

History shows humans can endure



MARC MULLINS
MARC'S REMARKS

Since the news of COVID-19 first was broadcast, people throughout the world have been faced with disconcerting challenge and hardship. For nearly two years the virus has spread and mutated far and wide, causing some to wonder if life will ever get back to "normal" again (whatever "normal" may mean).

Perhaps it will help to recognize that ours isn't the first time in history during which people have faced terrible circumstances.

From 165-180 A.D. the 15-year

Antonine Plague caused 5 million deaths.

Less than 400 years later, from 541-542 A.D., the Plague of Justinian was the world's first episode of bubonic plague, resulting in an estimated 30-50 million deaths.

A little more than 800 years later, from 1347-1352 A.D., the Black Death killed as many as 200 million people.

Then, beginning in the early 16th century A.D., European explorers brought smallpox, measles and other viruses to the New World that killed some 25-55 million Native Americans.

The cholera pandemic impacted the world during much of the 19th century. Between 1817-1923 some 1 million people died.

The H1N1 virus slammed

the world from 1918-20. That pandemic, sometimes called the Spanish Flu, came in two waves, infecting as many as 500 million people with estimates of 50 million deaths worldwide.

In 1957, the year I was born, the H2N2 virus brought about what has become known as the Asian flu. In one year some 1 million died worldwide, with 70,000 deaths in the U.S.

Throughout history, people have responded in various ways to plagues such as these. In 1632 A.D. people in the German village of Oberammergau responded to the Black Plague by turning to God and asking for divine help. Residents were faced with great distress after a man named Kaspar Schisler brought the plague into the village.

As a result, leaders of the community decided to hold a passion play, once every ten years, depicting the last week of the life of Christ. From that day on, not a single person died from the plague, even though a vast number of the village had become infected.

For the past 389 years the villagers of Oberammergau continued their commitment to present the entire Passion play — with its illustrious sets, music and costumes — for one season every 10 years. It is an incredibly vivid and amazing production to behold.

This coming May 12-22, my wife, Wendy, and I will host a tour to Italy, Austria and Germany. On Friday, May 20, 2022, we and others who join us will attend the day-long play in Oberammergau. The play

will take place on an open-air stage against a beautiful backdrop of towering Alpine mountains. I'm grateful that travel is opening up more and more to allow for journeys such as this. (If interested, feel welcome to contact me before the end of November by calling my church office, 541-276-5358.)

History has demonstrated that we humans can endure much and come through even stronger despite the difficulties or challenges that confront us. As we continue to maneuver through this current pandemic, let us do so with steadfast hope, compassionate love, and sacrificial grace.

Marc Mullins is co-pastor of the First Christian Church of Pendleton.

Friends of the Irrigon Library organize bazaar

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

IRRIGON — Twenty-four years ago, Barb Huwe founded the Friends of the Irrigon Library because she felt her town could not support its library without help, she said. Now the group's treasurer, her mission to help the library has continued to the present day. As she sold treats at the Friends of the Irrigon Library' annual holiday bazaar, now in its third year, she and others raised money for the library.

The event was Friday and Saturday, Nov. 5 and 6, at the Irrigon Public Library, 490 N.E. Main Ave., Irrigon. Not only was the bazaar a fundraiser, it also was a get-together of community-minded people and a showcase of goods from local vendors, she said.

"We have so much talent in the area," she said. She added it was nice to return after it had been canceled last year due to COVID-19 concerns. And though it was smaller than it had been pre-pandemic, she was happy it could come back at all.

Jennifer Smith, Friends president, also was happy, and pointed out her organization has supported programs in Irrigon and Boardman and

has paid for library equipment.

The Friends charged each vendor \$20 to appear at the bazaar. Nine vendors were present, down from 13 two years ago, Smith said.

She said she was looking forward to other events, such as the annual softball tournament in July, a book sale and a spring bazaar.

Kris Jones, Irrigon, was among the vendors. The owner of Four Season Acres, she was selling handmade signs, home decor and various crafts.

In working at the bazaar, she said she was building up for a you-cut Christmas tree plot on her four-acre Irrigon farm.

"We planted 400 trees last spring — little babies, Douglas firs and Nobles," she said.

She added she lost more than half of them with the heat, but she remains undeterred. It will take around five or six years for them to be ready, and she said intends to work for that day.

She said she also plans to have a pumpkin patch and berries on her property.

Terri Sandlin, owner of Terri's Touch, was another vendor at the bazaar. She was selling masks, potholders, pillowcases and more.



Erick Peterson/East Oregonian

Barb Huwe, left, and Jennifer Smith sell baked goods Friday, Nov. 5, 2021, at third annual holiday bazaar of the Friends of the Irrigon Library.

This was not her first event, she said, as she has appeared at markets other regional markets, including in Pendleton and Hermiston.

A retired teacher, she said she needed to find something to do with her free time. This

business is a nice diversion, she said. Also, she added, it allows her to express herself through the things she makes.

The Irrigon bazaar was a lot of fun, she said, and she said she would return next year.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Friday, Oct. 5

7:43 a.m. — A caller reported the theft of a vehicle from Villadom Mobile Home & RV Park, 53785 W. Crockett Road, Milton-Freewater.

8:35 a.m. — A caller asked the Morrow County Sheriff's Office to check on the welfare of family members in Irrigon because they may be in mental or emotional duress. The sheriff's office checked.

11:18 a.m. — A caller reported the theft of a vehicle at Columbia Crest Apartments, 1500 Second St., Umatilla. Police took a report.

11:27 a.m. — Hermiston police responded to the 700 block of West Alder Street on a report of an assault.

