

LIMEY PASTOR

A woeful weekend

Ten years ago, probably more than that, my wife and I intercepted a pregnant young lady — let us call her “A” — who had been abandoned by her man and left wandering the streets. We took her in, cared for her and located her mother, a truck driver back in Virginia, and tended to her for some weeks until her mother could drive her truck from Virginia to Oregon and pick up her lost, pregnant child. The father of her baby had run off with another girl and abandoned her.

Years later, I knew that she had married back east and had two other children. I had some confidence that things were better. But apparently they weren’t and some ten years passed by and Amber showed up at my house this last weekend. Not only showed up, but also brought an old friend she had found in a Troutdale encampment. This woman — who I shall call “M” — had been beaten, strangled and had been set on fire in her tent so that her left forearm had been burned and blistered by the melting tent fabric. “M” was liquid with tears, and was covered with dirt and smoke grease.

This sadness, recurring from past nightmares, showed up on the weekend. My wife, who had found the earlier story we had lived in pretty taxing, was not pleased. We put up our first woman, “A,” and the new lady temporarily on the large couch until we could figure out the best next steps. “M” received a bath swiftly.

“A” had also brought a pet baby pit bull puppy, with sharp teeth, who liked to grab hold of our elderly Pekingese’s tail and follow him around. Our Pekingese was not pleased.

We found that “A” had been separated from all her children. Her ex-husband in Virginia and his family had removed the children from her care with the aid of their state’s child protective services, which had made her distraught and weepy. The next day, after sleep, long sleep, “A” told me that her husband had told her that he had shot and killed one of her friends — and that there were others who had been killed, according to “A.” It seemed that this knowledge may have somehow precipitated the children’s removal.

Later that day I took “A”

to the local police station so that she could give a statement to police, which she did. I wasn’t clear about the whole story as emotions were high and tears were spilling. My wife fed the women and ultimately got them down to sleep.

The next day I made a contact with a women’s retreat center near us, equipped with

a great deal of help. A Methodist-created center, it had access to the hospitals, doctors and resources of all kinds. My burnt woman was able to be placed here and then taken to the hospital where she got checked out. Her limbs and back were x-rayed and found that no bones were broken, and she was given a safe room and bed to call her own. As I understand it, she may stay here up to a year. Her children also had been taken from her and she was in constant pain in her soul as a result.

But here, she will be provided with job training, provided with health care and medication to deal with any ailments, and will have a net of ladies in similar situations that can be used as a collective braintrust to recovery from the pain of such things.

I prayed and am still praying over these ladies, and have been reflecting on Jesus’ statement that “The poor you will always have with you.”

In the women’s facility there are so many neglected and burdened women who are climbing back to stronger life. Not a pain-free journey, but the pain is laced into a hardened amalgam in their structures, to give them the courage to keep moving and climbing over the hurdles that this bitter world gives us.

Jesus Christ is not a policeman. He embodies love and the cloud of folk, both people and angels who are about him, are his traveling hospital. I ask that your church reach out to these poor of the earth who end up at your doorsteps, not just to pass them alms or food, but to make contact with them and embrace them, for they are broken-hearted — broken-hearted beyond all imagining.

May God go with you in your mission. May God make you his angels.

Colin Brown is the former pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman.



COLIN BROWN
Faith

MEMORIAL DAY

Ceremonies honor veterans

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Mitch Sparks, a retired Navy veteran and acting director of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs, urges Oregonians to pause and honor fallen soldiers and Gold Star families during Memorial Day weekend.

“We stand on the shoulders of all those who came before us and will never forget the service and sacrifice of all those who gave all,” he said.

Area Memorial Day ceremonies are planned on Monday at several cemeteries. In addition, Avenue of Flags will be erected over the weekend — including at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton, the Hermiston Cemetery and Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Irrigon.

•Pendleton: Organized by Friends of Olney and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 922, the Memorial Day event starts at 11 a.m. at Olney Cemetery, 865 Tutuilla Road. It will include the posting of colors and a ceremony. Those who plan to attend are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. For additional information, contact Glenn Scott at 541-667-3125 or glenn.scott@umatillacounty.net.

In observance of Memorial Day, artificial flowers, grave decorations and live flowers are allowed May 24 through June 1. If people wish to keep items placed on graves for Memorial Day, they need to remove them by

dusk Friday, June 1. The mowing season policy resumes Saturday, June 2 — no artificial flowers or grave decorations. Live flowers are allowed year-round, but are removed when they become unsightly. For questions about the cemetery policy, call 541-276-8100.

•Hermiston: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 4750 and American Legion Post 37 are heading up a Memorial Day ceremony at 10 a.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery, located off Highway 395 south of town. VFW post commander Ron Jardine said the event will include prayers, a speech, a roll call naming area veterans who died in the previous year, and a flag presentation with full military honors. The ceremony will close with the playing of “Taps.” People can bring a lawn chair.

Volunteers are invited to join the Hermiston High School football team to help erect the Avenue of Flags Friday around 4 p.m. The process of putting up the 700-800 flags, Jardine said, takes a couple of hours. They also welcome assistance Monday evening to remove the flags. For additional details, call Jardine at 541-564-7571.

•Irrigon: After coordinating the ceremony in Hermiston, Jardine will head to Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery, located off Highway 730. A similar program is planned there, he said.

•Walla Walla: The Jonathan M.

Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center will host a service Monday in its chapel at 9 a.m. at 77 Wainwright Drive. It will include the presentation of colors by the Jr. ROTC Honor Guard, special music by members of the Walla Walla Chorale Society and remarks by Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District commander. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Linda Wondra at 509-525-5200 or linda.wondra@va.gov.

Sparks said the holiday first began May 5, 1868, when the Grand Army of the Republic, an early veterans advocacy group comprised of Civil War veterans, first urged Americans to observe a National Memorial Day to honor the Civil War dead. The tradition, he said, has grown in the past 150 years. It is estimated that nearly 6,000 Oregon service members have lost their lives in the line of duty since the state’s inception.

Jardine, who served in the U. S. Army from 1966-68, encourages people to participate in Memorial Day events to express appreciation and show respect for military personnel.

“It’s a ritual that’s been going on for a long time,” he said. “I’d like to help keep that going as long as I can.”

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

FAITH BRIEFLY

HHS grad to intern at Hermiston Nazarene

HERMISTON — A new ministry intern will be introduced this week at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene.

A Hermiston High School graduate, Aaron Johnson also attended West Park Elementary School, the church’s “adopted school.” He has served as a police officer in both Stanfield and Pendleton and was deployed to Iraq two times. Johnson is currently an instructor contracted by the National Guard Bureau to train staff officers in military intelligence decision making.

The public is invited to hear Johnson speak as he delivers a sermon Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at 1520 W. Orchard Ave. Johnson and his wife, Sarah, will be a part of the worship team.

The Johnsons live in Umatilla with their dog, Bella. He is taking seminary classes at Liberty University. At Hermiston Nazarene, he will serve as director of Life Groups with some teaching and preaching.

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

Special mass celebrates high school graduates

HERMISTON — A Baccalaureate Mass is planned for all area graduating high school and college students.

Those participating are asked to wear their cap and gown for the event, which includes a blessing and short reception. The free bilingual event is Sunday from 11 a.m. to noon at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston.

For more information or to RSVP, contact rebecca@ourladyofangelscc.org or 541-567-5812.

Presbyterian church hosts secondhand sale

UMATILLA — People can shop for a variety of items, including clothing, toys, puzzles and lots of treasures to be found at the white elephant table.

The annual Secondhand Sale is Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Umatilla Presbyterian Church, 14 Martin Drive, Umatilla. The event is organized by the Women’s Association of the Umatilla Presbyterian

Church. For more information, call 541-922-3250.

Pendleton First sets fundraisers

PENDLETON — The public is invited to several upcoming fundraisers that will benefit faith-based kids camp and youth ministries.

Sponsored by Pendleton First Assembly of God Church, the events include a pair of car washes and a golf tournament. The car washes are Saturday, June 9 from 10 a.m. to noon at the church, 1911 S.E. Court Ave., and Friday, June 22 from 10 a.m. to noon at Dave’s Chevron, 220 S.W. 12th St.

The Next Generation Golf Tournament is Friday, June 29 with a shotgun start at 5 p.m. at Wildhorse Golf Course. The cost is \$60 for golf and dinner. Non-duffers can enjoy dinner for \$30. Raffle and prizes will be announced after golfing. Those planning to attend need to register by Sunday, June 24.

For more information, contact 541-276-6417, ashley@pendletonfirst.com, zach@pendletonfirst.com or register for the golf tournament at www.pendletonfirst.com/golf.

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

BAHA'I FAITH IN PENDLETON
"See ye no strangers, rather see all men as friends, for love and unity come hard when ye fix your gaze on otherness."
— Abdu'l Baha
Please come visit with us at
The Baha'i Center:
1015 SE Court Place
Everyone invited!
Sunday Devotions @ 11:00am
Sunday "Pure Prayer" (no talk, just prayer) @ 6:30pm
Wednesday "Discover the Baha'i Faith" @ 6:30pm,
Thursday Seminars on World Religions @ 7pm
(541) 276-9360 or visit us at
www.pendletonbahais.com
www.facebook.com/pendletonoregonbahais/

WORSHIP COMMUNITY

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 herfume.com
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor*
To share your worship times call 541-278-2678

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church LCMC
Sunday worship at 11:00 AM
420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR
541-481-6132
Colin Brown, Pastor

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

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"

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

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

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.

Living Word Christian Center
401 Northgate, Pendleton
Celebration of Worship
Sundays 10:00 am
Youth: 0-6th grade
Midweek Service
Wednesdays 6:00 pm
Youth: 0-6th grade
Jr./Sr. High
Pastor Sharon Miller
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR
www.graceandmercy.lutheran.org
Sunday Worship 8:45 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 Inich, Pastor
Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA
(First United Methodist Church)
191 E. Gladys Ave. / P.O. Box 1108
Hermiston, Oregon 97838

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

PENDLETON LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH
Sunday Service: 10am & 6pm
Tuesday Kingdom Seekers: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
We offer: Sunday School • Sign Language Interpreters • Nursery • Transportation • & more!
Pastor Dan Satterwhite
541.377.4252
417 NW 21st St. • Pendleton, OR 97801
www.facebook.com/PendletonLighthouseChurch

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

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) 9:30 AM & 6 PM
Wed Men's Study 6 PM
MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM

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

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!
Worship: 9:45am
Fellowship to follow
Office 541-276-5358 M-F, 8:30-12:30
www.fcpendleton.org

Faith Center Church
Worshiping God Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569
Special Guest Speaker
Pastor Jeff Geesey
Worship Service: 10:30am
Sunday School: 9:30am
pendletonfaithcenter.org

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