



The

Chatterbox

Where is the light?

BY BETTY KAISER
For the Sentinel

Traditionally, December is the month of love, joy and peace. It's the time when we happily worry and fret over how we're going to get everything done in time for Christmas. It should not be the time when foremost in our thinking is the safety of our loved ones in their school, shopping or work place. That safety, however, is today's concern, as inexplicable violence and mass murderers seems to be erupting all around us. The light of the season seems strangely dim.

Sometimes when I'm wallowing in the misery of this reality, I need to step back and get some perspective. While I like to see the world through rose-colored glasses and believe that today's killings and atrocities are something new and have never happened before, I would be wrong. Evil is and always has been at work among us.

I am old enough to remember many senseless and tragic killings in our country. I remember where I was when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in November, 1963. My three little towhead babies were in the car with me as we drove down Inglewood Blvd., Calif. They were oblivious to the news but tears ran down my face as I wondered not "who" but "why."

I remember the escalation of fear and frustration during the official Vietnam War era of 1969-1973. It was an ugly war, and I marveled at the bravery of the war's protestors. Then, on May 4, 1970, the unthinkable happened. The Ohio National Guard fired on unarmed protestors at Kent State, killing four and wounding nine others. Three years later the war officially ended. Where was the light?

The 1980s and 1990s were

filled with dozens of illogical shootings. In 1984, in San Ysidro, Calif., an out-of-work security guard killed 21 and wounded 18 at a McDonald's restaurant. In 1986, a mail carrier in Oklahoma walked into his post office, opened fire and killed 14 co-workers before killing himself over a poor performance report.

About this time, a sort of pattern seemed to be emerging. Individuals disgruntled with their jobs or perceived treatment would heavily arm themselves and go on a killing spree. There was even a term coined for this mentality called "going postal."

Twenty years ago, Americans were ushered into a new killing nightmare. Timothy McVeigh, an anti-government militant, and his accomplice, Terry Nichols, introduced a new level of homeland terrorism. McVeigh set off a truck bomb outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people and injuring hundreds, including children. Where was the light?

Revenge was McVeigh and Nichols' motive. Their hatred against the way the U.S. government handled a standoff with Randy Weaver that ended with a firefight was one of many grudges they held. In return McVeigh decided to bomb a federal building and destroy both it and its occupants. Until Sept. 11, 2001 it was the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil and is the worst act of domestic terrorism in our history.

Suddenly, multiple school shootings came into the headlines. In 1998, Kip Kinkel, a disturbed young man, was suspended from Thurston High School for carrying a loaded, stolen handgun. That afternoon, he shot and killed both of his parents. The next day he returned to school wearing a trench coat to conceal his weap-

ons. He fired 50 rounds, killing two and injuring 37. His fellow students eventually restrained him and he is serving a life sentence.

In 1999, two students put Columbine High School on the map when they opened fire at school, killing a dozen students and a teacher plus numerous injuries to others before they killed themselves.

Just two years later on Sept. 11, 2001, our country was introduced to global terrorism. Everyone remembers where they were when they saw the Twin Towers taken down in a coordinated series of attacks. We remember the ash-covered survivors running for safety. We remember the towers collapsing. We remember the heroism of First Responders. Thousands were killed. We were shocked to learn of an enemy dedicated to the destruction of the United States. A fatwa or declaration of war had been issued by Osama "Who"?

And the list of horrors goes on. I think that CNN reporter Brooke Baldwin spoke for many of us when she said, concerning the Roseburg and San Bernardino shooting ... "I'm sick of speaking the words 'active shooter situation.' I've been covering too many of them...I've become too familiar with this. It's sadly become a routine."

So where is the light in all this madness? That's a good question.

It saddens me to put out a column of remembrances like this in an attempt at perspective because I have no answers. I can't just pretend that evil isn't happening in my happy little corner of the world. The truth is, evil doesn't take a break. Not even for Christmas. And now, more than ever, we must be vigilant. Now is the time to be alert, know our neighbors and put our fears in perspective.

