

'I'm OK' is a child's best gift



SARAH HAUG

LIGHT OF UNITY

“Hey, Mom! Let me just say first off that I'm OK.”

More than one of my children has begun a phone conversation this way. This particular child was smart to have alleviated my fears so quickly. Many parents have received far worse calls than I did that day, with the news that my son had spun his car on the highway and come to rest in the median.

While I was incredibly grateful that he was OK, I was painfully aware that the call could have been my worst nightmare. Every day, in the back of every parent's mind, is the fear of a conversation that doesn't begin with “I'm OK.” Our current world both preys on and stokes that fear, even before the arrival of COVID-19.

Some of those fears are valid. Of course they are. Others are not. Maybe even most are not.

How do we, as parents, negotiate those fears? How do we, knowing what's out there, allow our children to walk out of the house every morning? How do we avoid turning ourselves into helicopter parents and/or panic-monsters?

It isn't by giving them a cellphone with the GPS enabled, though I've done that. It isn't by making them wear helmets, seat belts or masks, though my children

wear all those too. If only it could be so simple.

How then?

It's by letting go.

It's by accepting that our children's lives are not something we control.

It's by knowing that every child is a gift from God, given to us to love in a world where bad things happen.

Sometimes those bad things are a consequence of the way God created the universe. A gentle rain becomes a flood. A breeze becomes a hurricane. All life ends ultimately in death.

Other times, those bad things are a consequence of free will, something else God has given us. Every day, humans make decisions, big and small, that negatively affect others: Drunken drivers run stop signs; powerful people are swayed by their material desires; co-workers come to work sick.

We grow through adversity, and the only thing we truly control is what we do with what we are given. The Baha'i Faith has a prayer that helps me every day. It begins, “O Lord! Unto Thee I repair for refuge, and toward all Thy signs I set my heart. Whether traveling or at home, and in my occupation or in my work, I place my whole trust in thee.”

The car was totaled. My son was fine.

It is left to me to be grateful for that gift.

Sarah Haug is a member of the Baha'i Faith and has called Pendleton home since 2002. You can find her most days walking on the river-walk with her husband, Dan.

Joseph Center plans ambitious virtual fundraiser

JOSEPH — The Joseph Center for Arts and Culture invites the public to a virtual fundraiser on April 15 at 6:30 p.m. in support of the Key to Our Future capital campaign to purchase and renovate the building.

The event, hosted by special guest Andy Lindberg (actor and host of the podcast “Kick Ass Oregon History”), will include a short presentation about the campaign, donor recognition, testimonials from local artists and residents, and prizes. The goal is to raise \$50,000 — to be matched by MJ Murdock Charitable Trust — in less than one hour.

To participate in the fundraising event, register online at www.josephy.org/capital-fundraiser or call 541-432-0505. Registration is free of charge.

Like many other events this year, the center's virtual fundraiser format is in compliance with COVID-19 safety restrictions.

“The Joseph Center is a gathering place; and, as much as we'd love to fundraise with everyone under the same roof, having a virtual event now means that we will have endless opportunities to gather safely in the future,” said Executive Director Cheryl Coughlan in a press release.

Longtime Library Director Rich Wandschneider relayed the importance of

the capital campaign in this way: “The Joseph Center began as an idea in a borrowed building. Now the building is a place of joy and beauty that helps further our understanding of the past and celebrates all people — from the Nez Perce who have lived here for thousands of years, to the young people of Wallowa County finding their way with color and clay. Now the building can be ours and that idea can keep growing.”

The Key to Our Future two-phased campaign is focused on making the Joseph Center a permanent home for arts and culture in Wallowa County, as well as restoring and expanding the center to elevate visitor experience and fit the growing needs of the community.

Phase One focuses on the building purchase, critical safety repairs and accessibility for all. Phase Two focuses on the renovation and expansion of the building, which will increase functionality, accessibility and programming.

Pendleton natives earn WGU degrees

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Joseph Gros-Jacques, Kadysha Wood and Tabitha Keeler, all of Pendleton, have earned degrees from Western Governors University (WGU). The online, nonprofit university has graduated over 218,000 students from across the country since its inception in 1997.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

GrosJacques received a Master of Science, Management and Leadership. Wood earned a Master of Science, Curriculum and Instruction. Keeler was awarded a Bachelor of Science, Network Operations and Security.

