

PENDLETON

Cowboy church rounds up talented youth pastor

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Coming from living and working in and around suburban Detroit, Chris Kaufman might seem like an odd choice to head up the annual cowboy church service during Pendleton Round-Up.

However, despite the fact the Free Methodist Church youth pastor doesn't own a pair of cowboy boots, he has an overwhelming love for God and is excited for the opportunity.

The Pendleton transplant — Kaufman and his wife, Jordan, moved to town in February — has already been wrangled into the cowboy culture. In June, he rounded up a group of youths from his church and headed up worship music for the Buckaroo Rodeo Bible Camp, held in the Happy Canyon Arena.

"It's been an interesting culture shift for us," Kaufman said. "Most of our work has been in the inner city."

Kaufman, a multi-instrumentalist, will perform and share during the service, which is Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. in the South Grandstands at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds, 1205 S.W. Court Ave. While there is no admission charge, a freewill offering will be taken.

The son of a youth pastor, Kaufman didn't initially plan to follow in his father's footsteps. During



Photo contributed by Jordan Kaufman
Chris Kaufman, a multi-instrumentalist and youth pastor at the Pendleton Free Methodist Church, is featured during the cowboy church service Tuesday in the south grandstands at the Round-Up Grounds.

most of his youth, Kaufman didn't care for church — particularly the hypocrisy of some people, who lashed out at those in church leadership positions.

"I had never wanted to be in the ministry," he said. "There was a time I didn't believe in God and I even hated God."

It was at a conference, Kaufman said, where his heart was softened. The speaker talked about how American churches are flawed. However, instead of being angry and bitter, people were urged to respond with love.

Initially getting his start on drums, Kaufman said

he's proficient in playing 12 instruments, including guitar, banjo, mandolin, violin, saxophone, trumpet and piano. In addition, he plays across a variety of genres. While these days his focus is with worship music, he has performed everything from rock and country to folk and jazz. For seven years he provided the backbeat, playing drums with We Are Wormwood, a Christian heavy metal band.

"I just love music," he said. "When I get the chance to play anything, I jump right on it."

The cowboy church service is a ministry of the Blue Mountain Christian Cowboys. Gloria Rodriguez said the group was formed in the mid-1990s by a handful of area families that rodeoed together. Their desire was to have church services available for their kids while they were participating in rodeo events.

Although the kids have all grown up, the Blue Mountain Christian Cowboys decided to continue coordinating several activities a year, which also includes an Easter sunrise service in Meacham and a Christmas party.

For more information, call Rodriguez at 541-449-3280 or Patti Clark at 541-276-8540.

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

Stanfield city manager among candidates for similar job in Umatilla

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Blair Larsen, Stanfield's city manager, is one of three finalists for the open Umatilla city manager position.

The Umatilla Chamber of Commerce announced Thursday that it will be holding a public meet and greet with candidates Larsen, Scott Meszaros and David Stockdale next Thursday, Sept. 13, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center, 100 Cline Ave.

Larsen has worked as Stanfield city manager since 2013.

Meszaros has been town administrator of Meeker, Colorado, (population 2,352) since 2012, according to a news release from the chamber.

Stockdale was most recently city administrator for Prosser, Washington, for two years. The *Tri-City Herald* reported that he resigned in June after an

investigation that showed he had used an Oregon driver's license to avoid paying about \$361 in sales tax, mostly at the Kennewick Costco. He told the paper it was a "simple misstep" due to confusion about his tax status since the rest of his family had not yet joined him in Washington.

Former Umatilla city manager Russ Pelleberg resigned in June and the city council chose community development director Tamra Mabbott to serve as interim city manager while a consultant conducted a nationwide search for candidates.

The public is invited to meet the candidates Thursday, with opening comments by Mayor Darren Dufloth and a brief statement by each candidate kicking off the night. Light refreshments will be provided.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

Hermiston man shoots Chihuahua, dog dies

HERMISTON — A Hermiston man is in jail after he shot a dog that died later in the day.

