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MARCH 2023

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Ben West – New Clack County Commissioner

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Photo Mike Wiley

Jamie Worley was incarcerated for three and a half years rather than confess to a crime he vows he did not commit.
Except for an unconstitutional Oregon law,
he wouldn't have gone at all — Page 4



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**MURDERERS WANDERED VALLEY
DESPERATE FOR AN ALIBI**

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Our Mission

To publish a quality newsmonthly for Gresham, Sandy, Boring, and the other fine Mt. Hood communities, to affirm unique American freedoms — particularly the 1st Amendment — to provide useful information, share stories that inspire, and contribute to the free flow of ideas.

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Cheers for heroes, boos for bullies

PUBLISHER'S PERSPECTIVE

—Mike Wiley



In his most famous speech, Theodore Roosevelt said:

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again... who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause... who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

However, in the same speech, Roosevelt poured contempt on critics. He railed against cynics who look down on people working to make the world a better place. He said, *"The poorest way to face life is to face it with a sneer. A cynical habit of thought and speech, a readiness to criticize work which the critic himself never tries to perform, an intellectual aloofness which will not accept contact with life's realities—all these are marks, not ... of superiority but of weakness."*

There are many local people who are "in the arena," who are working to make Sandy and Gresham better places. They are the true heroes. Here are a few:

- The D31 Foundation, Geren's Farm and Landscape Supply, and the AntFarm are co-sponsoring a police auction this month. According to Amy Hardesty of D31, the proceeds will help the Sandy Police Department with some extra training and equipment that will enable them to better serve the community. (Link on page 19).

- DJ and Allison Van Zanten are working to bring together faith leaders from Sandy, Boring, Estacada, and Gresham to explore ways to serve the community.

- In Gresham, local businesses put signs in their windows for the Gresham Chamber's Adopt-a-Cop program to boost the morale of Gresham police officers.

- Sue Piazza saw her city in crisis, jumped into the cauldron of public ser-

vice, was elected to the Gresham City Council and is now Gresham City Council President. She's taken the lead and fought the battles to preserve the safety and livability of Gresham (see page 20).

Critics are out there

Yet, as Roosevelt warned, the critics are out there. Too many of these efforts have attracted local critics, bullies really, who seem to feel a moral superiority that justifies their criticism of others. One of Hardesty's social media posts about the police auction received enough strident criticism that an administrator turned off further comments. I know of a couple of Gresham businesses who received negative feedback after posting "Adopt-a-Cop" signs.

The goal of some of the critics seems to be to intimidate and ultimately silence their target — to rob them of their right to speak and their place in the community. These critics apparently fear that they can't win the argument, so they seek to silence by subtle, and sometimes not-so-

subtle, intimidation. Make no mistake, intimidation is a form of violence. It's not debate, even vigorous debate. You disagree? Fine. Make an argument, make a case. But snarky, mean-spirited criticism is not debate. Sometimes just minding your own business is an option, too.

We may think the best thing to do is ignore the critics and rise above them. That's usually the best course for the targets of bullying. However, it remains for the rest of the community to stand against bullying. If intimidation is allowed to become the determining factor for what can and cannot be said, then we will have lost our democracy and our freedom.

Become more resilient

We must also become more resilient people. As Jim Rohn observed, the good will always be attacked. The cynics, the critics, the bullies, will always have some excuse to attack the good. Let us not allow them to require people to meet standards to which no one but One ever attained. Let us forgive as we want to be forgiven and understand as we want to be understood.

Sadly, it often doesn't take much to affect the community and discourage good people from stepping out to do good things. Often it seems the discouragement can come from the same few people. That's sad.

Why do they do it? Maybe they believe that the rightness of their cause or opinions justifies it. Maybe they get some pleasure from it. But in the end, it's soul destroying. Poison directed at others eats away at the people directing it. That's why Booker T. Washington said, "I will permit no man to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."

Perhaps the critics, instead of cursing the darkness as they see it, can do something positive. Instead of criticizing, perhaps they can try "loving your neighbor as yourself," even those with whom they disagree. The soul they save might be their own. HVN

"I'm suggesting that people who don't have their own houses in order should be very careful before they go about reorganizing the world." — Jordan Peterson

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Oregon isn't the problem, Portland is.

Portland may be in Oregon, but is it still Oregon?

By MIKE WILEY

NOTE: This column contains SATIRE. Don't stress. Have fun. Think outside the box.

As a native Portlander, I have always had an affection for the ol' Rose City. I remember the Buckaroos and the Beavers. I remember hockey games at the Coliseum when the cow bells rang and Connie "King Con" Madigan struck fear in the hearts of opponents. I remember the log rafts floating by the downtown waterfront. I remember Portland originals like Mildred Schwab and Barney Keep. I remember when the Rose Parade and the Junior Rose Parade were fun, happy events that brought Portland together.

I lived and worked in inner north, northeast and outer southeast Portland for 25 years. I also know many great people who still live in Portland. Here's the problem — most of them want to get out.

I already know about two dozen people who have moved out of Oregon altogether, mainly due in part to their distaste for Portland's influence on the state.

Lawlessness and chaos

Sadly, in the past 20 years, Portland has become a national byword for law-

lessness, chaos, and a target for mockery. However, until recently, I had hope that Portland could be saved. Now, I wonder if separation might not be the best option.

Without Portland, Oregon would be a far more *Oregon*. Oregon is an amazing place. However, more and more, Portland seems like a foreign appendage attached to the state. It's shoved up against the Columbia River, seemingly captive to a lawless spirit that has blighted the once beautiful City of Roses.

The City of Portland is less than 0.15% of the landmass of the entire state, but, like a painful boil, it dominates state policies and politics.

It doesn't do this simply because of its large liberal voting population, but because most of those voters skew so far left that it unbalances the rest of the state. Portland seems so culturally and politically out of step with the rest of the state, it may as well be China. Nationally, Oregon has a reputation as being very liberal. Truth be told, Oregon isn't all that liberal.

Portland together. Portland is.

More a sect than a city?

Portland has even acquired its own Hollywood label: "Portlandia." Humorless activists don't seem to get that they are being mocked.



Like a painful boil, tiny Multnomah County, at the edge of the state, dominates the rest of Oregon.

Sometimes it seems that "Portlandia" has become a sect within a city, a veritable Jonestown on the Willamette, where activists seem to walk around perpetually angry, bitter, and looking for someone to blame — or attack. This is a city that celebrates itself with the motto, "Keep Portland weird." If by weird, they mean poor, dirty, ugly, dangerous, crime-ridden, drug-ad-

Portland resemble results in a one-party dictatorship. In last November's gubernatorial race, the Multnomah County precincts in Portland gave liberal Tina Kotek 77.9% of their votes. In the last presidential vote in Russia, Vladimir Putin received 76.7% of the vote. That suggests that the liberal-left may be more dominant in Portland than Putin is in Russia. Let that sink in.



It's still Portland, but is it still Oregon?

dled, over-regulated, and anti-business, they have wildly succeeded. Due to sprawling homeless camps, exploding crime, and general lawlessness, productive, law-abiding people are fleeing. Portland may be in Oregon, but it no longer seems *Oregon*. Personally, when it comes to our local communities, I would like to "Keep Gresham Great" and "Keep Sandy Sane." But hey, that's me.

Like a one-party state?

The issue is not that Portland votes liberal. It's that voting results from

If only "normally" liberal?

What if Portland were only "normally" liberal? If Multnomah County had merely voted in favor of Kotek at the same percentage rate as say, liberal Lane County, home of Eugene, Christine Drazan would be the Oregon governor. State-wide, Kotek defeated Drazan by about 66,000 votes. However, if Multnomah County had voted for Kotek only in the same percentages as liberal Lane County, the election would have been reversed. Drazan would have won the governorship.

The anti-firearms Measure 114 would have failed. That is, if Portland were just *normally* liberal. Instead, despite Portland becoming a national disgrace while she has been in the legislature, Portland's Tina Kotek took office over the whole state in January.

No liberal can be elected governor without overwhelming support from Portland. It's gotten to the point where the governor seems more of a governor for Portland than for the rest of Oregon.

I don't have much hope

I am normally a "hope springs eternal" type of guy, but I don't see much hope for my old home town. Why? One word: Lawlessness. The powers that be in Portland seem to view criminals as victims instead of the victimizers. They seem to celebrate the lawless at the expense of the law-abiding.

Over recent decades, Portland seemed to deliberately sow a culture of disdain for "normal." Now they are reaping the whirlwind. Portland streets seem to have been ceded to homelessness, violence, and the far-left. Businesses, even those known for their liberal views, are fleeing the city. So are traditional families. Many classrooms are being underutilized because many parents have moved to safer areas or have chosen home schooling.

Tourism is suffering and conventions have been canceled. On top of all this, the political leadership in Portland seems buffered and paralyzed by the activist-left. They seem incapable of exercising the firmness needed to wrest back control of the city.

Running roughshod over other Oregon values?

Still, Portland's far-left tilt might be okay if Portland activists and politicians were content with just running their small liberal enclave. However, Portland politicians don't seem to

respect the vast differences between Portland and most of the rest of Oregon. Their goal seems to be to impose Portland's values on the rest of Oregon. They seem to have left behind Oregon's historic "live and let live," libertarian values.

Make it an autonomous area?

There is a movement, called "Greater Idaho," to have more conservative Oregon counties join the state of Idaho. I know people in central and eastern Oregon who are pretty excited about it. Eleven eastern Oregon counties have voted to join the movement so far, with more likely to follow.

However, the rest of Oregon, outside of Portland, is an awesome state. Why should Oregon be dismembered because of a small, weird place that seems determined to destroy itself?

Here's a modest suggestion – instead of removing parts of Oregon from Portland, why not remove Portland from Oregon? Why not make Portland a territory like Guam or Puerto Rico? Let them have their own member of Congress and their lone electoral vote. People from regular Oregon could still work there and visit if they wish.

Without Portland, Oregon would be a far different state, more prosperous, tolerant, "normal" — and law-abiding.

If the entire population of Portland were removed from Oregon, it would only drop Oregon down 2 places on the population list of the states, from 27th to 29th. Oregon would go from 6 congressional seats to 5, the same as Connecticut and Oklahoma. I can live with that.

What I don't want for us to live with is, Portland imposing its ultra liberal attitudes and policies on the rest of Oregon. If it goes on much longer, it may be the end of Oregon as we know it. ■

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TRUE GRIEVING

Jamie Worley was incarcerated for three and a half years rather than confess to a crime he vows he did not commit. Except for an unconstitutional Oregon law, he wouldn't have gone at all.

***Editor's note:** Child abuse is tragically real, as are false accusations of abuse. Both are evil and wrong. See the end of this story for information on resources for combating both.*

By MIKE WILEY
Publisher

Nothing jolts a person quite like the sound of prison bars clanging shut behind you and the lock on the cell snapping into place. You are at that moment cut off from all you have ever known, loved, or cared for. They are cut off from you.

In prison, no one really cares about you or what happens to you. Anger, resentment, and hostility are constant realities. Violence can break out suddenly. Solitary confinement, a common prison punishment, can literally drive a person insane. Just like hell, there is no love in prison. Cruelty and dehumanization are daily occurrences. It's a place from which almost anywhere outside seems like heaven.

Prison is bad enough when you have done something to deserve it. When you know you're innocent, it's almost unbearable.

A jock transformed

Gresham resident and pastor Jamie Worley, 50, was born in Portsmouth, Virginia. His father served in the Navy and Worley was born on the Navy base. After high school, Worley moved to Oklahoma and attended college on a basketball scholarship.

Worley said, "I was on basketball scholarship at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma. It's funny, I got a basketball scholarship to a Christian college, but I wasn't even a Christian basketball



True Grit: Worley

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

player."

During his time in Oklahoma, Worley worked as a bouncer in a bar in Oklahoma City. "It was the largest country dance bar in Oklahoma. It had live bull riding inside the bar. It was something to behold," remembers Worley.

While still in college, in April, 1995, Worley had a religious conversion experience, a literal come-to-Jesus moment that radically changed his life. An attractive girl he had never seen before invited him to an evangelistic event for college students at the local church. She promised that afterwards, they could spend the night at her place. Worley didn't take much convincing. "I sat in the very back. That's where guys like me sit. About the end of singing, the guy's getting ready to start preaching. The girl gets up and she says, 'I'm going to go to bathroom and I'll be right back.' She got up and left and she never came back. And I've never seen her since."

But by the end of the message, Worley was no longer thinking about his date, he was up at the front, on his knees, having a life changing encounter.

Almighty God. I mean, if you've ever studied the universe, you know that this God is enormous. I mean it's unfathomable and [now] I'm right with him. He loves me," said Worley.

Worley continued, "Immediately, I began to read my Bible. I began to walk in faith. I didn't want to go out anymore. I didn't want to go to the bars anymore. I didn't want to do any of those things anymore.

and everybody saw it. I go back to my dorm room, and I'm crying, because of this wonderful thing that has just happened to me, but also for sorrow for the person I had been, knowing that I was a sinner. I knew it and I hated myself for it. Even before this, I didn't like myself. I knew I was not a good person. I was, you know, very promiscuous. But when I got saved, I felt all of that forgiveness flood over me. I was so happy that I was forgiven and that I was right with God. I mean, imagine that — being right with the

But by the end of the message, Worley was no longer thinking about his date, he was up at the front, on his knees, having a life changing encounter.

