

# HOODVIEW NEWS

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## The SENIOR BOYS of SUMMER

Photo: Mamie Slater | Photo editing: Hoodview News



A classic book about the 1953 Brooklyn Dodgers was called “The Boys of Summer.” Today, softball teams for those aged 60+ keep the game alive for tens of thousands across the nation. One of those teams is McKenzie Electric in Clackamas — the “Senior Boys of Summer.” — [Page 6](#)

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# Charlie Kirk: Love over hate

## PUBLISHER'S PERSPECTIVE

— Mike Wiley

The murder of Charlie Kirk hit tens millions of Americans like the death of a family member. The trauma of his death will remain in the psyche of millions of Americans for a long time.

Charlie was beloved because Charlie was good. He was a young man of virtue and promise. He loved his enemies and debated them without anger or rancor. He treated those who disagreed with respect and courtesy. You could feel that he wanted the best for them, even when they disagreed with him or even when they verbally attacked him.

Charlie Kirk's character made him the friend and counselor of presidents, potential presidents, senators, and governors.

Charlie was the kind of young man that people hoped their sons would be and their daughters would marry. And, if your son wasn't yet a Charlie Kirk, Kirk was the kind of influencer you hoped your sons were listening to.

The reaction to Kirk's murder helps illustrate fundamental differences between the right and the left. In the wake of George Floyd's death in 2020, leftists burned down American cities. After Kirk's murder, Charlie's supporters burned candles at peaceful vigils in his memory. What a contrast.

### Facing the intolerance of the left

But Charlie Kirk was not killed in a vacuum. The left could not defeat the logical power of Kirk's ideas, so they tried to shout him down, drown out his voice, cancel him. Charlie Kirk was killed after years of being name-called, demonized and de-humanized. One of the bullets of the alleged assassin had "catch, fascist" written on it. The harsh reality is that today's left is no longer your father's liberals. They are far more radical and far more intolerant.

Charlie Kirk pointed this out himself. Kirk said, "There's a difference between liberals and leftists. A liberal is someone I will disagree with and we'll have a wonderful time. We'll go out to dinner and we'll consider each other friends... A liberal will agree to disagree. A liberal



will say, 'I might not agree with you on this, but I still treat you with respect...' A leftist will try to shut you up before you even open your mouth. A leftist is rooted in intolerance."

### Conservatives are happy to debate

It's conservatives who say, "Let's have a respectful, robust debate on the issues." Conservatives are happy to have debates on controversial issues like DEI, ESG, vaccines, gender issues, on biological men in women's sports, on crime, on climate change, on welfare spending, on the national debt, and many others.

Yet, for too many on the liberal/left today, it seems that the leftist position is simply not subject for debate — it must be blindly accepted. If you don't, to many on the left you're not simply a fellow American with a different opinion, you're a "Hitler," a "fascist," intolerant, a bigot, not worthy of dialogue or respect.

Since the murder of Charlie Kirk, it seems that the intolerance of anyone who dissents from leftist orthodoxy seems to have grown even louder, more shrill, more hysterical. Some liberal websites have cherry-picked some of Charlie's quotes, out of context, in a seeming attempt to paint him as an extremist. So sad.

### The reality of the spiritual battle

I believe that there is a hidden spiritual realm where the forces of good and evil are at war, seeking to influence human

beings either to good and right, or to tempt them to give in to their darkest impulses. I have never seen the spiritual forces of evil operating so openly, so close to the surface, as they seem to be today.

### Respectful debate must be restored

So, in the wake of Charlie Kirk's death, what must be done? Truth and light must triumph over lies and darkness — for the sake of everyone, liberals, moderates, and conservatives. The standard of vigorous but respectful debate must be restored.

The darkness seeks to intimidate people into silence. It must not succeed. Charlie cannot be replaced, but everyone who shares his concern for the fate of the nation and future generations must step up, must be bolder and more confident about who they are and what they believe. This does not mean being offensive, but it does mean being firm and unashamed about your convictions, like Charlie Kirk.

Much of this work must start in the churches. If Oregon is to escape its slide into an socialist/Marxist dystopia, people are going to have to step up. Charlie's goal was not to win the praise of the world, but to please God. Right now, there is a spiritual stirring. One young woman wrote on X: "I went to a church service for the first time last weekend, along with two vigils for Charlie Kirk. I was raised secular and I'm an atheist, but when he was killed, I felt a strong desire to be around people like I never had before." She is one of many.

More people are open than ever in recent memory. In every church service, there must be an invitation to come to Christ.

In the 1970s, Pastor Jerry Cook saw thousands of people come to Christ at Gresham's East Hill Church by asking, during prayer, for those who wanted to come to Christ to just look up at him. Simple, right? It worked.

Christ came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10), to offer new life to the hopeless. Are you and your church acting with focus and intention to do that? If not, it's time to get busy. **HVN**

"Without free speech, there is no such thing as truth. The moment you silence opposing voices, you destroy the foundation of democracy." — Charlie Kirk

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# Vista House to begin charging for parking at Crown Point

**V**ista House, one of Oregon's most iconic landmarks overlooking the Columbia River Gorge, will soon begin charging visitors to park at the site.

Oregon State Parks has announced that beginning October 1, 2025, parking at Vista House will cost \$10 per vehicle for Oregon residents and \$12 per vehicle for out-of-state visitors. The fee will apply daily during operating hours. Payment stations will be installed in the parking lot, and visitors can also pay through a mobile app.

Parking will remain free for those who arrive on foot, by bicycle, or via public transportation. Holders of annual Oregon State Parks parking permits will also be exempt.

## A Century of History

Vista House was completed in 1918 as both a memorial to Oregon pioneers and a comfort station for travelers on the Historic Columbia River Highway. Designed by Portland architect Edgar M. Lazarus in an octagonal Art Nouveau style, the stone structure features stained glass windows, marble interiors, and a copper-tiled dome.

Perched 733 feet above the Columbia River on Crown Point, the observatory offers sweeping views of the Gorge to the east and

west. It has long been a popular stop for tourists, photographers, and locals alike.

In the early 2000s, Vista House underwent a five-year, \$4 million restoration project that repaired its stained glass windows, updated plumbing and accessibility features, and restored the roof and masonry. Today, the building is maintained in partnership between Oregon State Parks and the non-profit Friends of Vista House, which operates the gift shop and visitor information desk.

## Reason for the New Fee

According to Oregon State Parks, the new parking fee is designed to help cover the rising costs of maintaining both the building and its surrounding facilities. With visitation to the Gorge increasing steadily in recent years, officials say additional revenue is necessary to preserve Vista House for future generations.

The reason given for this fee has been because Vista House is one of the most visited sites in the Gorge and this fee will help keep the building in good repair, maintain the restrooms, manage parking demand, and continue to provide a safe and high-quality visitor experience.

## Visitor Impact

While some visitors may be sur-



prised by the change, Oregon State Parks emphasized that the fee is consistent with other high-demand sites across the state. The new charge will bring Vista House in line with day-use parking fees at several other popular Oregon parks.

Local officials say they will monitor the impact of the change,

particularly whether it reduces congestion in the often-crowded parking lot at Crown Point.

## Hours and Access

Vista House is typically open to the public Friday through Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weather permitting. The surrounding view-

point and parking area remain accessible year-round.

For those wishing to avoid the parking fee, access by foot or bicycle along the Historic Columbia River Highway remains free, and visitors can continue to enjoy the views from Crown Point without entering the building itself. **HVN**

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## Clackamas County Commission Report — Ben West

## Let's Keep Talking

By BEN WEST

Clackamas County Commissioner, Position 5

The last few weeks have been particularly challenging, touching not only the lives of many residents in Clackamas County and across Oregon but resonating with millions of Americans nationwide. The tragic assassination of Charlie Kirk—a conservative Christian activist and commentator, and founder of the organization Turning Point—has shocked and outraged many. For older generations who might not have been familiar with Charlie prior to his murder, his influence was undoubtedly known by their children or grandchildren. He rose to prominence as a cultural icon, effectively connecting with a generation that often feels overlooked or unheard, primarily through public discourse and the free exchange of ideas.

Tragically, Charlie's life was cut short while he was deeply engaged in one of his signature online and in-person debates on a college campus, a setting where he

regularly fostered open public dialogue. The violent act occurred as he sat beneath a banner that boldly proclaimed, "Prove me Wrong." This phrase epitomized his commitment to free speech and the exchange of differing viewpoints.

Charlie was a staunch advocate for free expression, believing it was imperative to speak the truth openly and to persuade others through words rather than violence. Unfortunately, the purpose of the assassin's bullet was to instill fear, aiming to silence dissent and extinguish any opportunity for debate. The stark contrast in worldviews is evident: one faction champions free speech in the public arena, while another resorts to brutal violence to protect their beliefs.

When people stop talking...

In a solemn reminder of this, during a campus visit in 2025, Charlie emphasized the importance of civil dialogue: "When people stop talking, really bad stuff starts. When marriages stop talking, divorce happens. When civilizations stop talking, civil

war ensues. When you stop having a human connection with someone you disagree with, it becomes a lot easier to want to commit violence against that group... What we as a culture have to get back to is being able to have a reasonable disagreement where violence is not an option."

This perspective is remarkably relevant in today's political climate, where discourse has devolved into tribalism and divisiveness, often resembling a team sport. No individual should face violence or lose their life in a civil society simply for holding differing viewpoints. We need to prioritize debates and foster an environment for the free exchange of ideas in the public square, rather than suppress them.

As we navigate these turbulent times, Clackamas County has not been isolated from the scourge of extreme political violence perpetrated by groups such as Antifa. To this day, they continue to engage in direct action and violent criminal protests within the city limits of Portland. Whether

or not one aligns with Charlie's views is ultimately irrelevant. What must stand out clearly is our collective commitment to reject political violence as a means to resolve differences. Our political opponents are not our adversaries; we must remember that we share a common humanity.

Constructive dialogue must be our guiding principle, enabling us to bridge divides and coexist respectfully. As we face the complexities of our current cultural moment, let us channel our energy toward open discussions and mutual understanding rather than discord and violence. Charlie Kirk's legacy serves as a sobering reminder of what is at stake and the urgent need for a recommitment to civil discourse in our society. ■

Ben West has been a Clackamas County Commissioner since 2023.



## Gresham City Council Report

## Gresham September Highlights

By SUE PIAZZA

Gresham City Councilor, Position 5

As we roll into football season, your Gresham City Council has been busy at work, tackling everything from city finances to community safety. Here's a look at what activity has transpired this past month.

## Deep Dive into the Budget

In September, the Council and Finance Committee dedicated nine hours to carefully reviewing every city department and its budget. We explored where our dollars come from—whether through property taxes (the General Fund), fees, grants, or intergovernmental agreements (IGAs). This work continues to be eye-opening and incredibly helpful in understanding how all the moving parts of city operations fit together. With the goal of accountability and fiscal responsibility, the better we understand our financial picture, the better we can serve the community. Staying mindful of budget limitations and your priorities is top of mind.

## Keeping Businesses &amp; Their Customers Safe

Another important step this month was the adoption of new business license regulations for the massage industry. This didn't happen overnight. The Council spent months listening to Licensed Massage Therapists and researching how other cities handle similar regulations. The goal? To create fair, clear rules that help identify potential bad actors while ensuring that our many excellent massage therapy businesses in our city can thrive without being buried in government red tape. I applaud the many business owners that engaged in dialogue. Protecting both businesses and the people who call Gresham home is paramount.

## A Regional Approach to Fire Services?

Public safety continues to be a top priority. Gresham is leading the charge in creating a four-city task force to explore the potential of forming a regional fire district. This task force will bring together City Managers, Mayors, and a Council member from each local participating city, along with representatives from Fire District 10 and the Local 1062 Professional Fire Fighters. By working together, we can look at what it might mean to pool resources, strengthen services, and ensure our growing community has the fire protection it needs both now and in the future.

## Looking Ahead

September was a month of hard work, tough questions, and meaningful progress. From digging into dollars and cents, to strengthening local business protections and researching continued regional fire safety, your Council remains committed to making decisions with the long-term well-being of the community in mind.

## Get Involved

Stay connected with your community! There are several ways to participate in City events, programs, and projects. Join a committee, volunteer, or share your thoughts on Engage Gresham. Learn more here: <https://www.greshamoregon.gov/community-and-neighborhood-engagement/get-involved/>. ■

Sue Piazza has been a Gresham City Councilor since 2021.



**"There was no time in history where the people who were censoring free speech were the good guys." — Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**

## Sandy City Council Report

## Ordinance for wastewater alternatives passed

By LAURIE SMALLWOOD

Sandy City Councilor, Seat 2

The Sandy City Council only met once in the month of September. The main item for the September 15th meeting was Alternative Wastewater Systems code addition (Ordinance 2025-17). This was the fifth time this topic has been discussed by council. There has been some confusion on this topic in recent weeks on social media. Alternative wastewater systems is a separate topic from the proposed wastewater treatment expansion to Gresham. The discussion on the 15th was regarding the use of alternative systems like grey water, porta potties and septic tanks specifically for commercial and industrial use. The City of Sandy has been in a moratorium due to limitations in wastewater treatment capacity since 2022. This has limited the ability for commercial growth within the city. While many are opposed to growth in the city, commercial growth increases property and business tax revenues which help fund essential city services like police, roads and utilities. It also helps cover cost of infrastructure, like wastewater and water improvements, so residents are not shouldering the entire burden. Commercial expansion also provides jobs. Items for consideration for the council included which system types would be allowed and under what review process and requirements for future connections to the public sewer system when/if capacity becomes available. Ultimately, council passed the Ordinance and city staff will work on creating a process for applications to be reviewed by council.

## "Backyard burning" ordinance discussed

During the council work session prior to the city council meeting revising the cities burn ordinance was discussed. Currently, if you live on property that is ¼ acre or larger you can burn within the city limits. Council discussed increasing this to an acre. Staff will also look into changing the chipper program. As of now, you can borrow the city's chipper but changes to insurance and safety concerns have created questions of whether or not the city continues with this program. Staff are evaluating the possibility of doing quarterly chipper drop-offs and a few other ideas that will allow residents the ability to get rid of their yard debris and wind fall without burning if they choose.

Remember, the Sandy City Council meets at City Hall on the first and third Monday every month and you can watch meetings via Zoom as well as view the recordings from the city website [www.ci.sandy.or.us](http://www.ci.sandy.or.us). ■

Laurie Smallwood has been a Sandy City Councilor since 2019.





# The SENIOR BOYS of SUMMER



**NOT SO LONG AGO:** The 2025 McKenzie Electric senior softball team for the Monday, North Clackamas recreation division. Left to right: Steve Wagner, Dave Boos, Chuck Saul, Jay Zarnekee (back), Bobby Patraw, Charlie Howard, Jerry Grover, John Tang, Jim Huber, Randy Wagner, Phil Forsline. (Not pictured: Billy Kidd)

A classic book about the 1953 Brooklyn Dodgers was called “The Boys of Summer.” Today, softball teams for those aged 60+ keep the game alive for tens of thousands across the nation. One of those teams is McKenzie Electric in Clackamas — the “Senior Boys of Summer”

By **MIKE WILEY**  
Publisher



*"The Boys of Summer" is the title of Roger Kahn's 1972 book on the Brooklyn Dodgers. Centered around the 1953 Dodgers — a team that included Jackie Robinson, Duke Snider, Don Newcombe, Pee Wee Reese, and Roy Campanella — the book has long been regarded as one of the classic sports memoirs. In the first part, Kahn recounted how the Dodgers became the heartbeat of Brooklyn, playing in the cramped yet intimate Ebbets Field. In the second part, written in the later 1960s, he revisited those same players, now retired and grappling with life beyond baseball. What emerged was not just a chronicle of games won and lost, but a meditation on youth, time, and the enduring pull of the sport.*

**M**ore than fifty years after Kahn's book was published, in a different corner of America, a new generation of "boys of summer" takes the field. They do not play before 30,000 fans in Brooklyn, nor do they ride the rails of the old National League. Their stadiums are the well-kept diamonds at North Clackamas Park and Delta Park, and their league is the Portland Area Senior Softball League, better known as PASS. Their uniforms may be sponsored by small local businesses instead of major league owners, but the devotion is the same. They lace up their cleats each week, many in their sixties, seventies, some in their eighties, carrying forward the simple joy of the game.

Like Kahn's Dodgers, they, too, have their cast of characters — managers who

strategize lineups, sluggers who can still drive the ball over the fence, and veterans who play more for camaraderie than for standings. They may be retired postal workers, electricians, business owners, or grandfathers, but on Mondays and Tuesdays, they are teammates. They are competitors. They are ballplayers. They are, in their own right, the senior boys of summer.

#### Early roots and new fields

The Portland Area Senior Softball League traces its roots back to the early 1990s. What began with just a handful of teams on scattered fields around the metro area has grown into a vibrant league that now fills out two modern complexes: North Clackamas Park in Clackamas and Delta Park in North Portland. Each week from April through October, the sound of balls smacking into modern gloves, the thwack of high-tech composite bats, and the good-natured ribbing of fellow players carry across the diamonds as more than a hundred players take their turn at the plate. The league is open to senior ladies of summer, too, and there are several excellent female players, but the majority of players in the senior leagues are of the male persuasion.

The league is organized into four divisions: two recreational, one competitive, and one "super senior" group for players 75 and older. On Mondays, the North Clackamas recreational division takes the field. Tuesdays belong to the Delta Park recreation teams. Wednesdays bring the competitive division back to North Clackamas. And Thursdays are reserved for

the super seniors, 75+, at Delta Park, where those in their late seventies and eighties prove that age does not have to end an athlete's story.

Bill Tidd, the league's overall administrator, says the purpose goes well beyond wins and losses. "The primary reason that most of us play softball is to stay off the couch, keep our bodies active," Tidd explained. "It means camaraderie with my friends, a good outing outdoors for a day or two, and just the pure enjoyment of the game." In a 2022 KGW interview, Tidd said, "To watch all these guys at the various age groups that will come out and play — there's not a lot of animosity. They just enjoy the game."

That sentiment is echoed by Tom Mayer, commissioner of the North Clackamas recreational division. Mayer, who still pitches and plays first base at age 72, says softball has given him a new lease on life. "Instead of being a fat ass on the couch, I'm a nice,

producing citizen now," he joked. "It keeps us young. I go into stores and see people my age in wheelchairs, and I think, 'You should be out playing softball.'"

For Mayer, the game has also filled a social gap. "Since all our kids have grown up, I don't have any friends anymore, except for my softball buddies," he said. "We golf together once a week, too, a great bunch of guys."

The games themselves reflect that spirit. Pitchers throw from behind protective screens. Courtesy runners are allowed for players who can still hit but no longer sprint. Teams umpire their own contests, relying on sportsmanship to carry the day. Yet anyone who watches quickly sees that the competitive fire still burns. Runs are tallied, fences are challenged, and doubleheaders are played with energy that belies the birth dates on driver's licenses.

