# FAITH

### BRIEFLY

# HERMISTON Catholic youths present 'Way of the Cross'

# Dramatic presentation shares Easter story

#### East Oregonian

The "Way of the Cross," a re-enactment of the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, offers a stirring visual reminder of the biblical story of Easter.

Staged mostly by youths from Hermiston's Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, the dramatic presentation features scenes from Stations of the Cross — a series of images that portray Jesus on the day of his crucifixion. In its 21st year, the event begins Friday, March 30 — Good Friday — at noon in the church's parking lot, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. The live actors will travel along the streets acting out the scenes, beginning with the First Station when Jesus is condemned to death by Pontius Pilate, who then orders the Roman soldiers to crucify him. The bi-lingual presentation also includes the singing of hymns and prayers.

The final few scenes take place on the top of the Hermiston Butte where two crosses will have been erected for the presentation. The person who portrays Jesus carries his cross for the nearly 1-mile route from the church to the butte. Roman soldiers then place Jesus on the cross and erect it between two others that, according to the Bible, are occupied by a pair thieves.

The public is invited to attend, following the entourage as they make their way to the top of the butte. Boards



As Jesus, Ricardo Mendoza lies on a cross as Vincent Trevino, portraying a Roman guard, uses a mallet while acting out the nailing of Jesus to the cross during a past 'Way of the Cross' reenactment. Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church will present the 21st annual event Friday, March 30 departing from the church parking lot and making their way to the top of the Hermiston Butte.

are set up at the beginning of each scene, which show which Stations of the Cross is being depicted. While a scene of Jesus' resurrection is not included in the Stations of the Cross, one of the church's adult leaders will share about it prior to the conclusion of the event.

Numerous church parishioners and others from the community attend each year. People who plan to walk to the top of the butte are reminded it includes uneven ground. The wearing of sturdy shoes is recommended.

Those who are interested in reading about Christ's crucifixion can find accounts in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the Bible's New Testament.

For more information about "Way of the Cross," call Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church at 541-567-5812.

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

# Utah lets women get birth control from pharmacy

covers the costs of about one-third of

state where most lawmakers and an

estimated 60 percent of residents are members of the Mormon church.

While the church generally opposes

abortion, birth control is treated

Latter-day Saints encourages married

couples to have children but says

specific birth control decisions are

private between a husband and wife.

While the church is against elective abortions, there are some circum-

The Church of Jesus Christ of

Utah is a Republican-dominated

all births in the state.

differently.

#### By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Women in conservative Utah will soon be able to get birth control directly from a pharmacist rather than visiting a doctor each time they want to obtain or renew a prescription, a move taken by only a few other states, many of them liberal.

Republican Gov. Gary Herbert signed a measure into law Tuesday allowing those 18 and older to get pills, the patch and some other contraceptive devices, putting Utah in line with a handful of other states that have passed similar laws, including California, Colorado and Oregon.

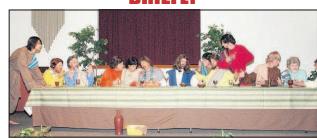
"I think five years ago, it wouldn't ve passed, but I think the world and Utah is changing," Republican state Sen. Todd Weiler, who sponsored the measure, said Wednesday. "People are more accepting of the fact that these things make sense and they actually save the state money.

have shown that unplanned births can years to keep getting contraception. lead to more money being spent on social programs like Medicaid, which The measure allows pharmacists to

issue the birth control under a standing prescription likely issued by a health department doctor — similar to an order the state issued in 2016 allowing pharmacists to distribute an opioid anti-overdose drug over the counter.

Because women will still technically be obtaining birth control under a prescription, insurers will need to cover it, said University of Utah pharmacy graduate student Wilson Pace, who drafted the measure as a school project. Weiler said he proposed the legislation at Pace's suggestion.

Pace said Wednesday that if you told him six months ago the proposal would sail through the Utah Legislature, he would have been shocked



Contributed photo

A portrayal of the famous Leonardo da Vinci painting, 'The Last Supper,' is included in 'The Passion,' a musical drama to be presented March 30-31 at Pendleton Baptist Church.

## Musical drama shares Easter story

A musical drama representing scenes from the last week of the life of Jesus Christ is featured in a program presented by Baptist churches in Pendleton, Hermiston, Boardman and Pilot Rock.

The presentation, which includes a portrayal of the familiar Leonardo da Vinci painting, "The Last Supper," features a cast, choir and crew of about 50 people. "The Passion" will be presented Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31 at 7 p.m. at the Pendleton Baptist Church, 3202 S.W. Nye Ave. There is no admission charge, but donations will be gladly accepted.

"You don't want to miss this moving production," said Christina White, Pendleton Baptist Church secretary.

Dressed in period clothing, White said those in attendance will meet the disciples, hear a magnificent choir and can even reach out and touch the Roman soldiers while Jesus carries his cross to Calvary. Calling it a "moving drama," it portrays the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, his death and finally, his glorious resurrection.

As part of the Easter season, the churches have offered the free portrayal for 11 years. For more information, contact 503-260-6378, 541-720-8680 or seanchriswhite@q.com.

# Holy Week at St. John's Episcopal Church

HERMISTON — Leading up to Easter, St. John's Episcopal Church announced Holy Week services.

Rev. Chuck Barnes invites the public to join them for services at 953 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

The Palm Sunday service featuring Eucharist and blessing of the palms is March 25 at 9 a.m.; Tenebrae is Wednesday, March 28 at 7 p.m.; Maundy Thursday with Eucharist and stripping of the altar is March 29 at 7 p.m.; Good Friday with stations of the cross is March 30 from noon to 6:45 p.m., which includes an opportunity for individual mediation and prayers, followed by Good Friday Eucharist at 7 p.m.; and Easter morning Eucharist is Sunday, April 1 at 9 a.m.

For more information, contact Barnes at 541-567-6674 or chuckb@eotnet.net.

# Kids Klub welcomes spring with party

MILTON-FREEWATER — A Kids Klub Spring Party, featuring games, prizes, movies and crafts, is Saturday in Milton-Freewater.

Youths through fifth grade are invited to attend from 2-4 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 518 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. Snacks will be served.

Also, the regular Kids Klub for all children meets regularly each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Activities include arts, crafts, music and more.

For more information, call 541-938-3854. The office is open Monday through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

## **Episcopal church offers suicide** bereavement group

PENDLETON - For those experiencing the loss of a friend or loved one through suicide, there is a group that offers help.

Public health officials say studies

stances where it can be permissible

The new law, which unanimously passed the Legislature, takes effect May 8. It will require women to first fill out a form assessing their risks of taking birth control before getting the medication. They also will be required to check in with a doctor every two

"For our state especially," he said. "We haven't historically always been the most progressive state.'

Medical groups, including the Utah Medical Association and Utah Nurses Association, spoke in support of the birth control measure.

The Suicide Bereavement Group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 241 S.E. Second St., Pendleton. There is no cost to attend the meetings.

For more information, call Lydia Conley at 503-490-5574.

