

HERMISTON

Pro-life author to speak at pregnancy center fundraiser

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

The author of a book that offers hope and vision in regards to reducing the abortion rate is the guest speaker for a TruCare Pregnancy Resource Center fundraising banquet.

With more than 30 years experience in the pro-life arena, Kirk Walden wrote "The Wall." With the subtitle, "Rebuilding a culture of LIFE in America and ending abortion as we know it," the author indicates ordinary people can make a difference.



Kirk Walden

Formerly known as Pregnancy Care Services, TruCare invites the community to enjoy dinner and hear Walden speak Sunday, Jan. 28 from 5-7 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. There is no cost to attend but people will have an opportunity to make a financial gift to the organization.

To ensure there's enough food, registration is requested by Sunday, Jan. 21. Debbie Cissna, executive

director of TruCare, said people who miss the deadline for the meal are still invited to attend the presentation that begins at 5:45 p.m.

Cissna is excited to have Walden participate in the organization's first fundraising event since establishing itself as an independent entity. The board of directors of Pregnancy Care Services — which has governed and maintained pregnancy centers in Hermiston and Pendleton — recently voted to transition local governance for the Hermiston site.

The nonprofit organization's goal is to empower women and men through encouragement, support and education. Their mission is to provide complete and accurate information about options in regards to unexpected pregnancies. While they are hopeful people will choose life-affirming options, Cissna said the agency provides support regardless of what decision a client makes.

"We accept them and love them and meet them where they are," she

Pregnancy Resources

Hermiston
•105 S.W. Second St.
•541-567-2393, info@trucareprc.com
www.trucareprc.com
Debbie Cissna, executive director

Pendleton
•311 S.E. Dorion Ave.
•541-276-5757, sara@pregnancy-careservices.com
www.pregnancycareservices.com
Sara Taylor, executive director

said. "We talk about a lot of things where they have nowhere else to talk."

Services include pregnancy testing, community referrals, parenting classes, teen support groups, infant supplies, post-abortion counseling and information about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases. The Hermiston center also has several Spanish-speaking volunteers.

Hearing a message from a pastor while he was a college freshman, Walden sensed a calling to be part of turning culture toward embracing life. After a brief career as a professional golfer, Walden turned his attention to

sports writing and newspaper advertising, and then worked with an office products company.

While he has been active in the pro-life arena for more than three decades — including political campaigns, addressing public policy and working with crisis pregnancy ministries across the United States — Walden said everyday people can affect a change.

"God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary missions," he said.

When people become willing, Walden said, God begins to reveal avenues to accomplish things they had no idea was possible.

Calling himself a regular "Joe Schmo," Walden said he is naive enough to believe the world can be changed. And, he hopes more people will catch the same vision.

For more information or to register for the banquet, contact 541-567-2393, info@trucareprc.com or visit www.trucareprc.com.

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

Youths to impact senior community

East Oregonian

Area fourth and fifth graders will participate in a community outreach project in Hermiston.

The Impact Ministry event includes creating cards and delivering them to residents at local assisted living facilities. Youths will meet Sunday from noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave. The gathering also includes pizza and a faith-based lesson.

For more information, contact Melody Finn-Kinswa, connections pastor, at 541-567-3677, melody.hermnaz@gmail.com or visit www.hermistonnazarene.org.

LIMEY PASTOR

Memories of Oxford, love's pasture

This week I feel a longing for places visited and dreams dreamt from long ago. I am haunted by places that I have but glimpsed and drifted into like seaweed on the seashore. I long for a past that has yet to properly take root. Nostalgia is an emotion that the soul is enriched by, even though it is bittersweet and partial, like an echo.

This week a fellow worker friend passed away and disappeared like mist in the morning, after a surgery failed to work. Our community is rocked, as someone we knew really well has now disappeared from the earth. I feel the delicate transience of things, the poignancy of memory. Time is short and, like all flesh, my slice of the world is but finite.