PASS is not an isolated phenomenon. It is part of



Jay Zarnekee is the player manager of McKenzie Electric. He plays first base and, at 73, still has plenty of pop in his bat. (Photo Mike Wiley)

a national movement that stretches from Florida to California, tied together by national umbrella organizations. These national organizations set the broad framework for the sport, from age brackets that stretch into the eighties to the special bats and balls designed to keep the game lively and safety standards to keep players safe. At the pinnacle are massive national tournaments, where senior teams compete for championships.

For Portland's seniors, however, it doesn't take a national title to feel the thrill. As both Tidd and Mayer emphasize, the league thrives because of love for the game, the friendships it sustains, and the volunteers who make it possible. That love has created a community where old friends reunite, new friendships are

formed, and everyone has a reason to keep lacing up cleats year after year.

#### The "Dodgers" of Clackamas: McKenzie Electric

##### Jay Zarnekee, player/manager

Every league has its iconic teams, and in PASS one of those is the McKenzie Electric team. Sponsored by longtime local businessman Jay Zarnekee, the team has become known not just for its familiar mustard yellow jerseys and black hats with a lightning bolt, but for the sense of fraternity that defines it. Zarnekee, now 73, tall and strong in his later years, has been both player and manager, shaping rosters and leading McKenzie Electric through years of

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Clackamas recreational division Commissioner Tom Mayer (left), with McKenzie Electric player Charlie Howard. (Photo Mike Wiley)

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## The Senior Boys of Summer

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

memorable seasons. This year, Zarnekee plays first base and organizes the team for each game — not always an easy task.

"I first got recruited watching a game up at Hoodview Park," Zarnekee recalled. "Ron Barr, who was commissioner at the time, asked me to start playing on his team. That was in 2015. The next year I decided to put together McKenzie Electric. We won five championships in a row back when they kept track of win and loss records."

While titles once brought bragging rights, the heart of the team has always been friendship. "First and foremost is the fraternity of friendships," Zarnekee said. "For men, you know, that's a great rule to socialize. I used to always want to win, and I don't think there's anything wrong with that. But this year I had to realize it's not always about winning. It's about being together, enjoying the game, and supporting each other."

That philosophy has carried through the team's lineup. McKenzie Electric's roster blends veterans of championship runs with

newcomers finding their way back to the game. Assistant manager Billy Kidd, 74, brings steadiness and experience. Players like Chuck Saul (75), Randy Wagner (70), Steve Wagner (74), Charlie Howard (74), Dave Boos (75), Phil Forsline (81), Jerry Grover (81), Jim Huber (72), Bobby Patraw (74), and John Tang (67) help fill out the roster. Each man carries his own story into the dugout. While a few others have played games for the team, these players have made up the core of the McKenzie Electric team this season.

Through the season, players also get to know the players on the other teams. Sometimes, players on opposite teams on Mondays, may be on the same team on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Zarnekee has seen it firsthand. "It doesn't take very long," he said. "You see somebody, recognize their face, and soon you're calling them by name. Pretty soon you're friends. I think that's what it's all about. If you asked most guys in the league, they enjoy playing because of the friendships. It's good for everybody's mental well-being."

On Mondays at North Clackamas or Tuesdays at Delta Park, that bond is

visible. Some players bring spouses and families to cheer. Others simply come for the chatter on the bench, the high fives after a hit, or the laughter that erupts when a pop fly drops between three fielders. When that happens, the laughing comment, "Well, that's senior softball," is often repeated on the bench. Wins are sweet, but the real prize is the team itself.

### The Players

#### Chuck Saul, outfield, 75

A baseball player from way back, Chuck Saul still carries the competitive fire that once put him in the Clackamas Community College Baseball Hall of Fame. "In 1969, my coach



Chuck Saul, outfield.

from Oregon City High School told me Clackamas was starting a baseball team. I got a scholarship, worked part-time for the road department, and went to school full-time," Saul recalled. "We won the championship that first year, and they inducted our team into the Hall of Fame five years ago."

These days, Saul says the game is as much about health as nostalgia. "At my age, they say it's all about movement, body movement," he said. "That's why I play softball. It's physical activity. I enjoy it. It brings back past memories. I've played on some incredible teams, won national and state championships, even world championships in baseball. I have three world championship rings, one MVP, one Golden Glove award."

And make no mistake, Saul still plays hard. At 75, he is probably the best hitter on the team, regularly powering the ball over the fence. Recently, he showed his Clackamas Hall of Fame arm strength by throwing a runner out at home plate from the outfield — a throw many younger players would envy.

#### Dave Boos, shortstop, 75

For Dave Boos, senior softball was a reluctant yes



Dave Boos, shortstop.

that turned into a life-giving commitment. "A friend bugged me year after year to play. I was always too busy," he said. "In 2018, I finally said yes. The last time I'd played was in 1982 for Good Shepherd's softball team, right before my wife and I went into missions with Wycliffe Bible Translators."

Since then, he's never looked back. "I really enjoy it. It was fun to meet new guys, to stay active. I have no intention of quitting anytime soon." Beyond the PASS season, Boos also plays on a traveling team once a month — proof that the game can still fill a calendar.

Boos is also McKenzie Electric's shortstop, a demanding position at any age. At 75, he has made

spectacular plays ranging from diving catches to key throws that save runs. His sure hands and quick reactions have helped anchored the team's defense all season.

#### Dave "Viking" Thoreson, outfield, 75

Known to nearly everyone in the league as "Viking," Dave Thoreson carries one of the most memorable nicknames in PASS. "When I first joined, I hit an inside-the-park home run. Our coach started calling me Thor, and Ron Barr said, 'No, he's a Viking.' Ever since then, everyone's called me 'Viking'" Thoreson laughed.

Fourteen years later, he's still out there, usually in the



Dave "Viking" Thoreson, outfield.

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## The Senior Boys of Summer

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

outfield or pinch running for teammates. "Senior softball, it's the camaraderie of the guys," he said. "It's the competition, the excitement. I love getting a hit, making a catch at a dead run, or knocking in the winning run for a walk-off. That's always fun. The whole team comes out, gives you high fives, pats you on the back. It's fun."

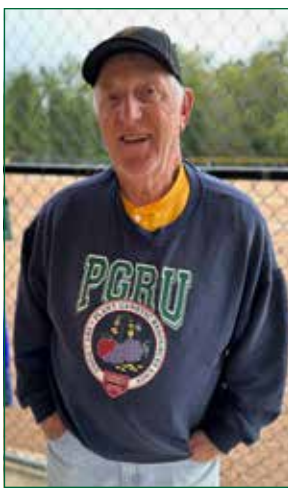
Thoreson admits the game has been more than just exercise. "As we get older, more and more of my friends have died. That's tough. But this league keeps me connected."

This year, in the first game at Clackamas, in his first at bat, Thoreson badly tore the rotator cuff in his shoulder. He was told that surgery was possible, even likely. He thought he would be out for the season. He had to drop off the Clackamas roster, but kept playing on the Tuesday Delta Park McKenzie Electric team. He couldn't bat or play the field, but he is a fast runner and could pinch run for some of the other batters.

Through the season he battled back, going to physical therapy and doing exercises. He is now back hitting again, though not pushing it too hard.

### Phil Forsline, outfield, 81

At 81, Phil Forsline is one of the oldest players in PASS, but his energy is unmistakable. "I've been playing baseball ever since I was five years old," he said. "When I was in the military in San Antonio, I ran a 10 flat in the 100-yard dash. That was pretty darn fast. I can still run." Even at



Phil Forsline, outfield.

81, Forsline runs so well he often pinch-runs for other players. He has a knack for line drives that land in the perfect hit zone between the infielders and outfielders. He is a former fruit researcher for Cornell University in New York and is a big proponent to his teammates of tart cherry juice to combat inflammation. If Phil's play is any indication, it works.

About playing at his age, Forsline says simply: "It's just a blessing. Life is a gift."



Jim Huber, outfield/catcher

### Jim Huber, outfield, 72

For Jim Huber, softball is about pure enjoyment. "I enjoy the smell of the gloves

and everything," he said with a grin. "It's a passion you carry your whole life. It makes you feel good. It gives you that four hours away from the world's problems."

Asked how long he plans to keep playing, Huber answered without hesitation: "As long as the body holds out."

### John Tang, outfield/shortstop, 67

The youngest member of McKenzie Electric, John Tang brings both business acumen and a big bat to the roster. Owner of the KingPins family entertainment centers in Portland and Beaverton, Tang is semi-retired but stays busy. Softball has become a vital outlet.

"It started for me as a social activity," Tang said. "But really, it's bringing your youth back. It brings back memories from when you played baseball as a kid. Now you're playing with seniors, and it's like revisiting your youth again. The competitiveness, the camaraderie, being part of a team — it's so much fun."

Tang is in his third year. In his second year, he hit 11 home runs and has hit several



John Tang, outfield/shortstop

this season, too.

Tang has proved just as valuable in the field as at the plate. He has roamed both infield and outfield for McKenzie Electric, making spectacular plays. In the most recent game, he tracked down a deep fly ball at a full run — the kind of play that sparks both teammates and fans.

### Charlie Howard, rover, 74

Charlie Howard is so committed to playing senior softball, he leaves Salem at 6:30am on Mondays and Wednesday to play in Clackamas. He plays on the McKenzie rec team



Charlie Howard, rover.

on Mondays and manages and plays on a team in the Wednesday competitive division. Howard is tall and rangy with a friendly demeanor that keeps the bench lively. He remains a solid fielder and still hits the ball with authority, all despite two knee replacements. He is just one of many senior players who have had various "parts" upgraded and still keep playing.

### Randy Wagner, pitcher, 70

Randy Wagner takes on one of the toughest jobs



The Wagner brothers: Steve Wagner (left), outfield, and Randy Wagner (right), pitcher. Both Wagner's are Clackamas High School grads.

in the league: pitching. In PASS, pitchers not only face strong hitters but often toss both ends of a seven-inning doubleheader in the summer heat. Randy shoulders that responsibility with grit and good humor.

He is more than steady on the mound. In a recent game, Wagner helped his own cause with a home run. That combination of endurance and power makes him indispensable. His teammates know that when Randy is pitching, they are in reliable hands.

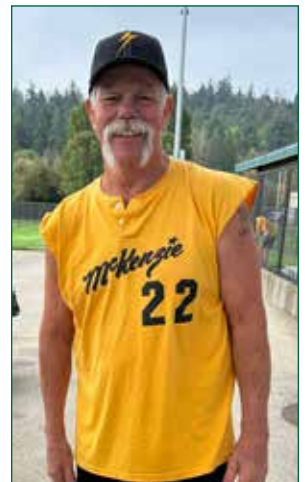
### Steve Wagner, outfield, 74

Randy's older brother Steve Wagner may be 74, but he plays far younger. An accomplished hitter and outfielder, Steve brings athleticism and spark to every game. His swing remains sharp, his glove reliable, and his legs still quick enough to cover ground in the outfield.

Together, the Wagner brothers are a key part of the McKenzie Electric team — Randy steady on the mound, Steve dependable in the field and at the plate.

### Bobby Patraw, outfield, 74

Softball has been so central to Bobby Patraw's life that it once influenced his



Bobby Patraw, outfield.

marriage. Early on, he told his fiancée: "If my playing softball will be a problem for you, we can't get married." Apparently the answer was favorable. They have been married 40 years.

Patraw remains a strong hitter and a dependable glove in the field. He has been a tournament team player and, as well as playing on

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## The Senior Boys of Summer

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Monday's, on Tuesday's at Delta Park and sometimes again on Wednesday's in the Clackamas competitive league. His love for the sport is evident in every swing and every inning he plays today.

### Jerry Grover, second base/rover, 81

At 81, Jerry Grover is a living testament to the longevity senior softball makes possible. Though often quieter than some, his presence alone is an inspiration to teammates. A big fan of the 1927 Yankees, Grover still gets his hits to "the green," the outfield grass, and still makes reliable plays in the field. His experience helps him to be at the right spot at the right time to make



Jerry Grover, 81, 2nd base, and his brother Ed, 88. Ed plays for another team in the division.

the play.

Also amazing is Grover's older brother, Ed. Ed is still playing and contributing to another Monday team. The team just had an on-the-field celebration of Ed's 88th birthday! The Grover

brothers are an inspiration to the entire league — if the Grover brothers can still suit up and play, so can they.

### Billy Kidd, rover/first base, 76

Assistant manager Billy Kidd has lived a life as remarkable as any on the roster. A Vietnam-era veteran, Kidd served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Hornet. In 1969, he was part of the ship's crew when it recovered the Apollo 11 astronauts after their moon landing. Just months later, he was there again for Apollo 12. "I was just a small piece of what was going on," Kidd said modestly. "But I helped make it happen."

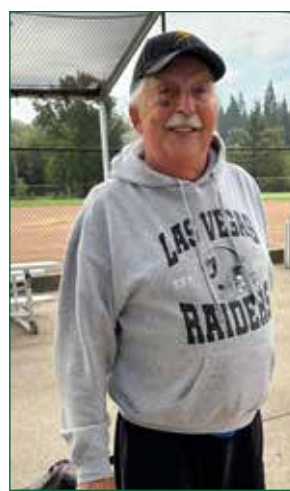
Kidd's path back to softball was almost accidental. "A friend of mine that I played a lot of ball with before asked me to come out. I thought I was too old,

but I showed up and there were a dozen guys I'd played with years ago. They all said, 'Why aren't you out here?' That's when I joined."

For years, he was one of the league's top players. "I used to love to play. A hundred and fifty games a year was about normal," he said. "For a few years, I was tearing it up."

But time and health have taken a toll. Kidd has battled ankle surgery, the after effects of COVID, and ongoing cancer treatments. "I just haven't been the same player," he admitted. "I might be out there, but when the game is over, I don't remember much about it. It's disappointing, because I used to be really good at it."

Yet Kidd remains a pillar of the team. His experience, coaching, and encouragement shape McKenzie Electric's culture as much



Billy Kidd, 2nd base, catcher. He is sporting a shiner from the previous week.

as any home run or diving catch. "I don't mind coaching it, because I'm still pretty good at coaching," he said. And his teammates know that whether he's in the lineup or guiding from the dugout, Billy Kidd is part of

what makes the team whole.

This lineup, with its range of ages and stories, is what makes McKenzie Electric special. Each player brings not only his skills but his memories, personality, and resilience. Together they form more than a roster — they form a true team.

### The game still matters

Taken together, the stories of McKenzie Electric's players form a kind of mosaic. Each man comes to the field with his own background — a postal worker, a missionary, a business owner, a Hall of Fame athlete, a lifelong runner, a Vietnam-era veteran, a grandfather — but when they step onto the diamond, those labels fall away. What remains is the sound of gloves popping, the rhythm of base paths, and the fellowship of teammates.

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# The Gresham Japanese Garden: A Living Bridge Between Cultures

Nearly fifty years after its dedication, the Gresham Japanese Garden is expanding its role as both a cultural hub and a serene retreat in the heart of Gresham Main City Park

By MIKE WILEY  
Publisher

Tucked inside Gresham's Main City Park, just steps away from the shouts of children at the playground and the thump of baseballs on nearby fields, lies a pocket of serenity that feels a world apart. The Gresham Japanese garden's Tsuru Island is more than just a collection of trees and stones—it is a living work of art, a bridge between cultures, and a testament to resilience and renewal.

On a bright morning, a visitor crossing the wooden moon bridge into the garden is immediately greeted by winding paths, the quiet shimmer of the creek, and the carefully framed silhouettes of maples and pines. Lanterns of carved stone peek out from the greenery, while the azumaya pavilion invites passersby to pause and take in the layered harmony of nature and design. Here, every turn seems to reveal another carefully composed scene: a pond that mirrors the sky, a mossy rock set deliberately beside a weathered lantern, a path that curves just enough to spark curiosity about what lies beyond.

Though it feels timeless, the Japanese garden is very much alive—shaped by the hands of volunteers, guided by the vision of leaders like Garden Director Jim Card and Activities Director Sue Protz, and supported by a community that has embraced it as their own. As Main City Park itself is readying for a revitaliza-

tion project, the Japanese garden is stepping into a new chapter too: one that blends preservation of its history with bold steps toward accessibility and authenticity.

For those who have yet to discover it, the Japanese garden is not just a place to visit. It is a place to return to, again and again, finding something new each season—and perhaps within oneself.

## Roots of the Garden

The story of the Gresham Japanese Garden begins not with bricks or blueprints, but with gratitude. In the early 1970s, members of Gresham's Japanese American Citizens League/Gresham Troutdale chapter, dreamed of creating a living tribute to their parents and grandparents, the Issei pioneers who had built new lives in Oregon while holding fast to their cultural traditions. Out of that vision, Tsuru Island was born.

On September 2, 1975, Tsuru Island was formally dedicated. At the ceremony, community leader Kaz Tamura spoke of honoring the Issei generation and offering thanks to the City of Gresham for the opportunities their families had found here. His words framed the Garden not only as a gift to the city, but as a gesture of goodwill—a way to share Japanese culture with the wider community and leave a legacy of beauty and tranquility in the heart

of Main City Park.

The design of the Garden in the park reflected the spirit of the times. Across North America, small Japanese gardens were springing up in the 1970s, often built by local Japanese American groups as cultural landmarks. In Gresham, the site chosen for the Garden had once been an unremarkable corner of the park, but with care and imagination it was transformed into something extraordinary: a little island surrounded by water, linked to the park by a graceful wooden bridge.

Over the decades that followed, the Garden became a quiet retreat for visitors—a place to stroll among maples, pause beside a stone lantern, or simply sit and reflect in the shade of tall evergreens. Though it would later face periods of decline, its beginnings were full of hope and generosity. From the very start, the Tsuru Island was more than an arrangement of plants and stones. It was, and remains, a symbol of friendship and cultural exchange—a lasting thank-you to the city and its people.

## The Style and Symbolism of Japanese Gardens

What makes a Japanese garden so distinctive isn't only its beauty, but its meaning. Every element—whether stone, water, or tree—carries a role that goes beyond decoration.

Bridges, for instance, are more than a way to cross from one side to another.



Sue Protz (left), activities Director, and Jim Card (right), Garden Director, stand at the foot of the bridge on Tsuru Island at the Gresham Japanese Garden located in Gresham's Main City Park. (Photo Mike Wiley)

They symbolize transition—the journey from the everyday world into a place of reflection. The wooden span into Tsuru Island signals that you are entering a space apart, where the pace slows and the senses awaken.

Lanterns, like the weathered stone figures tucked among maples and moss, are markers of light and guidance. Traditionally placed at turning points in the path or near water, they encourage visitors to pause, notice the scene around them, and find a moment of quiet.

Water itself, whether a flowing stream or still pond, is considered the life force of the garden. Its movement represents renewal, while its reflections remind us of harmony between earth and sky. Even the placement of rocks has purpose: grouped as “families,” they anchor the landscape and suggest permanence amid change.

