

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Local churches band together to help refugees

UMATILLA COUNTY — Local churches in the Pendleton and Hermiston areas the past month have gathered together in person and through social media to try and help service refugees in need through community efforts.

Churches involved to date are: Pendleton First Presbyterian Church, Pendleton's Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton Peace Lutheran Church, Pendleton First Christian Church and Hermiston's First United Methodist Church.

The organization still is in the process of figuring out what effective efforts could be made to make an impactful difference for refugee families in need. As of right now they're looking for financial donations to work towards their goal of sponsoring a refugee family.

To find further information regarding the project and their goals, visit Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services www.lirs.org.

The American Red Cross needs blood

PENDLETON — The American Red Cross sees a big decline in blood and platelet donations during holiday weeks. Donors can help ensure blood is ready when needed by making an appointment to give blood in the upcoming weeks.

CHI St. Anthony Hospital is hosting a blood drive Monday, July 11, 12-6 p.m. at the hospital, 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton.

And Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation also is hosting a blood drive Wednesday, July 13, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nixyaawii Governance Center, 46411 Ti'mine Way, Pendleton.

To schedule an appointment to donate download the Red Cross Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 800-733-2767.

Climate change group discuss coping with climate change

PENDLETON — Terry Templeman, retired clinical psychologist of Pendleton and member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will speak about coping with climate change at July's Climate Conversation Program. He will discuss specific fears about climate change and how to manage them.

Hosted by the Eastern Oregon Climate Change coalition, the free virtual program is Tuesday, July 12, at 7 p.m. Those interested are invited to request the Zoom login information by emailing eastoregonclimatechange@gmail.com. The program also will be live-streamed on the group's Facebook page.

Formed in 2017 and referred to as EOC3, the group invites people to have an open and respectable dialogue about the changing climate. Additional information is available by searching "EOC3" on Facebook.

2nd Congressional District candidate comes to Pendleton

PENDLETON — Joe Yetter, the Democratic candidate for Oregon's 2nd Congressional District, is coming to the Round-Up City.

Yetter announced he plans to greet people and answer questions Tuesday, July 12, in downtown Pendleton.

The meet-and-greet starts at 5:30 p.m. at OMG! Burgers & Brew, 241 S. Main St. Yetter will be there to talk with the public and share his campaign's policy issues.

Yetter's campaign website shows his policy issues center around national service and security, the economy, health care, including reproductive rights, climate change and more.

—EO Media Group

'The Ever Spinning Wheel'



MATT HENRY

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

He sat there day after day, rain or shine, cold or hot, wet or dry, every day on the corner of his intersection. Due to his carefully chosen location for maximum impact, he had great exposure to those entering the freeway and/or coming from a major shopping center. As he sat in a cheap and flimsy lawn chair, his sign would be read by many: "Unfair labor practices at Safeway. Evil management."

He sat out there for months, the hot sun baking his brains and the freezing rain shivering him. Hundreds of cars passed him daily, all bearing witness to his grievance. He knew that in his heart, he was saving the country from a bad business that had laid him off for performance issues. He knew he was making an impact as he got varied responses from drivers. "Try getting an actual job" yelled one concerned citizen. "Right on. Stick it to the Man." Said another. He drew both encouragement and derision from the town residents. He was making his point. He was taking a stand against corporate corruption. His goal? To drive business from Safeway to other nearby stores and/or to get the store manager fired at the very least. After all, he was a U.S. citizen and knew he had the sacred constitutional rights of free speech, free assembly and the charge to stand up against corruption. He sat in his uncomfortable lawn chair (it was all he could afford) for almost a year, holding up his sign, smiling at some, flipping others off. A faded baseball cap, a flimsy jacket, day after day after day.

