

Lifestyle

COLUMBIA BASIN HERALD

» REV. KLOCKERS
Is your life plotted out in a script?
Religion, B3

» CROSSWORD B2
» SUDOKU B2
» CLASSIFIEDS B4
» CHURCH DIRECTORY B3
» TODAY'S TV GUIDE B4

columbiabasinherald.com

A hero's parade

World War II veteran honored for 99th birthday

By CHERYL SCHWEIZER
Staff Writer

MOSES LAKE — Geb Galle didn't see it himself — he was two decks below at his battle station — but most of the eyewitnesses said it seemed like every Japanese plane over Pearl Harbor drew a bead on the USS Nevada.

It was about 8:45 a.m., Dec. 7, 1941.

Galle, veteran of the Pearl Harbor attack, whose second ship was sunk off the waters of Guadalcanal, who fought in nearly every major engagement in the Pacific in World War II, turned 99 years old Monday. Family and friends came up with a surprise for his birthday that made him tear up.

December 7 was just another Sunday morning, Galle said, and he was waiting belowdecks for the launch that would take sailors to shore for church services. All of a sudden some of his shipmates came running in, saying something was going on — there were explosions and unfamiliar planes over the harbor.

Galle stuck his head out the porthole to see what was up, he said. He saw planes overhead but he couldn't see their insignia. But what was happening became clear all too soon.

Nevada was at one end of the line of battleships moored off Ford Island, known as Battleship Row. She was tied up directly in front of the USS Arizona. Alone of all the vessels on Battleship Row, Nevada had power and nothing in her way. Her crew was not about to just sit there.

Galle was in the engineer-

ing section, and at his battle station it was hard to know what was going on outside, he said. "Of course, we felt a couple jolts, and that's when we got hit with the torpedo, and we had a few bomb hits."

As Nevada headed across the harbor the attackers went right for her. Somebody eventually counted all the hits she took — one torpedo and at least six bombs. Her crew was ordered to beach her near the harbor entrance, and they reluctantly complied.

The spot where the Nevada came to rest is memorialized with a plaque on a nearby rock, installed during the 75th anniversary commemoration of the attack. "I had the honor of placing that plaque on that rock," Galle said.

Only later, when he was released from his battle station, did Galle really get a chance to look at the harbor. "After we were beached and everything, and we got up to topside, then we saw all the mess that took place."

He remembered the sight of USS Oklahoma, which had capsized, and the remains of the Arizona, which had blown up. "A pretty sad lookout," he said.

Nevada required extensive repairs and wouldn't need a full crew for a while. Her sailors were needed for other jobs, however.

"They took a lot of the guys off the battleships and distributed them among the other ships," Galle said. "A week or so later I was transferred to a heavy cruiser, the Northampton."



Cheryl Schweizer/Columbia Basin Herald

Moved to tears by the tribute, World War II veteran Geb Galle doffs his hat in tribute to the first responders and Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle group. Fire trucks and police vehicles drove by Galle's house in recognition of his 99th birthday Sunday.



Cheryl Schweizer/Columbia Basin Herald

World War II veteran Geb Galle (right) got a parade of fire trucks and law enforcement vehicles Sunday in honor of his 99th birthday. Family friend Megan Cox (left) organized the drive-by.

The USS Northampton was an escort, traveling with the aircraft carriers. Galle was in the task force when James Dolittle and his raiders launched their attack on Japan.

Like most ships in the Pacific fleet, the Northampton was sucked into the battles that swirled around the island of Guadalcanal in the fall of 1942. It was there that the Northampton met her end, and Galle made a choice that, he said, could've gotten him court-martialed and shot.

The Northampton was torpedoed during the Battle of Tassafaronga and began taking on water. As the ship struggled, Galle said he

heard somebody pounding on a hatch.

"That was the after-steering. You went down there, and then they closed the hatch, and they dogged it down on top of you. You couldn't get out of there unless somebody opened it up from the top. I had to stand watch down there, and I knew that was an eerie feeling, to be trapped down there and not being able to escape."