Trees and plants, too, are chosen carefully. A Japanese maple may glow red in autumn, while a pine symbolizes endurance through winter. Together, they create a Japanese garden that transforms with the seasons—a reminder that beauty is not static but alive.

For Gresham's Japanese American community in 1975, this style of gardening was more than art. It was a way of sharing values: harmony, respect for nature, and

the joy of simplicity. Visitors strolling the paths may not know the symbolism behind every stone or lantern, but they feel it—a sense of peace, of welcome, of stepping into a place designed to nurture the spirit.

And yet, as the decades passed, even this carefully built sanctuary faced the pressures of time. By the early 2000s, Tsuru Island had grown tired and overgrown. The bridge sagged, invasive plants crept in, and few people realized what a treasure lay hidden in Main City Park. That is where the next chapter begins—the story of a remarkable renewal.

## Decline and Renewal

By the early years of the new century, Tsuru Island had fallen quiet. The bridge was rotted, paths were hard to follow, and thick vegetation obscured the views that once invited calm. What had been a place of beauty and meaning risked becoming forgotten.

Then, in 2011, a chance meeting changed everything. Local resident and third-generation Japanese American (Sansei) Tomiko Takeuchi invited retired landscape contractor Jim Card to take a look at the island. Card later recalled that when they first approached, they couldn't even cross the bridge

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The open pavilion in the Gresham Japanese Garden is called an azumaya. It provides a focal point for the paths on Tsuru Island. (Photo Mike Wiley)





## The Gresham Japanese Garden

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

because a fallen tree blocked the way. Embarrassed, Takeuchi feared she had wasted his time. But Card, instead of turning away, saw possibility.

"I see a lot of potential here," he told her.

That spark became the start of a rebirth. With Takeuchi's family support — her sister contributed \$5,000 toward a new bridge — and Card's leadership, volunteers began the long process of reclaiming the island. Over the course of months, they stripped out invasive plants and hauled away some 150 cubic yards of debris. In their place, they introduced new plantings, carefully chosen to harmonize with the existing pines and maples.

A vision began to take shape. Card designed a plan that would guide visitors through the garden with gentle turns in the paths, pausing at focal points marked by benches and lanterns. Water features were refreshed, boulders added, irrigation and lighting installed. What had once been an overgrown corner of the park started to reemerge

as a jewel.

In September 2014, the renewed garden was unveiled to the public. The moon bridge was rebuilt, now gleaming with purpleheart wood, a richly colored hardwood known for strength and longevity. A new azumaya pavilion offered shade and a place to linger. A karesansui, or dry garden, added meditative contrast to the island's flowing water. And the old maintenance building had been transformed into the Kyoudou Center, a hub for cultural learning.

What had seemed on the verge of being lost was not only restored, but reborn. More than just a facelift, the effort marked the beginning of a new era: one where the Gresham Japanese Garden would be a centerpiece of the community, cherished by both longtime residents and new visitors discovering it for the first time.

### Tsuru Island Today

Crossing the graceful wooden bridge to Tsuru Island feels like stepping into a carefully composed painting. Paths meander in gentle curves, leading the eye and the body through a series of shifting scenes. One moment, you find yourself beneath the dappled canopy

of a Japanese maple, its delicate leaves glowing in the sunlight. The next, you emerge beside a pond that mirrors sky and branch, its surface occasionally stirred by the ripple of a breeze.

Stone lanterns punctuate the landscape, their quiet presence lending a sense of continuity and tradition. A moss-covered boulder sits deliberately beside a winding path, as though it had grown from the earth just so. The azumaya pavilion, with its elegant roofline and open sides, offers a shaded retreat — a place to sit, sip tea, or simply listen to the water flowing nearby.

Every season brings a transformation. In spring, cherry blossoms dust the air with pink petals in Ebetsu Plaza. Summer fills the island with vibrant greens and shaded coolness. Autumn ignites the maples in fiery reds and golds, while winter pares the garden down to its sculptural bones, where the lines of bridges and bare branches become art in themselves.

This attention to balance, contrast, and flow is what makes Tsuru Island feel alive. It is not a garden frozen in time, but one that breathes with the seasons and rewards repeat visits. To walk its paths is to be



A colorful scene in the Garden. Note the two ceremonial lanterns in the image on each side of the pond. (Photo Mike Wiley)

reminded that beauty is never static — it is always unfolding.

### A Bridge Between Communities

But Tsuru Island is more than a Japanese garden — it is a bridge between cultures and communities. That bridge extends across the Pacific to Ebetsu, Japan, Gresham's sister city. In 2015, a delegation of 20 visitors from Ebetsu, including Mayor Miyoshi, joined then-Mayor Shane

Bemis of Gresham to plant the first cherry tree at what is now Ebetsu Plaza. The plaza, adjacent to Tsuru Island, stands as a permanent reminder of the friendship between the two cities.

The connection runs both ways. Ebetsu has a Gresham Park, where residents can experience a touch of Oregon through community gatherings and cultural displays. Films about Gresham are shown there, and visitors can pick up books and information about the city, just as

Gresham visitors can learn about Ebetsu here.

Closer to home, the lifeblood of the Gresham Japanese Garden comes from its volunteers. Dozens of community members, from master gardeners to local families, donate their time to prune, plant, and maintain the grounds. Their work ensures that the all of gardens don't simply survive — they thrive. "Accessibility and authenticity," says Activities Director Sue Protz, "are

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## The Gresham Japanese Garden

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at the heart of our goals.” Those goals show in the careful maintenance of traditional elements and the efforts to make the island welcoming to all.

Today, the Gresham Japanese Garden is not only a serene retreat but a gathering place, drawing neighbors, school groups, and visitors from afar. It is living proof that when a community tends its cultural treasures, those treasures in turn enrich the whole community.

### The Current Renovation

Even as the Japanese garden has flourished in recent years, its leaders have never been content to simply preserve the status quo. True to the spirit of Japanese gardening — where change is constant and refinement is ongoing — Tsuru Island is once again in the midst of transformation. A year-long renovation project, launched in June, 2025 and continuing through 2027, is reimagining the garden for future generations while staying faithful to its traditional roots.

One of the most visible upgrades will be the entrance gate. Designed to welcome visitors with dignity and ease, the new

covered gate will feature wider approaches and automatic doors that open and close at set times. A device built into the gate will also help track attendance, giving the Garden a clearer picture

**“Authenticity and accessibility are at the heart of our goals.”**  
— Sue Protz, Activities Director

of its growing popularity.

Inside the island, accessibility is being woven into every detail. The familiar bluestone path, beloved by visitors, has been carefully lifted and will be reinstalled in 2026 to meet ADA specifications, with joints no wider than 10 millimeters. An alternate exit path will give guests more flexibility in their journey, while subtle grading ensures that all can enjoy the full experience, regardless of mobility.

The renovation also touches the symbolic heart of the garden. The water basin — a place of cleansing and reflection in traditional Japanese design — is being enlarged and re-situated.

Inspired by a historic water basin at the Oregon State Penitentiary, the new version will be flanked by large boulders and hold a substantial pool of water, providing a striking centerpiece.

Bridges, too, are being renewed. The aging wooden spans will be replaced with elegant stone bridges, adding permanence and resilience while honoring Japanese tradition. At the eastern edge of the island, a new covered seating area will be built near Johnson Creek. Modeled after the machiai of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, it will offer shelter and a quiet vantage point over the water.

Perhaps the most distinctive element of the renovation is the addition of yotsume-gaki bamboo fencing around the perimeter of Tsuru Island. Built in the classic “four-eyed” style — open, yet ordered — the fencing is being crafted not only by professionals but also by community volunteers through hands-on workshops. This blend of tradition and participation embodies the spirit of the Garden itself: a place where artistry, authenticity, and community meet.

When the renovation is complete, Tsuru Island will look both familiar and refreshed. The essence of the Japanese Garden — its quiet beauty, its symbolism, its cultural roots — will remain,



Sue Protz and Jim Card in the Garden. All of the items in the Garden, including the rocks and plants have been carefully selected and placed to enhance the peaceful sense of place. (Photo by Mike Wiley)

but enhanced by new layers of accessibility, craftsmanship, and care.

### Community Spirit

At its core, the Gresham Japanese Garden is not sustained by walls or endowments, but by people. Every stone set, every plant pruned, every bridge maintained has the fingerprints of community members who care deeply about this place.

Volunteers are the backbone. Some come with years of horticultural experience; others arrive simply with

willing hands and an eagerness to learn. Together they rake paths, trim branches, build fences, and share in the quiet satisfaction of seeing Tsuru Island flourish. Their contributions go far beyond maintenance. In tending the garden, they nurture a sense of belonging and pride that radiates out into the wider community.

Support has also come through creative partnerships. Local businesses and civic groups have donated materials, expertise, and

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## The Gresham Japanese Garden

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

funds. The city itself has backed the renovation, recognizing the Gresham Japanese Garden as one of Gresham's cultural treasures. But some of the most inspiring support has come from grassroots organizations.

Among them is **100 Women Who Care East County**, a chapter of the national giving network. Since its founding in 2019, the group has raised over \$220,000 for local non-profits — and the Gresham Japanese Garden has twice been chosen as a recipient. Each time, the group gathered, listened, and then each wrote a check for \$100. The impact, multiplied by community spirit, has been transformative. Gresham City Councilor Sue Piazza said, "I never imagined how a group of women can empower change and strengthen our community."

These gifts — of time, labor, and resources — have ensured that the Garden is not just beautiful but sustainable. They also reinforce the Garden's original spirit: that it is a place created for the people of Gresham, by the people of Gresham. Every lantern lit, every blossom admired, carries the story of a community that values heritage, friendship, and shared beauty.

In this way, the Gresham

Japanese Garden is more than a landmark. It is a living testament to what happens when a city comes together to tend something greater than itself.

### Voices of the Garden

For all its stone lanterns and flowing water, what gives the Gresham Japanese Garden its character are the people who guide it forward. At the center of that effort are Director Jim Card and Activities Director Sue Protz, whose voices carry both deep respect for the Garden's past and excitement for its future.

Card, a retired landscape contractor, has poured more than a decade of vision and labor into Tsuru Island. He still remembers his first visit in 2011, when fallen trees blocked the bridge and the Garden looked abandoned. Instead of seeing ruin, he saw promise. "Wait a minute," he recalls telling his partner that day, "I see a lot of potential here." That sense of possibility has shaped everything since, from rebuilding the moon bridge to guiding the ambitious renovation now underway.

For Protz, the Garden's purpose is as much cultural as it is horticultural. "Authenticity and accessibility," she emphasizes, "are at the heart of our goals." Her focus has been on ensuring that every class, program, and renovation decision connects people to the traditions of Japan while also making



The Kyoudou Center building is the Gresham Japanese Garden's home base. Volunteers gather there every Saturday to work in the gardens. The Kyoudou Center hosts workshops, cultural events, special events, weddings, and more. (Photo courtesy Gresham Japanese Garden website)

the Garden welcoming to all. Whether it's organizing an ikebana workshop or curating the Garden's history page online, Protz works to deepen the experience for visitors and volunteers alike.

Both leaders are quick to point out that the Garden is still a discovery in progress. "It's amazing how many people don't know the Garden is here," Card notes. With Main City Park drawing crowds for sports and events, the Japanese garden can sometimes be overlooked. Yet, he believes that as word of mouth spreads and the renovation

unfolds, more visitors will find their way across the bridge to Tsuru Island.

The dedication speech from 1975 spoke of gratitude and hope. Card and Protz echo that spirit today.

**Jim Card still remembers his first visit in 2011... Instead of seeing ruin, he saw promise. "Wait a minute," he recalls telling his partner that day, "I see a lot of potential here."**

They see the Garden not only as a beautiful retreat, but as a living classroom, a cultural link, and a space for reflection. Their voices remind us that the Garden is not static — it is a story still being written, chapter by chapter, season by season.

### Looking Ahead

As Tsuru Island undergoes its latest transformation, the Gresham Japanese Garden is poised to step even more fully into its role as a cultural and community landmark. The renovation now underway is not about change for its own sake, but about ensuring that the Garden remains vibrant and accessible for decades to come. Wider paths, stone bridges, traditional bamboo fencing, and an inviting new entrance will make the Garden easier to navigate while honoring its Japanese roots.

Looking forward, leaders see the Garden as more than a destination. It is a

living bridge between generations, where grandparents and grandchildren can walk together under the canopy of pines, and between cultures, where the people of Gresham can experience the artistry of Japan without leaving their city. The continuing connection with Ebetsu, Japan — marked by cherry trees planted at Ebetsu Plaza and mirrored by Gresham Park abroad — ensures that the Garden remains a symbol of international friendship as well as local pride.

Education will continue to be central. Programs in bonsai, ikebana, pruning, and bamboo craftsmanship offer not only hands-on skills but also lessons in patience, respect for nature, and the beauty of simplicity. In this way, the Garden's influence reaches beyond its boundaries, shaping the way participants tend their own homes, gardens, and lives.

Above all, the Gresham Japanese Garden's future rests on the same foundation as its past: community. The volunteers who weed, plant,

and prune, the donors who provide resources, and the visitors who return season after season all keep Tsuru Island alive. Their collective investment ensures that the Garden is not simply preserved as a relic of the past, but continually renewed as a gift to the present.

In a fast-moving world, the Gresham Japanese Garden offers something rare: a place to slow down, breathe deeply, and be reminded of the rhythms of nature. It is a place where stones and lanterns tell stories, where water and bridges invite reflection, and where blossoms remind us that beauty is fleeting yet always returning.

The Garden began nearly fifty years ago as an expression of gratitude. Today, as it embarks on its newest chapter, it remains true to that spirit — a living thank-you to the city of Gresham, and a lasting reminder that when communities tend carefully to beauty, it flourishes for all. **HVN**

## Offering classes and cultural programs, too

While the Gresham Japanese Garden offers beauty to the casual visitor, it also serves as a classroom without walls. From pruning techniques to flower arranging, the Garden is alive with opportunities to learn, create, and connect with Japanese culture.

One of the most popular offerings is the Art of Bonsai series. Under the guidance of Bonsai Master Bobby Curtright, participants explore the art of shaping miniature trees, learning time-honored methods alongside modern approaches. Each month introduces a new technique or plant, so even beginners can grow in confidence while more experienced enthusiasts refine their skills.

Equally inspiring is the Introduction to Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging. Led by accomplished instructor Nana Bellerud, these workshops explore color, balance, and the cultural meaning behind floral design. Students discover how even ordinary blooms can become extraordinary works of art when guided by simplicity and intention.

For those who prefer to dig deeper into the horticultural side, the Garden offers hands-on pruning workshops. Professionals teach participants how to shape vine maples, conifers, and other landscape plants, with courses certified for continuing education credits by the Oregon Landscape Contractors Board. These workshops appeal both to homeowners looking to refine their own gardens and to professionals seeking new skills.

A particularly distinctive program is the Bamboo Fence-Making Workshop, where community members learn how to build traditional yotsume-gaki fencing. Not only do participants take home new knowledge, but they also contribute to the Garden itself by helping craft fencing that will encircle Tsuru Island as part of the renovation project.

Together, these classes embody the Garden's mission: accessibility, authenticity, and community. They invite people not just to admire Japanese culture from a distance, but to experience it with their own hands. Whether bending over a bonsai, arranging chrysanthemums in an ikebana vase, or tying bamboo pickets together, participants become part of a living tradition.

In this way, the Gresham Japanese Garden is more than a destination — it is a place of exchange, where learning flows as naturally as the stream that winds through Tsuru Island. **HVN**



Sign at the entrance to Tsuru Island from Gresham's Main City Part. (Photo courtesy Gresham Japanese Garden website)





HVN Explainer Series

# Understanding Justice and Forgiveness

If the victim forgives the criminal, does that mean that justice doesn't have to be done? Understanding what justice really is may be the urgent lesson America needs to relearn

By MIKE WILEY  
Publisher

In the wake of the terrible assassination of Charlie Kirk, questions are again being raised about justice and forgiveness. The basic misunderstandings of what justice is, what purpose it serves, and how forgiveness fits into it, have led to countless miscarriages of both in

recent decades.

Earlier generations of Americans had little difficulty grasping these concepts because they understood the moral framework behind them — something we have largely lost today. Now even police, lawyers, and judges often seem uncertain about these bedrock truths, to the great detriment of our society.

By the time you finish reading here, you will have a clearer understanding of what justice truly is, the purposes it serves, and how personal forgiveness relates to public justice.

#### Forgiveness vs. Justice

When the manhunt began for Kirk's assassin, Utah's governor reminded the

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# Understanding justice

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

public that the state still allows capital punishment. When the alleged killer was captured, he was charged with a capital crime. Yet at Kirk's memorial service, his widow, Erika Kirk, movingly forgave her husband's killer.

Many have asked: if she forgave him, shouldn't society also forgive? Should the state now reduce his sentence? These questions expose a deep confusion. Once we understand what justice is, the confusion disappears.

Personal forgiveness does not cancel the need for public justice. Forgiveness frees victims from hatred and resentment — a moral and spiritual good — but it does not repair the damage crime inflicts on the larger community. The state's duty is not emotional but moral



At the memorial service for Charlie Kirk, his widow Erika Kirk movingly forgave her husband's murderer. It was courageous and powerful for her to do. But, does it set aside the need for public justice? (Image screen capture from Turning Point USA video.)

reflect the moral boundaries that safeguard our common life. If those boundaries are ignored or unenforced, society unravels.

Before we define justice, we must clear away a common misconception.

## Justice Is Not Vengeance

Justice is not revenge — not for victims and not for society. In places without functioning law, revenge quickly becomes the driving impulse, and chaos follows. Revenge is subjective and emotional; justice must be objective, rational, and measured.

In a lawful society, the victims of crime renounce personal vengeance and entrust justice to the state, which acts on behalf of the community. The purpose is not emotional satisfaction but the restoration of moral order.

## What Justice Is

Justice is society's means of repairing the moral injury caused by crime. It protects the community from sliding into lawlessness by imposing proportionate sanctions on wrongdoers. These sanctions are not cruel or arbitrary — they are the visible proof that the law still stands and that right and wrong still matter.

To see this more clearly, consider again the assassination of Charlie Kirk. His family and friends are the immediate victims, but society itself — the people who rely on law to protect life and liberty — is the ultimate victim.

Albert Barnes, in his classic work *The Atonement*, laid out five purposes of justice, which, though written in a theological context, apply powerfully to human law as well.

## The Five Purposes of Justice

### 1. To Restore the Authority of the Law

Our highest civic value is the right of every person to live out their life free from murder. Closely bound to it are the freedoms of speech and assembly. These are not abstract ideals; they are protected by law.

When a criminal violates those laws — especially through an act of murder meant to silence a voice — he attacks not only a person but the very foundation of civilization. He declares, "I will not live by your rules." Such defiance tears at the fabric of lawful order.