Michael David Thompson, 45, is charged with animal abuse in the first degree, unlawful use of a weapon, felon in possession of a firearm and possession of prohibited firearms or silencers.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said officers responded to Northwest Third Street around 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday for a report of a dog that had been shot. The Chihuahua had a single wound above the right leg.

Edmiston said Thomp-

son admitted to shooting the dog, and said he shot it because his own dog was in heat, and he was tired of other dogs coming around.

The dog died around 9 p.m. that night.

The Umatilla County District Attorney's office charged Thompson with intentionally causing serious injury to a dog, firing a firearm within city limits, and possessing a short-barreled rifle.

Thompson has previously been convicted of several crimes in Umatilla County, including burglary and theft in the first degree, assault in the fourth degree, and harassment.

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
COLLECTIVE GOODS GIFT AND BOOK SALE FUNDRAISER, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Good Shepherd Medical Center conference room 1, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Proceeds support scholarships for local medical students, and help buy medical equipment for the hospital.

FREE FIRST FRIDAY, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, 47106 Wildhorse Blvd., Pendleton. Free admission all day. (541-966-9748)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12-1 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 SW 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (Tori Bowman 541-276-5073)

STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 2 p.m., Echo Public Library, 20 S. Bonanza, Echo. (541-376-8411)

VFW BINGO, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-567-6219)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
SMART DRIVER CLASS, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Anthony Hospital, 2810 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton. Learn valuable defensive driving skills, proven safety strategies, the latest driving technologies, current rules of the road and how to manage common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. Lunch is on your own. Cost is \$15 for AARP members (bring card) or \$20 or non-members, registration requested. (Nikki Murtaugh 541-861-0024)

FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Pendleton Center for the

Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free art classes for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

DRESS UP PARADE, 10 a.m., Downtown Pendleton. Free.

YARN CLUB, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

HARKENRIDER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER DEDICATION, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Hermiston Festival Street and Harkenrider Senior Center, 255 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. Lunch (\$8, tickets must be purchased in advance), produce market, vintage booths, entertainment, drawings, local treats and more. Harkenrider Center dedication ceremony at 1 p.m. Most activities free. (541-567-3582)

COUNTRY HOEDOWN, 1-4 p.m., Milton-Freewater Neighborhood Senior Center, 311 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater. Live music, dancing and singing. Admission \$2, refreshments available for purchase. (541-938-3311)

IRRIGON FARMERS MARKET, 3-7 p.m., Irrigon City Hall parking lot, 500 N.E. Main Ave., Irrigon. Local vendors, local produce, crafts and more. (Aaron Palmquist 541-922-3047)

TACO FEED AND DESSERT

AUCTION, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Stanfield Community Center, 225 W. Roosevelt, Stanfield. Dinner includes rice, beans, tacos, drinks and a fun dessert auction. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for ages 12 and under. Proceeds benefit the center kitchen remodel. (Cheryl Tucker 541-571-6019)

OLDIES NIGHT: HITS OF 1978, 7-10 p.m., Wesley United Methodist Church, 816 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. BJ the DJ will spin hits including "Night Fever" by the Bee Gees, "Greasie" by Frankie Valli, Donna Summer's "MacArthur Park" and more. Free. (Bob Jones 541-938-7028)

CONTRA DANCE, 7 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Social line dancing with live music, no partner necessary. Cost is \$8 per person or \$15 per couple. (Jill Johnson 907-350-6469)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

RANGE AND FIELD DAY, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., East End Rod & Gun Club, 54752 Milton Cemetery Road, Milton-Freewater. Bring a sack lunch and camp chair. Firearms, ammunition, hearing and eye protection, water and snacks provided. Must have proof of complete Hunter Education Course (online or workbook) Pre-registration requested at www.dfw.state.or.us/education/hunter; \$10 fee collected on site if not pre-registered. (Andy Millar 541-938-4485)

COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE AND BARBECUE, 10:30 a.m., Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. Worship service features guest speaker Trey Johnson, Texas team roper. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. A barbecue lunch will follow the service. All ages and faiths welcome. Free. (541-276-1894)

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