I was just different. I was clean on the inside. It's hard to explain what that feels like, when you've been dirty on the inside for so long and God just cleanses you. My conscience was completely clear for the first time in a long time. I had a complete sense of freedom. Sometimes you don't know how much weight you're carrying around until it's removed. And you feel the difference," said Worley.

Family man

In the late 1990s, Worley married one of the dancers at the bar where he had worked and they had a son together. Tragically, the little boy was diagnosed with cancer and died in St. Jude's Research Hospital for Children at two-years-old. Worley was devastated and the marriage, like so many marriages in that situation, did not survive the parent's grief.

Worley had loved being a father. In 2000, he married again. This time he married into an instant family, to the mother of a young girl who became his step-daughter. Soon, they also had a son together. However, in 2006, that marriage ended.

By 2008, he had found his soul mate in Joanne Richard and they were married.

In the early 2000s, Worley had attended Multnomah Seminary in Portland. After graduation, in 2008, he had become the youth pastor of Powell Valley Covenant Church in Gresham, north of Orient Drive on 282nd. On January 1, 2012, Worley was promoted to the senior pastor position. He was also working for an estate planning company, which his



TEARS IN HIS EYES: Worley's Multnomah County mugshot after his arrest on December 30, 2014. He was arrested for Tillamook County charges.

father had founded. Tall, handsome, smart, confident, and well-spoken, by 2012 Jamie Worley seemed to have everything going for him. He was doing work he loved and had a stable marriage and family. He always seemed to be in a positive mood, ready to lift up those around him.

He had found happiness in his marriage to his wife Joanne, "Jo," for short. She was pretty, smart, and strongly supportive of Worley's ministry work.

In 2012, the Worley's had recently moved into a nice home, right behind the church building. He and Jo had regular visitation with his son, but hoped that in their new home they might be able to have full custody. However, that was all still to be decided.

Worley remembers the exact day his life changed, July 19, 2012.

"I received a phone call from my former stepdaughter. I didn't know this, but a detective had had her call, and was recording all of

this," said Worley. "She said, 'My counselor asked me if I'd ever been physically, emotionally, verbally, or sexually abused,' and I said, 'Yes.' I said, 'What!?' Then she repeated again, almost like she had a script. She said, 'My counselor asked me if you had ever physically, verbally, emotionally, or sexually abused me, and I said, 'Yes.'"

Worley was stunned. "I was shocked. I can tell you exactly where I was. I was parked in the Wendy's parking lot in Gresham right there up Burnside. I was facing the Les Schwab. And I was looking right in at the popcorn machine. I was floored. I said, 'Well, you need to go back in there and tell the truth. I don't know what's going on with you, but if you need counseling, I'll go with you. But she had hung up,'" said Worley.

Worley believes that the phone call was related to his attempts to gain full custody of his son, her half-brother. Sadly, such allegations in custody disputes are

common enough that when situations involving possible allegations of abuse are mentioned to case workers or attorneys, one of the first questions often asked is, "Is this a custody dispute situation?"

Worley's son lived with his mother in Eugene. Worley had found that it was almost always he who had to pick up his son and to take him back to Eugene from Gresham. After six years, it seemed like it had become a one-sided situation. He and Jo felt that with full-time custody, they could alleviate some of the hardships and costs of constant transportation. Their new home behind the church had the extra bedroom for Worley's son.

It was not to be.

Arrest and charges

Worley says that after the phone call from his former step-daughter, he quickly took action. "Within two weeks of those accusations, I went to talk to a

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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SHOCK AND SUPPORT: Still in shock from the charges, Worley is surrounded and supported by family, including wife Jo (left) and kids. (Photo courtesy Jamie Worley)

True Grit: Worley

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

police detective together with [my] attorney. No holds barred. Nothing's off the table, they could ask me anything. It was about a two hour conversation. I passed a polygraph and passed a [specialized psychological] evaluation. I've got nothing to hide. Nothing, I'm figuring it's over, as it should be."

However, because of the allegations, all of Worley's subsequent visits with his son had to be supervised and any possibility of the Worley's gaining full custody became out of the question.

Yet, nearly two and a half years passed without Worley hearing anything further from authorities. Then, on December 30, 2014, Worley's world was turned upside down.

"I'm on the porch at the house behind the church here. I was reading my Bible as the sun is coming up. I'm thanking Jesus for all His blessings. [At that moment] two Gresham

police units pull up. They come in and arrest me in front of my wife and children. Right there on the front porch," said Worley. "They took me downtown to the Multnomah County jail."

Lurid accusations

Worley and his former wife and the children had lived in two counties in Oregon during their six year marriage. They had lived in Bend, in Deschutes County,

times at the most, in order to maintain consistency and prevent the child from inadvertently embellishing or changing the account they are telling. Worley said that his former stepdaughter's account of what had happened grew more serious with each interview and it was only after the fourth interview, containing the most lurid accusations, that Worley was arrested.

Worley asserts that despite lurid accusations, there was no physical evidence to indicate that what he had been accused of had actually taken place. Worley was arrested even though he had passed a polygraph and a specialized psychological exam. The psychological exam had graded him as the same level of a threat as a 75-year-old man.

Worley was charged with 37 counts of abuse by Deschutes County and 22 counts by Tillamook County. All of the charges were Measure 11 crimes. Conviction on Measure 11

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Come now, and let us reason together..." – Isaiah 1:18

[letters@hoodviewnews.com*](mailto:letters@hoodviewnews.com)

GUEST PERSPECTIVE

David Ligatich announces for Gresham-Barlow school board

By DAVID LIGATICH

Candidate for Gresham-Barlow School Board

As a lifelong resident of Gresham, and a father to a Barlow graduate and a current Barlow student, I have seen firsthand the challenges our community faces when it comes to education. Our schools are struggling to keep up with the needs of our students, they're not transparent with what's being taught in the classroom, and when parents try to engage — they get stonewalled. It's time for a change. That's why I am running for the Gresham Barlow School Board.

Oregon schools are continually ranked near last in every statistical category. Instead of prioritizing the basic skills it takes for our children to be prepared for the real world, our education system has decided to push political ideology. No matter where you land on these issues, just like in business, we need to focus on perfecting the basics before we can move on to the rest. And parents deserve to know what is being taught. Personally, I've had my own experiences with finding out from my son what was being taught in his classroom, and parents deserve better than that.

I believe that every student in our community deserves access to the best possible education, and it is the responsibility of the school board to ensure that happens. As a successful business owner and Chief Financial Officer of Ligatich Inc, I have valuable experience in finance and strategic planning that I can bring to the table. I am committed to using my leadership skills and experience to help make important decisions that will improve education standards and focus on academics.

As a graduate of the Gresham Leadership Academy and a volunteer at Grace Church in Gresham for youth services, I understand the importance of education in shaping the future of our community. I have seen the impact that quality education can have on a person's life, and I am passionate about ensuring that every student in our community has that same opportunity.

My experience serving on the board of the Gresham Rotary, the Gresham



David Ligatich

Chamber Board of Business Affairs, and the Gresham Community Development and Housing Committee have given me a deep understanding of the challenges facing our community. I am committed to working closely with parents, teachers, and administrators to address these challenges and ensure that our schools are providing the best possible education for our students.

If elected to the Gresham Barlow School Board, I will prioritize improving education standards and focusing on academics. This includes ensuring that our schools are providing the necessary resources and support for students to succeed, as well as collaborating with teachers and administrators to implement effective strategies for improving academic performance.

I'll also work with parents to ensure full transparency, accountability and to make sure their voices are heard on our local school board.

I am confident that with my dedication, experience, and passion, I can make a positive impact on our community as a member of the school board. I am committed to working hard and advocating for the needs of our students and families. I ask for your vote to help me make a difference in the schools in our community. Together, we can ensure that every student in Gresham has access to the high-quality education they deserve. ■

David Ligatich is a Gresham businessman and the co-owner of Biscuits Cafe located in Gresham.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WELCOME

Have an opinion? Have a different view? Information to share? Think we missed something? Great! Email your **Letter to the Editor**. *Letters should be polite, considerate, timely, and about 250 words (Exceptions may be made for well-written letters expressing opposing views or which are of special significance). Letters will be edited for grammar, content, and space. Unfortunately, not all letters can be published. Deadline is the 20th of the month. Email your letter to: letters@hoodviewnews.com



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HOODVIEW NEWS exclusive:

Interview with newly seated Clackamas County Commissioner Ben West

In the November general election, Wilsonville city councilor Ben West defeated incumbent Sonya Fischer for a seat on the Clackamas County Commission. In mid-January, *Hoodview News* (HVN) conducted an exclusive interview with West to get his impressions of his initial weeks and the issues that are the primary focus of his first term.

The interview touched on his then-recent ride-along with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department, tolling roads in the county, and the homelessness issue.

Following are excerpts from that interview. The interview has been condensed and edited for clarity and brevity:

HVN: How have your first few weeks on the commission been?

WEST: Often, when you're newly elected and you have a new four year term, the mindset or the recommendation is, you know, ease yourself in and get to know everybody, get your bearings. I've been doing that, but I've also been acting with an urgency to begin



JAN. 14, 2023: West Tweeted: "I am on my first ride-along ever with the Clackamas County Sheriffs. Proud of the men and women who wear the badge to keep our county safe. The first thing I saw was rainbow fentanyl found on an arrested suspect. Yep, I'm wearing a vest."

to lead and help direct the county in dealing with really big issues that have been persistent and chronic. And, you know, I treat this like my full time job because it is now. So I show up first thing in the morning and do the work as long as I can within that work day for the people of Clackamas

County. I don't clock in and clock out after eight hours. I am there to roll up my sleeves and to get things solved and accomplished on a local level. My goal initially has been to learn and assess, and to triage what's going on in the county on big issues that we're dealing with. But it's also to

encourage our staff and my fellow Commissioners and stakeholders to roll up their sleeves and increase their capacity. I think that we are far past the time for urgency on things like tolling, housing, homelessness and human services, and other big issues that we're dealing with as a county. So it has been a learning experience, and I'm already very busy.

HVN: So, you recently did a 14-hour ride along with the Clackamas County Sheriff's department. What did you learn from that?

WEST: It is very apparent to me that they do critical, difficult, hard work. [They] have to be highly professional and skilled. There's not a lot of room for error because they're dealing with people's lives.

I think that we have fully funded the need for staff for our Sheriff's Office, but we're still woefully understaffed. So as I look at the need of going to this critical call, and no coverage over in this area, and we know that there's something being called about, nobody's going to be able to respond to it, because we don't have staff and we can't retain staff. We can't draw lateral staff over from

other agencies and they're having a really difficult time [with] tenured, experienced deputies retiring quickly or early. So we have to make sure that we have the right staffing that is highly trained and professional to meet the needs throughout a very large county that needs a comprehensive sheriff's office to make sure that public safety is prioritized.

HVN: You said in a social media post that one deputy pointed out some stolen cars and noted that Clackamas County is right next to Portland. Was his point that they get stolen in Portland and then dumped in Clackamas County?

WEST: Correct. Those things creep into our county, but they often originated in Portland. So it's almost like Clackamas County border control — making sure that we're stemming the tide from some of that criminality and chaos coming into our county. That was a common theme.

Another common theme was fentanyl is everywhere. Often much of this ties directly into addiction and the criminality around drugs. That was a very

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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Ben West Interview

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

common theme on almost every single call. I saw a lot of fentanyl, Rainbow fentanyl. They call it blu-ey's. One pill can kill you. It was everywhere. It was highly concerning because that specific drug is deadly. It's dangerous. Some of it looks like candy. Not only is it dangerous for those that are addicted to it, but it's also dangerous for those that have to manage and handle it and deal with it. It's a scourge on the Portland metro area, and it should be treated like a crisis. I think Measure 110 has exacerbated that problem

County supported that, they voted for it.

I think it's important to hold our elected accountable and to make sure that we get new direction to oppose tolling. We probably will look at legal action. We're going to work with our congressional delegation and Lori Chavez-DeRemer, the new Congressperson out of House District 5, to try to see what we can do. We're going to try to pull out all the stops. We are committed to stop-

"Much of our policy in the Portland metro area has incentivized open air drug usage."

ping tolling in Clackamas County. I hope we're successful. I need people to get a little more outraged and a little more engaged and let their voices be heard on this issue. I don't think it's a partisan issue. I think it's an issue that really impacts the livability of those who live in Clackamas County and the people that choose to do business here. It would be absolutely detrimental to Clackamas County.

HVN: Moving on to the homelessness crisis, which was a big issue for you in the campaign. It seems that there's tension between advocates of transitional housing, just getting people a place to stay off the streets even if it's temporary, and those who won't settle for anything less than permanent housing for the homeless, because they feel that anything less than that will undermine support and financing for more permanent housing. You seem to be in favor of sort of an emergency transitional housing, especially for veterans, to help get them off the street.

WEST: Up and down the west coast, as this problem continues to explode, local governments, state governments and federal governments have pushed models such as "housing first" and "harm reduction" models, saying that homelessness is primarily caused by lack of housing. That's not true. The fact that I just said that is controversial, but it's not true [that



West also Tweeted: "On my ride-along found this squalor in Clackamas County and we have to continue cleaning this up and we will. Homeless people are living inside these trucks & RVs. I had a chat with one homeless man living in his vehicle. We must address this crisis..." (Photo courtesy Ben West)

homelessness is primarily caused by lack of housing]. Homelessness, not with everybody, but primarily, is an addiction and mental health issue. Through the inability to manage one's addiction or to get mental health care and be stable, they often become homeless, but the root causes are very much issues around recovery and stability.