I remember some years ago walking among the dreaming spires of Oxford in England, and visiting the "Eagle and Child" pub where J.R.R. Tolkien met with C.S. Lewis to create new visions of Christianity by reading to each other from their own creations — "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" — their own books in draft in the midflight of creation.

I could feel the walls of time between me and them and a dim autumn light showed me what these writers had gazed upon, but I could not grasp the shape of their imaginings in this place. An insulating skin existed between the walls of the different worlds that co-existed here. It tasted of ambrosia that had no earthly taste.

Just up the street from the pub was Christchurch College which has the portrait of one of its former students hanging illustriously on the wall inside: Charles Dodgson, or Lewis Carroll as we know him, the author of "Alice in Wonderland." Any American child would recognize the interior of Christchurch College as its alter ego — Harry Potter's Hogwarts in the movies. We were in Fairyland Central.

Oxford is the place on earth where Christianity has a great laboratory of story and concealment of secrets, where the imagination of many



COLIN BROWN
Faith

great authors has been inflamed turning their own hewn faith into crucibles of new stories to enrich the life of readers everywhere. The club of writers was known as the Inklings and consisted of many of the truly great writers of England. Their aim was to create a new impulse of the Christian life to revivify the broken continents of World War II using access to the door of imagination.

They would gather every Tuesday at the Eagle and Child Pub, also known as the "Bird and Baby" to tell each other their stories as they were composed and tried out on their learned listeners.

The spirit of the Inklings has lived on, and many children have danced to the word music of the Oxford writers. It is most important that the tellers of such tales are plugged into eternal truths and know how to enchant the human heart.

I'm writing this to spur myself on. Many years ago I wrote six stories about a group of children who were traveling in the enchanted universe of story. I need to finish all the stories of these children before too long, even if no one ever reads them. In some strange way, the writing of these children's stories ignited something in my own faith life. If I fail at this I will fail in a very big way.

It is God's deepest desire to convert us into co-creators, who invent and translate and share stories. It is God's deepest desire to make us like himself, with the wish to hallow each hill, each cloud and star-filled sky with meaning and story, with a wish to bring us to joy and wonder. This of course is the real magic, the real enchantment, where the poetry of creation sings in our hearts and God's mysteries make us laugh and clap our hands.

Joy to all of you as you share starlight and wonder.

Colin Brown is the former pastor of the Boardman Lutheran church. Contact him at colin.brown@usa.net.

Pope shocks Chile by accusing sex abuse victims of slander

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Pope Francis accused victims of Chile's most notorious pedophile of slander Thursday, an astonishing end to a visit meant to help heal the wounds of a sex abuse scandal that has cost the Catholic Church its credibility in the country.

Francis said that until he sees proof that Bishop Juan Barros was complicit in covering up the sex crimes of the Rev. Fernando Karadimas, such accusations against Barros are "all calumny."

The pope's remarks drew shock from Chileans and immediate rebuke from victims and their advocates. They noted the accusers were deemed credible enough by the Vatican that it sentenced Karadima to a lifetime of "penance and prayer" for his crimes in 2011. A Chilean judge also found the victims to be credible, saying that while she had to drop criminal charges against Karadima because too much time had passed, proof of his crimes wasn't lacking.

"As if I could have taken a selfie or a photo while Karadima abused me and others and Juan Barros stood by watching it all," tweeted Barros' most vocal accuser, Juan Carlos Cruz. "These people are truly crazy, and the pontiff talks about atonement to the victims. Nothing has changed, and his plea for forgiveness is empty."

The Karadima scandal dominated Francis' visit to Chile and the overall issue of sex abuse and church cover-up was likely to factor into his three-day trip to Peru that began late Thursday.

Karadima's victims reported to church authorities as early as 2002

that he would kiss and fondle them in the swank Santiago parish he ran, but officials refused to believe them. Only when the victims went public with their accusations in 2010 did the Vatican launch an investigation that led to Karadima being removed from ministry.