12:38 p.m. — A resident on Joy Lane, Hermiston, reported the theft of a vehicle.

3:50 p.m. — A 911 caller reported a fight at Western Express, 28810 Stafford Hansel Road, Hermiston.

4:05 p.m. — Hermiston police responded to the 700 block of Southeast View Drive on a report of a burglary.

6:18 p.m. — Stanfield police responded to Copper Corner Apartments, Stanfield, on a report of a disturbance.

6:58 p.m. — Pendleton police responded to two reports of a theft on the 200 block of Southwest 20th Street.

7:53 p.m. — Emergency services responded to the River Lodge & Grill, 6 Marine Drive N.E., Boardman, for an older male who fell and may have suffered a concussion.

8:31 p.m. — The Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded to a reported burglary on Southeast Brandon Street, Irrigon.

11:16 p.m. — Umatilla police received a report of an assault at Umatilla Inn & Suites, 1370 Sixth St., Umatilla.

Saturday, Oct. 6

3:05 a.m. — Emergency services responded to the Lamb Weston East Plant, 750 Columbia Ave. N.E., Boardman, for a male who hit his head, was in and out of consciousness and may have suffered a concussion. The Boardman Fire Rescue District responded and took the patient to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston.

4:04 a.m. — A resident on Dylan Road, Irrigon, reported someone shot at this house. The Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded, found no one fired a gun and the parties separated after an earlier disturbance.

9:25 a.m. — A caller reported a bull was loose in the area of East Rock Street, Heppner.

1:33 p.m. — A resident on Walla Walla River Road, Milton-Freewater, reported her stepson was at her place but he is not supposed to be there and she had to push him out of the house. The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office took a report.

3:27 p.m. — An Irrigon resident on McCall Lane reported he has a picture of a green vehicle that could be involved in thefts in the area.

6:21 p.m. — Umatilla police received a complaint about a male smoking in a room at the Econo Lodge, 1481 Sixth St., Umatilla.

8:23 p.m. — A caller reported a male waved him down on Blackhorse Canyon Lane, Heppner, for help with his vehicle, but the male had a gun in his hand, so the caller took off. The Morrow County Sheriff's Office checked the area but did not find the male or the vehicle in question.

9:38 p.m. — Umatilla police received a report of gunshots on Bridgeport Avenue.

Sunday, Nov. 7

1:05 a.m. — A 911 caller reported a motor home was on fire at a storage unit on West Third Street, Hermiston.

1:45 a.m. — Umatilla Police responded to Country Club Manor Apartments, 605 Umatilla Ave., on a report of a domestic disturbance.

7:18 a.m. — A resident on Steen Road, Milton-Freewater, reported a burglary.

10:54 a.m. — Pendleton police responded to the first block of South Main Street on a report of an assault.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tickets sales open for Festival of Trees

HERMISTON — Tickets now are on sale for Hermiston's Festival of Trees 2021.

This year's event is Saturday, Dec. 4 at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. The purchase of tickets will include a time slot for shopping, bidding and viewing of trees and holiday items:

• 2-3 p.m., family hour, \$25/per family.

• 3-4 p.m., individuals, \$20/per person.

• 4-5 p.m., 5-6 p.m. or 6-7 p.m., adults 21 and older, \$20/per person (includes wine tasting at the event).

The annual fundraiser benefits the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation and Hermiston Kiwanis Club. Both entities use funds to support projects in the community, including those that focus on health and wellness, and programs that provide opportunities for children and youths.

Tickets can be purchased at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, 630 S. Highway 395. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/HermistonFestivalofTrees or send a message via the event's Facebook page. In addition, an upcoming community story in the East Oregonian will provide additional details.

Library friends to elect board

HERMISTON — The Friends of the Hermiston Public Library will hold board elections Wednesday, Nov. 17, 6-7 p.m. at the library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

In addition to encouraging use of the library, the nonprofit group supports improvements at the facility and hosts fundraisers for



Lukes Photos/Contributed Photo

A tree decorated by the Hermiston Gun Club was among the items up for bid during the 2018 Festival of Trees in Hermiston. Tickets now are on sale for designated time slots for this year's event, which is Dec. 4, 2021, at the Hermiston Community Center.

special projects, new materials and fun programs. The library friends also host an annual book sale.

Anyone interested in the library is welcome to attend. For information about joining, contact friends@hermiston.or.us or 541-567-2882.

Veterans' Affairs seeks grant applicants

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs recently announced it is accepting proposals for a new round of funding via its Veteran Services Grant.

The grant money is aimed at expanding and enhancing services available to veterans in communities across the state. The 2021 Legislature approved \$938,118 to fund eligible proposals that provide direct services to veterans.

The Veteran Services Grant Program awards one-time grants to organizations of up to \$250,000

through a competitive grant process. Proposals must provide direct services, at no cost to veterans, that help improve outcomes in areas such as health or behavioral health care, housing security, employment opportunities or stability, education and training opportunities, transportation accessibility and availability, or other critical services within a community.

To apply, organizations must be designated as a nonprofit or veteran organization, or a tribal, regional or local government. The 2021 Veteran Services Grant application must be submitted by Nov. 17.

To learn more about the grant, funding criteria or a link to the application, visit www.oregon.gov/odva/agency-programs/grants/Pages/Veteran-Services-Grant.aspx. For questions, contact Jacqueline Kemp, ODVA's grants coordinator, at jacqueline.kemp@odva.oregon.gov or 503-580-9049.

— EO Media Group

CONTACT US TODAY ABOUT OUR FALL SPECIALS!!

1740-80 Washington Baker City, OR 97814

1-800-399-3912

www.bakercitygmsales.com