The Northampton was in trouble, and one of the officers told Galle not to open that hatch — it was watertight, and seawater was already flooding into other parts of the ship. Galle wait-

See GALLE, B3



Cheryl Schweizer/Columbia Basin Herald

Members of the Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle club, fire trucks and law enforcement vehicles staged a parade Sunday in honor of Geb Galle, a World War II veteran, for his 99th birthday.

Religion

Is your life plotted out in a script?

By Rev. WALTER KLOCKERS
Immanuel Lutheran Church

There are those who believe the path and ultimate destination of our lives have been predetermined. For these folks, we are mere actors following a script.



Scripture has a good deal of evidence to support this belief. For example, Ephesians 1:5 says: "He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will."

While I am open to the possibility of predestination, it is not what I believe. Why is this so?

Part of my reasoning is based upon the primary method Jesus used to reach people. Jesus told teaching stories called parables to talk about the kingdom of God.

The characters in

each parable held common occupations or possessed positions of familiar social standing. As such, everyone could relate to them in one way or another. Here is an example from Luke's Gospel, Chapter 14, verses 28-33, which speaks of a builder and a ruler:

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not

give up all your possessions."

Jesus gave this parable in order to convince. To my eye, as such, most of the parables Jesus gave do not fit squarely within a box of predestination. They were given to urge people to make the right choices. This indicates free will.

I tend to think that we have been placed on this earth to grow. The best way to accomplish this is to have the freedom to make mistakes and possibly learn from them.

I see Scripture as containing both elements of predestination and free will. How this works, is a mystery that God only knows the answer.

That said, I believe God has given us a creative license. Why? Well, for the purpose of writing part of our own scripts.

How is your script being written today? It's not too late to make a few changes. You have the freedom to do so.

Walter is pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Moses Lake and has served as parish pastor for more than 30 years.

Biden's election bid touts faith, courts even religious conservatives

By ELANA SCHOR and JACK JENKINS

President Donald Trump's appeal to religious conservatives is a cornerstone of his political identity. But Joe Biden is a different kind of foe than Trump has faced before: one who makes faith a central part of his persona — often literally wearing it on his sleeve.

In fact, Biden's practice of carrying a rosary that belonged to his late son Beau caught the attention of one of his Democratic presidential rivals when the two were awaiting a debate last year. Standing backstage next to Biden, Pete Buttigieg asked the lifelong Catholic about the prayer beads and fell into a conversation about loss, family and faith.

Biden "often talks about the comfort and meaning that he's drawn from faith," said Buttigieg,

Biden's primary rival-turned-endorsers. "That's something that will resonate with Americans a lot more than usual."

Democrats are betting on Biden's evident comfort with faith as a powerful point of contrast with Trump. The faith-focused work underway within Biden's campaign suggests that, while he may not significantly undercut the president's popularity among white evangelicals, he could chip away at Trump's base by appealing to pockets of conservative faithful.

Biden's identity as "a very devout Catholic and person of deep faith," deputy political director John McCarthy said, is "baked into the core messaging and core functions of the campaign."

Biden has framed his presidential bid as a fight for "the soul of the nation," a

subtle invocation of the Catholic beliefs that have guided his life. His campaign has released three digital ads focused on faith, including one crediting his religious practices with instilling a "sense of solace."

It's a notable contrast with Hillary Clinton, who lost in 2016 after a campaign that largely sidelined her Methodist faith.

As Trump promises to be evangelicals' "champion" on policy, Biden is making a less transactional play for religious support, betting that a beliefs-focused brand will be more persuasive than agreement on an agenda.

"For faith and values voters," McCarthy said, Biden's spiritual authenticity is "the quality they're looking for." They might disagree on a particular issue, he added, but can connect with Biden through a shared worldview.

GALLE

from B1

ed until the officer had gone up on the deck.

