

## Traveling through ominous valleys



MARC MULLINS

## MARC'S REMARKS

Many are familiar with Psalm 23 from the Bible. At the very least, most have heard it quoted at funerals. The twenty-third Psalm speaks about resting in green pastures and being restored beside still waters. It also speaks about a "valley of the shadow of death."

Did you know that there really is a valley called the "shadow of death" in Israel? I've traveled there myself no less than seven times. It lies between the ancient city of Jericho and the city of Jerusalem. It's the setting for Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10:25-37 in the Bible. In that story a Samaritan man stopped to help an unfortunate soul who had fallen victim to a gang of thieves. The man was robbed and left beside the road to die.

The setting for that story is known as the "valley of the shadow of death" for a reason. First, it was a place of great danger. Its landscape then, as now, featured a long and winding floor beneath steep rocky cliffs on either side. Set within the steep rocky cliffs are deep dark caves where thieves would

wait until travelers were somewhere in the middle of the valley. At such times it wasn't unusual for such thieves to block both ends of the valley floor and trap the travelers to rob and even kill them. So the "valley of the shadow of death" becomes a metaphor representing anything that threatens, intimidates or frightens us.

Many have found themselves, at one time or another, walking through their own personal journey in the valley of the shadow of death. But Psalm 23 gives hope. We don't have to fear the valley or cower in the shadows.

In the ancient world, as in ours today, shepherds were herders and caretakers of sheep. Thus, the phrase, "the Lord is my shepherd," acknowledges the fact that God, as our good shepherd, cares for and guides us through the difficult, troubled and hard stretches we may encounter in life.

The Psalm continues by talking about life and it concludes, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Ultimately, goodness and mercy shall follow us because the Lord (God) is a good and caring shepherd to us.

*Marc Mullins is pastor of the First Christian Church of Pendleton, where he also utilizes his gifts as a musician, singer and songwriter.*

## PFOL book sale returns to convention center

Volunteers needed for Aug. 25-27 event

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — After two years without its largest fundraiser, the Pendleton Friends of the Library is turning the page as it prepares for its annual book sale. With more than 50,000 books and media available for purchase, people of all ages can find something that interests them.

PFOL members can view and purchase items before the event opens to the general public. The fundraiser kicks off with a member preview sale on Thursday, Aug. 25, 7-9 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate. To take advantage of the first selection, people can register as a member at the door or in advance via [www.pendletonfriendsofthelibrary.wordpress.com](http://www.pendletonfriendsofthelibrary.wordpress.com).



East Oregonian, File

Anna Oliver looks through a book with Warren, left, and Judah on Sept. 28, 2019, during the Pendleton Friends of the Library book sale. The primary fundraiser for the nonprofit organization returns after two years Aug. 25-27, 2022, at the Pendleton Convention Center.

The public sale begins Friday, Aug. 26, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and continues on Saturday, Aug. 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event ends with a bag sale on Saturday, Aug. 27, 3-5 p.m. Shoppers can purchase all the

books they can fit into a bag for \$1.

A nonprofit organization, PFOL provides assistance to the Pendleton Public Library. Money raised by the group goes to support programs,

purchase materials and other needs of the Pendleton library. During the height of the pandemic, its membership hosted smaller fundraisers, including a mini book sale at the library, a winter raffle and its annual Adopt-a-Magazine campaign.

Because of the large-scale effort it takes to organize the event, PFOL President Sean Degan is seeking volunteers interested in helping. Assistance is needed during three-hour shifts on Aug. 23-24 with arranging books on the tables. Also, additional manpower can be used for two-hour blocks of time throughout the fundraiser.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, text Degan at 541-561-6410 or email [pendletonfriendsofthelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:pendletonfriendsofthelibrary@gmail.com). For additional information about PFOL, search [www.facebook.com/pendletonfriendsofthelibrary](http://www.facebook.com/pendletonfriendsofthelibrary).

## COMMUNITY BRIEFING

### Free concert features folk troubadour

PENDLETON — Dustin Hamman, referred to as "Pendleton's favorite folk troubadour," will perform during the upcoming Live @ Great Pacific.

As part of a free concert series, the show is Saturday, Aug. 13, 6-8 p.m. at Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton. Sponsored by The Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, three of its beers will be available on tap. The event is open to all ages.

Frontman for Run On Sentence, the Portland-based musician's interests vary widely — everything from American Indian singing and early punk to the blues, swing and big band. Although, Hamman's roots are firmly embedded in folk music.

For more information about the concert series, call Addison Schulberg at 541-276-1350 or email [soundslikeentertainment@gmail.com](mailto:soundslikeentertainment@gmail.com). For more about Hamman, search [www.facebook.com/runonsentence](http://www.facebook.com/runonsentence).

### Program seeks volunteers to assist aging veterans

SALEM — People interested in serving aging veterans in their own communities are encouraged to participate in a training for the Veteran Volunteer Program.

Coordinated by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, the program's goal is to equip volunteers with information so they can help educate and connect veterans to their earned benefits and other potential resources.

Training for interested volunteers in Umatilla, Morrow, Union, Wallowa and Baker counties will be held virtually Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 17-18, 9 a.m. to noon. Participants must attend both days to complete the training.

The program is open to anyone 18 years or older. Volunteers are asked to commit to serving eight to 10 hours per month. A background check must be completed (at no cost to the volunteer) before being permitted to work with veterans.

To register or learn more about the program, complete the online interest form at [www.oregonvetvolunteer.com](http://www.oregonvetvolunteer.com) or contact Mark Newell, veteran volunteer coordinator, at 971-720-8911 or [ODVA\\_veteranvolunteer@odva.oregon.gov](mailto:ODVA_veteranvolunteer@odva.oregon.gov) by 4 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 15.

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