We haven't done a good job of that in Oregon. We have always touted housing, housing, housing without really doing a serious investment in mental health services, detox, and treatment. I understand, as a nurse, and professionally as somebody who's cared for this patient population, not just at the bedside at their most critical moments, but also in the community, that we lack the infrastructure for our continuum of care that allows us to place the individual, after being fully assessed, where they need to be on the pathway to full recovery, with the goal of self sufficiency, and being clean, and sober and whole, and healed and free. But, we often do this patch-work housing hodgepodge approach, and put people into housing. But what often happens is they continue to struggle with addiction and mental health. They're just now behind the four doors, and they can often have extreme experiences of overdose, drug addiction, and illness. What we need to be able to invest in is inpatient psychiatric treatments, detox centers, tied to transitional recovery-based housing, that puts somebody in the pathway of personal responsibility and wholeness with the end goal of the majority of those people in those programs, so suf-

for them to live on the streets and dope-up. But that is not compassion. We are literally killing people, we are loving people to death. And yes, many of these people have problems, many of these people have had horrible things happen to them. I've been involved in horrible situations that are very, very difficult to deal with. But I know as a nurse, my patients can never begin to heal from their trauma, as long as they're addicted...

My goal in my first four years as a county commissioner is to bring Clackamas County to functional zero homelessness. What does that mean? It means that we have implemented policies and programs in a way that gets us to a [manageable], very small amount of [homeless, to] functional zero. There will always be a few transients that happen, but basically something completely manageable, which will [how] be we solve our problem in our county. We [can say we] did it the Clackamas County way. And now we're using a lot of our resources to prevent people from ever getting addicted or ever getting in that situation in the first place.

HVN: We've touched on

your first couple of weeks as a county commissioner, your ride-along with the sheriff, on tolling and on the housing for homeless. Is there anything you'd like to add?

WEST: I have some other big ideas. But if I had to prioritize issues that need our full attention right now, those would be the primary ones. I'm incredibly humbled, and incredibly thankful, that the people of Clackamas County put their faith in me. And there's not a day that goes by right now, even a thought before I lay my head on my pillow at night, that I am not completely consumed with an urgency to tackle these tough problems.

I know politics is part of this, but I am interested in being a problem solver and being a fixer. And I'm going to do my best to do that with authenticity and accountability, ultimately, to the voters. I'm listening, and I'm available and I'm approachable. I love hearing from constituents and learning. I'm trying to be nimble, I'm trying to be effective.

Once again, I am just so thankful for the honor to get to serve as Clackamas County Commissioner. **HVN**

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What Are Judeo-Christian Values?

By DENNIS PRAGER
Author and Syndicated Radio Host

The term "Judeo-Christian values" is frequently used.

I am one who uses it.

I do so for the same reason the late great British prime minister Margaret Thatcher did:

Thatcher said,

"The truths of the Judaic-Christian tradition are infinitely precious, not only, as I believe, because they are true, but also because they provide the moral impulse which alone can lead to that peace, in the true meaning of the word, for which we all long... There is little hope for democracy if the hearts of men and women in democratic societies cannot be touched by a call to something greater than themselves."

Mrs. Thatcher was a believing Christian. I am a believing Jew. While we have some religious beliefs in common, we have different theologies. But we have the same core values. And in societal terms, moral values

are far more important than theologies.

Key values aligned across traditions

That is why traditionally religious Protestants, Catholics, Mormons and Jews are aligned on almost every important social issue.

Here are 10 of those values.

One God

No. 1: There is one God. That God is the God introduced to the world by the Hebrew Bible — the source of one universal morality.

Objective Moral Truths

No. 2: The Hebrew Bible (the only Bible Jesus knew and which he frequently cited) introduced the most revolutionary moral idea in history: that there are objective moral truths just as there are mathematical and scientific truths. Without God as the source of moral standards, there is no moral truth; there are only moral opinions.

Good & Evil same for all

No. 3: Because there are

moral truths, good and evil are the same for all people.

God is the source of rights

No. 4: God — not man, not government, not popular opinion, not a democratic vote — is the source of our rights. All men "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights," declares the American Declaration of Independence.

God has no race, human life is precious

No. 5: The human being is "created in the image of God." Therefore, each human life is precious. Therefore, race is of no significance, since we are all created in God's image and God has no race.

Divine distinctions

No. 6: The world is based on a divine order, meaning divinely ordained distinctions. Among these divine distinctions are God and man, man and woman, human and animal, good and evil, nature and God, and the holy and the profane.



SUPREME COURT: A giant, stone carving of Moses holding the Two Tablets of the Ten Commandments is the central figure on the rear facade of the Supreme Court building.

Humans not basically good

No. 7: Man is not basically good. Christians speak of "original sin" in referring to man's sinful nature; Jews cite God Himself in Genesis: "The will of man's heart is evil from his youth" (Genesis 8:21). They are not identical beliefs, but they are both worlds apart from the

naive Enlightenment belief that man is basically good. And they come to the same conclusion: we need God-based rules to keep us from our natural inclination to do evil.

The heart is deceptive

No. 8: Therefore, we must not follow our hearts.

Both religious Jews and Christians are keenly aware of how morally dangerous it is to be led by our emotions. Those who reject Judeo-Christian values are far more likely to follow and promote the advice, "Follow your heart."

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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PRAGER: Judeo-Christian Values

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

God gave law

No. 9: God gave us the Ten Commandments — the core of Judeo-Christian values. Therefore, to apply but one of the Ten Commandments to our morally confused secular age, you must “Honor your father and mother” even if they voted for someone you loathe — meaning, at the least, remain in contact with them and do not dare deprive them of the right to be in contact with their grandchildren.



MOSES

In the United States House Chamber, Moses looks directly at the Speaker of the House. The symbolism is that Moses oversees the proceedings of America’s lawmakers because the Ten Commandments were the foundation of U.S. legal system.

Free Will

No. 10: Human beings have free will. In the secular world, there is no free will because all human behavior is attributed to biology and environment. Only a religious worldview, because it posits the existence of a divine soul — something independent of biology and environment — allows for free will.

Need each other

There is another important aspect to the term “Judeo-Christian.” The two religions need each other. Without the Old Testament, there is no New Testament. Virtually

every Christian moral principle derives from the Hebrew Bible — not only the 10 Judeo-Christian values enumerated here, but such basic moral principles as “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18), “Love the Lord your God with all your heart ...” (Deuteronomy 6:5), and “Love the stranger” (Deuteronomy 10:19).

At the same time, Judaism

needs Christians. It was Christianity that carried the Torah and the rest of the Hebrew Bible to the world. This was acknowledged by the greatest Jewish thinker after Moses, Maimonides.

As the noted Jewish scholar David Novak writes, “Maimonides rules that Jews may teach the Torah to Christians... Thus, Jews and Christians share a common revelation in a way that Jews share with no other religious community.”

The ultimate embodiment of Judeo-Christian values has been the United States of America. America’s Founders were Christians (some culturally, some doctrinally) who were rooted in the Hebrew Bible. America was founded not to be a replacement of Israel, but a “Second Israel.” Until recently, it was. **HVN**

Dennis Prager is a nationally syndicated radio talk-show host and columnist. His commentary on Deuteronomy, the third volume of “The Rational Bible,” his five-volume commentary on the first five books of the Bible, was published in October. He is the co-founder of Prager University and may be contacted at dennisprager.com.

 Councilor Piazza's
Did you know? ☆ GRESHAM

Did you know that Legacy Mt Hood Medical Center has announced the closing of their Birth Center on March 17, 2023?

For months, Legacy Health and their leadership discussed models, options, and plans. Not once did they communicate, collaborate, or convey any concerns regarding these facilities unsure future to elected leadership in our region!

Most recently Legacy Health has suggested that this current proposed closure is only temporary, and yet, even still today after being asked, hasn't identified, what or how this community or elected leaders can do to help restore the fully operational facility.

Under this closure plan, a pregnant woman arriving at Mt. Hood Legacy Emergency Department, will need to travel an additional 30 minutes to Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel in North Portland. The transfer would be even more complicated if the woman's labor has already begun. The transportation will then require Life Flight or an ambulance. This additional expense will negatively affect all families, especially our already impoverished community members.

Giving birth often comes with complications. What will happen if the labor has complications and the emergency is so great, they do not have time for

transport? An emergency doctor is faced with handling a situation they were never adequately or properly trained for. Emergency doctors currently rely on skilled OB GYN's to deliver babies. What will happen to the 50 nurses and our OB/GYN doctors who live, work, and provide ongoing care to the women in our area?

This closure is a slap in the face to our nurses and doctors who have had hyper focused training for decades to perfect their craft and to our extended community members who rely on Mt Hood Legacy as the closest hospital. This closure affects upwards of 200,000 people.

Our citizens, especially those with the least access to health care and services, are now being asked to participate in this “experiment” because Legacy's previous model failed them and now, they are failing us.

That's inequitable, that's not right, and that's why I have been raising my voice about this unfortunate closure.

Women and men need to voice their displeasure with Legacy on this decision.

Please write to the following with your concerns:
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The members of Worley's church stood by him through the ordeal. (Photo courtesy Jamie Worley)

True Grit: Worley

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

crimes in Oregon means that the convicted person must serve the entire, state mandated sentence, without the possibility of early release or parole. A 30-year-old man, convicted of Measure 11 crimes adding up to a 35-year sentence, is essentially receiving a life sentence since no early release is currently possible aside from a pardon from the governor, which is difficult to obtain. (see sidebar on page 29).

Both Worley and his wife were dumbfounded that more investigation had not been done prior to Jamie being arrested and charged. Joanne Worley said, "We lived with my mom. My

mom is a nurse. She was a mandatory reporter.* And she worked in a children's abuse home. This is what I mean, no one [on our side] was interviewed."

Jamie Worley adds, "It was a completely one sided investigation. When we had the investigator on the stand in the first trial, we were later told that the jury could not believe their ears. My attorney asks, 'Well, did you interview anybody else? 'No.' 'Did you interview his mother-in-law? 'No.' 'What about his parents?' 'No.' 'What about his wife?' 'No.' 'What about the other children in the home?' 'No.' My attorney just looked at him. He was like, 'You gotta be kidding.' So no investiga-

tion was done," said Worley.

Incarceration and a determination

After his arrest in Multnomah County in late 2014 for the charges in Deschutes county, Worley posted bail and was released to home confinement.

In April, 2015, Worley was again arrested at his home and was transported to Tillamook County where his first trial was held. He was held in jail in Tillamook on a \$1.1 million bail for nearly a year awaiting trial. Then, just before the trial, he was offered a plea deal.

Worley said, "Towards the end of that almost one year in jail, jail was wearing me down big time. I think that was the design. 'Hey, this is going to be the rest of your life.' So at the very end of that year, right before the trial, like three or four days before the trial they offered me [a plea deal]."

"If I remember correctly, I think they offered me to plead guilty on two counts of sex abuse, receive six and a half years in prison, and register as a sex offender for ten years. Or go to trial and lose and spend the next seventy years or so in prison," said Worley.

However, Worley had

already decided what course he would take. He was not going to admit to something he hadn't done.

"I mean, it wasn't like I made the decision. It was [already] ingrained in me. I'm not going to ever admit to things I didn't do. My parents raised me that way," said Worley.

"You know, I'm not going to admit to things I didn't do. I don't care what the risk is, or what the consequences are. It's not because I'm some great human being. It's because my mom and dad raised me that way."

"You know, I'm not going to admit to things I didn't do. I don't care what the risk is, or what the consequences are. It's not because I'm some great human being. It's because my mom and dad raised me that way. And it was just ingrained

in me not to do that. It was the stubbornness of truth, and patriotism. A lot of that stemmed from the patriotism I learned growing up with my dad being in the military. I heard stories over and over, about men and women in the military who suffered so that we can have what we have today. And that's always stuck with me," Worley said.

Worley added, "I'm looking at the rest of my natural born life in prison. If I were guilty, why would I deny a plea deal? [One] that sends me home, no prison with five years of simple probation? Who wouldn't take that? What real abuser wouldn't take that?"

Trials: Acquittal and then conviction

Worley's first trial took place in Tillamook County. The month-long trial began in late February, 2016. Worley had been in jail on the charges since April the year before.

On March 7, the jury in the Tillamook trial announced that they found Worley Not Guilty on the first five counts. The jury was hung (unable to reach a verdict of guilty or not guilty) on the remaining 17 counts. When a jury cannot reach a verdict, the District Attorney's office

has the option of retrying the defendant on those charges. However, rather than retry Worley on the remaining charges, the Tillamook County DA later dismissed them, saying it was "in the interests of justice," according to Worley.

It remained for Worley to face trial in Deschutes County where he was faced with even more charges. Despite his acquittal on key charges in Tillamook County and a hung jury on the rest, the Deschutes County DA proceeded with trying Worley.

Home detention while awaiting trial in Deschutes

After the Tillamook trial, Worley was sent back home to Gresham under house arrest to await his trial in Deschutes County. It took another two years before the Deschutes case came to trial.

In an extraordinary move, five of the jurors from Tillamook trial traveled at their own expense to Deschutes County to make the case to the Deschutes District Attorney as to why Worley was innocent of the charges and shouldn't be tried there.

Their pleas seemed to

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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Cold-blooded murderers wandered valley desperate for an alibi

Two young men had murdered a wealthy rancher on a trip across the Cascades, then realized how bad it would look to show up at the end of the trip without him.

