

FAITH BRIEFS

Service features singing of hymns

HERMISTON — Victory Baptist Church invites people to join them for the final hymn sing until fall. The special service is Sunday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at 103 E. Main St., Hermiston. A time of fellowship is planned after the singing of hymns. For more information, contact Chris Finley at johnchris_1@msn.com or 541-571-2516.

First Christian Church resumes summer schedule

MILTON-FREEWATER — With the change in season, the Milton-Freewater First Christian Church, 518 S. Main St., has changed to its summer schedule. Rev. Steve Lyons will lead the Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m. Also meeting at the same time is junior church, and junior and senior youth groups. Lyons also is leading a Bible study group Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. at Park Plaza. Sunday school classes and breakfast will resume in the fall. Registration is open for youths at Cove Christian Camp. The dates, age groups, and costs are: June 16-22: seventh through 12th grade (\$175, due now); June 23-25: kindergarten through second grade (\$90, due June 9); July 7-11: third/fourth grade (\$155, due by June 23); and July 14-20: fifth/sixth grade (\$175, due June 30). For more information, call the church office Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon at 541-938-3854.

All Saints hosts movie night

HEPPNER — A newly released animated film is featured during Movie Night at All Saints Parish Hall. The movie shares the story about a struggle to save both humans and dragons. The free event is Friday, June 14 at 7 p.m. at 460 N. Gale St., Heppner. Pizza and beverages will be available. For more information, call 541-676-9970.

Churches wipe out millions in medical debt for others

By ROXIE HAMMILL
Kaiser Health News

The leaders of Pathway Church on the outskirts of Wichita, Kan., had no clue that the \$22,000 they already had on hand for Easter would have such impact. The nondenominational suburban congregation of about 3,800 had set out only to help people nearby pay off some medical debt, recalled Larry Wren, Pathway’s executive pastor. After all, the core membership at Pathway’s three sites consists of middle-income families with school-age kids, not high-dollar philanthropists. But then they learned that, like a modern-day loaves-and-fishes story, that smaller amount could wipe

out \$2.2 million in debt not only for the Wichita area but all available debt for every Kansan facing imminent insolvency because of medical expenses they couldn’t afford to pay — 1,600 people in all. As Wren thought about the message of Easter, things clicked. “Being able to do this provides an opportunity to illustrate what it means to have a debt paid that they could never pay themselves,” he said. “It just was a great fit.” Churches in Maryland, Illinois, Virginia, Texas and elsewhere have been reaching the same conclusion. RIP Medical Debt, a nonprofit organization based in Rye, N.Y., that arranges such debt payoffs, reports a recent surge in participation from primary Christian places of worship. Eighteen have worked with RIP in the past year and a half, said Scott Patton, the nonprofit’s director of development. More churches are joining in as word spreads. A big part of RIP’s appeal comes from the impact even a small donation can have, say participating church leaders. When a person can’t pay a bill, that debt is often packaged with other people’s debt and sold to bill collectors for some fraction of the total amount of the bill. Those debts usually come from low-income people and are more difficult to collect. RIP Medical Debt buys debt portfolios on this secondary market for pennies on the dollar with money

from its donors. But instead of collecting the debt, RIP forgives it. To be eligible for repayment from RIP, the debtor must be earning less than twice the federal poverty level (about \$25,000 a year for an individual), have debts that are 5% or more of their annual income and have more debt than assets. Because hospitals and doctors are eager to get those hard-to-collect debts off their books, they sell them cheap. That’s how, Patton said, those 18 churches have been able to abolish \$34.4 million of debt since the start of 2018. Working this way puts a high-dollar project within reach of even small churches. Revolution Annapolis, a nondenominational Maryland church with Sunday attendance of around 200 and without a permanent building, wiped out \$1.9 million in debt for 900 families in March. Total amount raised: \$15,000. Revolution leaders heard about RIP Medical Debt on a segment of John Oliver’s “Last Week Tonight” in 2016, said Kenny Camacho, lead pastor. But at the time, they didn’t think they had the resources to make much of a splash. After hearing about another church that paid off millions last year, Revolution leaders decided to try it. At most, they hoped to have an impact in their area, Camacho said. But the money went much further, eventually covering 14 counties in eastern and central Maryland.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Get involved with your local party on issues that pertain to you and your neighbors in the 2nd Congressional District. All Democrats welcome to attend. (Sue Petersen 541-377-0752)

GREENFIELD GRANGE, 6:30 p.m., Greenfield Grange 579, 209 N.W. First St., Boardman. (541-481-7397)

INLAND NORTHWEST MUSICIANS CHORALE REHEARSAL, 7-9 p.m., Harris Jr. Academy gymnasium, 3121 S.W. Hailey Ave., Pendleton. No tryouts; all welcome. No rehearsals June-July-August or Christmas-New Year. (Salli Ketchersid 541-289-4696)

VFW POST NO. 922, 7 p.m., Pendleton VFW Hall, 1221 S.E. Court Place, Pendleton. (541-278-2720)

ATHENA BOOK GROUP, 7 p.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St., Athena.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11 PENDLETON TOASTMASTERS NO. 154, 6:30 a.m., Pendleton City Hall community room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton.