Law must be respected, or it loses its force. Every unpunished crime erodes confidence in justice. We've seen this in modern cities where leniency toward theft or violence has led to rampant lawlessness and the flight of businesses. When law is mocked without consequence, chaos follows.

The first purpose of justice, then, is to restore the honor and authority of the law as if it had never been violated. Punishment — proportionate and fair — reaffirms that the law is real, valuable, and binding.

As Albert Barnes wrote, justice must make a public demonstration that the law still commands reverence. Only by visible sanction does the law retain moral power.

Justice must also be measured. A minor offense cannot merit a severe penalty, and a grave crime cannot be treated lightly. True justice weighs evidence impartially — hence Lady Justice's blindfold and balanced scales. Her sword signifies the state's authority to punish the guilty.

As one leading criminal justice philosopher argued: "A failure to terminate a murderer's life is not a

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# Understanding justice

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

celebration of human life, but exactly the opposite... A society that punishes a murderer by giving him a jail sentence of one week is a society that sets little store by human life."

A society that values life must be willing to defend it with firm and proportional sanction.

## 2. To restore the authority of the lawgiver

Every lawbreaker not only defies the law but also the lawgiver. In effect, he says, "You have no right to rule me." In the United States, the ultimate lawgiver is "We the People." To violate just laws is to rebel against the collective moral will of the people themselves.

If such rebellion goes unanswered, the authority of the government — and of the people — is weakened. Justice, by punishing the offender, restores the dignity and sovereignty of the lawgiver. It declares that lawful authority still governs.

## 3. To secure the safety of the community

Justice also protects the public. By removing or restraining those who defy law, it ensures the safety of others. When offenders are released without consequence — as in jurisdictions that have abolished cash bail or decriminalized theft — crime flourishes, and the innocent suffer.

Public justice must be protective as well as corrective. Mercy that endangers others is not mercy at all.

## 4. To Tend Toward the Reformation of the Wrongdoer

Justice also seeks, where possible, to reform. The experience of sanction — of facing the real cost of one's actions — can awaken moral awareness. Punishment is not intended to destroy but to discipline; not to brutalize but to sober the conscience.

While not every offender will reform, the prospect of real consequences is the surest restraint upon evil.

## 5. To enhance the standing of the lawgiver

Finally, when justice is carried out in a way that is fair, objective, and measured, it strengthens public confidence in the lawgiver. In America, that means renewed faith in self-government.

When the people see that justice is even-handed — blind to wealth, race,

or power — they regain respect for the system that represents them. But when justice becomes political or sentimental, the moral standing of the state crumbles.

## What about "an eye for an eye"?

Critics often cite Jesus' words — "You have heard it said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth'... but I say to you, do not resist him who is evil" — as proof that retribution is wrong.

But context is key. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus was addressing ordinary individuals, not magistrates. He was correcting the misuse of the *lex talionis* — the law of equivalent punishment — as a license for private revenge.

The Old Testament principle of "an eye for an eye" was not barbaric but restraining — it limited punishment to equivalence. That standard still underlies modern justice: penalties should be proportionate to offenses.

We no longer take literal eyes for eyes, but we still seek measured equivalence — a prison sentence fitting the harm inflicted. When punishment matches the gravity of wrongdoing, justice is served for both victim and community.

## Forgiveness and Public Duty

Erika Kirk was entirely right to forgive her husband's murderer on a personal level. That act of grace honors God and liberates her from bitterness. Yet her forgiveness does not remove the state's obligation to uphold justice.

Private forgiveness and public justice operate in different realms. One heals the heart; the other preserves



*In the United States, the "lawgiver" is "We the People." When crime is committed, it is committed not only against the victim, but against "We the People," too.*

the order required for civilization. Society cannot "forgive" murder without consequence any more than God could forgive sin apart from the atonement.

## The cost of misunderstanding justice

When modern society confuses compassion with indulgence, or forgiveness with the suspension of justice, it invites anarchy. Where the law is not respected or feared, it will not be obeyed.

We see this in many cities today: criminals act without fear, victims lose faith in the system, and citizens retreat from civic life. This is not mercy — it is the slow death of ordered liberty.

Justice requires that wrongdoers be sanctioned in a way that is fair, objective, and measured — neither vengeful nor permissive. Without that sanction, law loses its moral force, and government its legitimacy.

Forgiveness is a virtue of the heart; justice is a duty of the state. The health of civilization depends on knowing the difference.

## Closing reflection

Theologian Albert Barnes saw this clearly more than a century and a half ago. In both heaven and earth, law must be vindicated. Without sanction, mercy becomes weakness; without justice, forgiveness becomes sentiment.

If God Himself would not forgive sin without satisfying justice through the Cross, how can any earthly government presume to do less?

To pardon without principle is not compassion — it is abdication. To punish rightly is not cruelty — it is fidelity to truth.

When law is upheld, the community is safe, the conscience is instructed, and mercy has meaning. When law is mocked, chaos follows — as we now see in cities where crime is excused and criminals emboldened.

True justice does not seek revenge. It seeks restoration — the restoration of law's honor, the protection of the innocent, the reformation of the guilty, and the vindication of the moral order itself.

Only when justice fulfills these ends can a society stand. **HVN**

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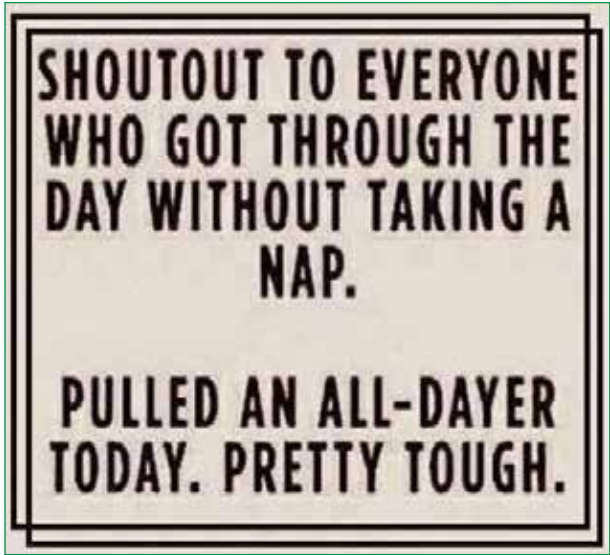
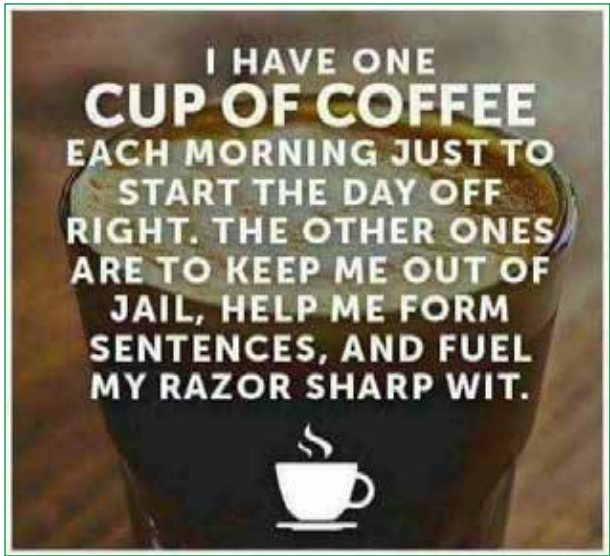
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*Clatsop County, 1962*

# Gidget goes berserk: The Seaside riots of early 1960s

*On Labor Day 1962, the usual party for college kids at Seaside turned into a full blown riot. The riots continued every year until 1965. Were they a harbinger of the unrest that swept colleges in the late 1960s?*

By FINN J.D. JOHN  
Writer

*Generated illustration.*





Sept. 1, 1962, was an unusually sultry day for the north Oregon coast, and the little beachside resort town of Seaside was crammed with high-school and college kids.

They had come from all over the state and beyond for a rowdy, high-spirited end-of-summer Labor Day beach-party weekend that had become almost like a tradition in the postwar years.

Something was a little different this year, though. The crowd was larger than usual, for one thing. Actually, it was a lot larger. The first baby-boomers, born in 1946, were 16 years old in 1962 ... and there were a lot of them on the beach that day, and they were a bit wild.

Something else that was different that year was the attitude of the Seaside cops. They were being noticeably more hard-nosed than they had been in years past. Seaside had elected a new mayor, Maurice Pysher, a 68-year-old former heating engineer who had retired to Seaside from Portland a couple years before.

Pysher didn't like his new town's reputation as a place where kids could blow off steam, and he'd seen that they were getting noticeably rowdier year after year. He wanted visitors to Seaside to be quieter, more respectful,

and less rambunctious. So he had fired Seaside's longtime police chief and replaced him with someone who would be more strict and firm about keeping things orderly.

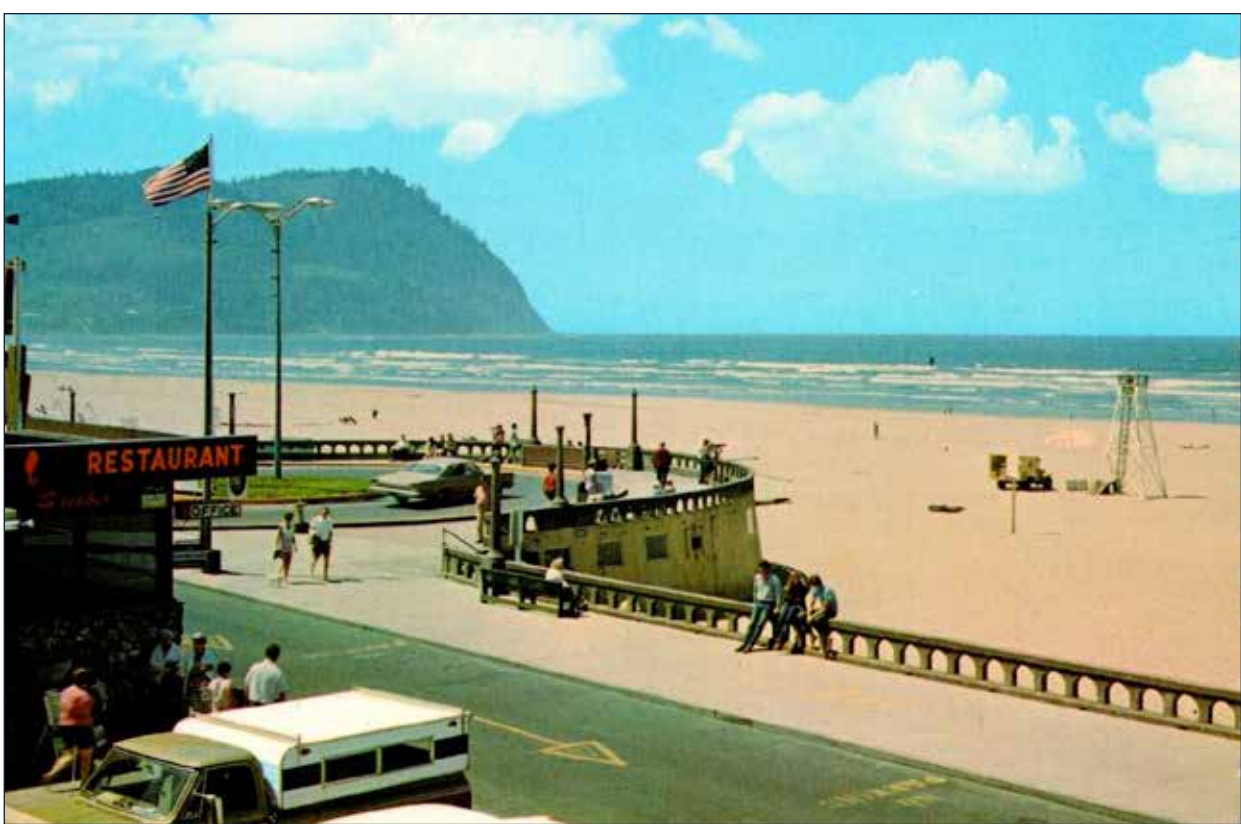
### Strike a balance?

The crowds of college kids and high-school students who flocked to town for Labor Day had always been a little high-spirited, and the town's cops had learned to strike a balance with them. They'd be there if somebody really needed help, and they'd stop any actual vandalism or other criminal activity; but they wouldn't accost anyone on the street and hassle them for carrying an open beer, or ticket them for disorderly conduct for getting too loud around a beach bonfire.

But, not any more. Today was the start of Labor Day Weekend, 1962. The crowds were enormous, the beer was flowing freely, and the cops had a new attitude.

It wouldn't take long for that combination to explode into something close to a worst-case scenario for the town: the first Seaside beach-party riot.

According to the later recollections of Portland musician Stew Dodge, who at the time was a Portland high school student in town



The Promenade and Turnaround in Seaside as they appeared in the late 1960s. The lifeguard's tower, which the rioters fought over in 1962 and 1963, appears at the right. (Image: Postcard)

for the party, the riot started on a downtown street near the Times Theater. There, two older boys were squared off for a full-on fistfight. The onlookers around them hastened to clear a circle for them to fight in and watched, the fighters' friends cheering and shouting encouragement.

"It was like a John Wayne movie," recalled Dodge, in an interview with writer

David Craig quoted in R.J. Marx's book. "These guys were slugging it out."

Finally, during a lull in the fighting, one boy asked the other if he'd like to call it a draw. The other took him up on it.

"They shook hands and walked down the street to get a beer," Dodge said. "And then the cops showed up."

This was exactly the sort

of misbehavior Seaside cops had formerly let slide. A big fistfight was an ugly thing, certainly against the law, and not exactly conducive to an orderly retirement-friendly-resort-town experience; but, it was over, nobody was much hurt, and a stern lecture was probably the best medicine for the moment.

But there was a new sheriff in town, or rather a

new mayor; and that mayor wanted order. People must not be allowed to think they could just engage willy-nilly in public fistfights.

So the cops arrested one of the two boys — apparently they figured he was the one who'd started it — and bundled him into the back of the car.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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Downtown Seaside as it appeared in 1941. (Image: Library of Congress)

## Seaside Riots

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Then they found they had a little problem. The street was packed with young people who were suddenly angry, and were refusing to get out of their way.

Then somebody ran up to the back door of the cop car and grabbed the handle. It wasn't locked — it opened right up, and the prisoner

jumped out and took to his heels.

The cops, sensing the change in the crowd, tried to retreat from the field. But as they were inching past the Catholic church, someone threw a Blitz-Weinhard bottle through the back window of their cruiser.

"And then, that was it," said Dodge.

What it was, was the first Seaside Labor Day Weekend

beach-party riot. It would happen again the next year, and the next, with more and more police coming to the scene, until finally in 1964 the rioters were finally vanquished ... along with Seaside's reputation, temporarily at least, as a youth-friendly beach town.

### Seaside in shock

By the end of that first weekend in 1962, the whole

town was in shock. The bumper crop of drunken youths that was already on the scene grew even larger when local radio DJs breathlessly reported there was a riot going on in Seaside, and kids from nearby coastal towns who'd come to check out the scene got swept up in it.

The police, outnumbered and more than a little freaked out, responded by basically nabbing random kids and hauling them off to the jail. Billy clubs and hazelwood ax handles got used for crowd control. The kids responded by ripping apart fences and benches to get cudgels to fight back with, and filling beer bottles with sand and lobbing them at the cops like hand grenades.

At one point, someone talked the volunteer fire department into showing up and blasting the rioters with fire hoses; the kids charged, drove the firemen off, seized the hoses, and started blasting the cops with them.

Then someone got the idea of stealing the life-guard tower off the beach and dragging it into town. There it fell over, breaking a rioter's leg.

On Sunday, more cops came to town, and waded into the sea of drunken youths clobbering them with ax handles — usually

striking the meaty part of the shoulder by the neck, so as to stun them without breaking collarbones or skulls — and drove them back to the beach. The crowd rallied and surged back into town, yelling and cursing and lobbing rocks and bottles. It was lather, rinse, repeat.

### Calling all the Wailers

On Monday, though, one of the state police guys had the idea of passing a kitty to hire The Fabulous Wailers, a popular Northwest regional band that had been booked to play a show at one of the clubs downtown. The Wailers' show had been canceled because of the riots, and they were just hanging out in their hotel room trying not to get involved.

The Wailers were happy to help, and so they set up their instruments and amplifiers on the roof of the beachside Pypo Club, an alcohol-free music venue for Seaside youths.

And so the kids who had come to Seaside for a good time, stayed on the beach dancing and singing along to "Louie Louie" instead of running around town looking for cops to punch and throwing beer bottles through plate-glass windows.

By the way, the Wailers had a new instrumental that they had written, and they

played it for the first time at that beach party. They subsequently named it "Doin' the Seaside," and it later became one of their signature tracks.

At the end of the day, the Wailers' intervention had been a big success... but Mayor Pysher and his supporters were furious. They had wanted those unruly teens taught a lesson, and instead they had been rewarded with a free rock concert.

The move had the potential of becoming a big win-win for the town. But, it was not to be. The destruction and drama had made a lot of Seaside residents angry, especially the owners of the downtown businesses that the rioters had damaged and trashed. They did not want to send the message that they could be shaken down and have free rock concerts extorted from them by a pack of teenage hooligans.

The way they saw it, Labor Day had always been crazy in Seaside — more trouble than it was worth, really, but they'd always sucked it up and endured it because hospitality was their town's number-one thing, and they didn't want to send a "stay away" type of message.

Now they felt like their generosity was being taken

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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Your next milestone should find you gaining a stronger financial foothold. At this stage, continue building your emergency fund and try to put 10% to 15% of your gross income into your 401(k) or similar plan.

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# Seaside riots

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

for granted, like they'd bent over backwards to be good hosts and the guests had responded with humiliation and demands for more. Battle lines were drawn.

## Riots resume

By the spring of 1963, it was clear that something had changed. The big crowds of visitors who usually flocked to Seaside for Spring Break didn't show up.

The locals figured that was fallout from the riots. Spring Break is a family holiday; what parent would want to take the gang to Ground Zero of the most destructive civil unrest in postwar Oregon history?

And, that was probably the right call. Because when Labor Day rolled around again, the kids packed into the town like they always did — and another round of riots got started.

But the crowds were smaller this time. Smaller, and more intense. The local kids who'd flocked to the scene to watch the riots the year before figured they'd "got the T-shirt" and didn't need to see it again; the more harmless youths who were happy to go to the beach for a good time but didn't want to get caught up in a mob opted to go play somewhere else.

That left a much higher concentration of angry young people who were coming to town to "get some action" in urban combat with the cops.

If the police had been different in '62 — tougher, more hard-nosed, less flexible — it was the crowd that was different in '63, and the authorities were in for a nasty shock.

