



BY BETTY KAISER
For the Sentinel

The *Chatterbox*
Still asking 'Why?'

I spend many a sleepless night worrying about things I have no control over. I probably need to see a therapist! The questions that I wrestle with usually begin with the word “WHY?”

I’ve finally had to stop watching the nightly news reports that recite the day’s atrocities. It’s like there’s a bewildering underground of sociopaths out there trying to outdo one another in evil acts. Weren’t we all born with a conscience to do the right thing? Evidently not.

I understand natural disasters. Tragic as they may be, the things that happen when Mother Nature goes on a rampage—earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and fires—seem to bring out the best in people. People rise to the occasion, comfort one another, help their neighbors and look for solutions.

And it is always heartwarming to hear or read of massive acts of kindness going on right in our neighborhood. A recent Register Guard article by Mark Baker on World War II veterans returning special message flags to Japanese families was great. It left me in tears. Tears of joy. The verbal picture of U.S. soldiers ministering to their former enemies with respect, compassion and humility was priceless.

“A Mission of Peace” described the mission of Eugene residents Rex Ziak and his wife Keiko, to return the “good luck flags” to the families of dead Japanese soldiers from whom the flags were taken. It

also captures the spirit of now-elderly WWII veterans as they returned some of the flags that have been found. Our veterans were humble and the recipients grateful. Their mission is ongoing.

In this computer age of isolationism, good stuff still happens. So-called crowdfunding websites are especially impressive in getting the word out that someone needs help with medical bills or other necessities. I liken them to the Bible’s loaves and fishes story where a few morsels became enough to feed 5,000 people. Ten dollars can easily become \$10,000 when word spreads that help is needed.

But more often than not, the everyday news that we receive is not good news. It’s not even bad news. It’s awful news. Killing news. Hateful actions by deeply disturbed people living secret lives and plotting unthinkable revenge on good people.

You would think that I’d be used to such atrocities. After all, I grew up in Los Angeles, the second largest city in the USA. But that was the 1950s. An era of innocence. I don’t remember my parents ever talking about people killing people for the sake of killing.

I do remember my parents talking about the Lindbergh baby kidnapping that happened long before I was born. Charles Lindbergh was a celebrity in 1927 after he flew the first solo flight across the Atlantic. In 1932, he and his wife Anne discovered their 20-month-old son missing. The kidnapper used a ladder to climb up to the boy’s room, leaving muddy footprints on

the floor and a \$50,000 ransom note. The ante was later upped to \$70,000. It was paid and the child found dead near the Lindbergh mansion.

The entire country went into mourning. Parents held their children close and 15 years later, kids were still being warned to stay near home because “There are kidnappers out there.” And there still are.

I don’t know. Maybe today’s stuff has always gone on but just not on this 21st century scale. Here are some questions that keep me awake at night asking “Why?”

Why are homicide rates surging across the country in 2015? In Baltimore, New Orleans and St. Louis, rates are up 33 percent.

Why do so many people have grudges that are so heavy and deep that they can’t walk away from them?

Why are individuals killing their friends, family and loved ones (including children!) then killing themselves? What’s the point?

Why do people have to go on Facebook and humiliate someone that they dislike because they’re too fat, too pretty, too popular or whatever? How does that make the hater feel better?

Why does it seem like everyone carries a gun? I know people who have permits and wear their guns to the grocery store. Can’t be too careful, you know!

Why do some people think that laws don’t apply to them? Daily I see people talking or texting while driving. Duh. They are accidents (and tickets) waiting to happen.

Why do people loot and

burn the neighborhoods they live in during a riot? Where are they and their children going to sleep afterwards?

Why do we blame the police for doing their job? What is their job? It’s to uphold the law. Many people break the law and then blame the police for catching them in the act. Strange thinking.

Why are there bad cops? I don’t know. Bad apples are in every job.

Why are most cops good? It’s a thankless job, but I’m grateful!

Why do people prefer to get high on drugs instead of life?

Why do on-going racial, religious, power-hungry wars never cease?

Why don’t we all respect one another unless or until it’s proven that someone isn’t deserving of our respect?

You can see I have no answers to these questions. I’m a clueless columnist preaching to the choir and trying to maintain my sanity.

Daily I try to look for the good and praise it and remember that laughter is good therapy. So is practicing the Golden Rule: “Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you.” To sleep at night I pray and put my concerns in God’s hands.

Now I’m going to go have a long talk with my sister the psychologist!

Betty Kaiser’s Chatterbox is about people, places, family, and other matters of the heart. Contact her at 942-1317 or via e-mail — bchatty@bettykaiser.com

VFW Auxiliary Cottage Grove Post 3473
Will be holding a Fundraiser
Friday, September 11th at 5pm.
ALL proceeds will go toward medical bills for members
Mona Coonrod and Pam Rivers.
Friday night dinner includes
Spaghetti, garlic bread, green salad, and dessert for \$8.
There will also be a raffle for \$1,000 gift certificate generously donated by Jim’s Tire Factory
Raffle tickets \$2 each, or 3 for \$5 and are available for purchase at the door.
Drawing will be at dinner - need not be present to win.
3160 Hillside Dr, Cottage Grove, OR