By FINN J.D. JOHN
Writer

In Charles Maturin's classic 1820 Gothic novel *Melmoth the Wanderer*, a sinister scholar named Melmoth, having sold his soul to the devil in return for an extra 150 years of life and suffering from the worst kind of buyer's remorse, wanders the Earth in search of someone who will, essentially, take over payments for him. If he can

find someone to buy out his contract, as it were, he can die in peace and go to heaven — or, at least, not automatically be damned.

In the summer of 1898, two young Oregon men found themselves in a similar situation. They had murdered a wealthy rancher on a trip across the Cascades, then belatedly realized how bad it would look to show up at the end of the trip without him. So they searched with increas-



EMPTY HORSE: Courtland Green and Clarence Branton murdered local rancher John Linn in cold blood while he was sleeping. They thought he had \$1,000 on him. After their wicked deed, they realized that if they showed up in public without him, it would look bad. (Image from stock. Courtland and Green not pictured.)

ing desperation for someone to lie under oath for them by swearing they had seen the three of them arriving in the valley together.

It didn't work — for them or for Melmoth.

The story started in March 1898, when 22-year-old Courtland Green moved to Condon to work. He

had a friend there, another 22-year-old named Clarence Branton. Both Green and Branton had sweethearts in the McKenzie River valley, but weren't in a financial position to get married. Both were on the lookout for ways to make lots of money really fast. And Branton had a plan to do just that.

Plan to murder

Branton's plan involved a local rancher named John Linn, who was rumored to carry a purse with \$1,000 in gold (worth \$30,000 in 2018 currency) as walking-around money. Branton had sweet-talked Linn into partnering up with him on some horses. Soon it would be time to

bring those horses over the pass to the McKenzie River valley to market. It was easy: they'd murder Linn in the most remote part of the trip. Between the \$1,000 and the proceeds of the sale of the horses, they'd both have all the money they needed to

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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DECEPTIVE DINNER: Branton and Green kept everything all friendly-like with Linn — until Linn was asleep, when they made their cowardly move to murder the naive rancher in cold blood. (Image from stock)

Wandering murders

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

set up housekeeping, and be right there in the McKenzie valley ready to pop The Question. One wonders if they made plans to be Best Man in one another's wedding.

That night they made camp around 9 p.m. at a place called Isham's Corral, one or two dozen miles west of the pass near Alder Springs. Linn had spread his bedroll near the fire and was peacefully sleeping; it was now or never. Branton had brought along a cheap five-shot Iver Johnson American Bulldog revolver — probably a .32, although the newspaper accounts don't specify — and he now got that out and, after a whispered conference with Green (who apparently was getting cold feet) walked over to Linn with it and shot him several times.

Money wasn't there

Of course, the first thing the two of them wanted to do was find the \$1,000

Linn reportedly carried. In that, they got a disappointing shock: all they found in his purse was \$65 and an I.O.U. for \$800. Linn had lent almost all his walking-around money to a friend before leaving on the trip.

But the short summer night was no longer young, and they had a body to get rid of before dawn. Branton and Green gathered wood and expanded the campfire into a massive funeral pyre. They tended it all night, trying to completely

destroy Linn's corpse, which they chopped up with an ax to encourage better burning; and the next morning it was still smoking prodigiously, drawing a good deal of attention from nervous residents miles away, who feared it was a forest fire breaking out.

it. It was finally beginning to dawn on them that, when Linn's disappearance was remarked, they would be the prime suspects, having been seen leaving Condon with him and arriving in the McKenzie valley without him.

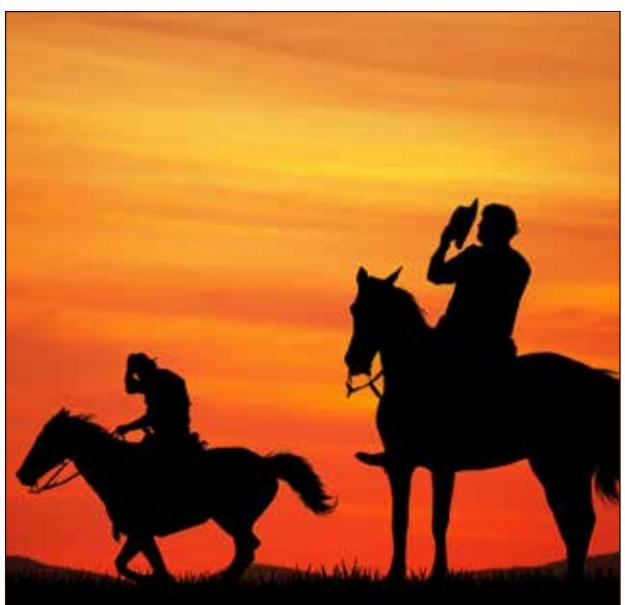
What to do?

The two of them decided what they needed was to find some rustic sucker willing to perjure himself by swearing that he had seen the three of them together, bringing the horses down.

And so commenced Branton and Green's Melmoth-like wanderings through the McKenzie Valley, horses in tow, looking for friends old and new who would be willing to perjure themselves in exchange for the pick of the herd.

Branton even made a fake beard so that he could pretend to be Linn at one spot. This didn't work, though, because the rancher he was trying to fool recognized his voice.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



SPLITTING UP: Eventually the murderers realized that their only hope was to split up, so Branton lit out for Kansas while Green stayed. (Image from stock)

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Wandering murders

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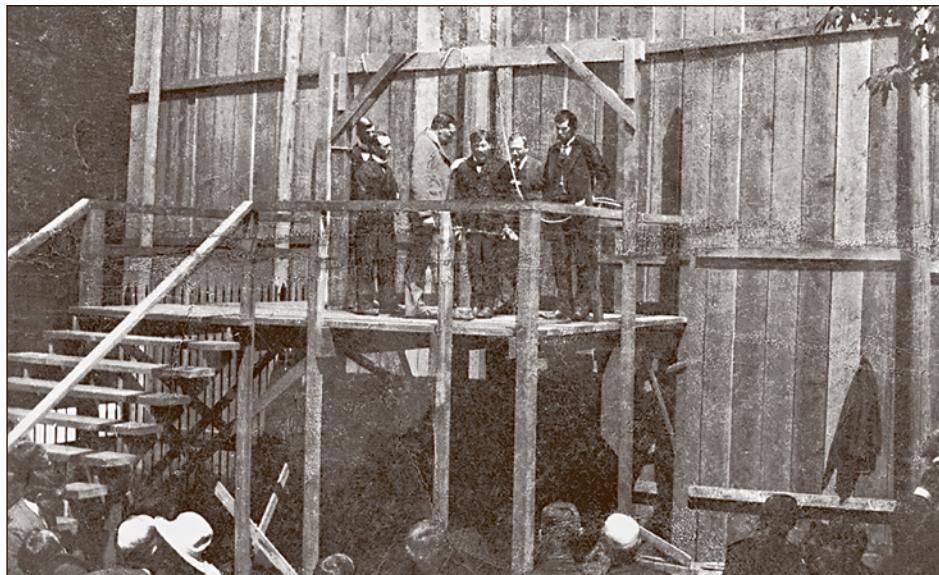
The two of them tried several times to sell the horses, too, but no one would take them because Linn wasn't there to sign the bill of sale.

Eventually it dawned on Branton that they were basically doomed, and his best shot was to cut and run. So the partners split up. Branton ended up in Kansas with the \$65; Green, however, stayed in Eugene.

It may have been their plan all along for Green to finger Branton if the heat came on, and Branton to be gone on the lam. In any case, that's how it went down. Green, whose psychological state had deteriorated badly and whose alcohol consumption rate had skyrocketed, finally couldn't stand it any more and confessed to a friend, Lane County Sheriff's Deputy John Day. Day took his friend directly to the district attorney, and the jig was officially up.

Desperate for "witnesses"

Branton had underestimated the difficulty of life on the lam, and perhaps the fact that he and Green had spent weeks wandering around bugging people to perjure themselves about



MOMENT OF RECKONING: Claude Branton on the gallows, about to be hanged for the murder of John Linn, on May 12, 1899. (Image: Oregon Historical Society)

having seen a missing man without anyone apparently getting wise had led him to an underestimation of the intelligence of his fellow man. In any case, a month or two later he paid a visit in Eugene and was nabbed on the spot.

Green, brought to trial, shocked the court by pleading guilty despite the strong probability that it meant the gallows. He lucked out, though: the charge, when it was made, was second-degree murder, meaning a life sentence rather than death. He served 10 years of that

sentence in the Oregon State Penitentiary before being conditionally pardoned by the governor.

Guilty, sentenced to hang

But Branton — with the help of Green's testimony — knew very well he couldn't

even hope for a break like that. And sure enough, when the verdict came in, it was "guilty of first-degree murder," and the sentence was hanging.

Branton was kept in the county jail until the sentence could be carried out, and it was immediately clear he was a desperate man. When he was brought back to his cell, the instant the handcuffs were off him he leaped on Deputy Day, grabbing for his revolver. The two of them fought over the gun for a second or two; then the sheriff arrived and grabbed Branton by the throat, choking him until he let go.

Later Branton made a fake gun, carved out of pieces of food, and tried to bluff his way out of the joint by pointing it at Sheriff Withers. Withers, having good reason

to know Branton wasn't armed, said, "Oh, come off it," and Branton passed it off as a joke.

Finally, on May 12, 1899, Claude Branton's sentence was carried out. His wanderings were finally over; but, unlike Melmoth, he wasn't expecting damnation to follow. He'd been baptized in prison, and spent the morning of his execution in Bible study. **HVN**

Sources: Goeres-Gardner, Diane L. Necktie Parties: Legal Executions in Oregon 1851-1905. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton, 2008; Allen, Cain. "Claude Branton hanging, 1899," oregonhistoryproject.org. Oregon Historical Society, 2006; Eugene Guard archives Jul-Nov 1898.

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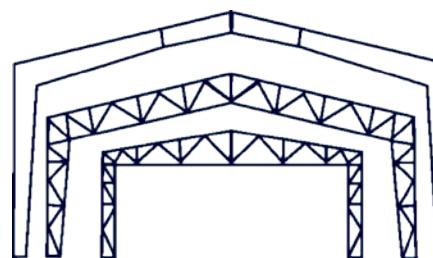
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NEWS AND EVENTS



March 4—My Father's House Wine Event

On Saturday, March 4th, Uncorked, My Father's House Wine Event will be held at the Persimmon Country Club, 500 SE Butler Rd., Gresham, from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. At this event local wineries are invited to come and pour tastes of their unique wines. Wineries are encouraged to bring bottles of what they are sampling to sell. A delicious light appetizer buffet is a great compliment to the delicious wines. Many unique and beautiful items are donated by the business community, providing

My Father's House with a wide variety of silent auction items including sports memorabilia, vacations, jewelry, and more. To purchase tickets, \$50 single or \$75 double or for more info go to their website at www.familyshelter.org.

March 5 – Concealed Firearms Permit Class

On March 5th, from 12pm to 5pm, a Concealed Firearms Permit Class will be held at the Motel 6 conference room, 1572 NE Burnside in Gresham. The class will be taught by Officer Larry Raglione, a certified instructor. The

Concealed Firearms Permit -Utah, Arizona, or Florida, costs \$80. Oregon can be added to this for an additional \$20. This permit is good in up to 35 states. To register call 503-781-6080 or go to www.2ndrightsfcfp.com. This class is sponsored by Costal Farm and Ranch, Gresham.

Mar. 6—Men's Book Club

Sandy Men's Book Club will be held on Monday, March 6th, starting at 7pm at the Sandy Public Library Community Room, 38980 Proctor Blvd, Sandy. The book being read for this club is "A Walk in the Woods"

by Bill Bryson. For further information please email mhouck@ci.sandy.or.us.

March 7 & 21—Library Kid's Club – Art

The Wy'East Artisan's Guild is hosting the Art Club for kids on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Sandy Library Community Room, 38980 Proctor Blvd, Sandy. The first one will be held Tuesday, Mar. 7th from 3:30pm to 5pm, the second one on March 21st. Come to the library after school to learn about art and have fun creating something!

March 8—State of the City of Gresham

The City of Gresham will be holding their State of the City Address at Sam Barlow High School, 5105 SE 302nd Ave., Gresham, on Wednesday, March 8th from 6pm to 7:30pm. The community is invited to this event to hear about the exciting plans for the future. Mayor Travis Stovall will be sharing highlights from the past year and the vision for the year to come. Doors open at 5:30pm, light refreshments will be served, and the program will begin at 6pm. For more information, please contact Larry Morgan at 503-618-2068 or Larry.Morgan@GreshamOregon.gov. For those that prefer, you can also tune in virtually through the City of Gresham's YouTube channel.

March 9—Women's Book Club

Sandy Public Library, 38980 Proctor Blvd.,



Larry Topliff Wins District Wrestling Coach-of-the-Year

Sandy High School Wrestling took top honors at the Mt. Hood Conference District Dual Meet and District. Not only that, but head coach Larry Topliff (above) was awarded district Coach-of-the-Year honors for his tireless efforts for the team. Congratulations Sandy Wrestling and Larry! (Photo Mike Wiley)

New Owners at Homemasters Portland East

The Homemasters franchise is happy to announce the transfer of ownership of the East Portland branch. Founder, Steve Frick, started this franchise location in 2013 and has grown the business into one of the most trusted contractors in the area. The company (Homemasters) values high quality work with industry leading products and the industries best warranties. Trust, integrity, quality and follow through are just some of the qualities that a Homemasters customer has come to experience.

