livingwordcc.com](http://www.livingwordcc.com)

**First United Methodist Church**  
Pendleton/Hermiston  
352 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton  
**Sunday Worship 9am**  
541-276-2616  
**Worship Broadcast on KUMA 1290 @ 11am**  
191 E. Gladys Ave, Hermiston  
**Sunday Worship 11am**  
541-567-3002  
*Worship Livestream at herfumc.com*  
*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*  
*Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor*

**TO SHARE YOUR WORSHIP TIMES CALL TERRI BRIGGS 541-278-2678**