The Grove Café and Lounge

TACO TUESDAYS \$1.00
SLIDERS ON WED - \$1.00
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4 big screen tvs, watch all the Duck and Beaver games
Homemade soups, fresh cut deli meats, 1/3 pound hamburgers (local beef)

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Fri, September 11.....The Huckleberrys - country and bluegrass
Fri, September 18.....the Joanne Broh Trio - blues, jazz, and Motown
Fri, September 25.....2 Hot 4 Fido - country
Fri, October 2Monroe Street - Americana

Open daily 11 am for complimentary tasting.
942-1364 • www.saginawvineyard.com

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VFW Post Auxiliary to host fundraiser

The VFW Auxiliary of Cottage Grove Post 3473 will be holding a fundraiser this Friday, Sept. 11 at 5 p.m. All proceeds will go toward medical bills for members Mona Coonrod and Pam Rivers. Friday night’s dinner includes spaghetti, garlic bread, green salad and dessert for \$8. There will also be a raffle for a \$1,000 gift certificate donated by Jim’s Tire Factory. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5 and are available for purchase at the door. The drawing will be at dinner, but you need not be present to win. The Post is located at 3160 Hillside Drive, Cottage Grove.

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8 Authors 8 Minutes
CRAZY 8’s AUTHOR TOUR
Cottage Grove Community Center
Friday, September 18th
www.crazy8sauthortour.com
Hosted by Book on Main & Cottage Grove Public Library

Worship Directory
WORSHIP WITH US

6th & Gibbs Church of Christ 195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822 Pastor: Aaron Earlywine Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey Services: 9am and 10:30am Christian Education Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade www.6thandgibbs.com	Cottage Grove Bible Church 1200 East Quincy Avenue 541-942-4771 Pastor: Bob Singer Worship 8:30am, 11am Sunday School: 9:45am YouthGroup Mondays 6:30pm AWANA age 3-8th Grade, Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm www.cgbible.org	First Presbyterian Church 3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479 Pastor: Rev. Bruce Cameron Worship: 10:00am Sunday School: 10:00am www.cgpresbynews.com	Old Time Gospel Fellowship 103 S. 5th Street • 541-942-4999 Pastor: Herb Carson Sunday Service: 10:00am Sunday Bible Study: 6:00pm We sing the old time hymns.	United Methodist Church 334 Washington • 541-942-3033 Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen Worship: 10:30am Adult & Sunday School: 9:30am Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free) Mon. 5-6:30pm cottagegroveumc.org
Calvary Baptist Church 77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290 Pastor: Riley Hendricks Sunday School: 9:45am Worship: 11:00am The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm	Cottage Grove Faith Center 33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851 Lead Pastor: Isaac Hovet www.cg4.tv Sumer Schedule Sunday, Service - 10am Full Children’s Ministry available	Grove Community Church 77820 Mosby Creek Rd. Cottage Grove, OR 97424 541-942-0123 Pastor: Bryan Parsons Worship: 10:30 a.m. Nursery: Infant - Pre-K Kid’s Church: K to 5th grade	Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches 1025 N. 19th St. 541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712 Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J. Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm Sun. 10:30am St. Philip Benizi, Creswell: 552 Holbrook Lane • 541-895-8686 Sunday: 8:30am	“VICTORY” Country Church 913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913 Pastor: Barbara Dockery Worship Service: 10:00am Message: 11:00am “WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES”
Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove 1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza) 541-942-6842 Pastor: Jeff Smith Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am Wednesday Service 6:45 pm Child Care 10:45am Service Only Youth Group Bible Study: Wed. 6:45 pm & Sat. 6 pm www.cgcvalvary.org	Covered Bridge Nazarene Church 152 S. M St. 541-942-4422 Pastor: Cindy Slaymaker Sunday School: 9:30am Worship 10:30am	Hope Fellowship United Pentecostal Church 100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061 Pastor: Dave Bragg Worship: 11:00am Sunday Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday www.hopefellowshipupc.com “FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE”	St. Andrews Episcopal Church 1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050 Rev. Lawrence Crumb “Church with the flags.” Worship: Sunday 10:30am All Welcome	
Center for Spiritual Living Cottage Grove 700 Gibbs Ave (Community Center) Rev. Bobby Lee Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m. Info: 541-767-0182 (Mrs. “T”)	Delight Valley Church of Christ 33087 Saginaw Rd. East 541-942-7711 Pastor: Bob Friend Two Services: 9am - Classic in the Chapel 10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium	Living Faith Assembly 467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612 Pastor Rulon Combs Sunday School All Ages 9am Worship & Children’s Church 10:30 am “The Bridge” Sat Evening Service 6:00pm Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm Children’s Breakout Class: Wed. 6:30pm	Seventh-day Adventist Church 820 South 10th Street 541-942-5213 Pastor: Kevin Miller Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm	
Church of Christ 420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565 Sunday Service: 10:30am	First Baptist Church 301 S 6th St 541-942-8242 Pastor: Steve Johnson Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11:00am Come Worship with us	Non-Denominational Church of Christ 1041 Pennoyer Ave * 541-767-0447 Preachers: Tony Martin & Robert Evans Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm www.pennoyeravcoc.com	Trinity Lutheran Church 6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373 Pastor: James L. Markus Sunday Worship 9:30am Adult Education 10:45am Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups trinitylutherancottagegrove.com	

Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, please contact the Cottage Grove Sentinel at 541-942-3325.