

# The gift of failure



**CHRIS HANKEL**  
LIVING WITH PURPOSE

Have you ever done something that you immediately regretted? Or perhaps you made a decision that you couldn't go back on and later came to realize was a huge mistake? Well, I have.

Too many times to count.

I hate that feeling — the feeling that I was wrong. The feeling that I tried and failed, or said something stupid that hurt someone or made a choice that negatively impacted someone I love. That sinking feeling of remorse is always a humbling one.

Sometimes we think that God wants us to sit in our failures and sit in that state of regret. As if somehow feeling bad enough about our mistakes will protect us from making them in the future. And so we become our punisher, thinking God is pleased with our hatred toward our behavior. But the Bible tells a different story.

There are countless examples of how Jesus dealt with mistakes, but one of my favorites is the story of the woman who got caught committing adultery in John 8. The religious leaders decided she should be shamed and punished, but Jesus' response was different. Rather than accuse, He forgave. He wasn't afraid of the amount of failure in her life because He knew He

could forgive any of her wrongs.

Those voices of guilt, shame, fear and regret that like to sneak into our lives when we fail, well, they're simply not how God deals with failure. It's almost offensive. At the drop of a hat, He can forgive and forget the second you turn toward Him. He doesn't hold a grudge, He isn't passive-aggressive, and He's not going to use your failure against you later. So why do we hold onto our failure so tightly? He's not.

Now I'm not saying we should go out and intentionally do stupid things or make immoral choices. I like to call that the spirit of stupid, and it won't amount to anything helpful. But I am saying that regret is not your friend, and it will not do you any favors.

If you can trust Jesus with your failures, I think you'll be surprised to find He's not as worried about them as you are. He has a plan to turn the things you regret into something beautiful. In Isaiah 61, God talks about restoring Israel after their captivity in Babylon and promises to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes. If God can take ashes and make them beautiful, imagine what He can do with your mistakes.

The next time you make a mistake and hear that siren call of guilt whispering your name, just say "Not today," and run to your heavenly Father whose arms are wide open and eyes are beaming with pride, not disappointment.

*Chris Hankel is the lead pastor at New Hope Community Church in Hermiston.*

*THOSE VOICES OF GUILT, SHAME, FEAR AND REGRET THAT LIKE TO SNEAK INTO OUR LIVES WHEN WE FAIL, WELL, THEY'RE SIMPLY NOT HOW GOD DEALS WITH FAILURE.*

# Scarlet Gilia an eye-popping treat



**BRUCE BARNES**  
BLOOMIN' BLUES

**Name:** Scarlet Gilia or Skyrocket Gilia  
**Scientific name:** *Ipomopsis aggregata*

This is the last article for the "blooming season" this year, and I thought I'd highlight a spectacular, bright flower.

Although this plant doesn't look anything like phlox, it is a good candidate for "show-off" of the Phlox Family. It is eye-catching from a fast-moving car even though it is usually only one foot tall with a single stem. The lower third of the stem has interesting, branching, string-like leaves, but I'll bet most people don't pay much attention to the leaves.

Scarlet Gilia is found in open or lightly wooded, rocky slopes and drier meadows, from lowlands to high elevations. It ranges east of the Cascade summits from British Columbia to Mexico, and east to Montana, Colorado and Texas. There are 10 subspecies or varieties of this plant; only two are in the Blues: subspecies *aggregata* (pictured here) and subspecies *formosissima*. Subspecies *aggregata* is bright red and sometimes spotted with white; subspecies *formosissima* has anthers exserted from the trumpet-shaped flower, which is 30 to 45 mm long.

Many western Indian tribes have used this plant for several purposes. Medicinal uses include treating mothers following a birth, and for treating spider bites, high fevers, rheumatism, colds, and to make one vomit. It was used as a laxative, an eye wash, a blood tonic, a disinfectant wash to relieve itching, and to treat venereal disease. Other uses include boiling the whole plant to make glue, or to make a drink. Children sucked nectar from the flowers. It was also used as a decoration, and for good luck in hunting.



Bruce Barnes/Contributed Photo

**Scarlet Gilia, *Ipomopsis aggregata*.**

**Where to find:** In the Blues, the plant is easy to find at middle to upper elevations in mid-summer.

*Bruce Barnes directs Flora ID, producing plant ID software, found at flora-id.org. Reach him at flora.id@wtechlink.us.*

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### GriefShare offers encouragement

STANFIELD — A faith-based grief support group is starting soon at Stanfield Baptist Church.

The GriefShare program runs for 13 weeks. Each session is self-contained, so participants are welcome to begin attending at any point. The next cycle of groups begins Wednesday, Sept. 8, 6-7:30 p.m. at the church, 310 E. Wheeler Ave., Stanfield.

The sessions include video seminars featuring grief recovery experts, small discussion groups and personal study through a workbook. The non denominational program features biblical principles and offers help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. A free workbook is provided.