"I went back down there, and I opened up the hatch, and I told those four guys, 'Come on, get out of there. That equipment can run without you.' Then I closed that hatch back down again, and that made it watertight," Galle said.

It was a big risk. "I disobeyed orders, I could've been shot," he said, but as far as he was concerned it was the right thing to do.

It was part of his philosophy during his Navy service, he said, to do what needed to be done to the best of his ability. "I was asked to give my ultimate. And I gave it," he said. He did it without flinching. "We jumped in and did it," he said.

He never knew what happened to the four men, but he was certain they survived, he said.

As far as abandoning

ship in a battle zone in the middle of the night goes, the end of the Northampton was pretty orderly. Destroyers picked up most of the survivors, but some men, including Galle, had to spend the rest of the night and part of the next morning on a life raft.

"It happened to be a moonlit night that night," he remembered. "You could see the sharks swimming alongside you." In fact, "we could reach them and pet them," he said.

When dawn came the survivors were picked up by PT boats, small wooden boats that were designed to launch torpedoes.

Eventually Galle was reassigned to a new ship, the light cruiser USS Macon. From its commissioning in 1943, the Macon fought its way across the Pacific as part of various escort groups. From Pearl Harbor to the war's end in 1945, Galle said he was in 19 major engagements.

He was discharged in



Cheryl Schweizer/Columbia Basin Herald

Geb Galle (right) talks with Scott Anderson of Grant County Fire District No. 5 Sunday.

1946, married and had five children, eventually moving to the Pacific Northwest. He was a resident of Stevenson, in the Columbia Gorge, before moving to Moses Lake to live with family.

A family friend also had moved from

Stevenson to Moses Lake, and that friend, Megan Cox, thought Galle deserved a celebration for his 99th birthday.

Her dad Dave Cox suggested a drive-by parade of first responder vehicles. "I just started making phone calls," Megan

Cox said. The parade was scheduled for July 19.

The Moses Lake Fire Department, Grant County Fire District No. 5, the Washington State Patrol and the Grant County Sheriff's Office provided vehicles. The parade was escorted by

members of the Patriot Guard Riders, volunteers from throughout eastern Washington who work with the American Legion to support veterans.

Galle's family didn't tell him the parade was coming. He was talking with visitors Sunday afternoon when his daughter Lynda Palmer told him to turn around and look up the street.

The Patriot Guard Riders led the fire trucks and law enforcement vehicles up the street, sirens wailing. At first, Galle couldn't believe they were for him.

But they were, and the Patriot Guard parked their bikes, stood at attention and saluted him. Firefighters and sheriff's deputies thanked him for his service.

Galle took off his hat to acknowledge the salute given to him, and was moved to tears.

"This is beautiful," he said.

Cheryl Schweizer can be reached via email at education@columbiabasinherald.com.

Columbia Basin Worship Guide

• MOSES LAKE •

APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH
1475 Nelson Rd. NE, Suite B, Rm. 206
Services available on YouTube at The Apostolic Lutheran Church in Moses Lake, WA

BAHA'I FAITH
1842 W. Broadway

CALVARY CHAPEL
8791 Hillcrest Dr. NE • 509-237-9537
Services on YouTube at Calvary Chapel Moses Lake

CATHOLIC CHURCH - OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH
200 N. Dale Rd.
Streaming live from Our Lady of Fatima Facebook Sundays, 9 am in English 10 am in Spanish

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1515 S Division

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH - SBC
516 E. Nelson Rd. • 765-8201
Pastor Mike Brownell
Sunday Service live on Facebook 11am, at ebc mosles

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
940 E. Nelson Rd. • 509-361-3158
Pastor Paul Riegel
Worship Service 10 am
Wednesday Night 6:30 pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
724 Fourth Ave. • 765-5202
fbcml.org
Sunday School 9:45 am
Fellowship time 10:30 am
Worship Service 11 am
Sunday evening life groups 6 pm
Tuesday evening AWANA ages 3-5th grade 6:15-7:45 pm
Wednesday evening LINK youth 6th-12th grade 6:30-8:30 pm
Andy Grenier-senior pastor
Sean Sallis-associate pastor

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
422 S. Balsam

GALILEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1905 W. Basin St.