Until he wasn't. One day, he was gone, never to appear again. No one really noticed he was gone; others tend not to notice when such figures disappear from the background landscape. A month went by, two, three. Gone. Until. The man had actually been preparing for this for months. Having had

no redress for his grievance from either corporate headquarters or his fellow citizens, most of them had long since written him off. But not today. One pleasant afternoon, he walked back into his last employer's establishment. Wearing his flimsy plastic raincoat on a hot, sunny day, he strode up to the service counter and asked to see the store manager. When told the manager was off for the day, bitterly disappointed he changed his plans to his backup should such an eventuality occur as it

"ONCE THE POLICE ARRIVED, THE TALLY WAS TAKEN: TWELVE DECEASED VICTIMS, ALL OF THEM HAVING MET THEIR UNTIMELY END NEEDLESSLY."

had. For at the heart of his grievance lie the fact that it was still a huge corporation responsible for the abuse of its employees and for hiring store managers of the type that had thrown him out on the street and therefore he could still make his point.

He slowly meandered down one aisle after another, formulating shape to his idea. He wanted maximum public impact to air his grievance. It was thus that he finally walked up to the long line of customers waiting to pick up their medications at the store pharmacy. This too he was sick of, knowing that Safeway could do better under new management. He planted himself at the end of the nearby aisle facing the line, pulled out the fully loaded Glock semi-automatic handgun from his raincoat he'd stolen, calmly faced the line and began squeezing the trigger.

An elderly woman and her young grandchild were the first to go down at point blank range. Then a construction worker followed by a child care assistant, a retired farmer,

one of the store clerks, two young teens planning their first post-graduate adventure, a city councilman and a registered nurse. He didn't know any of them but it didn't matter; such is the nature of collateral damage. It wasn't his fault they'd chosen a bad day to pick up their medications.

As the screaming and mass chaos ensued, a middle-aged man sporting a red MAGA hat had a clear line of sight on the shooter. Shaking from the adrenaline, he squeezed off a shot. It missed, hitting the pharmacist square in the chest, killing him instantly. At the same moment, another concerned and brave citizen who could only see the MAGA man firing his revolver, quickly reached into her purse, pulled out her own pistol and fired, taking him down with a hollow point to the abdomen. At about the same moment, the primary assailant placed his Glock to his temple, pulled the trigger and ended his earthly misery. Once the police arrived, the tally was taken: twelve deceased victims, all of them having met their untimely end needlessly. The two funeral parlors in town had business for weeks.

Driving home from work, I thought how fortunate I was to live in a town this size. Not too small, just large enough, it's a peaceful place out in the middle of nowhere where real excitement is a rodeo. I was listening to the radio, to a favorite Blood, Sweat & Tears tune. David Clayton Thomas's beautiful, deep and rich baritone gave meaning to the day. "What goes up must come down/Spinnin' wheel got to go round/Talkin' 'bout your troubles it's a cryin' sin/Ride a painted pony let the spinning wheel spin/ You got no money and you got no home/Spinnin' wheel all alone/Talkin' 'bout your troubles and you never learn/Ride a painted pony let the spinnin' wheel turn..."

For you, Alice, dear friend.

Matt Henry, a native Buckeye, is a Roman Catholic musician, a retired ABC/UMC pastor and a volunteer at the Outreach and the Warming Station. No one should be cold, hungry or lonely.

Saturday Market fun



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

Braelyn Cragun of Umatilla applies face paint Saturday, July 2, 2022, to Josanna Velazquez of Hermiston at the Umatilla Saturday Market, at Village Square Park in Umatilla.

Morrow County schools makes shifts after principal resigns

East Oregonian

HEPPNER — Morrow County School District recently announced it shifted around staff for the 2022-23 school year in the wake of the sudden resignation of David Norton, former principal of Riverside Jr./Sr. High School.

John Christy, the principal, Windy River Elementary, is transferring to Riverside to take on the principal role there. Steve Sheller remains as vice principal. Christy is a long-time employee of the school district and has a strong history with Riverside.

"We are excited to see the direction that RJSHS goes under his leadership," said Erin Stocker, director of Human Resources for the district.

Stephanie Ewing is transitioning from his principal position at A.C. Houghton Elementary to Windy River Elementary. Ewing has more than 10 years of experience as an elementary principal.

