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THE SEASON OF GIVING LIFESTYLES/1C



TOP 10 ALBUMS OF 2017 MUSIC/3C

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JADE
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Home for Christmas?

Dream all you want of a white Christmas, but a white Friday-before-Christmas is the worst.

I've made it home for every single Christmas of my adulthood, but my nemesis has always been those last-minute storms that sneak up the moment finals are over or I wrap up that last assignment at work. Hence, my frequent checking of the latest weather as I write this on — what else — a Friday before Christmas when snow is expected. I'm supposed to head to my parents' house in The Dalles after work.

Two of my brothers will be there. The third threw in the towel before even seeing a weather report this year. Last year it took him and his family three days to make it from Salt Lake City, in a journey that featured an overnight stay with relatives in Boise, several hours at a McDonald's in Baker City and a night in a cheap motel in La Grande.

My own near-miss of Christmas happened in college, when snow and a broken de-icer closed the Portland airport. It took four days, two canceled flights and many hours standing in lines before I was finally able to get a standby seat on a flight to Pasco the afternoon before Christmas Eve. My dad and my brother drove straight from Portland to get me — they had been stranded there for days after they went to pick me up from my soon-to-be-canceled flight and the interstate closed behind them.

My luggage was missing, the Christmas shopping wasn't done, we didn't have time to make gingerbread houses and the family Christmas tree was looking a little worse for the wear after falling over at one point — but none of that

See CHRISTMAS/12A

Tim Van Cleave Shaindel Beers Joe Engum Bill Young

HOPE

A look at how different faiths shape people's views on hope

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

In our community and nation, reasons to hope abound.

The *East Oregonian* contacted local people from different faiths and backgrounds for their take on how their beliefs shape their views on hope. We interviewed four of them.

Tim Van Cleave is the pastor of the Bethel Assembly of God, a Pentecostal church in Pendleton. Poet and teacher Shaindel Beers is secular with a Jewish cultural background and Baptist religious upbringing. Joe Engum has been practicing Buddhism for 25 years. Bill Young is a Pendleton native and a second generation member of the Bahá'í Faith.

Van Cleave, a pastor for 28 years, said for him and other evangelical Christians, hope

stems from the center of their faith: Jesus Christ.

"That's the biggest source of hope there is over any other thing," he said.

Faith, hope and love are three building blocks, he said. While the Bible teaches love is the most important, he doubted we can live without any of them. Van Cleave said as a shepherd to his congregational flock, he has the responsibility of keeping hope alive. His church, like others, runs a "school of restoration," with the aim of healing past hurts and bringing new hope to

people's lives.

"I've seen hope come into situations that seem hopeless," he said.

Getting there, he stressed, takes effort. The hope Christ offers is life altering, but followers must engage with their faith each day through study of the Bible, prayer and action.

"It's not one and done," Van Cleave said.

Van Cleave said connecting people to Christ is his mission, and God can bring hope to anyone, from the follower who opens the Bible and finds the

passage that speaks right to her heart, to inmates in prison overcoming terrible lives to experience spiritual awakening. He also said Biblical heroes such as King David remind followers to stay hopeful.

He also sees hope in the actions the church can take to help others. Andi Davis and Alex Bannick recently lost their Pendleton home to a fire. Davis sometimes attends Bethel Assembly, Van Cleave said, and the congregation took up an offering to help the couple and their children.

Those actions can stir up hope, he said, and reaffirm "together, we can do more."

Beers said we should have hope, but hope is passive and should not keep us from taking

See HOPE/12A

"Just about the time you think a situation is really dismal and desperate, that somehow there is an abundance of kindness that arises."

— Bill Engum

12 new laws to keep in mind for the new year

Minimum age for tobacco products goes up to 21

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

You can pump your own gas 24 hours a day in Boardman starting in January — due to a law that will change with the new year.

Thanks to one of more than 850 laws passed during the 2017 Oregon Legislature, fuel stations in counties east of Portland with fewer than 40,000 residents (including all of the counties surrounding Umatilla County but not Umatilla County itself) can allow self-service fueling 24 hours a day.

A few other interesting laws to keep in mind as Jan. 1 rolls around:

- Starting in 2018, drivers must change lanes or slow down when passing any vehicle with flashing hazard lights, flares or other signs of distress parked along the side of road not in a designated parking space. The previous law only required drivers to move over for emergency vehicles and tow trucks. Now, if there are more than two lanes going in the same direction, the



Oregon voters became the fifth state in the nation to raise the minimum age for purchasing tobacco products to 21 years old.

driver must change lanes away from the stopped vehicle. If there is only one lane in each direction the driver must slow down to at least five miles under the posted speed limit instead.

- One of the most controversial bills of the 2017 session, which allows

a judge to order someone to give up their firearms, kicks in on Jan. 1. If a family member or police officer presents the court with convincing evidence that a person "presents a risk in the near future, including an imminent risk, of suicide or of causing physical

injury to another person" a judge can issue an order of protection banning the person from possessing deadly weapons for one year.

- Once the new year begins, Oregonians under the age of 21 will no longer be able to purchase any

See LAWS/12A



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