

North Powder Community United Methodist Church nears milestone

By **DICK MASON**
The Observer

NORTH POWDER — It may be the most memorable dollar ever spent in North Powder's history.

In 1882, Sarah and James W. Welch sold a block of property in North Powder for \$1 to the United Methodist and Episcopal churches, according to records. The Methodists and Episcopalians built a church on the block in 1883, which they shared for four years before the Methodists assumed full ownership.

Today, the North Powder Community United Methodist Church is on the verge of joining a select circle — a limited number of other churches in Oregon to have operated in the same building for at least 140 years.

It is not hard to imagine what the church looked like in 1883. The building is filled with links to its past, including about three wooden pews believed to be the same ones the church first had in the 1880s and a bell in a tower that congregants still ring with the pull of a rope before every weekly Sunday service.

These vestiges to the past are in a well-maintained building that looks much like it did 139 years ago, according to Jeff Nielsen, a member of the church's congregation.

"It is pretty unique. Most churches this old have at best been remodeled at least five times," he said. "It is an original pioneer church. It is pretty phenomenal."

The church also has ledgers filled with the names of almost all the members of the church's congre-



Susanne Watson, left, checks an earring worn by Linda Dixon on Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022, in the sanctuary of the North Powder Community United Methodist Church.

gations dating back to the 1800s.

"If these walls could talk, they could tell so much about the generations of people who grew up here," he said.

The North Powder Community United Methodist Church has about twice the square footage it had when it opened in 1883, according to Linda Dixon, a member of the church's congregation. The space was added in the 1940s when an east side addition was built on. Today, this addition houses the church's Sunday school program, one temporarily shut down after the COVID-19 pandemic, and the community's food bank.

The food bank, an outreach of the church, is run with major help from Dixon and her husband, Floyd, who travel to Island City each month to pick up food from the Northeast Oregon Regional Food Bank.

Older is sometimes better

In an ironic twist, operating the older half of the building is today less expensive than running its newer half, since the older section has no plumbing. This means it does not need heat to keep water pipes from freezing, said Joyce Lawyer, a member of the church's congregation for more than 60 years.

The church's sanctuary is

instead reliant on a wood stove in the winter.

"It can get so hot that it almost drives people out of here," Dixon said with a smile.

Messages to remember

A focal point of services in the sanctuary are Bible-centered talks given on alternating weeks by Dixon and Susanne Watson, also a congregation member.

Watson said she feels blessed to be able to help give the talks because preparing for them has been so enriching.

"I have learned so much more about the Lord and the

Bible," she said.

The North Powder Community United Methodist Church today has a congregation of fewer than 20 people — much smaller than what it once had. Nevertheless, the church's future appears solid because it has a long-running tradition as a focal point for community events. This means that whenever help is needed to keep the building operating, people step forward instantly, many of whom are not members of the congregation.

"Whenever we need help, all we have to do is ask," Dixon said.

Volunteers who help the church, but are not members, include Ted Golden, who picks up food in Island City each week and brings it to the food bank.

The church also hosts community events, such as the annual silver tea that has happened for 102 years, Lawyer said. Pews are temporarily removed from the sanctuary to make room for the tea, which draws at least 50 people each year.

Another popular event at the church is its annual Easter egg hunt, which attracts about 100 children. This year's Easter egg hunt, Dixon said, was run with several inches of snow on the ground.

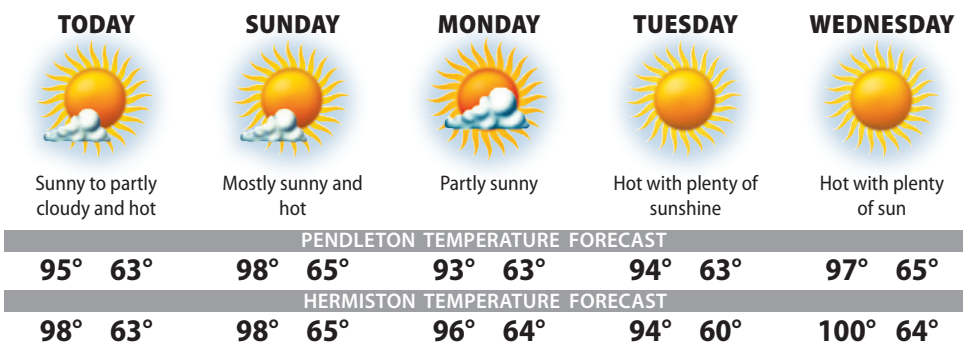
Such events are under the direction of a congregation that is remarkably close, Watson said.

