

Love is the key to life, liberty and happiness

‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.’ (The Declaration of Independence 1776) This statement along with the many justifications given in the declaration for separation from Great Britain set our nation on a course for war. These words frame our values as American citizens and for them we are willing to fight and die.

In that, there is a paradox; that one would risk and perhaps give up what they have an unalienable right too; the cost of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; being life, liberty, and happiness. Why would anyone



PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Tim Barton

do that, why would someone give up everything? Because the highest value of human beings is love. Love gives it all. True love is directed to others, love is sacrificial. That is crazy, right? To give up everything valuable to us, so that someone else can be free to enjoy their life? Jim Elliot wrote, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” He is right, since we all lose someday what we strive hard to acquire, when we breathe our last, and others take what was

once solely ours. Why not give it away now, share what we have for the sake of someone else’s happiness and freedom.

But let us not misunderstand; love is not just about things, it is all encompassing. The Love I’m talking about is not the sappy, romantic, touchy, feely, milk toast type; but is gritty and tough, it is fierce and enduring and even unconditional. “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 New King James Version (NKJV).

Few would argue that there is evil in the world and the only thing holding evil at bay is good and good must triumph. There are also those who call evil good and good evil and the world seems to be filled with darkness as people fight and clamor to get what they want for themselves. Children are abandoned, abused and neglected while their parents run to excess trying to fill the void in their souls. What is the answer? Love.

There is light and darkness we are told, but I disagree, there is only light and the absence of it. Darkness cannot stand in the presence of light, so in terms of human values and all that is wrong in the world, Christ brings the one antidote; Himself. In John’s gospel we read: “In Him was life, and the life was

the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.” In like fashion we bear the light of Love as we live selflessly in a selfish world. Love is a powerful, even irresistible light; so shine and when you are rebuked and ridiculed and laughed at and rejected; shine some more.

Rev. Tim Barton is lead pastor of Wallowa Assembly of God Church in Wallowa.

Main Street Joseph to close for sled dog race

By Wallowa County Chieftain

To accommodate the Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race veterinary checks, Highway 351 through Joseph will close Wednesday, Jan. 23.

The closure will take place from 7 a.m. to noon. To detour around the closure, traffic should use First Street to North Lake Street, then to Wallowa Street and back onto Oregon Highway 351. The detour is approved for legal size freight traffic only, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation.

An open letter to Blue Mountains communities

As the Walla Walla District Ranger, I have had the privilege of talking with many of our community members regarding the two Sno-Parks at Spout Springs Ski Area. I want to sincerely thank everyone who has contacted me and engaged in conversations around Spout Springs. Through all of these discussions it is apparent to me that this area of the Umatilla National Forest is highly valued by many of the communities that we serve. I also recognize that the values in this area include a whole spectrum of forest uses, including skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, powersports, hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, cabin recreation, swimming, timber production, horseback riding and more. In fact, the Spout Springs area is a perfect example as to why the Forest Service has a mandate to support multiple uses.

In the past two years, the Spout Springs Ski Area has not opened for business, citing safety concerns with the administration of the parking lot north of Highway 204. I have been working with the owner to address these concerns, which he states are preventing him from obtaining liability insurance needed to open for winter operations. In order to alleviate these concerns, I recently agreed to modify the north

GUEST COLUMN

By Mike Rassbach

parking area by eliminating overnight parking once Spout Springs opens for the 2018/2019 season. My objective with this agreement was to have Spout Springs operate their downhill and cross country operations during the 2018 and 2019 ski season, while providing for the safety of all users that enjoy recreating in this area.

The north parking area is within the Spout Springs Mountain Resort Special-Use Permit and is utilized by ski area customers and other winter recreationists. The north parking area is managed in partnership with Spout Springs and the Forest Service and is part of Oregon’s Sno-Park program. A second parking area (known as the south parking area) is across the highway from the Resort. The south parking area is outside of the Spout Springs Ski Area permit and managed by the Forest Service under a separate Sno-Park agreement with ODOT. In the past, the south parking area has been designated only for passenger vehicles.

Since announcing the north parking area modification, I have received numerous phone calls



Staff photo by E.J. Harris/East Oregonian
Patrons get on the Blue chair at the Spout Springs Ski Area in Tollgate on Dec. 31, 2015.

and emails from various community members regarding concerns over the loss of overnight parking in the Spout Springs north parking area. Through these discussions, including input from ODOT, I decided to modify the configuration of the south parking area in order to authorize overnight parking for trucks and trailers.

The new parking arrangements for both the north and south parking areas provide equitable and safe access for a variety of recreational uses, including alleviating the concerns raised by the Spout Springs Ski Area. I encourage anyone with questions to contact me directly or visit the Umatilla National Forest website for the latest information.

My long-term vision is to see this area thrive and continue to serve the variety of communities that enjoy recreating on their National Forest. I look forward to seeing Spout Springs Ski Area open again to our public, as I believe it is an important local resource, providing family-friendly recreational opportunities and jobs for our communities. I also look forward to continuing to provide the important multiple-use recreational opportunities that connect you all to your National Forest. I am grateful for the time and effort invested by each of you. I hope these discussions will serve as a positive step toward continued work together.

Holiday Season Garbage Schedule

For Our Valued Customers & Friends

All of us at Rahn Sanitary Services would like to take this time to express our sincere **THANK YOU** for your continued business and support!

YES, we will be picking up garbage on Christmas Day & New Year’s Day.

We are again, offering a one month discount if you pay for the entire 2019 calendar year. This offer is for can service accounts only. Payments must be made by the end of January

Just a couple reminders for the upcoming year:

- * Cans need to be set out by the street and easily visible for drivers. *
- * If you know you will be missing a pick-up, you must call in ahead to receive credit. *
- * For those who dispose of kitty litter, please bag it up. *
- * Our trucks leave the office a 4:30am, have cans out the night before or by 4:30am. *
- * Office policy for can size is 32 gallons and one handle must be intact. *
- * We ask that can weights do not exceed 50 lbs, as we still “throw cans” manually. *
- * When calling for services after hours, please leave your name, address & phone number. *



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		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Ad copy due by Monday at 10am

Ads approved by 12pm Tuesday

Weekly display advertising by 5pm Friday for following week

To run an ad in the Wallowa County Chieftain, Contact Jennifer Cooney today
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