The emeritus archbishop of Santiago subsequently apologized for having refused to believe the victims from the start.

Francis reopened the wounds of the scandal in 2015 when he named Barros, a protege of Karadima, as bishop of the southern diocese of Osorno. Karadima's victims say Barros knew of the abuse, having seen it, but did nothing. Barros has denied the allegations.

His appointment outraged Chileans, badly divided the Osorno diocese and further undermined the church's already shaky credibility in the country.

Francis had sought to heal the wounds by meeting this week with abuse victims and begging forgiveness for the crimes of church pastors. But on Thursday, he struck a defiant tone when asked by a Chilean journalist about Barros.

"The day they bring me proof against Bishop Barros, I'll speak," Francis said. "There is not one shred of proof against him. It's all calumny. Is that clear?"

Francis had defended the appointment before, calling the Osorno controversy "stupid" and the result of a campaign mounted by leftists. But The Associated Press reported last week that the Vatican was so worried about the fallout from the Karadima affair that it was prepared in 2014 to ask Barros and two other Karadima-trained bishops to resign and go on a yearlong sabbatical.

Worship Community

<p>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 Open Hearted... Open Minded</p>	<p>Peace Lutheran Church 210 NW 9th, Pendleton ELCA 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</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church LCMC Sunday worship at 11:00 AM 420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR 541-481-6132 Colin Brown, Pastor</p>	<p>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"</p>
<p>Redeemer Episcopal Church 241 SE Second St. Pendleton (541)276-3809 www.pendletonepiscopal.org Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Holy Communion Noon Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group All Are Welcome</p>	<p>Faith Center Church Worshiping God Loving People 108 S. Main • 276-9569 Worship Service: 10:30am Sunday School: 9:30am Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org</p>	<p>THE SALVATION ARMY 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</p>	<p>Community Presbyterian Church 14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250 Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30</p>
<p>St. Johns Episcopal Church Join Us On Our Journey With Jesus. Scripture, Tradition and Reason Family Service 9am Sunday N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston PH: 567-6672 We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.</p>	<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church Saturday Services Pendleton 1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882 Sabbath School 9:20 am Worship Service 10:45 am</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) 215 N Main • Pendleton, OR 97801 Behind These Stone Walls Beat the Hearts of Some of the Warmest Most Sincere, Most Caring People in Pendleton. We Invite You to Come Get Acquainted! Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 10:40am Fellowship to follow Office 541-276-5358 M-F, 8:30-12:30 www.fccpendleton.org</p>	<p>GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR www.graceandmercy.lutheran.org 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 (First United Methodist Church) 191 E. Gladys Ave. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838</p>
<p>Living Word Christian Center 401 Northgate, Pendleton Celebration of Worship Sundays 10:00 am Youth: 0-6th grade Midweek Service Wednesdays 6:00 pm</p>		<p>Youth: 0-6th grade Overcomer's Outreach Tuesday's 6:00 pm In the Annex A Christ Centered, 12 Step Recovery Support Group Pastor Sharon Miller</p>	
<p>To share your worship times call 541-278-2678</p>			
<p>First United Methodist Church Pendleton 352 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton OR Sunday Worship 9am • 541-276-2616 Worship Broadcast on KUMA 1290 @ 11am Worship Livestream at www.facebook.com/FUMCPendleton/ Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor</p>		<p>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>in Mission for Christ LCMC</i> Sunday Worship.....9:00 AM Bible Study.....10:00 AM Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room) www.faithpendleton.org</p>	
<p>a place to Belong PENDLETON FIRST SUNDAYS Morning Celebration - 10am Morning Kids Place - 10am Evening - 6pm Adult - Study Youth - Small Group Kids - Rangers & Girl's Ministries THURSDAYS Celebrate Recovery - 6pm Celebration Place - Kids - 6pm The Landing - Teens - 6pm WEEKLY Groups For All Ages AN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH 1911 SE Court Ave. 541.276.6417 • pendletonfirst.com</p>			