## Disappointment on their brain

Essentially, in '62 the crowd had come to party, and the riot had taken everyone by surprise. In '63, though, the crowd had come to riot. It was either baked into their plans for the weekend, or included as a strong possibility. Some of them were nursing grudges from the previous year, and others just wanted to fight. Not all the visitors were bloody-minded, but enough of them were to make for some very sharp action.

There also were a lot of youths in the crowd who had just come to town to see Paul Revere and the Raiders play a concert at the Pypo Club, the alcohol-free youth music venue that the Wailers had played from the roof of the year before, that weekend. Just like with the Wailers the previous year, the concert had been canceled, but the band was still in town, holed up in a hotel room; and the kids on the beach hoped if they made enough of a fuss, they'd get rewarded with another beach concert like last year. When it became clear that that would not happen, many of them got mad and joined the mob.

## Only half a match

Reinforced with National Guard troops and State Police troopers, the Seaside police thought they were ready for the renewal of hostilities; but it turned out they had only brought about half as much force as they'd need to tame the beast. The rioters basically won — although they did not get what they wanted: Paul Revere and the Raiders stayed in their rooms and did not play the coveted free beach concert.

And at the end of the



An aerial view of Seaside as it appears today (as of 2011). (Image: Dieter F/Wikimedia, Creative Commons license CC/by-SA 3.0)

weekend, as downtown business owners trudged back to work to clean up after the rioters, there was a sense of weariness. Was this going to be the new normal? A sluggish tourist season followed by three days of brick-throwing, slogan-chanting rock-and-roll riots?

People started pointing fingers. Pysher's crew blamed outside agitators, younger townsfolk blamed Pysher's crew of hard-nosed law-and-order types, and nearly everyone blamed the rioters' parents for sparing the rod and spoiling the child. Even J. Edgar Hoover, the legendary capo dei capi of the FBI, got involved, probing the riots to see if he could detect the sinister hand of a communist plot behind it all.

At that point, it was obvi-

ous to nearly everyone what had happened. Seaside's reputation as a family-friendly resort town had been trashed, and the only demographic group that still seemed to want to come in large numbers was the rioters, and they'd be back in 1964 and probably more belligerent than ever. The town would have to be ready for them, and meet force with force. The mob would have to be vanquished. Then, they could get started rebuilding their battered reputation.

And, well, that's pretty much exactly what happened. The force of law-enforcement officers that came to Seaside in 1964 was big enough to keep control even when the furniture-burning, beer-guzzling hordes on the beach started chanting "Let's riot! Let's riot!"

They made a few attempts,

but there were plenty of cops and Guardsmen defending the town, and every time trouble broke out the mobs were consistently driven out of town and back onto the beach.

On Monday it rained, and that was the end of that.

The next year, 1965, there were a few scattered parties of youths on the beach around bonfires. They were visited by beach-patrolling cops or Guardsmen at the first sign of trouble. Lots of citations for minor-in-possession were issued, but nothing resembling a riot happened.

Seaside breathed a sigh of relief, and got busy rebuilding its battered reputation as a family-friendly beachside resort town. And, other than an out-of-control beach party that escalated to a brief "MTV Spring Break"-style

rampage in '99, the town has had no such trouble since. **HVN**

Sources: *Seaside's rock 'n' roll riots*, a book by R.J. Marx published in 2024 by Cover to Cover; "Seaside Riots of '62 and '99," an un-by-lined article published May 27, 2018, on Oregon Coast Beach Connection ([beachconnection.net](http://beachconnection.net));

"'Hoodlums' who led Seaside's wave of riots in the 1960s worried FBI director," an article by Doug Perry published June 9, 2016, in the Portland Oregonian

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. His most recent book, *Bad Ideas and Horrible People of Old Oregon*, published by Ouragan House last year.

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## Oct. Mondays—Teen Crafternoon

Teens are invited to come work on crafts on Monday afternoons from 4pm to 5:30pm at the Gresham Library, 385 NW Miller Ave., Gresham. Materials are provided. Work on the DIY craft of the week, or do your own thing with their craft materials. Sew, paint, glue, make, design; the sky's your limit.

## Oct. Wed./Thurs.—Tech Help Drop-in

Come to the Gresham Library, 385 NW Miller Ave., Gresham, where they can help you with technology on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm. Meet one-on-one with a friendly, knowledgeable Tech Helper who will help you find answers to questions about mobile devices, websites, getting started with tech, and more. Appointments are on a first come, first served basis.

## Oct. Thursdays—Rockwood Community Market

The Rockwood Community Market runs every Thursday from 3pm to 7 pm from June to December at the Rockwood Plaza, 458 SE 185th Avenue, Gresham. Stock up on fresh, locally grown and culturally specific food, including artisan specialties. Produce; Packaged products Jewelry; and Home decor will be available at the market. The market showcases products from local farmers, growers and small businesses in the Rockwood neighborhood. For more information, call 503-907-6016.

## Oct. Fridays—Family Storytime at Gresham Library

Children from birth to 6 years (with a favorite adult) are invited to the Gresham Library, 385 NW Miller Ave., Gresham on Fridays from 10:15am to 11am or from 11:15am to 12pm, to enjoy books, songs, rhymes and movement activities while building language and literacy skills. Attendance limited-free tickets available 15 minutes before event.

## Oct. Saturdays—Gresham Farmers' Market

The Original Gresham Farmers' Market features local fruit, produce, flowers, artisan crafts, fresh food, baked goods, homemade toiletries and live music. A fun, family-friendly market that supports buying locally. Open every Saturday, 8:30am to 2pm through October at the Gresham Arts Plaza, 401 NE 2nd Street, Gresham.

## Oct. Saturdays—The Farmers Market @ MHCC

Mt. Hood Community College, 26000 SE Stark St., Gresham, will be holding a recurring weekend farmers market, offering fresh produce, locally grown flowers, food, live music, and local artisans. The market is open Saturdays from 9am-2pm, Oct. 4, 11, 18. They will be offering musical entertainment and seating areas for visitors to enjoy food and beverages. They bring together a wide array of high-quality vendors offering everything from farm-fresh produce and flowers to fine art, delicious

food, and valuable services. Questions? Contact MHCCMarket@gmail.com.

## Oct. Saturdays—Hoodland Farmers Market

Come to Hoodland Farmers Market's on Saturdays on Oct. 4, 11, 18. The market is open from 10am to 2pm at the Church on the Mountain's parking lot, 68211 E. Hwy 26 in Welches. They will have a variety of farm fresh produce, local artisans, live music, and kid activities. For more information go to: [www.hoodlandfarmers-market.org](http://www.hoodlandfarmers-market.org).

## Oct. 1-22—Mini Pumpkin Decorating Contest at Library

Sandy Public Library, 38980 Proctor Blvd, Sandy, and Hoodland Library, 24525 E. Welches Rd., Welches, will be having a Mini Pumpkin Decorating Contest for Kids and Teens. Pick up a mini pumpkin, contest rules, and entry form at the library. Get creative with paint, markers, glue, googly eyes, feathers, gems, or other craft supplies—just no carving or candles. Pick up your pumpkin starting October 1st (while supplies last) and return decorated before October 22nd. Vote for your favorite pumpkin in the library and all participants will be entered into a drawing for a \$5 Dairy Queen gift card. Each library will also choose one entry per age category as Best in Show, with winners receiving a \$20 Dairy Queen gift card. Judging will begin on October 23rd.

## Saturday, Oct. 18th QUILT AUCTION to benefit the GRESHAM SENIOR CENTER



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## Oct. 3 & 4—Grace Crossing Bible Church Harvest Bazaar

Grace Crossing Bible Church Harvest Bazaar will take place on Friday, Oct. 3rd from 12pm to 5pm and again on Saturday, Oct. 4th from 9am to 3pm at 29101 SE Eagle Creek Rd, Estacada. They will have a variety of vendors at their third annual event, including bakers, crochet-

ers, knitters, jewelry, 3D printed toys, bead art and cards.

## Oct. 4—Harvest of Hope Gala

The Hoodland Women's Club will be holding their Harvest of Hope Gala on Saturday, Oct. 4th from 5pm to 9pm at Alpine events, 73365 Hwy. 26, Rhododendron. There will be a four course dinner, live auction, live music and much more. All proceeds will be used for Community Giving Programs. To purchase tickets, host a group table or give a donation

contact them at [www.hoodlandwomensclub.org](http://www.hoodlandwomensclub.org).

## Oct. 4—Indigenous Arts Festival

The 2nd annual Indigenous Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4th from 10am to 4pm. Free live music, performers, dancers, presenters and over 40 Indigenous Artists. This free, two day event on Main Street in Gresham is hosted by the Gresham Historical Society in partnership with Portland Indigenous Marketplace and Gresham Outdoor Public Art.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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■ CONTINUED FROM PG 25

## Oct. 5—Adopt A Dog Gresham

Sunday, Oct. 5th from 10am to 5pm is the time to come to Pet Smart, 430 NW Eastman Pkwy. in Gresham if you are looking for a new dog to add to your family. This event by Animal Rescue Kingdom allows you to meet some dogs/puppies they have brought for adoption. You can meet and adopt the same day. View adoptable dogs: [www.petfinder.com/search/pets-for-adoption](http://www.petfinder.com/search/pets-for-adoption). Pre-adoption is an option, please email for more details: [www.petfinder.com/search/pets-for-adoption](mailto:www.petfinder.com/search/pets-for-adoption).

## Oct. 6, 20—Senior Walking Group

On Monday, Oct. 6th and also Oct. 20th, 9:30am-11:30am, come to Gresham's Main City Park back parking lot, 219 S Main Ave., and walk up the Springwater Trail for approximately 2 miles. The trail is all flat and paved. You can turn back at any time, if desired. Friendly dogs are welcome. This group is organized by UpRiver Village, RSVP at [Contact@UpRiverVillage.org](mailto:Contact@UpRiverVillage.org) to get notice of weather-related cancellation. Questions? Email Jane Foreman at [Contact@UpRiverVillage.org](mailto:Contact@UpRiverVillage.org).

## Oct. 6—Men's Book Club-Sandy

Come to the Sandy Library, 38980 Proctor Blvd., Sandy, for the Men's Book Club on Monday, Oct. 6th at 7pm. This month the club will discuss "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. Information, email: [ehouck@ci.sandy.or.us](mailto:ehouck@ci.sandy.or.us).

## Oct. 6,20—Teen Hangout in Sandy

Teen Hangout is a drop-in program that provides teens, grades 6th-12th, a dedicated space to hangout, make friends, watch movies and YouTube on the big screen, play games, share interests, listen to music, get creative and more. Themed crafts and events held monthly. Snacks provided. They meet the first and third Mondays

of each month from 4pm to 6pm at the Hoyt Community Room in the Sandy Library, 38980 Proctor Blvd., Sandy. Oct. 6th they invite you to a Special Event: Happy Little Trees-Come discover the joy of painting while dressing up as Bob Ross (wig included!). So, pick up a brush, grab a shirt and wig, and see if you can follow along as they try to recreate some of Ross' works. Registration required. Call 503-668-5537.

## Oct. 7—Lego Club at Gresham Library

Come to the Lego Club at Gresham Library for a fun and imaginative LEGO building session on Tuesday, Oct. 7th from 6pm to 7pm at the Gresham Library, 365 NW Miller Avenue. They'll provide the building blocks, you bring the creativity! Ideal for grades K-5, but younger and older siblings are welcome.

## Oct. 7—Fall Into Origami

Kids are invited to the Sandy Library, 38980 Proctor Blvd., for an origami adventure making fun fall creations—like pumpkins, leaves, and maybe even a black cat or two. No experience needed—just bring your imagination on Tuesday, Oct. 7th from 4pm to 5:30pm and they'll provide the paper!

## Oct. 8—Business Summit

Goals and Adaptability—These two topics can make or break a successful business. The importance of goals and adaptability is why the Gresham Area Chamber chose George Carroll to speak at the Business Summit, Wednesday, October 8th from 7:30am to 11:30am at East Hill Church-Kid City, 695 N. Main Ave., Gresham. The Economic Landscape will be presented by Damon

Runberg, This is a valuable opportunity to bring your team together in a professional and engaging environment. Contact Lynn at [lynn.ceo@greshamchamber.org](mailto:lynn.ceo@greshamchamber.org) with any questions. Doors open at 7:30 am - Breakfast is included. To Register, go to: [www.greshamchamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration](http://www.greshamchamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration).

## Oct. 8,22—Dungeons & Dragons @ Sandy Library

Following old-school D&D rules from 1980, a group of players both experienced and new to the game gather around the table at the Sandy Library, 38980 Proctor Blvd., Sandy on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 6pm to 8pm. They invite you to come join them. Seats are limited. Registration is required. For more information contact Dungeon Master Steve Williamson at [gaming@ruckerworks.com](mailto:gaming@ruckerworks.com).

## Oct. 9—Memory Café

Memory Café is a free social event for those with dementia, Alzheimer's or memory loss, and their families. Come for music as well as time to socialize in a welcoming environment on Thursday, Oct. 9th from 1pm to 2:30pm at the Gresham Library, 365 NW Miller Avenue. Note: Family support must be present.

## Oct. 9—Women's Book Club

Sandy Library Women's Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 9th, starting at 6pm at the Sandy Public Library Community Room, 38980 Proctor Blvd, Sandy. They will be discussing books by Agatha Christie. Read any book by Agatha Christie

to discuss. For the Zoom link, contact Maureen Houck at [mhouck@ci.sandy.or.us](mailto:mhouck@ci.sandy.or.us).

## Oct. 10—BINGO@ Cut-Ups Barn

BINGO at the Barn, by Country Cut-Ups, 13987 SE Richey Road, Boring will be held on Friday, Oct. 10th from 7pm to 9:30pm with doors opening at 6pm. Bingo, Concessions, Jackpots! Family friendly (with adult supervision). Cost (Cash Only): \$8 per packet of 10 games (special games extra). Daubers available for purchase.

## Oct. 11—Fall Recycling Collection Event

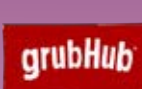
The Fall Recycling Collection Event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 11th from 9am to 12pm at Gresham City Hall Parking Lot, 1333 NW Eastman Parkway. This is a free collection event for Gresham and Wood Village residents. They are collecting: Paper for shredding (Limit two paper grocery bags per household); Household sharps (Sharps are medical instruments that require proper disposal to prevent injury. Free sharps containers will be available at the event while supplies last. All sharps are disposed of in a designated sharps container or a securely sealed alternative, such as a thick plastic laundry bottle); Compact florescent bulbs (CFLs, Spiral-shaped bulbs only, No LEDs or long fluorescent tube lights. Please package your CFL bulbs carefully to prevent breakage.) For more information about this event, contact [Recycle@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:Recycle@GreshamOregon.gov) or 503-618-2525.

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■ CONTINUED FROM PG 26

## Oct. 11—Mattress World Northwest Fundraiser for Gresham Dance & Cheer

Mattress World Northwest, 1160 NE Burnside St, Gresham, has partnered with the Gresham High to help you sleep better while supporting local Dance and Cheer programs. A fundraiser will be held on Oct. 11th from 10am to 5pm at their store. Up to 60% OFF on closeout mattresses. Big Savings on top brands like Purple, Tempurpedic, Beautyrest, Sealy, Stearns & Foster & more! 90-Day Comfort Guarantee - Sleep easy knowing you've found the perfect mattress! Free Delivery, Setup, and Haul Away - No stress, just sweet sleep. Prices You'll Love: Twin Mattresses from \$129; Queen Mattresses from \$299; King Mattresses from \$499. PLUS: 0% Financing for up to 60 Months! Every Purchase Helps the Gresham Dance and Cheer Programs so come support local youth programs while

upgrading your sleep game.

## Oct. 11—Bluegrass at the Grange

Multnomah Grange #71, 30639 SE Bluff Rd., Gresham, will have their next concert on Saturday, Oct. 11th with two bands: Josh Cole Bluegrass Band and Bean Water. Concerts start at 7pm, but the doors open at 6pm for people to join an informal jam in the lobby. Suggested cash donation is \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids under 12. A snack bar is open selling hot dogs, home baked desserts, popcorn and non-alcoholic beverages.

## Oct. 11—Harvest Festival at Oral Hull

Hull Foundation and Learning Center, 43233 SE Oral Hull Park Road, Sandy, will be holding their Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 11th at 10am. Games, crafts, treat boxes, beverages, door prizes, homemade goods from vendors and more! The Haunted Garden will start at 6pm.

## Oct. 11—Equine Education at Burns Feed

On Saturday, Oct. 11th at 10am, Burns Feed Store, 29215 SE Orient Drive, Gresham, will be having a special event, Equine Education. The guest speaker will be Karen E. Davison, Ph.D, Director of Equine Technical Solutions for Purina Animal Nutrition. Reserve your seat by calling Burns Feed Store at 503-663-3246 or email them at BurnsFeedOregon@gmail.com.

## Oct. 11—Chamberfest

The Estacada Chamber of Commerce will be holding their Chamberfest, an annual auction fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 11th from 6pm to 8pm at 200 SW Clubhouse Drive, Estacada. Chamberfest with German themed food, adult beverages and Auction. Lederhosen and Dirndl dresses are encouraged, but optional. Bring a non-perishable item for the Food Bank

and get a raffle ticket. This is a great event supporting the community. Doors open at 5:30pm, tickets on sale now at: [www.estacadachamber.com/fundraiser](http://www.estacadachamber.com/fundraiser).

## Oct. 13,27—Creation Station

Creation Station is a twice monthly interactive program that welcomes adults with developmental disabilities held at the Sandy Library, 38980 Proctor Blvd., on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 10am. 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. Information: [kmurphy@ci.sandy.or.us](mailto:kmurphy@ci.sandy.or.us).

## Oct. 15—Sandy Chamber Meeting

Good Morning Sandy is a great way to see fellow Chamber member's businesses and learn more about them and the work they do

in the community. During the meeting the Host will have 15 dedicated minutes to tell everyone in the room what they do, how they are different than the competitors and how people can send business their way. This month's host and meeting location is Embold Credit Union, 37077 Hwy. 26, Sandy on Oct. 15th from 7:30am to 8:30am. Visitors considering membership are welcome.

## Oct. 18—Quilt Auction at Gresham Senior Center

The Gresham Senior Center will be holding a Quilt Auction sponsored by The Happy Quilters on Saturday, Oct. 18th at the center's location, 600 NE 8th Street, Gresham. Registration and viewing of the quilts begins at 9:30am, where you will receive a bidding number and the live auction of these handmade quilts begins at 10am. For more information contact Tommy Fent at [tommequilts@gmail.com](mailto:tommequilts@gmail.com).

## Oct. 18—Apple of His Eye Gala

The Love in Action Gala, a fundraiser by Apple of His Eye Charity, will be held on October 18th at 5pm at the Sheraton Hotel, 8235 NE Airport Way, Portland. Be part of an evening celebrating hope and transformation in India and Rwanda. Hear Stories of resilience and redemption, bid online and silent auctions, and enjoy a delicious meal catered by the Sheraton. To register or for more information, email: [info@appleofhiseyecharity.org](mailto:info@appleofhiseyecharity.org).