The new owners, Mani Ramos and Bryan Hockett, hope to continue this storied tradition that Steve and the Homemasters team started over 9 years ago. Mani and Bryan bring a combination of construction and business experience that they hope will compliment the strong assets of the company. Stop by their showroom, 12900 SE Richey Rd., Boring, to meet the team and check out the beautiful home renovation products and services they offer. You may contact them at 503-328-9400 or check out their website, [www.portlandeast.homemaster.com](http://portlandeast.homemaster.com). ■

Sandy, will be holding their Women's Book Club starting on Thursday, March 9th at 6pm. The book will be "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. This hybrid

event occurs both in Sandy Public Library Community Room and Zoom. For more information contact them at mhouck@ci.sandy.or.us.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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March 10—Gresham Chamber Meeting

The Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce Friday AM meeting is an opportunity to connect with other businesses and business owners in the local community. The Chamber will be meeting on Friday, March 10th from 7:20am to 9am at Center for the Arts Foundation Little Theater, 333 N Main Ave. (enter at 3rd & Miller), Gresham. This meeting will be hosted by Cascadia Arts

April 1st - Auction to benefit Sandy PD

The D31 Foundation, Geren's Farm and Landscape Supply LLC, and the AntFarm non-profit foundation are excited to announce that they are hosting an auction on Saturday, April 1st from 6pm to 8pm at AntFarm, 39140 Proctor Blvd, Sandy, to support the unfunded needs of the Sandy Police Department. Doors open at 5:45pm.

In a Facebook post, auction organizer and D31 Amy Hardesty said, "While our [Sandy] police department is well funded by our tax dollars, there will always be needs that didn't make the budget and we hope to help meet some of those needs. We are thankful for places like Geren's Farm and Landscape and The AntFarm that are willing to link arms and help make a difference in the community on many different levels."

A few of those items that fundraising would help purchase would be:

- A drone with heat sensing technology and necessary training - for search and rescue as well as de-escalation and Funding for additional specialized drone training
- IBIS (Instant Biometric Identification System) AKA a portable fingerprint scanner
- Firearms Instructor Training - (includes training fee and required ammo)
- Leadership Training (FBI LEEDA - a 4.5 day course)
- Interview and Interrogation Training - (3 day course)
- Advanced School Resource Officer Training - (3 day course)

"Again, it takes all of us as a community, committing to the things that we truly believe in to make a difference. I appreciate the questions, and certainly understand the hesitation when it comes to government spending, but I think at the end of the day we're all just doing our best to be good humans and keep our town great," posted Hardesty.

The auction aims to raise \$14,000 for the items listed above. Tickets are \$50 each. Visit: auction2023.schoolauction.net/sandypd/register/ticket_sales.

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Association (CAA). A great networking opportunity to meet Chamber members and prospective members. New faces are always welcome! You do not have to be a member to attend and see what the chamber is all about.

March 11—Fashion Show /Luncheon at Gresham Senior Center

The Gresham Senior Center, 600 NE 8th Street, Room 130, Gresham, will be holding a Fashion Show/

Luncheon on Saturday, March 11th from 12pm to 3pm. Enjoy a catered luncheon while models show you the latest fashions and trends from local stores. They will be featuring clothing from Shop Girl Consignment, Maurices, Chico's, and SJS Apparel which is accessible and stylish clothing for dialysis patients, to name a few. Tickets are \$20 each or \$100 for a table of six. Purchase your tickets from the Gresham Senior Center reception desk between 8-5pm or call them at 503-988-4870 to purchase tickets over the phone. They accept cash, checks, and debit/credit cards. They are a donation-based non-profit organization; your ticket purchase allows them to continue to serve the local seniors.

March 11- D31 Be Bold Service Project

For those 10 years old and up you are invited to the D31 Be Bold 3rd annual Echo Ranch Clean Up on Saturday, March 11 from 10am to 2pm at Echo Ranch, 19131 SE Foster Rd, Damascus. Echo Ranch serves as a safe haven for humans and horses alike. The clean up will consist of chores for all ages and ability levels. There will be garden work, weeding, barn chores, fence building and much more! Lunch will be provided. RSVP required at www.d31bebold.com.

March 11—Estacada Odd Fellows Three Link Breakfast & Bazaar

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 11th! The Estacada Odd Fellows Lodge #175 will be holding their Three Link Breakfast & Bazaar. Enjoy some breakfast, do a little shopping, and enjoy some other activities! Local Vendors, Bake

Sale, and a Raffle-(You don't need to be present to win, but drawing will take place at 4pm). Breakfast will be held 9am to 1pm; the Bazaar from 9am to 4pm. Estacada Odd Fellows Lodge is located at 267 SW 2nd Ave. Estacada.

March 12—Grace & Action Performance

On Sunday, March 12th at 3pm there will be a performance at the Gresham High School 1200 N. Main Ave. Gresham. The Grace & Action Performance is an event by Gresham Center for the Arts Foundation and Portland Columbia Symphony. Flutist Brian Dunbar performs the West coast premiere of Movements for Flute and Orchestra, a new work by trailblazing composer Carlos Simon. In a score that takes inspiration from themes of redemption and self-will, Simon inspires the uplifting sense of possibility also present in an iconic spiritual and the exuberance of Beethoven that complete this not-to-be-missed program.

March 12—Oregon Cancer Ski Out

Mt. Hood Meadows, 14040 Hwy. 35, Government Camp will hold their Oregon Cancer Ski Out on Sunday, March 12th from 9am to 4pm. This 34th Annual Oregon Cancer Ski Out is a great event for skiers and snowboarders that combines fun, competition and fundraising with a unique racing format designed to let even novice skiers and rider participate in the fight against cancer. Each year, teams of four compete for prizes at Mt. Hood Meadows in a race that rewards consistency and teamwork rather than individual speed.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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Planned closure of Gresham birthing center leads to protest



Gresham City Council President Sue Piazza speaks at a Feb. 13th rally to oppose the closing of the birthing center at Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center in Gresham. Piazza is joined by former city councilor Cathy Keathley (L), current councilor Jerry Hinton (2nd from L), Sandy Mayor Stan Pulliam (3rd from L). Laurie Palmer with gogetyourchild.org, is to Piazza's right in the picture.

The sudden announcement of the planned closure of the Legacy Mt. Hood Birthing Center located at Legacy Mount Hood Medical Center, 24800 SE Stark Street in Gresham has generated passionate opposition. Legacy cites financial losses that occurred during the COVID pandemic and a shortage of workers as some of the reasons for the planned closure. They say that the lower number of births along with the unusually high cost of care have led to their decision of closure of the birthing center. Legacy officials have stated that beginning March 17th, pregnant patients who arrive at the hospital's emergency department will be transferred to Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in North Portland or other local hospitals.

On Monday, February 13th, a rally to protest the closure was held outside of Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center. Dozens attended the rally despite the rain, including doctors, nurses, city leaders, health care workers and local families, all speaking out about the closure. At the rally, Gresham City Council President Sue Piazza and other local leaders held a press conference and addressed the concerns they had regarding the closure of the only birthing center on the Eastside.

Piazza said, "As a mother, grandmother, and daughter born and raised in east county, I find the entire circumstances surrounding the closure of Mt Hood Legacy Birth Center disturbing," Piazza added, "For months, Legacy Health and their leadership discussed models, options and plans. Yet not once did they communicate, collaborate or convey any concerns regarding these decisions to the elected leadership in our region."

Other local leaders at the rally included Gresham City Councilor Jerry Hinton, Gresham City Councilor Dina DiNucci, Sandy Mayor Stan Pulliam, Lauri Palmer with Go Get Your Child, and Dr. Mary Afsari-Howard.

A common concern they have is that if the birthing center closes, expectant mothers in the area will have to travel into Portland, which can take over an hour or more depending on traffic during heavy use times, to give birth in another hospital birthing center. Some expectant mothers will not be able to make the journey in time and will be forced to give birth in already overwhelmed emergency rooms on the east side.

"It is a disgrace that Legacy Health would close down a birthing center that is so vital to our community members out here on the east side," said Mayor Stan Pulliam of Sandy. ■

■ CONTINUED FROM PG 19

Participants will have two chances to run the course and record times. Prizes go to the top three teams. Volunteer celebrity and professional coaching staff are on hand throughout the race, coordinating teams and assisting with professional advice and instructions.

Participants raise money for Bucks to Buck Cancer, a peer-to-peer campaign. Since it began in 1988, the Oregon Cancer Ski Out has raised over \$1.5 million for its beneficiaries.

In addition, over 400 people take part in the event each year, many of whom have participated in the event since its inception. For more information go to www.skihood.com or <https://cancerskiout.org>.

March 13 & 27—Creation Station

Creation Station is a twice monthly interactive program that welcomes adults with disabilities on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 10am at the Sandy Library Community Room, 38980 Proctor Blvd., Sandy. Art Lab, on the 2nd Monday, will offer several arts and crafts stations with a variety of materials to accommodate different interests and abilities. Maker Lab, on the 4th Monday, will offer puzzles, games, LEGOs and other building and problem solving materials. For more information email kmurphy@ci.sandy.or.us.

March 16—Burn's Feed Store Flock Talk

On Thursday, March 16th starting at 7pm, Burn's Feed Store will have Flock Talk. The guest speaker will be Dr. Marli Lintner, DVM, speaking on "Mythbusters In the Poultry World". Seating is limited, so please call 503-663-3246 or email: burnsfeedoregon@gmail.com to reserve your seat. Burn's Feed Store is located at 29215 SE Orient Drive, Gresham.

March 16—Butterfly Social by Gresham Historical Society

Celebrate the Glass Butterfly at the Butterfly Social, a free reception, at the Gresham Historical Society, 410 N. Main Ave., Gresham on Thursday,

March 16th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm.

The iconic stained-glass butterfly is now installed in their gallery, where it will remain for future generations to enjoy. Come browse two new historical exhibits and several local vendor tables. Light refreshments will be available. This event coincides with Historic Downtown Gresham Third Thursday, during which local businesses extend their hours into the evening and offer special programs and discounts.

March 17—St. Patrick's Day Celebration by Gresham Center for the Arts Foundation

Reserve your spot for the Gresham Center for the Arts Foundation's St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Friday, March 17 from 6pm to 9pm. Traditional Irish fare of corned beef & cabbage, soda bread, bread pudding with Irish whiskey sauce, Irish cream cake, Irish stout, wine & of course Green Beer will be served at the Little Theatre, 333 N Main Ave, Gresham.

Spectacular Irish music by Cul an Ti & dinner. Cash bar available. Cost is \$75 per person and seating is limited. For more information and tickets, go to www.greshamcenterforthearts.org.

March 17—Teen Silent Disco by Sandy Parks and Recreation Dept.

City of Sandy Parks & Rec presents the first annual silent disco for grades 6-12 at The Sandy Community Center, 38348 Pioneer Blvd, Sandy, on Friday, March 17th at 7pm. Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to come and enjoy all the fun at the silent disco.

Teens will have headphones and can choose from different music to listen and dance to in their head phones. COME JOIN THE FUN – DRINKS, SNACKS, PHOTO BOOTH AND LOTS OF DANCING! Tickets are \$15 and pre-registration is required. Go to www.d31bebold.com under events for info and tickets.

March 23—Sandy Park Open House

The City of Sandy is getting started on an exciting

project to develop a new community park in the heart of downtown Sandy. The Sandy Community Campus Park is envisioned to serve as a focal point and gathering place for all Sandy residents and will include a wide range of amenities, such as an action sports facility to include a pump track/skate park, trails, playground, picnic shelters, natural and open spaces, and restrooms.

The current site includes a few amenities such as

the Sandy Skate Park and former school fields, but it is mostly undeveloped. The first step in making this new park a reality is to create the Community Campus Park Development Plan, which will provide a framework to guide its construction.

An open house for this project will be held at the Sandy Community/Senior Center (38348 Pioneer Blvd) from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Thursday, March 23rd. Spanish speakers will be present. ■

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Don't Look Yet!
Crossword Puzzle on Page 24



Buy a pet on online marketplace? Can cats get a cold?

By SAM MAZZOTTA
Paw's Corner

DEAR PAW'S CORNER:
I was scrolling through my social media account and an ad popped up showing a really cute puppy for sale. What are people's experiences buying pets on-line?
— Curtis, via email

DEAR CURTIS: The short answer is, don't. It's unlikely that what you saw was an approved ad, because most social media companies do not allow pet sales or advertising for the sale of pets. Probably, someone created a post and made it public.

Avoid responding to the post, even if you think you know the person who posted it or think you know the location. Chances are it's either a scam to part you from your hard-earned money, or you will receive a puppy that is not the one advertised or is very ill and needs a lot of medical care.

I've heard too many stories from owners who got scammed from such online transactions.

If you just want a cute animal companion, adopt a pet through your local shelter. You'll be able to see and interact with a potential pet, and the shelter will help you evaluate whether you're ready for a dog at this point. There is a cost involved with adoption, but those fees are upfront. And I guarantee it is substantially less than what you will pay a shady pet dealer (or pay out in medical bills later on).

If you absolutely want a specific breed of dog, do the homework required. Find nearby breeders who specialize in the breed you're interested in. Read up on the breed. Find out the financial requirements to match with, purchase, train and care for that dog.

No matter which path you pick, know that pets are an investment of money and time. The dividend is a healthy, happy pet that adores you. Don't take a shortcut.

DEAR PAW'S CORNER:
My cat Huey will let me pet him for a few seconds, and then he'll nip at my fingers or knuckles. Am I doing something wrong? How can I get him to stop that behavior? — Sarah W., Boston

DEAR SARAH: Nipping



at your hand while being petted is a very common cat behavior (or misbehavior, depending on which end of the bite you're on). It stems from instinctive behaviors that a cat learns from the time they're born through adulthood.