For more information or to register for the group, contact Scott Zielke at 541-571-6886.

### Pioneer Posse sets royalty tryouts

MILTON-FREEWATER — The Milton-Freewater Pioneer Posse invites all cowgirls in seventh through 12th grade to try out for its 2022 royalty court.

The yearly schedule, rules, information and application are available at [www.mfpposse.com](http://www.mfpposse.com). The application must be submitted by

Wednesday, Sept. 1.

All applicants must attend the pre-tryout meeting with their horse Sept. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Pioneer Posse Grounds, 84581 Highway 11, Milton-Freewater. The tryouts are Sept. 11, at noon, also at the Posse Grounds.

For more information, contact Sharee at 541-938-0608 or [competitornews@yahoo.com](mailto:competitornews@yahoo.com).

### Christian rapper to perform

HERMISTON — A faith-based rap and hip hop recording artist will perform in Hermiston.

In addition to taking the stage during Saturday afternoon's Greater Hermiston CityFest with Andrew Palau, George Moss also will perform at the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene.

Presented by Elevate Student Ministry, the concert is Sunday, Aug. 29, at 6:30 p.m. The doors will open at 6 p.m. at the church at 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Admission is free.

In addition to performing hip hop and rap, Moss is the founder of OXEN Apparel. Moss uses his platform to encourage people to live a

lifestyle of love, understanding and obedience to Jesus Christ.

For more information, visit [www.hermnaz.com](http://www.hermnaz.com) or call 541-567-3677. For more about Moss, visit [www.georgemossmusic.com](http://www.georgemossmusic.com).

### Support group for moms on hold

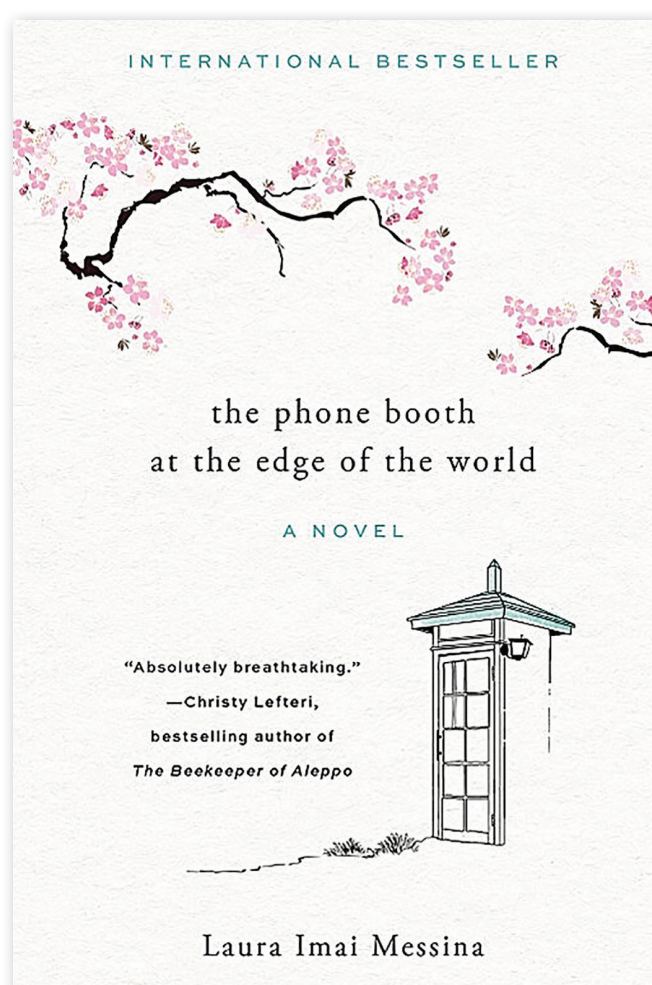
UMATILLA — Conexion de Madre, a support group for moms of all ages, is on hold. The decision was made because of the continued spread of COVID-19.

The group, which just recently started, was to meet on the last Thursday of each month from 6-7:30 p.m. at Umatilla City Hall, which is temporarily closed to the public. For more information, call 541-922-3226 or visit [www.umatilla-city.org/parksrec](http://www.umatilla-city.org/parksrec).

### Heritage Station announces closures

PENDLETON — Heritage Station Museum has suspended its normal operating hours on Saturday, Sept. 4, because the facility has been rented out for an event. In addition, it will be closed Sept. 13-18 during the week of the Pendleton Round-Up.

For more information, contact Shannon Gruenhagen, marketing and tourism coordinator, at 541-276-0012



The Overlook Press/Contributed Photo

**The Hermiston Public Library's book club will read and discuss the international bestseller "The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World" by Laura Imai Messina.**

or [shannong@heritagestationmuseum.org](mailto:shannong@heritagestationmuseum.org). For more information about events and activities at the museum, search Facebook or Instagram via [@heritagestation-pendleton](https://www.instagram.com/heritagestation-pendleton).