GENERATIONS CHURCH ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
431 E. Brown
Online services available
Wednesdays @ 10:00am and
Sundays @ 10:00am via our FB page.
https://www.facebook.com/gcmoseslake/

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN (ELCA)
1020 S. "A" Street • 765-8621
www.facebook.com/ilcmoseslake
Pastor Walter Klockers
Worship Service 10 am
Sunday School 11 am
The Worship Service may be heard
Sundays on KBSN-AM 1470 at 11am

JOURNEY CHURCH
MLHS - 803 Sharon Ave E
431-8764 • Pastor: Ed Burns
View Pastor Ed's messages at
journeymoseslake.org

LAKE CITY FOURSQUARE CHURCH
333 N. Central Dr. • 765-1010
Streaming live Sundays at 10:30 am.
Go to lakecityfoursquare.org
or to Facebook at
Lake City Foursquare Church

LAKE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
935 W. Valley Rd.

LAKEVIEW MISSIONARY CHURCH
810 S. Evergreen Dr.

LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC
2609 West Broadway Ave

MOSES LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH
4334 Joann Dr. NE

MOSES LAKE CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE
1100 N. Grape
Streaming services Sundays 9 am & 11 am at livethecall.org or on Facebook
Moses Lake Alliance Church

MOSES LAKE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
200 E. Yonezawa Blvd. • 766-1581
The church has left the building
For more information visit our website,
www.mlcc.us

MOSES LAKE CHURCH OF CHRIST
808 E. Sharon Ave.

MOSES LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1142 West Ivy Ave. • 765-8819
Our Sunday service audio/video can be accessed in the following ways:
Website:
http://www.moseslakepres.org
Facebook: mosles lake presbyterian church
Church App: mosles lake pres app

MOSES LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
746 S. Ironwood Drive • 765-5332
Currently Services are suspended
Pastor Linda Lusnia is preaching and sharing the Good News on YouTube.
Link below from last Sunday.
https://youtu.be/McQ61awxdoU

NEW HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP COGOP
4612 Grape Dr. NE

PENINSULA COMMUNITY CHURCH
2403 W. Texas St.

SENDERO LIFE CENTER
2227 Peninsula Dr. • 765-0421
Services online on Facebook and YouTube, Sundays at 9:30 am in Spanish and 11 am and 1 pm in English. Lookup Sendero Life Center

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
1601 W. Valley Rd., Moses Lake

ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
416 East Nelson Rd.
Sunday Service at 9 am at Brent Tilson Facebook

• EPHRATA •

BETHLEHEM CHAPEL
612 3rd Ave. SE

NAZARENE CHURCH OF EPHRATA
33 D St. Ephrata

• SOAP LAKE •

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
4th and Division

• MATTAWA •

OUR LADY OF THE DESERT
301 S. 8th

• QUINCY •

QUINCY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
420 H St. SE

QUINCY FIRST ASSEMBLY
526 H Street SE, Quincy WA 98848
At this time we are only having Live streaming service at 10:30am Sundays on our Facebook page.
Quincy First Assembly of God

• RITZVILLE •

MENNO MENNONITE CHURCH
1378 N Damon Rd

• ROYAL CITY •

ST. MICHAEL PARISH
205 Wildflower NE.

• WARDEN •

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
1017 S. County Rd.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WARDEN
Corner of 11th & Grant

QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
1100 S. Pine

WARDEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD
416 Oak St.

WARDEN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Corner of 3rd & Oak
View sermons live on facebook at Warden Community church or go to
www.youtube.com/user/pastoredb

WILSON CREEK GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
651 Sprague St.

