

Trustworthiness, the greatest virtue



SARAH HAUG

LIGHT OF UNITY

“Trustworthiness ... is the door of security for all that dwell on earth ... He who partaketh thereof hath indeed partaken of the treasures of wealth and prosperity.”

More frequently than is reasonable, I walk out of the grocery store with one last item I forgot to scan under my cart. Most recently it was toilet paper, that most precious of commodities. I arrived at my car, started loading my other groceries into the trunk, saw the toilet paper, and refrained from swearing.

Hefting the package, I trudged back into the store to run it through self-checkout, with a sheepish smile and an explanation of what happened to the person who had sent me on my way a minute before. Paying for whatever you walk away with means you're not shoplifting, which is usually seen as a good thing, but what if, instead of walking out with a raft of toilet paper, I forgot to tell them about the banana my child ate while sitting in the cart? Or what if once I got home I discovered they charged me incorrectly for an item?

To many, the latter situation might be seen as a wind-fall, but my mother-in-law used to reconcile her grocery receipt with the actual prices on the groceries and return to the store to pay what she truly owed. Personally, I resolved

the banana issue by choosing a second banana and asking the checker to charge me for it twice, but I confess to often tossing my grocery receipt in the receptacle on the way out the door.

In the Baha'i Faith, honesty is the foundation of all virtues, the one in which all other virtues are rooted. Without it, everything falls apart (as perhaps we witness on a daily basis). Without honesty, nobody can trust us, and we can't trust anybody else. Grocery receipts don't get checked and extra bananas don't get weighed.

Honesty isn't only financial, of course. It involves taking responsibility, admitting fault and accepting the consequences of our actions, no matter the cost to ourselves and even when nobody else was even aware that blame might need to be laid.

Absolute honesty is a difficult standard to aspire to. We all fall short. We always will, but imagine what a different place the world would be if everyone held trustworthiness up as the standard to which they aspired!

“Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquility and security of the people. In truth the stability of every affair hath depended and doth depend upon it. All the domains of power, of grandeur and of wealth are illumined by its light.”

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 Pendleton River Parkway with her husband, Dan.

Inland Musicians tune up with grand gift

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Inland Northwest Musicians will unveil its newest member — a 9-foot Chickering grand piano during the upcoming concert of the Inland Northwest Orchestra.

“It's a grand instrument,” said R. Lee Friese, the organization's music director/conductor. “It's a pretty exciting thing to have an instrument of its grandeur.”

The Hermiston School District gifted the piano to the nonprofit music group this past summer. After a move to the Hermiston Community Center, the piano underwent restorative work in November.

The piano's “coming out” concert is Saturday, March 12, 4 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Admission is free.

Friese estimated that the piano was made in the 1950s by the now-defunct piano manufacturer in Boston. Regardless of its age, after being refurbished by John Ashcraft of Newberg, he estimated that the replacement cost of the instrument is approximately \$80,000.

Ashcraft, who previously lived in Pendleton and provided maintenance on the piano, said Jonas Chickering and his sons, who also worked in the business, were innovators. The piano manufacturer, he said, created durable and quality instruments.

“It's powerful and rich,” he said about the piano's sound. “It has a tone that draws the listener's ear and it's a pleasure to play.”

The upcoming performance will feature Beetho-



Lori Johnson/Contributed Photo

A recently restored 9-foot Chickering grand piano will be featured in a concert of the Inland Northwest Orchestra on March 12, 2022, at the Hermiston Community Center.

ven's “Symphony No. 1” and “Piano Concerto No. 1.” Accompaniment will be provided by guest pianist Harriet Wong.

Currently pursuing a doctorate degree in musical arts at the University of Washington, Wong was born in Macau, a special administrative region of China. She received the Cultural Affairs Bureau Prize, the highest honor of the 20th Macau Youth Music Competition.



Wong

Prior to continuing her education in Seattle, Wong performed actively as a pianist, conductor and accompanist in Macau. She also earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at the

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

According to a history of the Chickering, tag No. 003078, it was acquired used in the late 1970s by the Hermiston Community Concert Association. Dr. John Spomer and Phil Hector, concert association board members, contacted Leonard Richter of Walla Walla College to assist with locating a piano.