### Book club to discuss novel

HERMISTON — An international bestselling novel about grief, mourning and the joy of survival

is the topic of the upcoming Bookminders, the Hermiston Public Library book club.

The group will discuss "The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World" by Laura Imai Messina. The book's inspiration came from a real disconnected phone booth in Japan, a place of pilgrimage and solace since the 2011 tsunami.

The book club gathering is Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 1:30 p.m. downstairs in the library meeting room, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Anyone that's interested is invited to attend.

The book club, which is free and open to everyone, meets the second Tuesday of each month. A limited number of copies of "The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World" are available at the library. For more information, call 541-567-2882 or stop by the library.

### Sepulveda earns master's degree

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Theresa Sepulveda of Pendleton received a Master of Arts degree from The University of Alabama: Master of Arts. The university awarded more than 1,400 degrees during its summer commencement ceremonies July 31, 2021.

—EO Media Group

## MEETINGS

### THURSDAY, AUG. 26

**PENDLETON PLANNING COMMISSION**, 7 p.m., Pendleton City Hall, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (Jutta Haliewicz 541-966-0240)

**SALVATION ARMY ADVISORY BOARD**, Noon, Salvation Army, 150 S.E. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-3369)

**UMATILLA COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT**, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom or phone, online, Pendleton. Join the meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84924329644> or call 971-247-1195, Meeting ID: 849 2432 9644, for audio only. (Erin McCusker 541-276-6449)

### FRIDAY, AUG. 27

No meetings scheduled.

### MONDAY, AUG. 30

**MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT**, 6 p.m., Pioneer Memorial Clinic conference room or via Zoom, 130 Thompson Ave., Heppner. Join the meeting online at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89883299821?pwd=VFdaL0phcVkyYzZ2UXd0MTNkVVF-CUT09>, meeting ID 898 8329 9821, passcode 478061, or call 669-900-6833. (Jodi Ferguson 541-676-2942)

### TUESDAY, AUG. 31

No meetings scheduled.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 1

**BLUE MOUNTAIN BOARD OF EDUCATION**, 6 p.m., Blue Mountain Community College Hermiston Campus, via teleconference, via Zoom conference or phone, Pendleton. 5 p.m. executive session, 6 p.m. regular board meeting. Join the Zoom videoconference (PC, Mac, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/995173234>) or call in to 415-762 9988, Meeting ID: 995 173 234. (Shannon Franklin 541-278-5951)

**CONDON CITY COUNCIL**, 7 p.m., Condon City Hall, 128 S. Main St., Condon. ((541) 384-2711)

**MEACHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**, 6 p.m., Meacham Fire Department, Meacham. ((541) 786-2069)

**MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, 9 a.m., Bartholomew Government Building upper conference room, 110 N. Court St., Heppner. (Roberta Litcher (541) 676-5613)

**UMATILLA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**, 7 p.m., Umatilla Fire Department, 305 Willamette St., Umatilla. (541-922-2770)

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### MONDAY, AUG. 23

3:04 a.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred at Key Lock Storage, 4400 N.W. A Ave., Pendleton.

8:59 a.m. — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office responded to a reported assault at the intersection of West Walls and Craig roads, Hermiston.

12:11 p.m. — The Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a vehicle theft at Goodwin Court Apartments, South Main Street, Pendleton.

1:03 p.m. — The Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a burglary on Southeast Cowins Street, Heppner. A man told police that more than \$800 in cash and small items.

2:29 p.m. — The Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a burglary on West Orchard Avenue, Hermiston.

2:55 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred at McDonalds on Southgate, Pendleton.

6:41 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred at Blue Mountain Village Apartments, 2700 S.W. Goodwin Ave., Pendleton.

8:24 p.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred at the Stanfield R.V. Park, 345 S. Main St., Stanfield.

### TUESDAY, AUG. 24

9:17 a.m. — The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a vehicle theft on Eastside Connect, Milton-Freewater.

10:38 a.m. — A domestic disturbance occurred on East Washington Street, Athena.

1:57 p.m. — Pendleton police responded to two reports of a disturbance on Southwest Third Street, Pendleton.

### ARRESTS, CITATIONS

**Aug. 23**  
The Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested a man for allegedly stealing another man's dog. David Ryan Fear was booked in the Umatilla County jail on one count of first-degree theft with preliminary bail of \$10,000.

Umatilla Tribal Police arrested McKenzie Craig Bluethunder, 19, for misdemeanors of disorderly conduct, public intoxication, minor possession of alcohol and resisting arrest and felonies of criminal mischief, dangerous drugs and criminal activity in drugs.

**Aug. 24**  
Milton-Freewater police arrested Jamie Marlene Andrade, 44 of Stockton, California, for driving under the influence of intoxicants. An officer took Andrade to the Milton-Freewater Police Department, where staff processed, cited and released her.