## Nov. 9—Concealed Firearms Permit Class

If you don't have your permit, you can't legally carry a firearm in Oregon.



Ret. Ofcr. Larry Raglione

On Sunday, Nov. 9th from 12pm to 5pm, a Concealed Firearms Permit Class will be held at Clackamas County Bank-Gresham, 1101 NE Burnside Rd., 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.2ndrightscfp.com](http://www.2ndrightscfp.com).

org or visit their website: [appleofhiseyecharity.org](http://appleofhiseyecharity.org).

## Oct. 18 Wag-N-Walk

You are invited to a twice monthly Wag-N-Walk at parks around Gresham with your friendly furry friends and local dog trainer/walker, Avery, from Hounding Around. On Saturday, Oct. 18th at 10am they will meet at Red Sunset Park, 2403 NE Red Sunset Drive, Gresham. All dogs must remain leashed and be friendly. Pet owners, please be sure to bring scoop bag-

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

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■ CONTINUED FROM PG 27

gies Info: ParkQuestions@GreshamOregon.gov.

## Oct. 21—Hoodland Book Club

The Hoodland Book Club meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4pm for a book discussion at the Hoodland Library, 24525 E. Welches, Rd., Welches. This month's book will be "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides.

## Oct. 21—Business and Leaders Lunch

The Gresham Area Chamber invites you to join them for the monthly opportunity to network, learn, and grow over a delicious, locally prepared lunch at the Business and Leaders Luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 21st from 11:30am to 1pm at Persimmon Country Club, 500 butler Rd., Gresham. This month's special guest is Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners. Admission: Members, attendance with lunch: \$24; Non-Members, attendance with lunch: \$32; Members, attendance and

a beverage only: \$5; Non-members, attendance and a beverage only: \$8. Register at: [www.greshamchamber.org/events/](http://www.greshamchamber.org/events/). Questions? Email: [amyb@greshamchamber.org](mailto:amyb@greshamchamber.org).

## Oct. 22—Trunk or Treat at Burns Feed

Burns Feed Store, in partnership with She Connects-Women's Small Business Networking Group, will be holding a free Trunk or Treat event at Burns Feed Store. They invite you to come dressed up with your kiddos and 4-legged friends to this event on Wednesday, Oct. 22nd from 5pm to 6:30pm. Burns Feed Store is located at 29215 SE Orient Drive, Gresham. She Connects is a group of local women business owners who support each other and this community. Be sure to come into Burns Feed Store and check out their wonderful gift shop and start Christmas shopping early!

## Oct. 24—Teen Halloween Candy Hunt

Sandy Library invites you to come to the annual Teen

Halloween Flashlight Candy Hunt happening on Friday, October 24th in Meinig Park, 17670 Meinig Ave., Sandy. Meet under the gazebo. Grades 6th-8th: hunt starts at 7:30pm. Grades 9th-12th: hunt starts at 8pm. Bring a flashlight, jacket and a bag for eggs. \$10 gift cards will be awarded to four lucky teens that find the "golden eggs".

## Oct. 25—Sandy Trick-or-Treat Trail

The Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce's Trick-or-Treat Trail, sponsored by MAECO of Oregon and Sandy's Helping Hands, will return on Saturday, October 25th. The trail will run through Downtown Sandy from 2-4 pm on Saturday, Oct. 25th. Bring the kids for a fun & safe trick-or-treating experience. Visit local merchants for sweet treats and other surprises.

## Oct. 26—Trunk or Treat at Geren's

Geren's Farm & Landscape Supply's 4th Trunk or Treat Event will be held on Sunday, Oct 26th from 1pm to 3pm in their parking lot at 33680 SE Kelso

Rd, Boring. Events: Candy Filled Trunks, Scavenger Hunt, and Bouncy House (Weather permitted).

## Oct. 31—Trick or Treat Troutdale

The City of Troutdale invites you to come to the downtown area on Thursday, Oct. 31st from 4pm to 5:30pm for a safe and fun trick-or-treat event! The businesses in the historic downtown will be handing out treats to ghouls and goblins of all ages. If you want to keep celebrating, The Columbia Gorge Outlets will also host trick or treating from 5pm to 7p.m.

## Nov. 8—Pet Pictures w/Santa @ Burns Feed Store

On Saturday, November 8th from 10am to 2pm, Burns Feed Store, 29215 SE Orient Drive, Gresham, will be having their annual Pet Pictures with Santa. Photo times: Livestock from 10am to 11am; Pets from 11am to 2pm. Put this on your calendar to get some great Christmas photos. Info: [www.burnsfeed.com](http://www.burnsfeed.com).

## Nov. 13—100 Women Who Care Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 13th at 6pm 100+ Women Who Care East County will be holding their quarterly meeting at Clackamas County Bank, 2482 SE Burnside Rd., Gresham from 6pm to 7pm. This is a group of women who gather four times a year for 1 hour to pick a charity to receive \$100 from each of the members. They invite you to join them for

an inspiring evening as they come together to make a difference in this community. First timers are welcome to come and find out more about this group and are not required to donate.

## Nov. 16—Ladies Night @ Burns Feed

Ladies Night will be an awesome event that will be held at Burns Feed Store, 29215 SE Orient Drive, Gresham, on Sunday, Nov.16th from 5pm to 7pm. ■



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# Doc says I cannot be a vegan

By GREG ROSEN  
Writer

An editor for another newspaper chain contacted me because she thought my humorist columns might be a good fit for their paper. Wanting to make a great impression I looked at her Facebook page to see who she is and what she likes. My goal was to use that research to give me a better chance at becoming one of their writers. The problem is I noticed she signed her emails with her name and then the following, “she/her/they/us/them.” So instead of my standard email signature, which was “Greg Rosen, man of the house, master of my domain, hunter, proud Trump supporter, Christian/Republican,” I changed it to “Greg Rosen, semi famous writer due to white privilege.”

### It helps if you drink

I have doubts about my skills. My problem is I have been writing humorous columns for 4 years and I still find myself telling people that my columns are, in fact, “humor columns.” If it helps, have a few shots of whiskey before you read my column. I know after I have 5 or 6 shots my columns seem funny to me. When I get to eight shots, I am laughing so hard I can hardly sit in my chair. Truth is, I have fallen out of it numerous times.

### Staunch vegan

In my research, I also discovered she was a staunch vegan. Which is fine, but I eat some form of meat with every meal, so much so that when I walk into Whites Meats in Gresham, they all yell “Greg” as I enter. She also apparently belongs to the North American Vegetarian Society and the American Vegan Society, which both promote the vegan lifestyle, so I knew she would bring up the subject.

### Do not lie

My wife suggested if the editor asks, do not use the “made up” version of my family history as the reason I am not vegan. Actually, my wife never believed I had the life-threatening medical condition that was diagnosed by a team of highly educated doctors I found on the internet. Sure, they



may have been from the sub-Saharan desert region in Africa, but I’m sure they don’t give out medical degrees to just anyone. Oddly, my wife still does not think they are real doctors. But, my own personal research found they had to go through weeks of extensive training and pay over \$99 in fees to achieve their medical degree. So, there.

### I sent in my DNA

After sending them a DNA sample, which was totally reasonable, they found overwhelming evidence that my ancestors were Neanderthals, a “people” which inhabited Oregon 25,000 years ago. Apparently, according to the results, I inherited a trait from them that became embedded in my DNA. It requires me to eat meat every day to survive, because that is how my ancestors survived. Personally, I do not think you can argue with the science on this one.

If my meat-eating habits still bother her enough to not hire me, I will tell her I identify as a vegan trapped in a meat-eating body. I think that is how all that stuff works. ■

*Greg Rosen is a Father, Husband, Realtor, and humor writer for several major newspapers. Questions or comments are appreciated: grosen@pacific pioneer.com.*



# Charlie Kirk and the Three Callings of a Man

By MIKE WILEY  
Publisher

In his book “Wild at Heart,” author John Eldredge wrote that every man longs for three things: a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue. Those words struck a chord with millions of men because they spoke to something deep, ancient, and true — that a man’s life is meant to matter, not merely exist.

I would restate those longings in language that feels both timeless and practical:

- 1. A maiden to love.
- 2. A quest to pursue.
- 3. A kingdom to conquer — or build.

Together they form a kind of roadmap for the masculine soul — not an excuse for bravado, but a call to stewardship.

### A maiden to love

The first, a maiden to love, isn’t about outdated chivalry. It’s about learning to give, protect, and honor. It’s the realization that strength isn’t for domination but devotion. For many men, this begins with marriage — a lifelong promise to guard and cherish, not merely to possess. As the late Charlie Kirk often said, a man’s life gains clarity when he chooses commitment over impulse. Kirk urged young men to stop drifting and start building: get married, raise children, and live with purpose beyond themselves.

### A quest to pursue

The second, a quest to pursue, reminds us that work is more than a paycheck. It’s a calling. Every man needs a mission that stretches him — something worth rising early for and finishing strong. Kirk understood this well. He poured his energy into equipping a generation of young leaders, telling them that freedom, faith, and family were worth fighting for. His life testified that a quest need not be easy to be worthy.

### A kingdom to build

And the third, a kingdom to conquer or build, speaks to legacy. Every man builds something — a home, a business, a com-



munity, a life. The question is what kind of kingdom will it be? Will it serve self, or will it bless others long after we’re gone? Eldredge’s “battle to fight” finds its truest form here: contending for what is right, shaping the world rather than shrinking from it.

### The balance of manhood

In an age that often confuses manhood with either aggression or apathy, these three callings offer balance. They remind us that true masculinity is active, creative, and compassionate. It rescues rather than consumes, pursues rather than drifts, and builds rather than destroys.

### Charlie Kirk’s example

Charlie Kirk lived that truth out loud. He challenged men to stop apologizing for their strength and start using it to serve — to marry, to lead, to create, and to leave something behind worth inheriting.

May we do the same. ■

*Mike Wiley is the publisher and editor of Hoodview News.*



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# Dogs: No beef and major beef

By D.B. Haverford  
Humorist

I have two dogs. We very briefly had three dogs, but one of them “Princess” passed away about a year ago, and we are back down to two dogs, Charlie and Toby.

### No beef with Toby

I have no beef with the little one, “Toby.” He is mostly just happy to be alive and his only fault is he is not fully house trained, a trait he makes up for by being wiggly and adorable and having the memory of a gold fish. It’s very hard to punish a small dog who is nothing but delighted to see you and has no memory of his recent wee wee indiscretions as he bounces with little dog joy around my legs. So we have settled on taking him outside every five minutes. So that’s working well... He’s technically my daughter’s dog, and he sleeps in her room, and she cleans up his messes. So, I have no issues with Toby.

### Major beef with Charlie

I do, however, have some major beef with my Charlie dog. We used to have two dogs in the bed. Charlie was my cuddle buddy, and Princess was the hubby’s. Princess was obsessed with my husband and usually had little pink bows in her hair and was tiny. My husband is huge, so that was always amusing to watch. She is no longer with us. So now there is only one dog in our bed. I thought I was Charlie’s favorite human. It turns out he was just waiting in line



for the big guy. He has fully switched up on me and now only cuddles with my hus-

band thinks it’s hilarious.

### Confuse the dog?

I know it sounds crazy but I have even suggested that we start sleeping on opposite sides of the bed so as to confuse the dog into cuddling me more. My husband doesn’t even want dog cuddles! I try to explain to Charlie that he isn’t appreciated by his Daddy, but he won’t listen. I am about to resort to sleeping with bacon under my pillow. If my hubby gets up to go to the bathroom, my dog will leave the bed while I am actively petting him to whine at the bathroom door for his Daddy. It’s rude, and I won’t have it. I am thinking of re-homing him, but no one wants a husband. ■

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

***I am now in a war for the attention of a dog, and I am losing badly, and my husband thinks it’s hilarious.***

band. It’s driving me crazy. I am now in a war for the attention of a dog, and I am losing badly, and my hus-

# Medicare: Costs up, benefits down

By LESLIE PARKER  
Medicare Advisor

October is always a big month for health insurance. The Medicare Annual Enrollment Period begins October 15 and runs through December 7. This is the time when people with Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans can review what’s changing and make adjustments if needed.

This year, the best way I can describe it is “less is more.” Many plans are trimming back extra perks, and you may see higher premiums or higher out-of-pocket costs for certain benefits. In some cases, entire plans are leaving the market. If that happens, members will need to choose something new for 2025. Understandably, this feels discouraging—and many ask, “Why is this happening?”

There isn’t just one reason. A major factor is the rapid growth in the senior population. In 2000, about 35 million Americans were over 65; by 2025, that number will reach roughly 73 million. More people needing more care leads to higher claims costs. At the same time, wages for healthcare workers, the price of medical supplies, and even manufacturing issues such as tariffs or shortages are all driving costs upward.

Prescription drugs are another strain. It’s not unusual now for insurance companies to see members taking medications that cost more than \$1,000 a month. That adds up quickly across millions of patients. Medicaid is a source of income in the medical industry that is being reduced nationally. All parts of the system both on the medical side and the insurance side must prepare for this financial change.

As a result, HMO (Health Maintenance



Organization) plans are becoming the preferred model. HMOs require you to use doctors and hospitals within a set network and often need referrals, but they help keep costs predictable. PPO (Preferred Provider Organization) plans, which allow more freedom to see out-of-network providers, are becoming harder to find. More medical groups are also announcing they will no longer accept PPO patients.

Insurance companies themselves say the payments they receive from the federal government to run Medicare Advantage and drug plans are no longer keeping up with the rising claims. To stay solvent, they are scaling back benefits, limiting the counties where plans are offered, and, in some cases, cutting compensation to licensed agents, like myself, who assist clients.

It all adds up to a season of “belt tightening.” Still, while the landscape is changing, information and guidance are available. My goal is to keep you updated so you can make the best decision for your needs. Wishing you good health. ☺ ■

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](http://healthbenefits411.com). She can be reached at 503-891-5793.



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# The Secret Sauce

## Why Your Workplace Retirement Plan Is More Powerful Than You Think

JARED TJADEN and  
SAM SARKISSIAN  
Financial Advisors

When it comes to your workplace retirement plan, what's not to love? It provides you with an automatic savings plan, tax advantages, an employer match, a diverse menu of well-researched investment options and comprehensive online retirement planning tools. However, there's one ingredient that makes your plan so powerful that it almost feels like cheating — compound interest. It's the secret sauce that has the potential to turn even modest savings into something much bigger over time.

### What's in the secret sauce?

Compound interest means your money earns interest not only on what you save, but also on the interest it already earned. It's like a snowball

rolling downhill — small at first, but gaining speed and size as it goes. Here's a simple example: If you invest \$100 a month into a workplace retirement plan such as a 401(k), and it earns an average 7% return annually, in 30 years you could have over \$113,000. Even better? Your investment growth isn't taxed each year. That means more of your money stays invested and keeps working for you, year after year. That's called tax-deferred compounding, and it's what gives your savings real power over time.

### Traditional or Roth? the sauce still shines

Whether you're saving in a traditional (pretax) account or a Roth (after tax) account — or a mix of both — compound interest works the same. The key difference is when you pay taxes: either now (Roth) or later (traditional). But the growth engine behind the scenes? That's the sauce.

### Start early, let it simmer

The real magic happens over time. The earlier you start saving, the more time compound interest has to work. Even small contributions can

potentially grow into something significant. And don't forget: matching contributions from your employer also benefit from the secret sauce. So keep stirring the pot and commit to increasing your savings rate each year (even if it's just 1%). Your future self will be very glad you did. ■

*Informational Sources:*  
Fidelity: "What is Compound Interest?" (December 16, 2024); TurboTax: "The Tax Benefits of Your 401(k) Plan" (June 24, 2025).



This article provided by Jared Tjaden and Sam Sarkissian, financial advisors located in Sandy. They can be reached at 971-414-6050.

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4 Goodies  
5 Help a hood  
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7 Opening night  
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16 ER workers  
20 Experts  
21 Pyramid part  
22 "Puppy Love" singer  
23 Beatnik's assent  
24 "No way!"  
26 Katniss in "The Hunger Games"  
27 Shortly  
28 Lion's share  
29 Boot camp VIPs  
31 Check  
34 Mr. Brezhnev  
35 Saint Patrick's Day event  
37 Chest muscle  
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# Understanding Your Check Engine Light

By KAREN JOHNSTON  
All About Automotive



The “Check Engine” or “Service Engine Soon” light is an important alert from your vehicle’s computer system. It indicates that a circuit, sensor, or system is not operating within its designed parameters.

If the light is solid, schedule a diagnostic inspection with your trusted repair facility as soon as reasonably possible. If the issue is intermittent, the light may turn off after several key cycles, only to return when the condition happens again. If the light is flashing, stop driving immediately, shut off the vehicle, and arrange for it to be towed. A flashing light means a condition is occurring that can damage the catalytic converter and potentially lead to more costly repairs if ignored.

## Initial scanning

When diagnosing a check engine light, technicians begin by scanning the vehicle’s computer system for diagnostic trouble codes (DTCs). These codes point

to the area or system where the issue occurred—such as fuel mixture problems, sensor errors, or engine misfires—but they do not directly identify the failed part. Skilled technicians then perform a series of pinpoint tests, checking circuit continuity, power, and grounds. They may use bi-directional scan tools to activate systems and lab scopes to monitor electrical patterns in real time.

## Less costly

Accurate diagnosis requires both training and the right equipment. Investing in a proper diagnosis typically costs less than guessing and replacing unnecessary parts. A thorough repair process

includes post-testing to confirm the issue is resolved and to prevent the light from coming back on.

If your check engine light comes on—whether intermittently or consistently—we recommend having it diagnosed and repaired promptly. Ignoring it can lead to further damage and more expensive repairs over time. Happy Motoring! ■

Steve and Karen Johnston have owned All About Automotive in Gresham for over 20 years. They are located at 1850 NW Burnside Rd. in Gresham. They can be reached at 503-465-2926.



# Puppy training 101: Basic commands

By SAM MAZOTTA  
Contributor

**DEAR PAW’S CORNER:** I’m bringing home a 2-month-old puppy soon. And as I get my apartment ready, I also want to start her training right away. What do you recommend?—Francine J.

**DEAR FRANCINE:** Congratulations! Sounds like your new puppy will get a great start. Basic obedience training is the foundation of all your puppy’s training. It can improve behavioral issues or stop them before they start. It keeps your puppy safe, because she’ll respond to you — very important if she slips her leash outside or tries to nab something from the kitchen counter.