Ideally, the best time to curb biting behavior is when they're kittens, but not everyone has that luxury — people who've adopted adult cats, for example, or owners who thought a kitten nipping their knuckles was cute, until that kitten turned into a full-grown, biting cat.

As you've probably noticed, yelling, "No" at a cat doesn't always get the desired effect. Instead, gently discourage this behavior. Pet your cat as usual, but as soon as he begins to bite, withdraw your hand and turn your body partly or totally away from him. You want to communicate that biting means he won't get your attention any longer.

Another option, before settling in front of the television with Huey snuggled up next to you, is to smear a tiny bit of peanut butter or another favorite treat across your knuckles. Let him lick your knuckles periodically while you pet him. The instant he tries to bite, take your hand away. Essentially, you want Huey to not see your hand as a toy or an attention-getter. It will take a few tries, but most cats pick up on your intentions after a while, so be patient and consistent with this training.

Follow the vet's instructions on caring for your sick cat. You may be given a prescription, and you will be asked to keep the cat comfortable and warm, and to try to get it to drink water and eat some food. Dry food may be a turnoff, but it may eat a little wet food. If your cat won't eat or drink, contact the vet again -- an IV may be needed to keep it hydrated. ■

DEAR DARLENE: Cats don't catch colds directly from humans, but they can suffer from upper respiratory infections that are just as uncomfortable.

A number of viral and bacterial infections can make your cat sick. Some of these, such as FVR (feline rhinotracheitis) and FVC (feline calicivirus) can be prevented by making sure your cat gets an annual checkup and vaccinations. An underlying health condition also can make your cat more susceptible to upper respiratory infections. Again, regular checkups and shots can keep it healthy.

What symptoms does a cat with a URI have? It may be sniffing and sneezing, along with a clear or cloudy discharge from the eyes or nose. Your cat also may have little to no appetite and might be lethargic.

Contact the veterinarian right away if your cat has any of these symptoms. The vet will want to examine your cat to confirm what kind of URI it has. Use a cat carrier so other cats in the waiting room won't be exposed, and to keep your cat safe.

Follow the vet's instructions on caring for your sick cat. You may be given a prescription, and you will be asked to keep the cat comfortable and warm, and to try to get it to drink water and eat some food. Dry food may be a turnoff, but it may eat a little wet food. If your cat won't eat or drink, contact the vet again -- an IV may be needed to keep it hydrated. ■

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com. © 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



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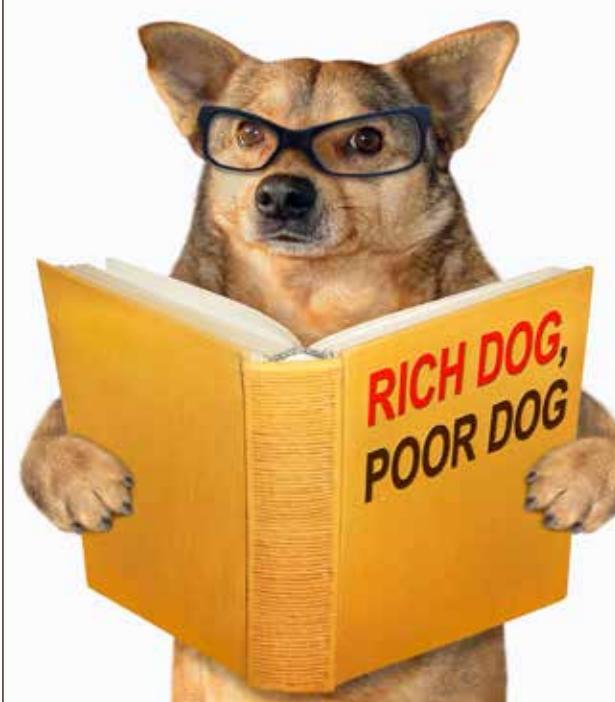
By NATHAN BEGLE

Humorist

What if I told you that a trust could be less expensive than a will? Often when people come to see me for an estate plan, they tell me "All I need is a simple will, I don't have enough assets for a trust." That's because trusts are associated with wealthy "Trust-Fund Babies" and were once mainly a tool for the rich to avoid taxation. However, times have changed and the usage of trusts has evolved accordingly. Now, the middle class and even people struggling with poverty can use a trust to save their family money. A trust isn't about how much money you have, it's about deciding how you want to be treated as you age and how much protection you want to give to your family.

A trust is not as complicated as it sounds, it's just a contract to hold assets on behalf of someone. One of the benefits of a trust is that since it tells us who the assets are supposed to go to, we do not need to involve the courts and can avoid the probate process. It is true that a trust costs more to execute than a simple will, but upon death, avoiding probate saves the heirs of the estate thousands of dollars and months or years of legal wrangling. Remember, if all you have is a simple will, you have doomed your family to endure probate.

More importantly, trusts are not just for after death but can be used as a tool



during your life to give your family the tools to support you while protecting your dignity and autonomy. You can use the terms of a trust to dictate who will take care of you, how you will be treated, and what powers you will retain as you age and lose capacity. You can even give instructions that you wish to be cared for in your home and to not be placed in a nursing home.

Size-Fits-All approach of the law cannot.

A good estate plan is one that protects you as you become more vulnerable and protects your family when you are no longer there. Even if you already have a will, consult with an estate attorney today to find out if you are doing the right thing. ■

Attorney Nathan Begley is an experienced probate, estate planning and elder law attorney in Gresham. He can be reached by phone at (503) 492-4229. By email at nathan@goodadvice-law.com.



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Is Hallmark writing scripts for ol' Joe?

By GREG ROSEN
Writer

If you have ever watched a Hallmark movie, they show you why you should never let your vulnerable, but somehow still adorable girlfriend, go back to her hometown for Christmas or festivals of any kind. If you do, she will find out that the local Mom and Pop grocery store is closing due to a big shopping center squeezing them out. By some miracle she saves the store, but only because she got stuck in a snowstorm and was rescued on the side of the road by the guy trying to shut them down.

The main character always gets stuck.

Since she is cold and wet, he will take her to his cabin before heading back into town. Once the fire is going and they get a chance to visit she realizes he is the guy building the

new store and "surprisingly" also happened to be her old high school flame. Then the storm gets worse, roads are closed, phones are out of service, and they are stuck at his beautifully decorated log cabin in the woods, on a lake.

There is always a dog.

Not just any dog. His dog is the descendant of the one she had as a child, which tragically passed while saving her life from drowning in the same lake his cabin is on. Since they were forced to be together for two days till the storm cleared, he decided not to build the store and they of course fall in love. There are variations to this, but the story line is always the same.

How do you know you are not in a Hallmark movie?

First your flight would be delayed. Then, you would get diverted to a layover in Los Angeles where you

are robbed. Then by some miracle if you make it to your destination, you will find out they cancelled your room because you were late. Yes, you did call them, but they say there is no record of that. The snowstorm is highly likely, causing you to miss your return flight on a non-refundable ticket. Fortunately, for another \$763 you can get a one-way ticket back home with a brief stop in Chicago, where once again, you are robbed. More than likely, there will also be a dog in your story. Chances are good it will either pee on your leg or bite you hard enough to bleed. If you do see an old flame, they will say something like, "what the hell happened to you." Or they will pretend they do not know you at all.

Reality check

Hallmark has mastered telling a story with an alternate reality that has no basis to real life. Yet, they make you believe it can be. I cannot say for sure, but if I had to guess it looks as though Joe hired their writers for his State of the Union speech. Let's put it this way, if that is the reality I am living in, then my reality check would definitely bounce." ■

A Facebook mom meets her child



My 4yo pretended she was a hired cleaner yesterday. As she helped me clean she asked if I had any kids. After telling her about my 2 I asked if she had any of her own. Turns out she has 5 kids and has been married to a man named Carlin for 30 years. You think you know someone.

*Greg Rosen is a humor writer, Realtor, father and husband. Questions or comments are appreciated:
grosen@pacificpioneer.com.*



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Little balls of germs

By D.B. Haverford
Humorist

I don't know if any other parents can relate to this, but my child has attended about three days of school this past month because she has been sick with a smorgasbord of various illnesses. I don't mean to complain, but they must stick all the little germ-infused children together in a warm perri dish for a couple hours a day, judging by the rate my kiddo has been getting sick.

I know it's not the school's fault. They try their best not to let the kids swap germs, but it's pretty much impossible. I have had to utter the phrase, "We do not lick doorknobs," more than once in my parenting career, so I can only imagine how challenging it is to keep 30 or so feral little darlings from trading illnesses like Pokémon cards. My precious angel being ill is bad enough, (every parent has lamented they wish they could be sick in place of their little one), but the unfortunate reality is, your turn, with whatever virus, is coming and then you get that unique parenting experience of trying to keep both you and your child alive while barely being able to breathe out of only one nostril.

I don't know what it is about sick kids, but they have the uncanny ability to be healthy as a horse during daylight hours, but become little balls of illnesses the moment you lay your own sick head down for sleep. I am pretty sure no child has ever thrown up in daylight hours — I think it's against their code.

My beautiful child also has the tendency to seem in urgent need of a doctor up until the moment we are in the actual presence



of a doctor. She then makes a miraculous recovery and has a temperature of 98.6 degrees even though moments before she was up to 102. Though I will never understand this, I usually go home just grateful that she is feeling better.

A few weeks ago I had the excitement of having my child ill with fever, myself ill with the chills and headache, only to have my dog get into the trash and get himself so ill he was having issues from both fluffy ends of his body. That was a very eventful night for everyone. Well, I finally got my kiddo well enough to go back to school today, but just got a call that she threw up in class. Apparently they can get sick in daylight, as long as they aren't in a doctor's office.

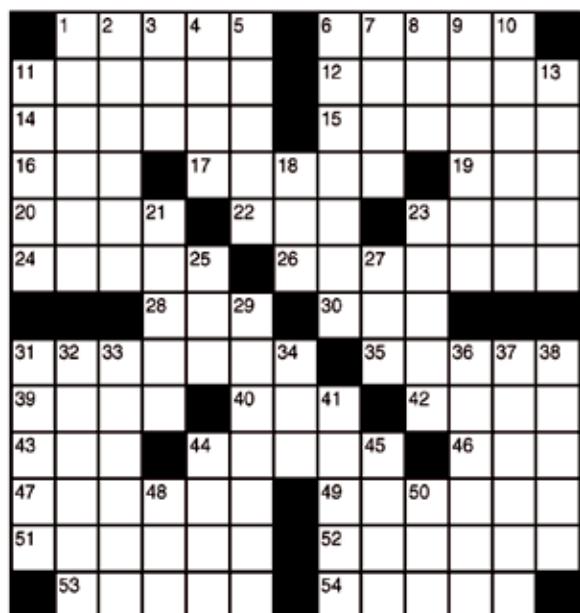
Good luck to all you parents out there doing your best. It's a tough job. I am praying flu season ends early this year. ■

D.B. Haverford is the pen name of an Oregon-based humor writer.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

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- 11 Physician, slangily
- 12 Lessened
- 14 Veep before Biden
- 15 — del Fuego
- 16 Some fridges
- 17 Egypt's Anwar
- 19 Have a bug
- 20 Sunrise direction
- 22 — Alamos
- 23 Faction
- 24 Cybercommerce
- 26 Pungent relish
- 28 Scratch
- 30 Pub pint
- 31 Passageway for Santa
- 35 "Three Sisters" sister
- 39 — Godiva
- 40 Dict. info
- 42 "Star Trek II" villain
- 43 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 44 Carvey and Delany
- 46 "— had it!"
- 47 Winter, for one
- 49 Lon of horror films
- 51 Inventor's insurance



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- 3 Feminine principle
- 4 High cards
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- 11 "Me and Bobby —"
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Maintaining your health insurance even after a layoff

By LESLIE PARKER
Medicare advisor

From time to time, we go through economic challenges where employees learn they are being laid off. I have seen recent reports regarding employees who are being laid off, big names like Google, LinkedIn and other large employers. When this happens, those employees face losing their group health benefits. This can lead to confusion and anxiety on what to do and when. Here are some tips that may be helpful if you know of anyone in this situation. Your employer is required to offer you COBRA, when you lose your group health insurance plan due to a job loss. COBRA means you can stay on the same health and dental plan for at least 18 months.

Paying the full cost

However, the catch is most employers will require you to pay the full retail cost of the plan plus a 2% administration fee. The retail cost will be significantly higher than the amount you may

have paid while working. This is where many employees experience sticker shock. Contact your employer or their HR office to clearly understand the cost of your COBRA coverage to determine if selecting COBRA is a good choice.

Healthcare.gov

In addition to COBRA, you also have the option to enroll in a plan on Healthcare.gov. This online marketplace offers individual and family health and dental insurance plans. If this option is appealing, you must enroll in a plan using what is termed a Special Election Period within 60 days of losing your employer group health plan. If you wait beyond that time, you lose your Special Election Period and must wait until November 1st of 2023 to enroll for a plan that will not be effective until January 1, 2024. In addition, if you were to elect COBRA and then decide to drop COBRA, this does not give you a Special Election Period into an individual plan.

You may qualify for tax credits

The plans on Healthcare.gov give you access to tax credits, if your income has changed due to a job loss you may be eligible for tax credits to reduce your premium. You can browse plans on Healthcare.gov and enter the members of your household and your estimated family income to see your estimated tax credits. You can also browse health and dental plans to see what offerings will meet your needs.