"The people who attend are not just friends and neighbors, we are more like a family," she said.

A family with no shortage of generosity.

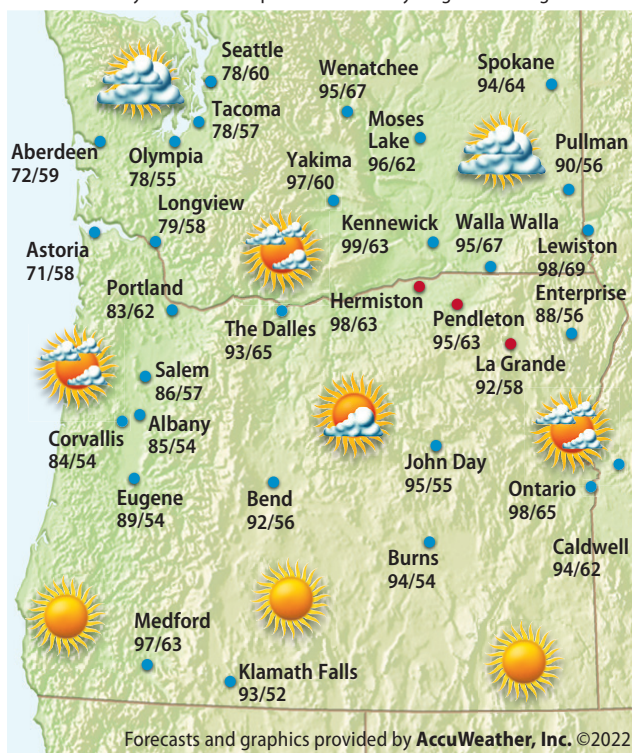
"We want to help as many people as we can," Watson said.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



ALMANAC

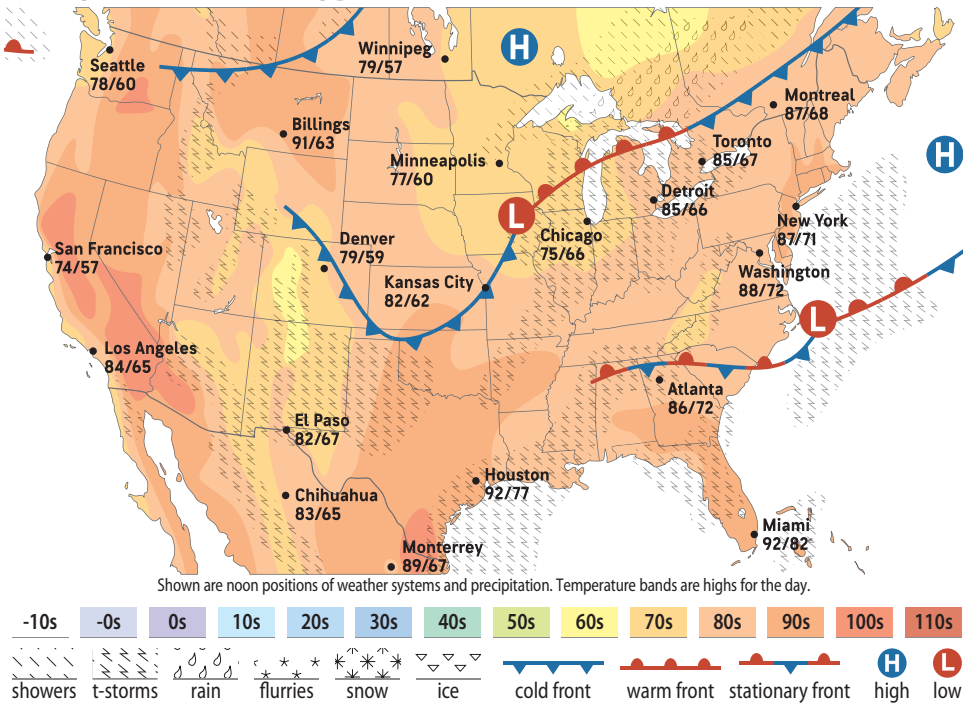
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. Fri.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Friday	94°	71°		
Normals	88°	58°		
Records	109° (1897)	37° (1916)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"			
Month to date	0.04"			
Normal month to date	0.19"			
Year to date	11.17"			
Last year to date	4.35"			
Normal year to date	8.50"			
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. Fri.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Friday	93°	66°		
Normals	90°	56°		
Records	106° (1967)	42° (1973)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"			
Month to date	0.02"			
Normal month to date	0.10"			
Year to date	7.50"			
Last year to date	2.46"			
Normal year to date	5.24"			
WINDS (in mph)				
	Today	Sun.		
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WSW 4-8		
Pendleton	W 7-14	WNW 6-12		
SUN AND MOON				
Sunrise today	6:01 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	7:55 p.m.			
Moonrise today	none			
Moonset today	3:58 p.m.			
	New	First	Full	Last
	Aug 27	Sep 3	Sep 10	Sep 17