## The six most important commands are:

**Come:** Your dog should stop whatever she’s doing and immediately come back to you.

**Sit:** Your puppy should sit calmly on your command.

**Down:** Your dog should lay down on their stomach, head up and alert.

**Stay:** Your dog should remain sitting (or laying) once you place them in that position.



**Heel:** Directs the dog to walk next to you -- not ahead, behind or darting off to the side.

**Leave It:** Commands her to drop and move away from any object.

As you start her training, remember:

- Keep training sessions short but frequent. Puppies’ attention spans are super-short because they are still exploring their new world. Plus, they tire quickly.
- Potty break first, then training. A puppy can’t concentrate on commands when she has to go.
- Create a routine. Each

day, train your puppy in a familiar, safe spot.

• Keep treats handy. Soft, puppy-appropriate treats given when your puppy does anything right. Cut them into very small pieces so they don’t eat too much.

Online training guides are very helpful. Search specifically for basic obedience training tutorials. I also recommend group or private puppy training sessions with a local trainer. ■

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com. © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

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# Deep cleaning vs. the usual office visit

By RUSSELL BIRD, DMD  
Blue Bird Dentistry



The typical maintenance schedule combines cleaning by a professional hygienist with an exam by your dentist every six months. This covers the usual bases of removing plaque and monitoring the effects of your diet, habits and underlying physical condition on your teeth and gums. Here are your options when "typical" isn't enough.

## What's the Difference Between a 6-Month Cleaning and Deep Cleaning?

Suppose you've missed dental appointments, changed your eating habits or notice another dental issue that affects your bite and smile. It may be time for some additional hygiene. Frequent cleaning can head off an increase in cavities, teeth and gum pain, or more serious complications.

Think of dental cleaning on a gradual scale. There's the everyday type: your home care routine of brushing, flossing and rinsing. There's the twice-yearly professional upgrade: a visit with your hygienist and an evaluation by your dentist of how well that care is working. And then there's deep cleaning.

Depending on your oral condition, deep cleaning may be prescribed every three to four months. This may entail your hygienist's usual method of addressing surface plaque and

gum-adjacent debris, called scaling. Or we might need to go more deeply below the gum line (called root planing) to clear out pockets that have formed, which invite bacteria in. Sometimes, to make it more comfortable for patients, we use a series of visits to tackle this, one mouth quadrant at a time.

## Who Needs Deep Cleaning?

Declining gum condition, or gingivitis, from medication use or lax maintenance can damage the bone and tissue that hold your teeth in place. If you don't treat gingivitis, it may progress to periodontitis and threaten all of that mouth infrastructure. You might lose a tooth, or bacterial infection might invade the oral nerves and lead to a root canal.

But you can avoid pain and damage by reversing course with a deep cleaning. While bone can't be restored, its loss can be halted. And your gums are resilient and responsive to a cleaner environment. Deep cleaning utilizes the

same tools and process in a more focused manner. If it's invasive enough to cause discomfort, a local anesthetic will help get the job done.

The best thing about deep cleaning is that it sets you on the right track. You may need just a few extra visits to get to that point. Think of deep cleaning as the quickest way to restore your oral balance. And after that: we'll see you in six months! ■

*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 orígenes. Contact: (503) 668-1300; sandyordentist.com;*

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# Why full bladder and choosing between surgeons

By DR. KEITH ROACH  
Columnist

## Why full bladder at night?

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I am a healthy male, age 65. I get 7-8 hours of sleep most nights, but during the night, I typically wake up three to four times with a very full bladder. So, I use the bathroom, then return to bed. My question is, where do my kidneys get all the water to make so much urine? I'm not drinking during the night, and I don't drink anything before I go to sleep. Where is it coming from? This does not happen during my waking hours. — B.F.

**ANSWER:** When you drink or even eat food with a high water content, this fluid will be absorbed into your blood, but it takes time. Once it's in your blood, it will then be filtered by your kidneys to make urine, but this, too, takes time.

In general, I tell my patients to stop drinking 4 hours or more before bedtime. People who have kidneys that aren't at 100% function may need an even longer time so that they can urinate all the fluid out.

There are other considerations. Many men and women over 60 develop swollen legs during the day due to leaky blood vessels and valves in the veins. Taking in excess salt worsens this problem. The fluid will go back into the blood overnight, and it can easily be enough fluid to fill the bladder. Compression stockings can reduce the amount of fluid in the legs. Finally, the body has a system for reducing urine output at night (the anti-diuretic hormone is secreted at night to prevent you from having to get up), and in some people, this system fails. The hormone can be given nasally in these cases, but since it can affect blood sodium levels, it needs to be used very judiciously.

## Torn between two surgeons

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My husband is 72 years old and on a waiting list for a hip replacement due to severe osteoarthritis. The surgeon he was referred to is quite young, has been performing anterior minimally invasive hip replacements for five years, and does about 250 per year. Originally we had asked to be referred to a different surgeon who has 30 years of experience, but we were told that older surgeons, although very experienced, do not do this procedure. Instead, they tend to do what they were initially trained to do, which includes cutting through muscle and tendon to access the hip. Apparently this causes a lengthier recovery period. What are your thoughts on this? — D.M.

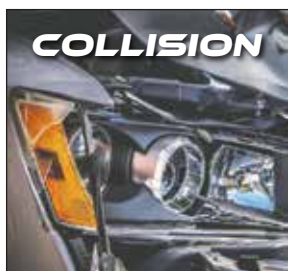
**ANSWER:** In general, I do not recommend telling a surgeon which specific type of surgery to perform. You place yourself in the surgeon's hands and expect to be treated to the best of their expertise. Depending on your particular issues, one type of surgery may be better than another, but only a surgeon can decide this.

I reviewed the published literature on minimally invasive surgery versus conventional surgery. Not everyone is a candidate for the minimally invasive procedure. There are some benefits to the minimally invasive surgery such as less postoperative pain, reduced hospital stay, and less blood loss. However, there has been no consistent benefit shown for infection rates and complications such as dislocation or fracture near the prosthesis. There also isn't evidence of any revision of the procedure. Some studies have suggested a higher rate of nerve injury with the minimally invasive procedure. Since there are some short-term but no proven long-term benefits to the minimally invasive procedure, I advise you to find a surgeon you trust and listen to their recommendation for the right procedure in your husband's case. ■

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions. **Answers do not constitute medical advice. Consult physician before making any health care or routine changes.** Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu). (c) 2025 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved



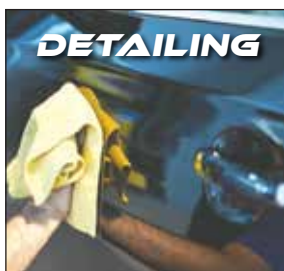
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# Why God Chose Moses Over Aaron

And why He might choose you, too.

By MYSTERY MOUNTAIN MINISTER  
Retired pastor

**W**hen God called Moses from the burning bush, He wasn't looking for a silver tongue or a showman. He was looking for a servant, a man of character whom He could trust.

Moses didn't see himself that way. At eighty years old, he argued that he wasn't eloquent enough to lead. Even after watching his staff turn into a serpent and his hand turn leprous and back again, Moses still doubted. "Please, Lord," he said, "I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

God's response was gentle but firm: "Who made man's mouth? ... Is it not I, the Lord? Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what to say." Yet Moses hesitated again, and God allowed Aaron, his older brother, to serve as his spokesman. Aaron would speak, but Moses would lead.

## The better choice?

In the beginning, Aaron seemed the better choice. He was fluent, respected, and able to stand before Pharaoh without stammering. He wielded the rod that brought the plagues and stood beside Moses in every confrontation. But when the pressure came — when Moses was up on the mountain and the people grew restless — Aaron folded. He took their gold, fashioned the calf, built the altar, and even declared a festival to it. When confronted, he blamed the people: "They gave me the gold, I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

## Moses stood firm

Moses, by contrast, stood firm. He called sin what it was. He interceded for the people, even offering his own life if it might spare theirs: "If You will not forgive them, blot me out of Your book." Moses cared more



about God's honor than his own reputation.

That's why God chose Moses. Aaron had the voice; Moses had the heart. God knew that when Israel's faith faltered, Moses would not bend to the crowd. It's not that God didn't care about Aaron — He did. But He knew that Moses had the depth of character to face the trials of leadership without bending.

We often look at others and think, they're more talented, more polished, more qualified. But God looks deeper. He doesn't need our eloquence; He needs our obedience. He knows our limitations and equips us for what He calls us to do.

So when God calls you — even if you feel unworthy or unready — don't look at what you lack. Look at who's sending you. God chose Moses over Aaron because faithfulness matters more than fluency. And when He calls you, He'll give you all you need to finish the task. ■

*Mystery Mountain Minister is a retired pastor who resides in the foothills of Mt. Hood. He occasionally writes for Hoodview News.*



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# OCTOBER

### OCTOBER

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Ps. 93; Jer. 3,4; I Cor. 2,3      | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Ps. 108; Jer. 33,34; II Cor. 9       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Ps. 94; Jer. 5,6; I Cor. 4,5      | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Ps. 109; Jer. 35,36; II Cor. 10      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Ps. 95; Jer. 7,8; I Cor. 6        | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Ps. 110; Jer. 37,38; II Cor. 11      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Ps. 96; Jer. 9,10; I Cor. 7       | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Ps. 111; Jer. 39,40; II Cor. 12,13   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Ps. 97; Jer. 11,12; I Cor. 8,9    | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Ps. 112; Jer. 41,42; Gal. 1,2        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Ps. 98; Jer. 13,14; I Cor. 10     | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Ps. 113; Jer. 43,44; Gal. 3,4        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Ps. 99; Jer. 15,16; I Cor. 11,12  | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Ps. 114; Jer. 45,46; Gal. 5          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Ps. 100; Jer. 17,18; I Cor. 13,14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Ps. 115; Jer. 47,48; Gal. 6          |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Ps. 102; Jer. 21,22; I Cor. 16   | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Ps. 117; Jer. 51,52; Eph. 2          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Ps. 103; Jer. 23,24; II Cor. 1   | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Ps. 118; Lam. 1,2; Eph. 3,4          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Ps. 104; Jer. 25,26; II Cor. 2,3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Ps. 119:1-48; Lam. 3,4; Eph. 5,6     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Ps. 105; Jer. 27,28; II Cor. 4,5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Ps. 119:49-80; Lam. 5; Phil. 1       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Ps. 106; Jer. 29,30; II Cor. 6,7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Ps. 119:81-96; Ezek. 1-3; Phil. 2,3  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Ps. 107; Jer. 31,32; II Cor. 8   | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Ps. 119:97-128; Ezek. 4,5; Phil. 4   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Ps. 119:129-144; Ezek. 6,7; Col. 1,2 |

PROCLAIM CHRIST: Salvation not by works

Ephesians 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

B-7

NASB 95

PROCLAIM CHRIST: Salvation not by works

Titus 3:5

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit..."

Titus 3:5

B-8

NASB 95

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# Why Christ will rule the universe

How the Cross of Christ defeated Satan, vindicated God, and gives Christ the right to rule the universe for eternity

## 1. THE GREATNESS OF CHRIST

**D**o you think you know Christ — who He is, what He came to do, and how far His work reaches?

We haven't even begun to grasp His greatness. The real Jesus Christ is beyond human comprehension, greater than theology can define, higher than imagination can scale. Yet Scripture invites us to look upward and outward — to stretch our minds and hearts toward the edges of what revelation allows. Even then, we will only dimly perceive the immensity of His glory.

Still, what we can know is enough to change everything.

Come with me for a moment, and let's look at Christ, not only as Savior of humanity, but as

Lord of the universe. What if the work He did on earth — His birth, His life, His death, and resurrection — did more than redeem fallen people? What if it also resolved an ancient question that shook heaven itself?

That is the astounding truth we will explore: that the Cross of Christ answered the greatest question in the universe and gave Christ the right to rule it forever.

## 2. THE IMMENSITY OF GOD AND THE MYSTERY OF HIS CARE

We often speak of the intimacy of God — His nearness, His personal concern — and rightly so. But we can become so familiar with His intimacy that we forget His immensity.

In 1995, NASA turned the

Hubble Space Telescope toward what seemed an empty patch of sky — a speck no larger than a grain of sand held at arm's length. When the image came back, it revealed ten thousand galaxies, each containing billions of stars. Later calculations suggested that if that tiny patch of sky held such multitudes, then the whole universe might contain thousands of millions of galaxies, each bursting with suns and worlds beyond counting.

Our Milky Way — with its 100 to 400 billion stars — is only one among them. The nearest galaxy, Andromeda, is two and a half million light-years away. We can state such numbers, but we cannot truly imagine them. The distances defy comprehension.

Now consider this: Believers hold that the God who created all this — who spoke light itself into being and spread the heavens like a curtain — also formed you. He knows the number of hairs on your head. He notices the sparrow that falls unseen in a forest. The same mind that planned the superclusters of galaxies cares about your secret thoughts.

And even more incomprehensible: that this infinite Creator stepped into His own creation. Out of all the stars, all the worlds, He came to this small planet, in an ordinary galaxy, among ordinary people — and emptied Himself to become one of us. He lived sinlessly, taught truth, healed the broken, and finally, out of infinite love, offered Himself on a cross to atone for sin, reconciling us to God.

We believe this — we must believe it — but we rarely pause to ask what it means beyond our personal salvation. Love motivated the Creator of the cosmos to come here. Yet, could His mission on this single world have cosmic consequences?

## 3. THE ULTIMATE QUESTION IN THE UNIVERSE: IS GOD GOOD?

Many imagine the central issue of creation to be power: Is God sovereign? But even the demons never doubted that. When they confronted Jesus, they cried, "Have You come to torment us before the time?" (Matt. 8:29). They knew who ruled.

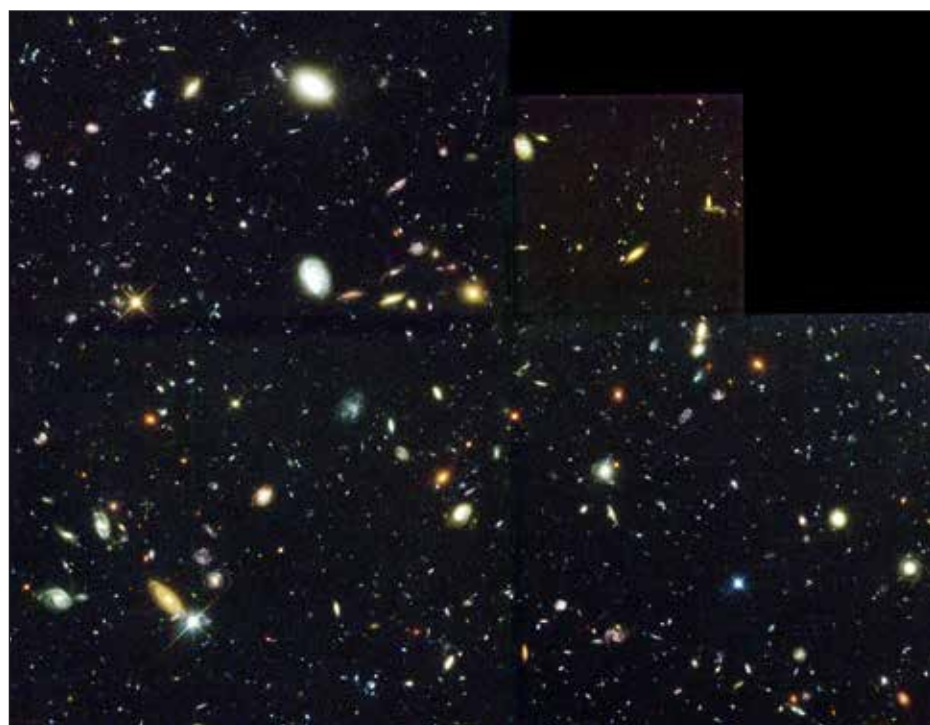
The deepest question of all is not over God's sovereignty. The true issue — in heaven as on earth — is the character of God.

If God is all-powerful but not good, creation trembles. If His motives are self-serving, every intelligent creature has reason to fear. And if He demands love without proving His worthiness of it, then love itself would be coerced.

For eternity to be secure, this question must be answered beyond dispute:

**Is God good — really, truly, perfectly good?**

God's ultimate purpose has always been love — a freely given, mutual relationship with



**IMMENSE:** The most powerful photograph in history, the Hubble Deep Field. Pointed at an apparently tiny empty patch of sky for 10 days, the Hubble telescope returned an image filled with 10,000 galaxies. The universal constant suggestion that the universe is filled with billions of such galaxies, each filled with millions or billions of stars like the sun. (NASA image is in the public domain)

His creatures, both human and angelic. Scripture describes redeemed humanity as "the Bride of Christ," united to Him in everlasting devotion. But love cannot exist where trust is absent. Before creation can rest in joy, the goodness of its Creator must be demonstrated beyond all doubt.

That is the issue Satan raised at the dawn of rebellion — and the question Christ came to settle once and for all.

## 4. THE INDICTMENT: SATAN'S ACCUSATION AGAINST GOD

Satan's war against God did not start with open violence but with a whispered question about God's goodness.

The word "Satan" means accuser. From the beginning, his strategy has been to slander God's character, to plant doubt in the hearts of creatures about the purity of their Creator's motives. He has always sought to make God appear untrustworthy — powerful, yes, but selfish, withholding, and ultimately unjust.

### The First Indictment: The Garden of Eden

When Satan approached Eve in the garden, his temptation was not merely about fruit. It was about faith — whether she would trust the goodness of the One who had made her.

*"The serpent said to the woman, 'You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil'"* (Genesis 3:4-5).

The serpent accused God of lying, of keeping good things from humanity, of clinging jealously to His power. "God knows... you will be like Him." The implication: God isn't truly good. He's holding you back.

The tragedy of Eden began when Eve lost faith in God's goodness. Sin entered the world not merely through disobedi-

ence, but through distrust. Humanity fell by believing that God was not as loving as He claimed.

Yet even then, notice what God did not do. He judged the sin, He cursed the serpent, but He did not defend Himself. He offered no verbal rebuttal, no heavenly press release to explain His motives. He would let the record of history — and ultimately the cross — be His answer.

*"Who will bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies"* (Rom. 8:33).

The time would come when He would justify not only sinners but His own name.

### The Second Indictment: The Case of Job

The same accusation appears again in the book of Job. In a celestial assembly, Satan mocks the faith of a righteous man:

*"Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him?... But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will curse You to Your face"* (Job 1:9-11).

Once again, Satan charges that God's goodness is a facade — that His followers love Him only for what He gives. In essence: God must bribe His creatures to trust Him.

Job's suffering becomes the arena of that accusation. Through the loss of all things, Job's faith endures — and God is vindicated. Yet even at the end, God offers no explanation to Job. He never says, "It was Satan's doing." He simply reveals His majesty and lets His character speak for itself.

In both Eden and Uz, God remains silent under accusation. But in time, He would speak — not in words, but in wounds.

## 5. THE ANCIENT WAR: HEAVEN'S UNSEEN CONFLICT

The rebellion on earth is only a front in a much older and larger war — one that began

not in Eden but in heaven itself. Scripture gives us glimpses:

*"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! ... You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God'"* (Isaiah 14:12-13).