SCHOOL

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Athletics headquarters. The team also formulated a list of guiding principles that it hopes can govern all aspects of the construction of a potential new school, including that it be a place to inspire learning, that it is safe and secure, can be utilized as a community resource and will honor the community and its history.

Gorman, himself a Cottage Grove graduate and former Harrison student, showcased a "pod" design that he said the committee liked best. The primary view of the building would be from Taylor, with parking to the left and buses in back. The gymnasium and cafeteria would be nearby, and those rooms would segue into a stage and music room. A long hallway would lead to a "pod" of four classrooms with a common area between them, with the idea that supervision of students would be facilitated by this design. One and possibly two covered play areas are planned. In all, the design calls for 20 classrooms for grades 1-5 and four kindergarten classrooms for a capacity of 600-650 students.

The architects said this design should allow the school to cordon off its public areas from its "educational wings."

With regard to one current tenant at the Taylor Avenue site, Kennedy High Principal Mike Ingman said he and other staff members recently toured the former Delight Valley Elementary School in Saginaw, which is also owned by the District

but closed due to budget constraints in 2010. Ingman said he spoke to staff and students about what an "ideal" Kennedy would look like and whether that ideal could be realized at Delight Valley. One concern, he said, stood out most.

"There's always a concern about the driving distance," he said. "But people were surprised about how close it is. It's about an eight-minute drive from where we are now, and that's not that far."

Still, Ingman pointed out that, with several teen moms, homeless students and students whose parents don't necessarily model the best behavior in terms of attendance and punctuality at Kennedy, transportation will still be a key issue. He said staff and students have shared a desire to "have a real school," in its own building with its own gymnasium, as opposed to the aging remnants of the former Cottage Grove High School that currently houses Kennedy.

"I've heard staff members say that we're a legitimate school, and we need a building that would allow us to grow," he said. The BLRB representatives concurred that the Delight Valley site "does seem like a perfect place" to relocate Kennedy. The site is currently the home of Head Start programs.

Later, Kennedy teacher Vickie Costello said she had an "aha moment" when she realized how heartbroken her students could potentially be if they showed up to their old building and saw a perfectly new Harrison building nearby.

The City of Cottage Grove Public Works Department will be conducting its annual Leaf Pickup during the following weeks:

November 16th-20th • December 14th - 18th • December 28th-31st

Tips for Leaf Placement in Street

- ✓ Only piles of loose leaves will be picked up
- ✓ Pile leaves on the street surface near the gutter, keeping gutter and catch basins free of leaves so storm water is not obstructed
- ✓ On streets without curbs and gutter, pile the leaves near the street surface away from ditches
- ✓ Stack the leaves so that they don't block bike and traffic lanes
- ✓ Leaves should be piled in rows so they do not block the flow of water along the curb and do not encroach on the traffic lane
- ✓ Do **not** place leaves in the streets where curbside parking does not exist. You may bring those leaves to the designated area outside the Row River Water Treatment Plant at 3300 Row River Road
- ✓ Do **not** place your leaves in plastic bags
- ✓ Branches will **not** be picked up
- ✓ Shrub prunings and blackberry vines will **not** be picked up
- ✓ Do **not** include rocks, metal or other debris in your leaf pile
- ✓ Lawn clippings will **not** be picked up

For more information please contact the Public Works Department at (541)942-2042 during working hours of Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM.



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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

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

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.cgcalvary.org

Center for Spiritual Living Cottage Grove
700 Gibbs Ave (Community Center)
Rev. Bobby Lee
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.
(907) 230-5070
www.facebook.com/CSLCottageGrove

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Isaac Hovet
www.cg4.tv
Dec. 24th - Candlelight Services 4 & 8pm
Dec. 27 - 10am service only

Covered Bridge Nazarene Church
152 S. M St.
541-942-4422
Pastor: Cindy Slaymaker
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

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

First Baptist Church
301 S 6th St 541-942-8242
Pastor: Steve Johnson
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship: 11:00am
Come Worship with us

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479
Pastor: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
www.cgpresbynews.com

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

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
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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

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

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.

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

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
"Church with the flags."
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

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

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur
5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

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)
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm
cottagegroveumc.org

"VICTORY" Country Church
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: 11:00am
"WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

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.