

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Catholic Daughters donate to pregnancy clinic

HERMISTON — Our Lady of Angels Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court No. 1692 recently held a bake sale to raise money for TruCare Pregnancy Clinic in Hermiston. Catholic Daughters Regent Kristi Smalley presented a \$1,000 check to Kristi Atkins, TruCare's executive director, June 11 in Hermiston.

A nonprofit organization, TruCare was originally founded as Pregnancy Care Services in 1993 in Pendleton, 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 at 140 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. For more information, contact 541-567-2393, kristi@trucarepc.com or visit www.trucarepc.com.

Pendleton woman shares photographic journey to Mongolia

PENDLETON — A new exhibition featuring the photography of Debbie McIntosh is on display at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

"Mongolia Winter Migration" includes 23 photographs that highlight the Pendleton woman's recent photography expedition to Mongolia. She was able to document Kazakh nomadic herders and hunters, who occasionally allow photographers and writers to accompany them.

The exhibit is available for in-person viewing Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. in the art center's East Oregonian Gallery, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Admission is free.

For more information about the arts center, email director@pendletonarts.org or visit www.pendletonarts.org.

Chamber Ambassadors tee off with networking event

PENDLETON — Door prizes, complimentary snacks, a no-host bar, a 50/50 drawing and networking are featured in the upcoming Pendleton Chamber Ambassador's Kick It Up After 5.

The free event is Thursday, June 24, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse at Birch Creek at the former Pendleton Country Club, 69772 Highway 395 S., Pendleton.

An RSVP is required. Due to limited space, those planning to attend are encouraged to register early via www.eventbrite.com For more information about chamber activities, call 541-276-7411 or visit www.pendletonchamber.com.

Grant benefits Stanfield youths, supports summer activities

STANFIELD — The Stanfield School District, Stanfield Public Library and Stanfield Parks & Recreation recently received a grant that will benefit youth in the community.

Library Director Cecil Longhorn said in a press release the Oregon Community Recovery Fund grant helps in financing fun enrichment opportunities for youths that will help in building a stronger partnership between the school district and city departments. In addition, she said it will provide the means to hire six youths from the community to help with summer activities.

"We will be offering art and craft activities, physical activities/games, trips, movie nights and more," Longhorn said. "Now is the time for us to work together as a community to support our youth and keep them active



Kristi Smalley/Contributed Photo
Regent Kristi Smalley of Our Lady of Angels Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court No. 1692 presents a donation on June 11, 2021, to Kristi Atkins, executive director of TruCare Pregnancy Clinic, Hermiston.

and engaged during the summer."

Those activities include Lifetime Fitness & Fun with Tyler Watson on Monday and Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Art with Michelle Hopper on Tuesday and Thursdays; and free Grab & Go Lunches for all youth at 11:30 a.m. For more information about the programs, call Longhorn at 541-449-1254.

School district Superintendent Beth Burton is excited about the opportunity for youths in the community.

"The pandemic has been tough on kids, and this is a way for us to work together to provide positive activities and outreach during the months that school is not in session," she said.

The special fund was established in March to rapidly deploy resources to community-based organizations at the front lines of the coronavirus outbreak. Resources are prioritized where and when they are critically needed, with a focus on Oregon's most vulnerable populations.

Anyone may contribute to the Oregon Community Recovery Fund, including online. Also, nonprofit organizations can review funding guidelines and apply for grants on the website. For more information, visit www.oregoncf.org.

Echo Market sets up June 19

ECHO — Produce, vendors, food, entertainment and games for the kids are featured during this weekend's Echo Market.

The event is Saturday, June 19, from 4-7 p.m. at Fort George Park, South Dupont and Bridge streets. The market is available the first and third Saturday of each month. The relaxing event offers family-friendly fun and a chance to catch up with your neighbors.

