

King: Hermiston march honors legacy with call to get active

Continued from Page A1

Whitfield shared King's six principles of nonviolence. Nonviolence is built on love instead of hate, he said, and "seeks to defeat evil, not people." It is also built on the belief that the universe is on the side of justice.

"Nonviolence is not for cowardly people," he said. "You have to be able to know how to take it."

He said King may be commonly associated with fighting for civil rights for black Americans in particular, but what King was really against was injustice of all kinds.

Whitfield noted the large number of children and teens in the audience, and said he was glad to see the next generation coming out to honor King's legacy. John Witherspoon, a Tri-Cities area performer, also addressed the young people in the audience before performing two original raps.

"Step out of your shell," he said, encouraging them to stand up for what is right. "Step out of that thing. Who



A procession of marchers stops on the steps in front of city hall to sing the National Anthem on Monday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

cares if someone makes fun of you or calls you stupid?" He told them that

things like video games or scrolling endlessly through Facebook were distractions

from "who you're supposed to be."

Younger children in the

audience were also encouraged to do what is right, as they listened to Jackie

Linton of Hermiston read the children's book "Let the Children March" by Monica Clark-Robinson. The book details the 1963 Birmingham Children's Crusade, explaining how young people stepped up to march against segregation despite being met with fire hoses, police dogs and arrests.

The Martin Luther King Jr. event, hosted by the Hermiston Cultural Awareness Club, began with a short march through Hermiston's downtown, including a stop at city hall. There, city manager Byron Smith thanked participants for doing their part to carry on King's legacy in Hermiston.

"Our community is rich and vibrant because of you, the people who are here, the people who are trying to make it a better place to live," he said.

He quoted from King's famous letter from Birmingham Jail:

"Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co workers with God."

Service: Day honors MLK's vision of a 'beloved community'

Continued from Page A1

volunteers upon their arrival, designating group leaders and pointing to a table heaping with paint, drop cloths, rags, cleaning fluid, buckets, rubber gloves and other supplies. Most had been donated by Zimmerman's Hardware.

Like a football team in a huddle, they broke and beelined to their assignments. Some headed to the gallery to break down shelving, repair nail holes and put away Christmas lights. Others wiped down baseboards in the theater.

Sisters Jeanne Christensen and Donna Collins worked in the ceramics studio, named after their

mother, Alice Fossatti. Fossatti, an artist, died in 2016 at age 102. Her daughters have helped clean the studio for the past several years on the day of service as a tribute to her.

In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday as a national day of service. Karen King, who worked in the gallery on Monday, appreciated the chance to support the arts center.

"It's part of our community," she said. "A really important part of our community."

Kay Bottorf, stacking pedestals on a cart in the East Oregonian Gallery,

said the day of service fits well with MLK's overall message of unity and helping one another.

"MLK was all about service and supporting our communities," Bottorf said.

It isn't difficult to find MLK's own words to back up Bottorf's statement.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" he once said.

Not everybody can be famous," he said on another occasion, "but everybody can be great, because greatness is determined by service."

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0810.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Paegen Kang and Caitlin Pratuch clean paint brushes and other items in the Pendleton Center for the Arts pottery studio during Monday's National Day of Service. In the background, Ruth Hall washes windows.

Walk: About 50 people ignored rainy skies to participate



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Willia Wallace organized the Solidarity Walk to focus on unity.

Continued from Page A1

them as they walked along Main Street carrying signs. Many used umbrellas to ward off the rain. When they hit Frazer Avenue, the group crossed the street and returned to the park. It was a short, simple statement of unity.

The walk took place a day after women's marches were held around the country. The Women's March has recently been mired in controversy for lack of diversity and accusations of anti-semitism.

Wallace said the Solidarity Walk was a separate entity, focused on finding common ground and equality.

In the days leading up to the walk, she described the goal on Facebook.

"We may not agree on everything, but I believe there is an underlying hope for the future which connects us all, that is sacred," she wrote. "I would like the message we send out through this gesture to be a reflection of a solid core community foundation; a deep respect

for all life, gratitude for all lessons, and healing, solidarity and balance. Representing nothing more complicated than that, we walk. Together."

As the group trekked through town, some passing motorists honked in support.

Participants had varied reasons for coming out on this cold, wet Sunday morning.

Jill Johnson, who walked with her dog, Rascal, carried a sign that said "No hate. No fear. Everyone is welcome here."

"There's a lot of really good work to be done and it helps to stand together to do it," Johnson said.

Josh Walker said he simply had a need to do something.

"If you are paying attention to what's going on in this country and are not participating in democracy in some way, then you are not awake enough to be part of the change that needs to happen," Walker said.

The march, he said, was "about unity and coming together."

Colleen Sanders talked about the tendency for political action to be driven by white, middle class values. That doesn't sit well with Sanders.

"Solidarity is making sure that the things we are doing benefit everybody, not just some subsection of people who are able to be there," Sanders said. "We're here to make sure that the tide raises all boats."

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0810.

Unions: Look to take advantage of Oregon Democrat leadership, strong economy in 2019

Continued from Page A1

Local 555 gave Sen. Rob Wagner, chair of the Senate Education Committee, \$5,000 in 2018, as did the Oregon School Employees Association.

With the Legislature convening, union lobbyists will be a significant presence.

Unger said her union supports higher taxes for businesses and wealthy individuals and legislation to improve the cost of housing and to help education.

Her primary focus during the session, though, will be the 30,000 caregivers SEIU represents. She said their work, often underpaid, underappreciated and done by women, can be vital to rural economies.

"How do we create systems to really lift up this work?" she said. "It's often low-wage work, but it is at the core of how families succeed, and something we should really value as a society."

The union wants a smoother regulatory way for home workers to move to jobs in other places, such as a nursing home. She also wants a central background check system. Unger said under the current system, she has seen website advertisements for jobs such as coming into a home to bathe an adult. That's unregulated, she said, and isn't safe for workers or clients.

The union also wants to help renters, supporting limits on rent increases. Unger was pleased with the election of Fagan and her appointment to chair the Senate housing committee.

"There needs to be a bold action plan," Unger said. "How do we ensure people do not lose their homes?"

SEIU is also pushing for increased funding for education, something at the top of Oregon Education Association's agenda.

Over the past 30 years, Oregon has cut programs like career education,

art and physical education while class sizes ballooned and graduation rates fell, according to an emailed statement from John Larson, president of the Oregon Education Association.

The union represents 45,000 workers, many of whom have felt the impacts of decades of education spending cuts.

"Students deserve better, and significantly increasing school funding from pre-K to higher education will make a huge difference," he said.

Larson also rejected the idea of cutting into retirement funds as a way of fixing the state's public pension deficit.

"Current employees are not the cause of the state's financial woes, and further reductions to their benefits will not solve the problem," Larson said. "We must ensure all educators have access to healthcare benefits."

St. Anthony Provider Spotlight



Andrew Schwartz, M.D.

Dr Schwartz is now accepting new patients.

Family Medicine Physician

Undergrad: University of Rhode Island

Medical School: Ross University School of Medicine

Residency: Family Medicine Residency at Wheeling Hospital in Wheeling WV

Post-Residency: Provided both Inpatient and Outpatient care for all ages in Ohio and West Virginia

CHI St. Anthony Hospital

3001 St. Anthony Way Pendleton, OR 97801

Call for your appointment today
541.966.0535

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.SAHPENDLETON.ORG