As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions regarding your health insurance needs. ■

Leslie Parker is the owner of Health Benefits 411 and a Medicare advisor and licensed health insurance agent for over 10 years. Her web site is healthbenefits411.com. She can be reached at 503-891-5793



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Your Kingdom Wealth Group

From JARED TJADEN and
SAM SARKISSIAN
Financial Advisors

We are excited to announce the formation of our team Kingdom Wealth Group including: Wealth Advisors Jared Tjaden and Sam Sarkissian, along with Sr. Office Administrators Kris Olson and Sarah Cereghino. Our decision to move to LPL Financial was based on how we could best serve clients and what we felt were the best long-term financial planning and investment solutions.

As we looked to the future, there were specific areas of focus we wanted to continue to offer and others we felt would enhance the service we provide:

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- The members of Kingdom Wealth Group bring varied strengths and experiences, making a stronger team for our clients.

- Our relationship with LPL provides additional resources and tools, allowing us more flexibility as we build and implement financial planning and investment strategies.

- We continue to help our clients implement a plan that helps them work toward achieving their goals and dreams for themselves and their families and the legacy they choose to leave.

- We have access to a range of investment options and models depending on the client's tolerance for risk, including swings in the markets, time horizon, life situation, and goals.

- We have a strong network of support in our team, in LPL Financial, and Financial Advocates. Their support allows us to focus on our clients.

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Get best value for your service dollars

By KAREN JOHNSTON

All About Automotive

Getting the best price on a single service, might seem like the smart way to have services performed on your vehicle, but it does not always mean that you are getting the best value or the best service for your vehicle. The best way to explain this is by doing some comparisons on how we perform maintenance and repairs on other things.

The industry that is most comparative to vehicle maintenance and repair, is the dental industry with maintenance and repairs that are performed on your teeth, roots and gums. Usually, the common practice is to find a dentist and dental practice that we feel comfortable with, that we feel offer good value and customer service that substantiate the price of the services. We trust their experience and skill based on the services they have provided to us and perhaps others that we know, and we feel their prices overall fall within a range that is comparable to other dental offices within our area.

Generally, most people do not perform cleanings at one dentist, then fluoride treatments at another, then move on to someone else to do the x-rays and again to someone else for fillings, or bounce back and forth based on who has the best price for each service. Staying with one main dentist, ensures accuracy of history records, the dentist knows your mouth and what work has been performed, what needs to be monitored and any future maintenance that may need to be performed.

Your vehicle repairs and maintenance are very much the same. If you find a trusted repair facility, and you have all your services performed there, oil changes, tire rotates, transmission services, tune-ups and any repairs needed, they will have complete records with all the history on your vehicle. They will get to know your driving habits and can closely evaluate and prepare you ahead of time for repairs and maintenance. If you are having your vehicle regularly maintained, they can also generally catch repairs when they are small, before they cause further damage, and therefore save money in the long run. For instance, in regards to brake replacement time, your



trusted repair facility can indicate ahead of time, when it will be due so that you can budget for the repair and not ruin other brake parts by running the brakes down to metal.

Most important, when you have a computer diagnostic issue or an engine performance issue, we definitely recommend having the vehicle diagnosed where you intend to have it repaired. Otherwise, you will either have to pay a diagnostic charge at each shop or the facility that performs the repairs cannot warranty that the repair will take care of the issue – if they have not gone through the testing process themselves. Much like having one dentist perform an inspection and x-rays and another dentist perform a tooth repair without the inspection and x-rays that substantiate that repair.

Finding a trusted repair facility and developing a relationship with them, like you do with your dentist, will give you the best overall value and service for your vehicle. Look at the big picture, not each individual service and its price point. Having good vehicle history, knowing your driving habits and regularly inspecting your vehicle gives a repair facility and their technicians the tools that they need to perform consistent, quality maintenance, service and repairs on your vehicle at the best value. Happy Motoring! ■

Steve and Karen Johnston have owned All About Automotive in Gresham for nearly 20 years. Karen and All About Automotive can be reached at 503-465-2926.



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Thanks, Pandemic, for these dental advances

By RUSSELL BIRD, DMD
Blue Bird Dentistry

A few years of living with a major health threat has made us appreciate what we do have, hasn't it? For dentists, staff and patients, safety measures have allowed us to continue care. And during the downtime, before folks were fully protected, dentists took the opportunity to learn about and upgrade our technology. From routine cleanings to improved custom-fit appliances, we have to say: thank you, pandemic, for the chance to enjoy the best dental health.



Easier Crowns, Bridges and Such

We love when better technology also means greater comfort for patients. If you've gotten braces, a crown, bridge, veneer, or dentures, you know that an initial impression of your mouth is needed for a custom fit. But creating a traditional physical mold appeals to just about no one.

Enter, digital impressions! Instead of coating your mouth with a thick substance that is left to harden and sent to a lab, a simple method of 3D mapping can be done with a special scanner. It takes minutes and creates an exact replica of the affected spot, so your crown or bridge will fit better. Lab times are shorter and temporary installations briefer or not needed at all.

This technology can't be used in some denture cases, but we are quickly moving toward a future when we will seldom have to use the old-fashioned impressions. And better fits mean we can "set it and forget it," other than general exams and upkeep, for the life of the appliance. Better dental health may be the silver lining in a difficult pandemic. ■

"You'll Miss Me When I'm Gone"

That's the one thing you never want to hear from your teeth. But we saw that months of putting off dental care put people at risk. Delayed treatment and office closures left those experiencing pain with no choice but to visit a hospital emergency room. That's an expensive substitute for early detection and regular maintenance.

Besides a higher risk of infections and cavities, missed exams and cleanings can have more serious consequences. We may think they are limited to the oral cavity, but gum disease that arises from neglect has been directly linked to irregular heart rhythms, suggesting chronic problems or heart attacks down the road. With stricter sanitary protocols in place, what a relief it is to be able to provide and receive dental care safely now.

Russell Bird DMD of Blue Bird Dentistry in Sandy, Oregon, brings over a decade of professional expertise and love for the local community to dental care for children and adults. Dr. Bird y su personal hablan español y dale bienvenidos a gente de todos origenes. Contact: (503) 668-1300; sandydentist.com; https://www.facebook.com/BlueBirdDentistry/.



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"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." — Psalm 119:105

- MARCH**
- 1 Ps. 69; Num. 1-3; Jn. 21
 - 2 Ps. 70; Num. 4,5; Acts 1,2
 - 3 Ps. 71; Num. 6,7; Acts 3,4
 - 4 Ps. 72; Num. 8,9; Acts 5
 - 5 Ps. 73,74; Num. 10,11; Acts 6
 - 6 Ps. 75; Num. 12,13; Acts 7,8
 - 7 Ps. 76; Num. 14,15; Acts 9
 - 8 Ps. 77; Num. 16,17; Acts 10,11
 - 9 Ps. 78; Num. 18,19; Acts 12,13
 - 10 Ps. 79; Num. 20,21; Acts 14
 - 11 Ps. 80,81; Num. 22,23; Acts 15
 - 12 Ps. 82; Num. 24,25; Acts 16
 - 13 Ps. 83; Num. 26,27; Acts 17
 - 14 Ps. 84; Num. 28,29; Acts 18
 - 15 Ps. 85; Num. 30,31; Acts 19,20

- 16 Ps. 86; Num. 32,33; Acts 21,22
- 17 Ps. 87; Num. 34,35; Acts 23
- 18 Ps. 88; Num. 36; Acts 24
- 19 Ps. 89; Deut. 1-3; Acts 25
- 20 Ps. 90; Deut. 4,5; Acts 26,27
- 21 Ps. 91; Deut. 6,7; Acts 28
- 22 Ps. 92; Deut. 8,9; Rom. 1,2
- 23 Ps. 93; Deut. 10,11; Rom. 3,4
- 24 Ps. 94; Deut. 12,13; Rom. 5
- 25 Ps. 95; Deut. 14,15; Rom. 6,7
- 26 Ps. 96,97; Deut. 16,17; Rom. 8
- 27 Ps. 98; Deut. 18,19; Rom. 9,10
- 28 Ps. 99; Deut. 20,21; Rom. 11
- 29 Ps. 100; Deut. 22,23; Rom. 12,13
- 30 Ps. 101; Deut. 24,25; Rom. 14
- 31 Ps. 102; Deut. 26,27; Rom. 15,16

March

By PASTOR DEE DUKE
Jefferson Baptist Church

There are different words used over the history of Christianity to describe a supernatural work of God in the hearts, minds, and lives of people. The often used word is revival, which basically means to come back to life. In historical revivals thousands of people came to faith in Christ in a short amount of time. Those great revivals in the past usually had an individual who was the main preacher/evangelist.

"Awakening"

Other terms are "Awakening" and "Renewal" which mean a time when lukewarm, backslidden, nominal Christians get on fire for God, with repentance of sin being a major part of what happens, followed by heartfelt worship and commitment to seek the Lord. Most people use the terms interchangeably, which is fine, because usually all the elements of revival, awakening, and renewal are there. These include anointed Bible preaching, repentance of sin and apathetic living in a worldly way, reconciliation between people who have been bitter towards each other, spontaneous worship, and commitments to seek God through Bible reading, prayer, scripture memory, and gathering with other believers.

Revival!



Sense of God's presence

The most distinctive element written about in all revivals, awakenings, and renewals has been the very powerful sense of God's presence which is what initiates the event in the first place. The Revival/renewal happening right now at Asbury University is on the news, Facebook, talk shows, and every social media outlet there is. I have been reading everything I can find on the event, watching video clips put on social media by those attending the event. There are people from every state and many countries of the world showing up.

It is of great interest to me because I have read most books written on past revivals and awakenings. I have been praying for revival in our country for a number of years, and when JBC has its prayer events revival gets prayed for often. At our last "Five Days of Prayer" event I was sure that revival was going to break out in Jefferson soon. Revival starts with the pow-

erful presence of God being manifest and it ends when that presence leaves.

Historically, revivals tragically often end when too many people try to lead or control what is happening, or when too many people start showboating and pretending to be impacted by God's presence. The effects start happening purely from the emotion generated by genuinely changed lives.

The genuineness of a revival, according to Leonard Ravenhill, who studied revivals probably more than anyone else, is that it is spontaneous. The revival happening in Asbury seems to be that from everything I have read and heard. ■

Dee Duke has been the senior pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church in Jefferson, Oregon for over 40 years. He is in demand as

a speaker for men's events. Read his excellent daily blog at deefduke.me.



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1 John 5:13

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PROCLAIM CHRIST: Assurance of Salvation

John 5:24

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

John 5:24

NASB 95

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True Grit: Worley

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

fall on deaf ears with the Deschutes County District Attorney. According to Worley's recounting, the DA seemed to use the Tillamook jurors' arguments for Worley's innocence as a way to shape the Deschutes case to make it stronger against Worley — the opposite effect the jurors had hoped to have.

One of the questions that arises in all this is why the authorities seemed so determined to pursue Worley, even after the acquittals in Tillamook.

Worley said, "I was a former police officer in Tillamook. After I went through the divorce, I went to Portland to go to seminary at Multnomah [Seminary] and eventually became a pastor. So here you have these allegations in small town, Tillamook. And this is big for Tillamook. Twenty something counts of abuse in a small town? You can't ignore that. And I was a former police officer?"



PRAAYER VIGIL: Worley's church members maintained prayer support for him. (Photo courtesy Jamie Worley)

That's a really big deal in little Tillamook. Then you had Bend Oregon, where I was not only a drug and alcohol counselor for adolescent treatment services, I was the assistant director of recreation at Sun River. Now I'm a pastor and this former stepdaughter is saying that I abused her, so they put 37 charges on me."

Worley said that he imagined their perspective was, "He's a conservative Christian, who is now in yet another authoritative posi-

tion, but this time as a pastor. Certainly there are more victims out there. We've got to let the public know," said Worley.

"They hunted me like you wouldn't believe," said Worley. "The problem is they thought I was guilty in the beginning. I do believe that. But it did not take them long to realize, 'Oh, crap, we stepped out too far too soon on this. We got too far ahead of this,' and they couldn't walk it back. That's what I think happened."

"No matter how much they torture an innocent guy, they would rather do that than walk back in their integrity and say, 'Upon further investigation, we're dismissing this case. You don't have to say anything else. You don't have to say why, you don't have to say she made false allegations. They could have said that and ended this years ago. I thought these people were smart. I mean, they went to law school,'" Worley said.

"Throughout this whole thing, I would break down on the floor crying uncontrollably in anguish. And all I kept saying, and Jo reminded me of this, is, 'They're hunting me, they're hunting me. I feel like I'm being hunted.' There is no worse feeling on earth than someone who has complete power over you. They're hunting you for your demise and there's not a thing you can do about it. It is the most helpless feeling, especially when you're innocent. I was hunted and that's the perfect word for it," said Worley.

Support from family and church

Worley's Deschutes trial began in February, 2018, two years after the acquittals and hung jury on the charges in Tillamook county. It lasted four weeks.

Despite the unpleasant nature of the charges, Worley had many people stand with him, including family and people from his

church in Gresham.

His wife Joanne had no doubts from the beginning. "I knew from day one. You would not have to ask me twice. Jamie did none of these things. He would have never done any of these things. He's not that type of person. I know who I married," said Joanne.