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 106° in Redding, Calif. Low 34° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Wallowa resale shop steps up

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — Joining with other businesses and individuals to step up and help in the current emergency in Wallowa, the Wallowa Community Resale Store is expanding its hours with the help of volunteers.

"We're only able to do that because of the generosity of the community in donating their stuff," owner Deborah Reth said.

The Resale Store, which sells a wide variety of second-hand clothing, household goods, books and other items, may have just what Wallowa residents need after the storm that pummeled the town with hail and wind Aug. 11. The hail broke windows on nearly every west-facing side of Wallowa's buildings, sending shards of glass inside and across beds and other furniture.

Mayor Gary Hulse has recommended that residents replace such furniture rather than trying to excise the

glass and continue to use it.

Although the Resale Store doesn't have beds — there's just not room — it does have bedding and pillows. It also can serve as a clearinghouse for people who have such items to donate. They can call the shop and Reth or one of the volunteers who is helping can help match up donor and recipient.

"A lot of people are still assessing what their losses are," Reth said.

She said she was fortunate in that the shop has no west-facing window

With a new school year just around the corner, parents also can come into get school clothes for their kids. That comes in handy for those whose cars were damaged by the hail.

"There are people who don't have cars to go to La Grande to get school clothes," she said.

A major change at the Resale Store is that during the emergency, it's staying open all week long. Normally it's open Thursday through Saturday,

THE COMMUNITY RESALE STORE

Who: Deborah Reth
What: Second-hand shop
Where: Highway 82 and Pine Street, Wallowa
Phone: 541-398-0137
Email: deborrahreth@gmail.com

but now it's open Monday through Wednesday, as well, Reth said.

"We're open all week for anybody who needs to replace their damaged things," she said.

"The county needs this," said Hilary Miller, one of the many volunteers helping stretch the Resale Store's hours.

Reth, who has run the the Resale Store for about 10 years, has been doing well since the pandemic, particularly since it has wound down.

"Last winter, we were so busy because people needed to shop coming out of the pandemic," she said.

IN BRIEF

Twin brothers from Bend die in Idaho plane crash

YELLOW PINE, Idaho — A Bend firefighter and his twin brother were killed in a small plane crash Monday morning, Aug. 15, near Yellow Pine, Idaho.

The cause of the crash that killed engineer Daniel Harro, 38, and his brother, Mark, also 38, is under investigation, according to a release by Bend Fire & Rescue, where Daniel Harro has worked since 2014.

Daniel Harro was the plane's pilot. "This is just so shocking for our family," Bend Fire Chief Todd Riley said. "Daniel was well-loved and well-respected by everyone who worked with him. We will miss his presence every day."

Engineer Harro and his brother Mark were returning to Bend from a back-country plane camping trip near McCall, Idaho, about 40 miles west of Yellow Pine. McCall is about

125 miles east of Baker City.

Bend Fire & Rescue officials said Daniel Harro was an avid flight enthusiast. The type of aircraft involved in the crash was not immediately available.

Prior to joining Bend Fire & Rescue, Daniel Harro worked with the Scappoose Fire Department.

Since joining the Bend fire department, Harro has been involved with the agency's rescue team and served on the local firefighter union's executive board.

According to the department, Harro was a strong paramedic who worked with department administrators and physician advisers to update emergency medical service protocols.

Harro is survived by his wife, Elisif. The department is coordinating honor services with the Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard and Harro's family.

—EO Media Group



Daniel Harro

CORRECTIONS: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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