

Helping others stay well is a worthy cause



MARC MULLINS

MARC'S REMARKS

Anyone who has been following the news, whether on television, radio or online, has seen the dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases in India. In the past three months, the number of confirmed cases in India has risen dramatically from just over 11,000 to more than 400,000 per day. In the past week, India's daily COVID-19 death toll surpassed 4,000 for the first time. Reports now inform us there have been more than 21 million cases and 238,000 related deaths in India since the pandemic began.

Personally, I feel deep empathy for those who have lost loved ones, whether from this pandemic or otherwise. My own brother died April 14 as a result of cancer, and I officiated at his graveside service on my birthday, April 28. The reality of grief is undeniable.

In his historical fiction novel, "Memoirs of a Geisha," author Arthur Golden wrote, "Grief is a most peculiar thing; we're so helpless in the face of it. It's like a window that will simply open of its own accord. The room grows cold, and we can do nothing but shiver. But it opens a little less each time, and a little less; and one day we wonder what has become of it." I have found this to be true of grief for myself. Initially overwhelming, in time the sting of grief can diminish.

Still, however, I feel deeply for those who experience the death of loved ones, whether from COVID-19 or from other causes, whether close to home or in faraway places, such as India. When I earnestly ponder the events of this past year, and consider the lives and livelihoods that have been lost, there is an irrefutable sadness that passes over my spirit. Such does not have to either consume or limit me, though. I have the power to help make things better.

One thing I can do — something we all can do — is to help protect others from the adverse effects of COVID-19. I can, and do, choose to wear a face mask when away from home. I do my best to keep appropriate distance between myself and others. Furthermore, I did become vaccinated at the earliest opportunity. These are measures we all can take with respect to others and regard for all.

While some may think, "I'm not going to let others tell me how to live my life," I choose to concentrate on a different thought: "I'm going to do everything within my control to help protect myself and others."

I encourage you to think first about the welfare and well-being of others, and then to act in such ways as to help promote considerate and responsible behavior. Let's each do our part to bring an end to this pandemic.

Marc Mullins is pastor of the First Christian Church of Pendleton, Oregon, where he also utilizes his gifts as a musician, singer and songwriter.

Summer program offers kids' fun in Boardman

BOARDMAN — As summer approaches, parents are encouraged to register their children for FUNtastic Kidz or Teen Summer. The programs will offer activities and lunch at no charge in separate sessions for kids ages 5-12 and 12-17.

Coordinated by the Boardman Pool & Recreation Center in conjunction with the Morrow County School District, the program runs Monday, June 21, through Thursday, July 22. The time for kids ages 5-12 is from 8:30-11:30 a.m., and for those ages 12-17 it runs from 1:15-4 p.m.

Pre-registration is required. Also, free busing options are available for Boardman and Irrigon students. For more information, visit www.boardmanparkandrec.com/funtastic-kidz or email tessa@boardmanparkandrec.com.

New scholarship offered by Round-Up, HOF

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Round-Up & Happy Canyon Hall of Fame, in partnership with the contract personnel of the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon, is offering a \$2,500 scholarship to a Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) student to support their education. One recipient from qualified applicants will be selected to receive the scholarship award.

The Pendleton Round-Up & Happy Canyon Hall of Fame Contract Personnel Scholarship is made possible through the generous contributions by the stock contract personnel of the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon, and the board of directors of the Pendleton

COMMUNITY BRIEFING



East Oregonian, File

The Boardman Pool and Recreation Center, which opened in July 2017, will provide programs and lunch for FUNtastic Kids and Teen Summer in July and August 2021.

Round-Up & Happy Canyon Hall of Fame. The Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Board of Directors' support of the Let 'er Buck Cares Fund also helped to make this scholarship possible.

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide financial support to a student attending BMCC to help offset the costs of going to college at the discretion of the scholarship recipient, including tuition, fees, books, housing, food, utilities, fuel and more. Applicants must be able to show proof of enrollment at BMCC during Winter Term 2021-22, and hold a minimum 2.0 GPA.

Interested students must submit a completed application along with an essay (maximum 750 words) discussing why the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon are important to them and to the community.

Applications will be blind-reviewed by the Pendleton Round-Up & Happy Canyon Hall of Fame Scholarship Committee and Hall of Fame president in August 2021, and a selection committee of Pendleton Round-Up contract personnel on Sept. 14. The scholarship winner will be announced and, if present, introduced during the Sept. 15 performance of the Pendleton

Round-Up during the Hall of Fame Inductee Introduction event in the Round-Up Arena. Attendance during the announcement is not a requirement for scholarship eligibility.

To apply, interested students should download the fillable application from the Pendleton Round-Up & Happy Canyon website, www.pendletonroundup.com/p/round-up/halloffame-inductees, or from the Hall of Fame's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ruphalloffame. Applications must be emailed to ruphalloffame@gmail.com by Aug. 1.

Hospital auxiliary awards scholarships

HERMISTON — Area students pursuing their education in the field of medicine were recently awarded \$2,000 scholarships from the Good Shepherd Medical Center Auxiliary.

Hermiston students earning scholarships included:

•**Kyler Mikami:** Blue Mountain Community College/Brigham Young University, biophysics/chemistry/pre-med;

•**Megan Billings:** BMCC/Lane Community College/Linn-Benton Community College, nursing;

•**Sydney Adams:** BMCC/Eastern Oregon University La Grande/Oregon Health Science University La Grande, nursing.

For information about the auxiliary, call the director of volunteer services at 541-667-3690.

TruCare fills bottles for babies

HERMISTON — A Baby Bottle Campaign continues through mid-June to help raise money for TruCare Pregnancy Clinic.

TruCare is celebrating moms and mother figures throughout the month of May. People are invited to fill baby bottles with cash in honor or memory of someone special. Honored recipients will receive personalized notes and recognition on social media. The campaign will run through Father's Day, which is June 20.

People can also "fill" a bottle virtually online via www.mygiving.com/App/Giving/tpc by making a \$25 donation for one bottle, \$50 for two or other custom amounts. Financial contributions provide help in funding pregnancy testing, ultrasounds and pregnancy support in the community.

A nonprofit organization, TruCare was originally founded as Pregnancy Care Services in Pendleton in 1993, opening a Hermiston office in May 2011. In early 2018, TruCare became an independent entity from the center in Pendleton.

TruCare provides free and confidential services in English and Spanish. It provides options counseling, community referrals and parenting classes. Parents also can obtain needed baby supplies through the center.

The facility is located at 140 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. For more information, contact 541-567-2393, kristi@trucareprc.com or visit www.trucareprc.com.

—EO Media Group

WHY IS UMATILLA COUNTY PROPOSING TO END COUNTY-RUN ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES AFTER NEARLY 30 YEARS?

Without any advance notice to the clients and the community who depend on these programs and the employees who provide these critical services, Umatilla County put out a request for proposal (RFP) to outsource their long standing alcohol and drug treatment program with:

- x No opportunity for public comment
- x No fiscal reason for the decision
- x No clinical reason for the decision

This program is supported by grants and funding from the state. It serves many of our most vulnerable community members efficiently and effectively, and helps ensure safe communities across our County.

Clients who receive these services will be negatively impacted by a change in providers as continuity is an important element in recovery.

There is no reason to rush this decision and we demand that the County formally postpone the process, and hold public hearings to explain why it is changing a program that is working well for County residents, and to give the community, the clients, and the employees a chance to be heard.

Call Board Chair George Murdock
541-278-6202 or email him at
george.murdock@umatillacounty.net
and tell him to postpone the
contracting process.

Oregon
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Council 75



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