*"The great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan... and his angels were thrown down with him"* (Revelation 12:9).

Once, Satan was a magnificent being — perhaps the most glorious of created spirits. But pride turned him from worshiper to rival. Through deceit, he drew a third of the angels into his rebellion (Rev. 12:4). They chose autonomy over adoration, self-will over submission.

Yet two-thirds of the angelic host remained loyal. On what basis did they remain loyal? The astonishing answer is that they did so by faith!

They did not have all the answers. God had not yet explained why evil was permitted or why He did not immediately destroy the rebel. The loyal angels chose to trust the goodness of their Creator even when they did not fully understand His ways.

They were not sinners needing an atonement, but they were believers trusting by faith. Their loyalty was tested. Their faith in God's goodness — in the absence of explanation — awaited being proven right.

And for that proof, all heaven waited.

## 6. WHY GOD DID NOT DESTROY SATAN IMMEDIATELY

We might wonder, Why didn't God simply destroy Satan at once? Why allow millennia of suffering, deceit, and rebellion?

Because if God had crushed Satan without answering his accusations, the Ultimate

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

## For those who still struggle

For many thoughtful unbelievers, the struggle has never been with the existence of God, but with the goodness of God. If there is a God, they ask, why does He allow evil, suffering, and silence?

But if the story of Scripture is true, and there is powerful objective evidence that it is, then the Cross is God's answer to every one of those questions. It shows that He did not remain aloof from pain, nor indifferent to injustice. He entered our suffering, bore our rebellion, and endured the worst that evil could inflict — not to defend Himself with words, but to reveal His heart through wounds.

If God in Christ has done this — if the Ruler of all chose to stoop, to serve, and to suffer — then the moral center of the universe is love, not power. He cares about you. He thinks about YOU. Christ suffered to prove His love for you.

That changes everything. The Cross does not silence honest doubt; it invites it into the presence of a God who has suffered too. And for every sincere seeker who wonders whether God is truly good, there can be no clearer evidence than the Cross.

Here, at last, is a reason not only to believe in God, but to trust Him. We can seek the reality of good and evil playing out every day. Death is real. Christ offers deliverance from eternal judgment and death. Any reason not to put your trust in the One who loves you today? ■





# Why Christ will rule

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

Question would remain unresolved. Every intelligent creature — angel or human — might wonder in eternity: Was Satan right? Was God hiding something?

True justice must be transparent. Power alone cannot prove goodness. If God's goal is a universe of free and loving beings, He must win their trust — not by force, but by demonstration.

Thus, the rebellion was permitted to unfold until every doubt could be silenced. The arena of that demonstration would not be heaven, where angels dwell, but earth — the one place where God and rebellion, Creator and creature, would meet in flesh and blood.

On a hill outside Jerusalem, the question "Is God good?" would be answered forever.

*"For it was the Father's good pleasure... through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross — whether things on earth or things in heaven" (Colossians 1:19-20).*

## 7. THE ROLE OF CHRIST: GOD'S FINAL SELF-DEFENSE

Across the ages, God endured the accusations of His enemy in silence. He did not debate Satan. He did not convene a heavenly court to clear His name. He waited until the appointed time — until the fullness of history — to step into His own creation and personally answer every charge.

When the Word became flesh (John 1:14), God entered the courtroom of the universe. In Jesus Christ, the invisible Creator stood visible among His creatures. And there, before watching worlds, He lived the very life Satan said God would never live — humble, obedient, self-sacrificing, compassionate to the lowest and least.

*"He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, beheld by angels..." (1 Timothy 3:16).*

The life of Christ was the living defense of God's goodness. The Cross was His closing argument.

At Calvary, God answered the indictment that began in Eden. Satan had said, God is selfish; He withholds the best from His creatures. Yet there, on that blood-stained hill, God gave His best — His own Son — for those who had rebelled against Him. The devil had claimed that God bribes obedience with blessing; but in the garden and on the Cross, Christ obeyed in utter poverty, pain, and rejection, proving that love for the Father is not mercenary but pure.

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God demonstrated before the watching universe that His power is never separated from love, that His justice is never divorced from mercy, and that His good-

ness is absolute.

The Cross was not merely an event of human salvation; it was the cosmic vindication of God's character.

At last, the silence of heaven was broken — not with a thunderclap, but with a cry:

"It is finished."

Those words were more than victory over sin; they were the final answer to every accusation ever raised against the goodness of God.

*"For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself... whether things on earth or things in heaven" (Colossians 1:19-20).*

At the Cross, heaven itself was reconciled — the very realm that had first questioned.

## 8. THE SALVATION OF ANGELS

We rightly say that angels do not need an atonement — they are not fallen in sin as we are. But there is another kind of salvation: the salvation of faith.

Before the Cross, even the loyal angels lived by faith in God's goodness. They trusted Him through millennia of mystery — through suffering they could not explain and evil they could not yet understand. They watched rebellion rage across the heavens and saw their Creator apparently endure blasphemy in silence. They believed He was just, but they had not yet seen the full proof.

Peter tells us that these things were "things into which angels long to look" (1 Peter 1:12). They peered into the unfolding drama of redemption, waiting for the final revelation of God's heart.

At Calvary, they saw it.

There, the Almighty allowed Himself to be bound. The Creator let the creature drive nails into His hands. The Word, by whom all things were made, hung mute between heaven and earth — the Maker slain by His own creation.

The angels watched in astonishment as divine love did the unthinkable: it suffered. And in that moment, their faith was justified. Everything they had believed about God — His justice, His mercy, His unselfish goodness — was vindicated forever.

No longer would any heavenly being need to ask whether God was good. The Cross settled it for all eternity.

From that day forward, the loyalty of the angels could never again be shaken. They serve now not merely from duty, but from unveiled adoration. They have seen love itself — any possibility of future doubt was foreclosed.

Thus, in a profound and mysterious sense, Christ's work was for them as well as for us. Not to atone for their sin, but to confirm their faith. Heaven itself was "reconciled" — not cleansed, but convinced.

*"He made known to us the mystery of His will... to bring unity to all things in heaven*

*and on earth under Christ" (Ephesians 1:9-10).*

## 9. THE CROSS AS THE HINGE POINT OF THE UNIVERSE AND ETERNITY

The Crucifixion was not just a local event. It was the cosmic axis around which all creation turns. From the smallest atom to the furthest galaxy, everything in heaven and earth finds its meaning there.

When Christ was born, angels filled the sky with song: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased" (Luke 2:14).*

They knew what was at stake. The war that began in heaven would end on earth.

Throughout His ministry, angels watched — from the wilderness temptation to Gethsemane, from the empty tomb to the Mount of Ascension. They were not distant spectators but invested witnesses. The honor of their Creator, the vindication of their faith, the peace of their realm — all hung upon the outcome of that lonely cross.

When Jesus cried out, "Father, into Your hands I

***For every being who ever questioned the heart of God, the Cross stands as eternal evidence: God is good beyond all question.***

commit My spirit," and the veil of the temple tore in two, the universe itself shifted. The rebellion's great lie had been exposed. The love of God had been revealed in a way no creature could ever dispute.

In that moment, the greatest power met the greatest goodness, and they were one.

*"Having disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:15).*

Through His wounds, Christ conquered. Through His humility, He claimed the throne. Through His suffering, He silenced every accuser in heaven and on earth.

The Cross is not just the center of our salvation — it is the center of everything.

## 10. THE DEFEAT OF SATAN

Satan's last weapon was accusation. For ages he had charged that God was unjust — that His commands were arbitrary, His judgments cruel, His love self-serving. He hurled those charges across heaven and earth, sowing doubt wherever hearts could hear.

But on Calvary, the accuser

lost his case.

*"Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night" (Rev. 12:10).*

When Christ offered Himself without sin, the devil's argument collapsed. No longer could he point to God and sneer, "You demand obedience but give nothing of Yourself." At the Cross, God gave all of Himself. The Creator bore the pain of His own creation. The Judge took the judgment.

For every being who ever questioned the heart of God, the Cross stands as eternal evidence: God is good beyond all question.

Satan is not yet destroyed — his sentence awaits execution — but he is utterly defeated. His lies have been exposed. His power to accuse is gone. The victory is not one of mere might but of moral triumph. The universe has seen love stronger than pride, humility greater than power, and goodness unconquerable even by death.

*"Through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14).*

In Christ's pierced hands, the moral government of the cosmos is secure.

## 11. THE SUMMING UP OF ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

What began in rebellion ends in reconciliation. Through Christ, God is gathering every thread of creation into one vast tapestry of harmony and praise.

*"He made known to us the mystery of His will... the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth." (Eph. 1:9-10)*

The Cross is that mystery revealed — the meeting place of heaven and earth, justice and mercy, Creator and creature. By it, the alienation introduced by sin — and the suspicion sown by Satan — are healed.

Paul writes: *"It pleased the Father... through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven" (Colossians 1:19-20).*

That phrase — "things in heaven" — often goes unexplained. It cannot mean forgiven sinners, for heaven needs no atonement. It points instead to something deeper: the reconciliation of the heavenly realm itself, the restoration of trust, the vindication of angelic faith.

At the Cross, not only were human sinners redeemed, but the entire moral structure of creation was made whole. Every being, every law, every realm finds coherence in Christ.

When we see the work of Christ against the immensity of the universe — the thousands of billions of galaxies, the unmeasured expanse of creation — one might wish the universe were smaller, or the atonement somehow bigger. Yet the truth is the reverse: the atonement is

far greater than we have ever imagined.

Its power reaches beyond our world, beyond our history, beyond time itself — summing up all things in Him who died and rose again.

## 12. THE RIGHT TO RULE: WHY CHRIST MUST REIGN

Because Christ alone answered the Ultimate Question, He alone is worthy to rule. His throne is not seized by force but granted by moral right.

*"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing" (Revelation 5:12).*

In the heavenly vision of John, no one was found worthy to open the scroll of destiny — until the Lamb appeared, bearing the marks of crucifixion. Power belongs to Him precisely because love belongs to Him. His scars are His credentials.

• Through His humiliation, He has been exalted.

• Through His obedience, He has inherited the name above every name.

• Through His sacrifice, He has earned the allegiance of every realm.

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me" (Matthew 28:18).*

No other being could claim that crown. Angels are mighty but not merciful enough. Humans are compassionate but too frail. Only the God-Man, crucified and risen, unites strength with goodness, justice with grace.

The Cross has made His rule incontestable. The universe has witnessed the heart of its King — pierced, yet triumphant. He reigns not merely because He created all things, but because He redeemed them; not merely because He is infinite, but because He is infinitely good.

## 13. THE UNIVERSE AT PEACE

When Christ cried out, "It is finished," the words rippled through creation. The conflict that began before time had reached its conclusion. The rebellion born in pride was defeated by humility. The accusation that God was not good was answered by love nailed to a cross.

At last, heaven and earth could rest.

No corner of creation remains untouched by that triumph. The stars that once witnessed the rebellion now blaze to His glory. The angels who waited in faith now sing in sight. Humanity, once estranged, is invited home. Even the groaning of nature (Rom. 8:22) awaits its renewal under the hand of the Redeemer.

In the New Creation, there will be no shadow of doubt, no whisper of accusation, no suspicion of the heart of God. The wounds of the Lamb will stand as eternal testimony: God is love.

*"And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the*

*sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,*

*"To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and power forever and ever!" (Revelation 5:13).*

Every realm will join the song. Angels who once watched in wonder will harmonize with redeemed humanity. The universe will become a symphony of praise — every note resonating with the goodness of God revealed in Christ.

There will never again be a challenge to His throne, never again a question about His heart. The Cross settled it. The Lamb reigns because He is worthy.

In that eternal peace, the faithful angels will rejoice that their trust was not in vain. We, the redeemed, will know that grace was not cheap. And all creation will live in the light of the One who proved beyond all measure that omnipotence and goodness are one.

## 14. CLOSING REFLECTION: THE IMMENSE ATONEMENT

When we look at the night sky — at the swirling arms of galaxies beyond number — we may feel small, even lost. Yet in the center of that vastness stands a cross.

The Maker of worlds became flesh on one small planet, in one brief moment of cosmic history, to reveal the truth about Himself to every realm and every heart. That act did not merely save sinners; it secured creation. It ensured that love, not power, would rule the universe forever.

In eternity, we will still be studying it. As Christ said, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away." (Mat. 24:35)* The story of the Cross — the truth it reveals about the heart of God — will remain the subject of angelic praise and human wonder without end.

For now, we see it dimly. We struggle to imagine how one event on one hill could shake galaxies. But someday, in the fullness of glory, we will understand that the atonement was not only sufficient for sin — it was large enough for everything.

When we behold the expanse of creation, we need not wish the universe were smaller, for the atonement is vast enough to fill it.

The throne of the universe belongs to the Lamb who was slain. His crown is love. His reign is peace. And His name will be praised in every world, by every voice, forever.

*"For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:36) ■*

©2025. The concepts discussed here are derived from the book, "The Salvation of Angels."



# The Senior Boys of Summer

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

For some, the game is a fountain of youth. For others, it is the best kind of therapy. As Jim Huber said: “It gives you that four hours away from the world’s problems.” Still others emphasize the physical benefits. Chuck Saul said, “At my age, it’s all about movement. That’s why I play softball. It’s physical activity. I enjoy it.”

And for the oldest players, the game is nothing short of a blessing. As Phil Forsline noted, “It’s just a blessing. Life is a gift.”

Beyond all the pitches, hits, and catches is a simple truth: these players keep showing up because the game still matters. It gives structure to their weeks, goals to their practices, and personal connections to their days. As league administrator Bill Tidd put it, “All leagues exist because people love the game, and it’s only the volunteers, on a daily and yearly basis, that keep it going.”

But softball in PASS is not only about joy and nostalgia. It is also about perseverance. Assistant manager Billy Kidd spoke candidly about what it has meant to play through illness and the

slowing of time. Even so, Kidd continues to show up — as a coach, as a teammate. His presence is a reminder that the game is not only for those at their peak, but also for those who simply want to keep being part of something larger than themselves.

***Tournaments, especially the giant “Worlds” in Las Vegas, bring together hundreds of teams, creating a spectacle that looks and feels every bit like a professional championship. Winners even walk away with rings to rival the Super Bowl’s.***

That sense of belonging is what makes senior softball powerful. Tom Mayer, commissioner of the North Clackamas recreational division, describes it as a brotherhood.

That love is evident in



Field of Dreams: The McKenzie team in the field at North Clackamas park. (Photo Joan Wiley)

every handshake, every high-five, every barbecue under the pavilion at season’s end. For McKenzie Electric and for PASS as a whole, softball is more than recreation. It is camaraderie, health, memory, and the love of the game.

## All over the nation

What happens on the fields of Clackamas and Delta Park is part of something much bigger. Senior softball has

quietly grown into a nationwide pastime, with leagues and tournaments stretching from Massachusetts and Florida to California, drawing tens of thousands of players in their fifties, sixties, seventies, and beyond.

At the national level, organizations like Senior Softball USA (SSUSA), the International Senior Softball Association (ISSA), and the Softball Players Association (SPA) provide structure and

consistency. They set age brackets — beginning at 50 and climbing in five-year steps all the way into the 80s — and establish guidelines for everything from bat standards to safety rules. Tournaments, especially the giant “Worlds” in Las Vegas, bring together hundreds of teams, creating a spectacle that looks and feels every bit like a professional championship. Winners even walk away with rings to rival the

Super Bowl’s.

Senior softball has also adapted its rules and equipment to keep the game lively for older athletes. Bats are engineered to a “hotter” standard than those used in younger leagues, giving hitters the extra pop needed to send a ball over the fence. Softballs are often a harder-flying model, designed to carry. Safety modifications — pitcher’s screens,

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# The Senior Boys of Summer

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

courtesy runners, scoring lines, and no-collision rules — protect players while keeping the pace fun and competitive.

PASS fits comfortably into that landscape. Though it is not formally tied to any national body, the league follows Senior Softball USA's general guidelines

and is covered by its insurance program. "We follow the basic guidelines, but we modify the rules to fit our people and how we want to play," explained league administrator Bill Tidd. That flexibility gives local seniors the best of both worlds: the freedom to tailor the game to their community, while still staying connected to the broader movement.

The result is a uniquely local expression of a national passion. Whether it's a dou-

bleheader on a Monday morning in Clackamas or a championship run in Las Vegas, the spirit is the same: men and women who still love the game, and who find in it both challenge and camaraderie.

## Still boys at heart

When Roger Kahn revisited the Dodger players of 1953 in the later 1960s, he found men who had long since laid down their bats. Some had moved into business or broadcasting, others into quieter lives far from Ebbets Field. Some were happy and successful, others were mourning the loss of what was, still others never seemed to let go of the past.

Sportswriter Joe Posnanski once observed that Kahn's "The Boys of Summer" was less about baseball than it was about trying to hold on to youth. He cited the book's final line: "You spend a good piece of your life gripping a baseball, and in the end, it turns out that it was the other way around all the time."

That line could just as easily describe the men of the Portland Area Senior Softball League. Each week, they step onto the diamond not only to compete, but to reclaim something timeless — the feel of the glove, the crack of a well-hit ball, the joy of running the bases, the

satisfaction of snagging that line drive.

There is one ironic difference, though. When Kahn's retired Dodgers were interviewed in the 1960s, they were still far too young to qualify to play senior softball.

Here in Portland, the senior boys — and girls — of summer are not holding on to the past. They are very much living in the present — and proving, season after season, that the game never truly lets go. They may now be seniors with the wear and tear of years, but they are still kids at heart, playing the best they can for the love of the game. **HVN**



Hard-hitting Chuck Saul taking a cut. When Saul is at the plate, opposing teams have one instruction for their outfielders, "Move back!" (Photo Joan Wiley)



81-year-old Jerry Grover looks to drive the ball hard. (Photo Joan Wiley)

## Want to Play Senior Softball?

Portland Area Senior Softball (PASS) is open to men and women ages 61 (competitive) and 65 and older (recreational), with divisions to fit every level of play:

- **Recreational Leagues (65+)** - Mondays at 10 a.m. (North Clackamas Park) and Tuesdays at 10 a.m. (Delta Park).
- **Competitive League (61+)** - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. (North Clackamas Park).
- **Super Seniors (75+)** - Thursdays at 11 a.m. (Delta Park).

You don't need to know anyone to get started. New players simply sign up, and the league's draft system places you on a team. It's easy, welcoming, and designed so everyone has a chance to play. Many of today's regulars first showed up knowing no one — and now count their teammates as friends.

### How to Join:

Visit [www.seniorsoftballportlandoregon.com](http://www.seniorsoftballportlandoregon.com) to register, or contact PASS administrator Bill Tidd at [wtidd96218@aol.com](mailto:wtidd96218@aol.com) or call 443-996-1011 / 360-967-2321 for more information. ■



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