GREENFIELD GRANGE PINOCHLE, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Greenfield Grange 579, 209 N.W. First St., Boardman. (541-481-7397)

BIBLE STUDY, 10 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 352 S.E. Second St., Pendleton. (Rev. Jim Pierce 541-276-2616)

“THE LIFE MODEL: LIVING FROM THE HEART JESUS GAVE YOU” BOOK STUDY GROUP, 1-2:30 p.m., Bowman Building, 17 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. (Pat 541-276-6671)

STUDYING THE MIRACLES OF JESUS, 4-6 p.m., Good Samaritan Ministries, 319 W. Locust Ave., Hermiston. (541-564-1041)

ARC OF UMATILLA COUNTY, 5:30 p.m., The ARC Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-7615)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 24, 5:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, 424 S.E. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. Help veterans and their families. Everyone welcome to join. (Lynda 541-962-5478)

WILLOW CREEK SYMPHONY REHEARSAL, 6-7:30 p.m., Armand Larive Jr. High School, 1497 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston. Preparatory orchestra for all ages. Does not rehearse June-July-August or during Christmas-New Year holidays. (Salli Ketchersid 541-289-4696)

COLUMBIA RIVER TOASTMASTERS, 6-7 p.m., Umatilla Senior Center, Umatilla.

AWANA, 6:30-8 p.m., Pendleton Baptist Church, 3202 S.W. Nye Ave., Pendleton. For children age 3 through sixth grade. (541-276-7590)

ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, 7 p.m., Adams Ladies Parlor, Main Street, Adams.

HATROCK HOUNDS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, 7-8:30 p.m., First Christian Church, 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. (541-720-4950)

KRAZY HORSE QUILTERS, 7 p.m., Thimbles Fabric N More, 1819 Westgate Place, Pendleton.

WOMEN OF THE IRRIGON MOOSE, 7 p.m., Irrigon Moose Lodge, 210 N.E. Third St., Irrigon. (541-922-1802)

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 PENDLETON MAS-TERS SWIM CLUB, 5-6 p.m., Roundup Athletic Club pool, 1415 Southgate, Pendleton. \$5 per session coaching fee; non-RAC members pay \$8 pool fee per session. (Tania Wildbill 541-310-9102)

PENDLETON EAGLES LADIES AUXILIARY KITCHEN, 6-8 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Members and guests welcome. (541-278-2828)

HERMISTON CLASSICS CAR CLUB, 7 p.m., Desert Lanes, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston. (541-571-5960 or 541-571-3252)

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 MEN’S BREAKFAST, 8 a.m., Bethel Assembly of God Church, 1109 Airport Road, Pendleton. (541-276-7559)

FRIENDS OF THE UMATILLA PUBLIC LIBRARY, 9 a.m., Umatilla City Hall, 700 Sixth St., Umatilla. (541-922-5704)

EASTERN OREGON CELTIC SOCIETY PIPERS GATHERING, 1 p.m., The Old Meeting House, 901 M Ave., La Grande. For pipers of all skill levels. Instruction is free, but a \$2 donation for use of the building is appreciated. (541-568-4643)

HERMISTON CULTURAL AWARENESS CLUB, 2 p.m., Starbucks, 1235 N. First St., Hermiston. Practicing the wisdom of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the community, including all cultures and races. Everyone welcome. (John Carbage 541-701-7073)

PENDLETON EAGLES STEAK AND LIVE MUSIC, 6-11:59 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Dinner from 6-8 p.m., music from 8 p.m. to midnight. Members and guests welcome. (541-278-2828)

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 PENDLETON EAGLES BREAKFAST, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Open to members and guests. (541-278-2828)

MONDAY, JUNE 10 BOARDMAN QUILT GROUP, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Quilt construction, quilting updates, education, history and friendship. Free. (Kathy Hyder 541-571-7009)

GARDENING FRIENDS, 2 p.m., venue varies, Boardman. (Margie Park 541-481-2570)

IRRIGON MOOSE LODGE TACOS AND BINGO, 6-9 p.m., Irrigon Moose Lodge, 220 N.E. Third St., Irrigon. Tacos from 6-9 p.m., bingo from 6:30-9 p.m. Open to members and guests. (541-922-1802)

UMATILLA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY, 6-8 p.m., Pendleton City Hall community room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton.

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www.pendletonepiscopal.org
Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Holy Communion Noon
Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group
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Tom Inch, Pastor
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Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am
Fellowship - 11:00 am
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14 Martin Drive,
Umatilla, OR
922-3250
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Sunday School at 11:30

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Bible Study.....10:00 AM
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Worship Service 10:45 am

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www.pendletonbahais.com
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www.facebook.com/pendletonoregonbahais/

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9:30 - Sunday School
10:30 - Worship Service
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5:30 Family Fellowship Meal - 6:00 Bible Study
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