WGU has recognized 14,146 undergraduate and 15,640 graduate degree recipients who have completed their degrees since July 2, 2020. Their areas of study include business, K-12 education, information technology, and health professions, including nursing. The average time to graduation for those earning a bachelor's degree was 2 years, 3 months, while the average time to degree for graduate programs was 1 year, 4 months. The average age for those who graduated is 37 years old.

IMESD employee gains notice with radon testing work

PENDLETON — Larry Glaze, the director of operations and facilities for the Intermountain Education Service District, has become somewhat of a radon expert over the course of his work the past few years, according to a press release. In 2015, the Oregon Legislature passed a new requirement for Oregon schools, mandating that all schools be tested for radon by January 2021. However, school radon testing information and protocols were not very prevalent.

According to the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, radon is a naturally occurring, inert, colorless and odorless radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer. Outdoors, radon disperses rapidly and, generally, is not a health issue. Most radon exposure occurs inside homes, schools and workplaces when the gas becomes trapped indoors after it enters buildings through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Indoor radon can be controlled and managed with proven, cost-effective techniques.

To help the IMESD's school districts meet the new testing requirement, Glaze developed a radon testing and measurement program to train maintenance employees from Eastern Oregon's districts, allowing districts to complete the testing as mandated. Many of the districts requested that the IMESD complete the radon testing for them.

In the past three years, Glaze and his small facilities team have tested 21 school districts for the presence of radon.

All of Glaze's work has gotten noticed — he was recently asked by the EPA division out of Seattle to present on Tuesday, March 16, webinar entitled “Radon in Schools: EPA Tools for Schools and Case Studies” hosted by The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors and The American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists.

—EO Media Group

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MEETINGS

Editor's note: Due to concerns about the coronavirus, many activities have been postponed or canceled. Contact the venue before attending any public gathering to ensure the event is still scheduled, and at the place listed.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

ECHO CITY COUNCIL, 4 p.m., Old VFW Hall, 210 W. Bridge St., Echo. (541-376-8411)

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

No meetings scheduled

MONDAY, MARCH 22

HERMISTON CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. Meeting will be live-streamed on the city's YouTube channel, <https://bit.ly/HermistonYouTube>. Citizens also can listen by phone or offer comment remotely by dialing 206-462-5569, meeting ID 322-962-8667. A limited number of chairs will be available; social distancing protocols will be observed. (541-567-5521)

IRRIGON COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Irrigon Fire Station, 705 N. Main St., Irrigon. (541-922-3047)

MILTON-FREEWATER CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library Albee Room, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-5531)

NIXYA AWII COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD, 4:30 p.m., Nixyaawii Community School via teleconference, 73300 July Grounds Lane, Mission. Via teleconference at meet.google.com/tmv-tbwh-kwu. (Carrie Phinney 541-966-2680)

UMATILLA BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL, 6 p.m., Pendleton City Hall community room, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (Michael T. Ward 541-276-2190)

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

UMATILLA PLANNING COMMISSION, 6:30 p.m., Umatilla City Hall, 700 Sixth St., Umatilla. (Brandon Seitz 541-922-3226 ext. 103)

UMATILLA-MORROW COUNTY HEAD START, 11:30 a.m., virtual meeting, 372 E. Main St., Hermiston. (Monina Ward 541-564-6878)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

BUTTER CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT, 8 a.m., online, via teleconference, Echo. Agenda and call-in information will be made available on request. (Nathan Rau 509-820-3231)

LOTTERY

Monday, March 16, 2021

Megabucks
10-19-26-30-31-46
Estimated jackpot: \$3.1 million

Lucky Lines
02-08-09-14-17-24-26-32
Estimated jackpot: \$42,000

Win for Life
12-13-37-52

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 4-2-9-8
4 p.m.: 1-8-3-6
7 p.m.: 8-1-7-1
10 p.m.: 1-0-6-8

Tuesday, March 17, 2021

Mega Millions

10-41-46-52-69

Mega Ball: 8
Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$93 million

Lucky Lines
02-05-11-16-20-21-28-31
Estimated jackpot: \$43,000

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 3-0-5-5
4 p.m.: 2-1-4-0
7 p.m.: 8-8-0-1
10 p.m.: 2-0-2-2

Wednesday, March 18, 2021

Pick 4
1 p.m.: 6-8-7-7

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