For more information, including to set up as a vendor, or hosting a food, community or display booth or being featured as an entertainer, call Teres at 541-720-0831, Amanda at 541-701-1531 or email myechomarket@gmail.com. The vendor sales booths are \$12 each market and community and display booths are free. Money collected for booth fees benefit the Echo Heritage Association.

Local dispatcher completes basic course

SALEM — Dispatcher Deena Josue of the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office recently completed a three-week basic telecommunications course at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem.

Presented by the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Josue and classmates graduated June 11. The course included such topics as emergency call handling techniques, stress management, criminal law and an overview of fire-rescue and law enforcement operations.

The DPSST provides training to more than 25,000 students each year throughout Oregon and at the safety academy in Salem. For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/dpsst.

—EO Media Group

Spiritual tests help our souls grow



SARAH HAUG

LIGHT OF UNITY

Be generous in prosperity and thankful in adversity. This extract from the Baha'i writings encapsulates an ideal about how we should strive to live our lives.

I've lived in a faith community throughout my life, but this ideal is difficult! I find it much easier to be generous in prosperity than thankful in adversity, especially when I'm experiencing hard times.

When your car dies on a remote highway, it's pretty difficult to be thankful for the chance to rise above the experience and learn from it, not to mention express gratitude for what you do have. It's only later, maybe, that you realize those car payments were more than you could afford, or the car was a total lemon you are better off without. Or that you can be proud of yourself for managing

your anxieties and fears enough to simply get the job done. In the meantime, you're stuck on the side of the highway with no cell service 60 miles from home with three kids in the back seat.

It is impossible to truly know the adversity others have overcome to reach the present day. For many, their lives have been beset with perpetual financial difficulties. Others have never suffered materially but have been woefully deprived of love. Still more have lost, and lost, and lost again.

To say in the midst of adversity that a person should be thankful seems horribly condescending and cruel. We fear tests, especially those we've encountered before and don't want to endure again. We pray to have them taken away or resolved. And yet, spiritual and emotional growth comes from those times when "bad" things happen.

If we're given every material benefit, we become spoiled and soft. Just as physical tests help our bodies grow, spiritual tests help our souls grow.

This is true for everyone.

I wonder whether the current attraction of apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic fiction derives from some deep desire to be overtly tested. It may feel easier to face down a zombie horde than to figure out how to pay the bills on Monday. A sudden apocalypse would free us from our daily lives and give us the opportunity to really show our mettle.

That said, I am quite sure the Zombie Apocalypse would do me in right quick. Better to face the real future without fear. Even more — and this is a really startling idea — better to ask God to give us those very same tests we fear, so we can face them and our fears, and overcome them both.

As the Baha'i writings also say: The troubles of this world pass, and what we have left is what we have made of our souls.

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 riverwalk with her husband, Dan.

Buckwheat provides nourishing bouquet



BRUCE BARNES

BLOOMIN' BLUES



Bruce Barnes/Contributed Photo
Bailey's buckwheat, Eriogonum baileyi.

Scientific name: Eriogonum baileyi

Common name: Bailey's buckwheat

This interesting plant is in the buckwheat family, and is probably seldom noticed. It grows from southeast Washington to southeast California and Arizona, adjacent Idaho, and in Utah. The plant prefers sand or gravel or heavy soils, in deserts to grassland or shrubland. Depending on which botanist you ask, the plant is divided into two to several varieties, or split off from

sprouts and puts out its leaves in early spring. The only leaves on the plant are mostly flat on the ground at the base, each leaf is narrow at the base, and nearly circular at the tip. Then in late spring or summer it sends up very thin, erect or ascending, branching stems. The stems are loosely covered with tiny white clusters of flowers. Each cluster is only about 2 to 4 millimeters across.

By about mid summer the branches have produced a rather eye-catching bouquet up to 20 inches across and nearly as high.

Tribes in the plant's area have used the plant to treat skin ailments. They also pounded the seeds into meal, then mixed it with water for a beverage, and they also ate the meal dry.

In our area the plant



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