Jill Ledbetter, then, is transferring from Sam Boardman Elementary to the principal job at A.C. Houghton. Ledbetter has a strong history with A.C. Houghton and the community of Irrigon.

And the district has promoted Jami Carbray

from vice principal to principal at Sam Boardman, while Laura Browne Winters steps into the vice principal slot.

Carbray has worked side by side with Ledbetter this year to establish vision and action steps, so Stocker said the district is confident in her ability to create that continuity. Winters has a strong connection to Sam Boardman as well as a working knowledge of the special programs there.

"We are excited to have her return to the staff of SBE to support the students and families," according to Stocker.

New district Superintendent Matt Combe, who started in the position July 1, said while these changes

are unexpected, administrators configured the new team with the best interests of students, staff and families at heart. He said administrators reached out to staff to make introductions and answer any questions.

In a previous press release, the district announced that Rose Palmer was named the new principal at Irrigon Jr/Sr High School and Ryan Gerry was named the new principal at Heppner Jr/Sr High School. Principals at Heppner Elementary and Irrigon Elementary remain unchanged.



Combe

Laverne 'Bud' Moore July 30, 1935 - June 29, 2022

Laverne "Bud" Moore passed away at his home in Spokane, Washington, on June 29, 2022. Bud was born on July 30, 1935, in Montana to Emmitt Moore and Madeline Griffith Anderson. Bud graduated from Central Valley High School in Spokane in 1953 and Washington State School of Pharmacy in 1958.

Bud owned and operated the Medical Center Pharmacy in Pendleton, Oregon, for 30 years. He and his wife, Bernie, raised two sons and were active in their education. Bud loved the outdoors and was an avid snow and water skier; loved to garden, golf, and he jogged daily, and he enjoyed camping and fishing with his boys. In retirement, his daily coffee buddies were a highlight. Bud, in his quiet demeanor, was a mentor to many.

Bud contributed to community, state and church activities. At St. Mary's Catholic Church, he was a member of the Knights of Columbus and was a eucharistic minister, he sat on parish council and was also a board member for St. Mary's Outreach.

In the Pendleton community, Bud served on the budget committee for Pendleton School District 16R. He served on the American Cancer Society's local chapter and was the president of the local Kiwanis International, president of the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce; president of Pendleton River Parkway; Blue Mountain College Small Business counselor; Pendleton Swim Team board member.

He worked closely with Tessie

Williams in support of the Umatilla Tribal Clinic. On the professional level, Bud was a member of the Oregon and Washington Pharmaceutical Association; the National Association of Retail Druggists and Eastern Oregon Pharmacy Association.

Bud leaves his legacy of passing on a love for Priest Lake to a fifth generation of Griffith/Moore's. He was an exemplary dad.

Bud will be missed by Bernie, his wife of 55 years; his sons, Mark (Kathryn) and Eric (Caroline); grandchildren, Mica, Keira, Julian, Margaux, Kenan; his sister, Lorraine Battaglia; stepbrother, Gene Anderson. He loved his extended family of Battaglias, Andersons and Hoffarts. His time with friends and family at Priest Lake were treasured.

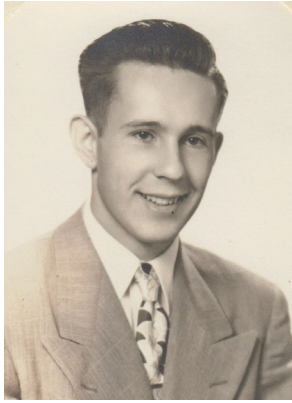
A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 7, at Our Lady of Fatima. Funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 8, also at Our Lady of Fatima, with a burial to follow at Holy Cross Cemetery. Luncheon will follow the committal and will be held at St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

For those who want to watch via live stream, go to www.fatimaspace.org.

Family would like to thank St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton, Spokane Hospice, Senior Helpers and Rockwood Retirement for their wonderful care of Bud.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Pendleton Knights of Columbus; Spokane Hospice, the American Cancer Society, or a charity of your choice.

Please visit Bud's online memorial at www.holocrossofspokane.org.



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