Launching the “88 Keys for Hermiston” campaign, approximately \$8,000 was raised. At the time of its purchase, Richter said the Chickering was a suitable concert piano for the needs of the community.

When the concert asso-

ciation disbanded in the mid-1990s, ownership of the piano was transferred to the Hermiston School District — with an agreement that it would be maintained and available for recitals and community performance events.

Founded in 1999, Inland Northwest Musicians features several ensembles, including a full symphony orchestra, a chorale and a youth/preparatory orchestra. A classical music organization with members from throughout the region, its mission is to provide free music to rural audiences.

For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net, search Facebook or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Pacific Power energizes museum projects

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Historical Society recently got a boost to support capital improvements at the Heritage Station Museum, Pendleton.

The historical society is in the process of making several improvements to the museum with a focus on visitor experiences and in a press release Feb. 10 announced it received a \$2,000 grant from the Pacific Power Foundation.

The funds will go toward the installation of doors that meet standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act to create a more safe and welcoming space for museum visitors. Other planned renovations include a redesign of the admissions area.

“These renovations will ensure that the Heritage Station Museum continues to be a vibrant community space and a destination for visitors to this region,” according to the press release.

Heritage Station Museum, 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton, is closed for winter maintenance. It will reopen in March. For more information, contact 541-276-0012, info@heritagestationmuseum.org, visit www.heritagestationmuseum.org or search Facebook.

The Pacific Power Foundation is



Umatilla County Historical Society/Contributed Photo

The Umatilla County Historical Society announced Feb. 10, 2022, that Heritage Station Museum in downtown Pendleton received a \$2,000 grant for capital improvements from the Pacific Power Foundation.

one of the largest utility-owned foundations in the United States. The foundation's mission, through charitable investments, is to support the growth and vitality of the communities served by Rocky Mountain Power and Pacific Power. For more information, visit www.pacificpower.net/foundation.

AARP tax program offers help in Hermiston, Boardman

HERMISTON — If things aren't adding up, the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program can help.

Taxpayers can receive assistance with filing their 2021 state and federal tax forms in Hermiston and Boardman. You do not have to be an AARP member.

While the focus of the program is to provide help to those who are 50 and older with low- to moderate-income, others may utilize the service. However, Tax-Aide may not be able to assist with some complicated returns.

Services are provided in English and Spanish. Appointments, which are required, are available on designated days from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call 541-612-1307 to make arrangements.

Local sites: New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays through April 14), and the Port of Morrow, 2 Marine Drive, Boardman (Mondays through April 11).

Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified each year. For more information, including what to take to your appointment, visit www.aarp.org/money/taxes.

United Way to disburse emergency food shelter funds

WALLA WALLA — Local nonprofit organizations are invited to apply for federal funding to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in Umatilla County.

United Way of the Blue Mountains was awarded \$120,616 under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. Applications to request a grant must be submitted online no later than 3 p.m. on Friday, March 4.

Emergency food provided can be in the form of served meals, groceries or food boxes. And shelter can include lodging in a mass shelter or hotel, rent or mortgage payments and the payment of utility bills.

For consideration, local organizations must be a private voluntary

nonprofit or unit of government and be eligible for federal funds, have an accounting system, practice nondiscrimination and have demonstrated the ability to deliver emergency food and or shelter. In addition, private voluntary organizations must also have a voluntary board.

For more information or to submit an application, visit www.uwbluemt.org/EFSP. For questions, contact Christy Lieuallen, United Way executive director, at 509-529-1183 or christy@unitedwayww.org.

Sports boosters set sizzling fundraiser

HERMISTON — Bring a hearty appetite and help raise money for the Hermiston sports program during the Hermiston Sports Boosters Steak Feed & Auction.

The 21 and older event is Saturday, March 5, 5-10 p.m. at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston. Tickets are \$50 each.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit hermiston-sportsboosters.square.site. Also, while on the site, check out the Bulldog apparel and other team swag. For questions, contact 541-567-5215 or hermiston-sportsboosters@gmail.com.

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