Greg Meier is a long-time member of the church and was one of those who traveled to support Worley. "A lot [of people were supporting], a lot. I don't know how many carloads of people went over. We're talking driving from Gresham to Bend, you know. It's not just 15 or 20 minute drive to the courthouse. And [we] went over and were completely in support. It was an amazing thing. Yeah, the congregation stood by him. In fact, they told him that he'd have his job back whenever he wanted to come back. And that's where we are now."

Worley got emotional describing the church's support. "Well, they were at both trials. They stuck with me the whole time. While I was gone [from the pulpit], they filled in. They fully had the faith, believing God was going to bring me home. I had 12½ years to serve. I thought they were nuts, but



SUPPORTERS: During the month-long Deschutes trial, many members of Worley's church, as well as family and friends, often made the long drive to Bend to support him. (Photo courtesy Jamie Worley)

they believed. They knew that this was wrong and they believed that God is a God of justice. And they were praying and hoping and believing that justice would be served on this earth before that 12½ [years] was up, and they stood by me," said Worley.

Joanne's father, Worley's father-in-law, Al Richard, also had an up-close view of what was happening to Worley. "He handled it well," said Richard. "There were times when he didn't even think he could handle it. But he did have the intestinal fortitude to know within himself that he could not confess to something he didn't do. He held strong on

that. I think what happened to him is that his faith was basically very deep rooted."

Richard added, "There was some real soul searching to do. And I think he ended up understanding that he could get through it. And we were so fortunate that he was able to get to the point where the people that were trying to prosecute him and get him to bend and submit to their will, he just had an iron will not to do that."

Several of Worley's supporters expressed dismay at what they characterized as the bias of the judge during the lengthy trial.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

Threat of Measure 11 charges may motivate innocent to plead guilty

Are some people accused of crimes threatened with Measure 11 charges in order to persuade them to accept guilty pleas on lesser charges as part of a plea bargain? Measure 11 critics argue that this leads many people charged with crimes to accept the plea deal even though they may be innocent. It is considered by some to be a hidden scandal in the Oregon justice system.

Many of those accused of crimes, though they may be innocent, lack the money to hire good legal representation. People have been ruined financially trying to defend themselves through the legal system. Also, even with good legal representation, the accused is often understandably reluctant to risk a jury trial when a loss at trial may essentially mean a life sentence. This reluctance to risk trial was especially acute in Oregon when, up until the practice was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court, Oregon was one of only two states in the nation that allowed conviction with less than a unanimous guilty verdict by a jury. Jamie Worley found himself caught in this system.

Most Oregonians also don't realize that local District Attorneys and Assistant DAs are under pressure to produce convictions, especially in cases regarding allegations of child abuse.

Unfortunately, making abuse allegations is easy and disproving them can be difficult, emotionally stressful, and financially devastating. Often, the accused will find themselves facing 30-35 years if convicted on Measure 11 charges. When DAs offer a 4-6 year sentence on lesser charges if the accused pleads guilty, it is a difficult offer to turn down, especially when there are finances and families to consider. One critical observer, who saw the system work this way, said, "These 'deals' may allow DAs and even defense attorneys to sleep at night thinking they just saved the accused 30 years in prison, but they look past the fact that perhaps an innocent person has been coerced into accepting a plea deal and robbed of five years, or more, of freedom and has been scarred for life."

It is suggested that one step that would likely reduce the number of false accusations would be for DAs to prosecute those involved in making them. While this happens occasionally, it does not seem to be consistent enough to be a strong deterrent. ■

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*Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton.
(Photo courtesy Jamie Worley)*

True Grit: Worley

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

According to observers, numerous times throughout the trial, the Deschutes judge refused to allow evidence supporting Worley's claim of innocence, even evidence that had been admitted in Tillamook.

When there is no physical evidence or no such evidence allowed into a trial, the trials become what Worley described as a "hearsay trial," a trial based on only the accusations and testimony of the complainant and only the denials of the accused. This is often the case in allegations of abuse of a child. "There is no evidence other than a testimony [in trials like these]. There's no evidence most times to corroborate their stories," said Worley.

Despite many of Worley's supporters feeling that the court was biased against him, Worley himself remained optimistic that he would not be convicted. His optimism was shattered

when after four days of deliberations, he was convicted on seven counts of abuse. Worley and his supporters were devastated.

Later, the *New York Times* reported that the vote in the jury was 9 to 3 to convict, not enough even in Oregon, which at the time did not require a unanimous jury verdicts for conviction, but still required 10 votes to convict. According to the *Times*:

For three days, the jury was deadlocked. Nine jurors wanted to convict James Worley, a church pastor accused of sexually abusing a young relative. Three others said they could not find him guilty.

"It was awful being in that room," Carlos Cardoso, who was among the jurors who did not want to convict, recalled of the 2018 trial. "It was very tough. Finally, one of the three holdouts switched sides, leaving the vote split 10-2 and ending deliberations.

With the switch of one

vote on the fourth day of grueling deliberations, Worley was pronounced guilty.

Sentencing

In a subsequent hearing, the judge sentenced him to 12½ years in prison. Then 45, Worley would be close to 60 when he was released. His chances for meaningful work, severely diminished. His children would be mostly grown.

The decisions of the judge in disallowing much of the evidence that Worley's attorneys tried to introduce, including medical evidence, were the basis of an appeal that Worley's attorneys soon filed.

Another aspect that often affects these cases is the financial cost. Worley esti-

mates that his legal defense cost a quarter-of-a-million dollars. Many of those who are accused feel they have to accept a plea deal because they simply don't have the legal resources to mount a defense. Worley was fortunate, in that his parents were able to help fund his legal defense in both his trials and his subsequent appeal.

"My parents had to sell a lot of property that they had, that they were building up for retirement. And there were other people who donated money too, because people believed in this. But I would say 90% of it came from my folks. And they had to drain a lot of their retirement and properties and investments in order to pay for it. We're talking a quarter of a million dollars in legal fees," said Worley.



TOGETHER INSIDE: Worley's wife Jo was a constant visitor while he was incarcerated. This photo was taken during one of Jo's visits to Jamie in prison. (Photo courtesy J. Worley)

He's innocent, too. We got to talking and it was the same tactics, the same. I mean, our stories were almost identical. Well, Kelli and I began to pray that Jamie would go to EOCI to be with Josh. We prayed and we prayed and we prayed. The morning that Jamie was shipped out, we knew he was going somewhere. But we didn't know where he was going."

Jamie Worley picks up the story. "I was supposed to go to Two Rivers (Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla). Instead, I ended up at EOCI where Josh was. In the prison there are 1,700 guys there. There's an east side and a west side. I ended up on the west side, the same side as Josh. Then, they said you're in Building B, the third floor. I go to building B, the third floor. The officer there says you're in cell 16. I said, 'Okay.' I walk all the way down to the cell. All the way down the hallway to the last one on the right. The sliding door opens. I see a guy shaving. He's got no shirt on. He looks up at me like, 'oh, no,' because I was a lot bigger than he was.

Prison, miracle, and peace

Right after Worley's conviction in Deschutes County, before he was sent to prison, some profound things began to happen. A plumber from Redmond named Josh Horner had also been recently tried, convicted,



Worley's children Jaidyn and Jakob on a video visit with their father in prison. (Photo courtesy J. Worley)

and sentenced in Deschutes County on charges that were very similar to the ones with which Worley was charged. He had been sent to prison at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI) in Pendleton. Horner had strongly maintained his innocence, but was sentenced to 50 years in prison, essentially a life sentence for the 41-year old.

Horner's wife read about Worley's conviction in the newspaper and contacted Joanne. Joanne said, "When they interviewed me after the conviction, I said, 'He didn't do these things. It was set up. He didn't do these things. He's an innocent man.' Kelli Horner, Josh's wife, reached out to me and said, 'My husband is in prison for 50 years and

use it for good. When that happened that day, when that moment happened, I never looked back on my faith. I held it no matter what. I was already holding it, but the cement dried that day. I knew I was appointed to be there. I didn't deserve to be there. But God wanted me there. Like, you just can't make this stuff up, you know?" said Worley.

The startling coincidences didn't end there.

Worley continued, "I was in Building B, cell 3-16. Above our door, from the inside, where it said 3-16, somebody had scribbled or carved into the wall, 'John.' We sat there in tears, in silence, for a good 10 minutes before we could speak. We knew in that moment God was doing something, that he had done something, and that he was going to use whatever was happening, even if we didn't understand it. We knew he was going to

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



TOGETHER OUTSIDE: With the ordeal behind them, Jo and Jamie Worley are looking forward to life together. (Photo Mike Wiley)



True Grit: Worley

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

most of the time in prison Worley, like most inmates, was constantly on edge, as beatings, stabbings, and even killings were regular occurrences, often happening randomly and suddenly.

While Jamie was in prison, Joanne had to try to keep the home together.

"It was very traumatic and hard. I was basically, you know, a single mom to three kids. I went to see Jamie every month. I traveled from here to Pendleton and thankfully we knew somebody who had a home over there so I could go over and stay a couple of nights and go visit Jamie. But yeah, it was hard. It was just hard. I don't know how I survived it, how we survived it — by the grace of God, really. And the bottom line is that He provided our every need, you know? I started cleaning houses, started a janitorial business at the same time. I was so sleep deprived and stressed. But somehow we made it and the kids, they survived too," said Joanne.

Supreme Court decision

While Worley's appeal was winding its way through the Oregon court system, another case was also in process with the U.S. Supreme Court that would have a big impact in Oregon and on Worley's case.

Oregon had long been one of the only two states in the nation that allowed for conviction with less than unanimous jury decisions, Louisiana was the other. However, Louisiana had changed their laws to

require unanimous verdicts in 2019. Oregon was the last holdout. A case challenging convictions with less than a unanimous verdict, called *Ramos v. Louisiana*, was coming before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Before a decision on the Ramos case was rendered by the Court, in February, 2020, the *New York Times*,

After being incarcerated for over 3½ years and enduring house arrest for over three years, Worley saw the case against him closed.

anticipating that the Oregon law allowing non-unanimous verdicts would be overturned, ran a story on the Oregon law and in it discussed Worley's case. The attorney for Worley's appeal of his convictions, Ryan Scott, told the *Times*,

"The biggest problem with non-unanimous verdicts occurs precisely when the accusations are horrible and unpleasant, and jurors want to convict the moment they hear what the charges are." Regarding the Worley case, Scott told the *Times*, "Two jurors overcame their disgust, and their fear, and voted not guilty because it was the right thing to do. That is hard, it takes character, it takes fortitude. And in Oregon, it doesn't matter."

On April 19, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Oregon law and suddenly it did matter. Along with the non-unanimous convictions of many others, Worley's conviction was nullified, but his ordeal was not yet over.

In June, 2020, Worley was once again released to home arrest to await the decision by the Deschutes County DA on whether to try him again on the seven charges on which he had been found guilty.

Worley recounts that Deschutes County prosecutors began offering plea deals, including no prison time and short, limited probation times. Worley's attorneys were confident that he would win his appeal on the Deschutes County conviction given the issues with the conduct of the trial. However, the *Ramos v. Louisiana* decision created an opportunity for Worley to be released almost immediately. His attorney's said that it was Worley's choice — he could wait 1½ to 2 years for complete exoneration or be released right away by taking a lenient plea deal.

But, Worley steadfastly refused to plead guilty to any charges related to abuse. He was finally offered no prison time and five years of light probation if he would plead guilty to one count. The judge moderating the mediation meeting told him that he was insane for not accepting their deal. Worley says that he replied, "I find it sad that, in today's day and age in this country, someone standing on the truth, no matter the risk — no matter the consequences, is considered insane."

He and Jo are writing a book about their ordeal titled, "Hunted." Worley is also developing a podcast

Worley said, "After several months of praying about how to proceed, I felt led to offer a deal to them. I offered to take a B-Misdemeanor Harassment charge — which, according to a judge in Oregon City, is equivalent to throwing a paper clip at someone — by way of an Alford Plea (a guilty plea while maintaining your claims of innocence) and no probation whatsoever. My family had suffered enough — 10-years of anguish and suffering... I told [my attorney] to submit the deal to see what would happen and that if they didn't accept the deal, we were going to trial... no more deals, no more mediation. Within about three hours they had accepted the deal I offered," said Worley.

After being incarcerated, in one way or another, for over 3½ years and enduring house arrest for over three years, Worley saw the case against him closed.

After a nearly 10-year battle for his innocence, Jamie Worley was free.

Aftermath

Immediately after his release, Worley chose to go through some counseling to help him process all that had happened. Today, he has been reinstated as the senior Pastor at Powell Valley Church, is very active in local business groups, and working with American Family Estate Preservation services. Jamie also goes back to EOIC on a regular basis to encourage the inmates to keep hope.

Both organizations maintain active websites. ■



Jamie with oldest daughter, Alyssa, who was a strong support to him and now helps with the podcast.

and ministry to men called, appropriately enough, "The Grit." There is more information at www.jamieworley.org. HVN

At the end of notes provided for this story, Worley wrote:

"Both proven false accusers of abuse, and proven child abusers, should be aggressively investigated"

*Mandatory reporters are members of professions that are required by law to report child abuse to authorities.

Resources

The **Child Help Hotline** has been a resource for those needing help for abuse since 1982. They can be contacted at 1-800-4-A-Child. According to their website, the hotline offers crisis intervention, information, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources. All contacts are confidential.

The **Oregon Innocence Project** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organized to give help and assistance to Oregonians wrongly convicted of crimes. They can be contacted by phone at 503-944-2270 or via email at: info@oregoninnocence.info.

Both organizations maintain active websites. ■



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