

RESCUE

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and asked the driver to stay with Voelker to make sure he was OK.

"(The driver) went into the woods to sit with (Voelker) and talked to him so he wasn't alone," Royston said.

He estimated they had to drive about eight miles down the road to get cell coverage so they could call 911. Due to the proximity of cellphone towers, the call routed itself to the Union County dispatch center, instead of Umatilla County. The dispatchers asked Royston to wait by the highway and flag down first responders when they arrived.

Royston said about 20 minutes later, LifeFlight arrived. They were able to lead the helicopter to the approximate location where Voelker was, but the helicopter crew didn't have the right equipment to get him down.

Then the calvary showed up. "About 30 people or so (came to the scene)," Royston said. "It was just awesome."

La Grande Fire Department, Union County Search and Rescue, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op and the U.S. Forest Service all came together to help save Voelker.

Nick Vora, a lieutenant for the Union County Search and Rescue, said he arrived on the scene moments after the LGFD.

"At that point, we were thinking about what we were going to do to get him down," Vora said. "We needed to get up to the guy and didn't have the resources to do that."

Vora said that problem was solved by the creative thinking of the LGFD.

LGFD Capt. Robert Tibbetts and LGFD EMT Jerid Ployhar were responding when Ployhar made a comment about calling OTEC to

the scene.

"Jerid lives down from OTEC and he said he has seen them training for that type of rescue — for when linemen need saving from power poles," Tibbetts said. "The information we were given (by dispatch) was that we could drive right up to the patient. Knowing he was 25 feet in the air, it was a good fit to call OTEC."

Tibbetts said as far as he knew, that was the first time the fire department had requested OTEC's bucket truck in a rescue mission.

"I wasn't certain they were going to play ball," Tibbetts said. "Not because they aren't helpful, but because it was such an unusual request. It was rolling the dice."

OTEC La Grande District Superintendent Matt Haggerty said, "We are always willing to help out in the community, and it's rare to hear from first responders. We immediately deployed a truck and got there as quickly as possible."

Before the electric company arrived on scene, Umatilla SAR Sgt. Johnson called the Forest Service, which provided two certified tree climbers with the necessary equipment.

"(We) set up a rope system from the ground and had the Forest Service tree climber set an anchor for a pulley system above the patient," Vora said. "While that was going on, the fire department medics were (preparing) treatment for the medical complications of being upside down for a period of time."

Tibbetts said that being upside down for an extended length of time can lead to poor circulation and a multitude of issues for the body once it's upright.

"We knew the likelihood of cardiac arrest is extraordinarily high. We knew we couldn't barge in and put him in the (bucket) truck without doing treatment first," Tibbetts said. "We were forced to slow



Umatilla County Sheriff's Office photo

On Tuesday, a group of agencies from Union and Umatilla counties worked together to help a man who had tangled himself up in ropes after falling from his tree stand.

it down a bit and deal with the medical side of it while developing a plan for the actual rescue."

Meanwhile, the Pendleton Fire Department arrived on scene with an extension ladder, which LGFD used to get to Voelker and begin administering treatment, Tibbetts said.

Vora said it was incredibly lucky OTEC was able to drive right up to the patient.

Haggerty said the OTEC linemen are trained every year in rescues very similar to the kind Voelker required.

"The guys are very qualified and do that on a yearly basis. We usually practice on a dummy, though," he said.

Tibbetts added it was also lucky Voelker had not been able to untangle himself. The medical issues caused by being upside down can be life threatening if not treated immediately.

"We had to talk (Voelker)

through that fact," Tibbetts said.

"We couldn't just set him right. We had to do some medical treatment before we did."

Vora said once the bucket was in place, and the LGFD medics on the ladder were underneath the patient, they put him in a harness specifically designed for people who are in a "precarious situation" and cannot otherwise step into a harness themselves. They tied him in the rope system set up by the Forest Service climbers and began lowering him down.

"After being stationed so long like that, (Voelker's) condition started to deteriorate," Vora said. "We needed to get him to the ground immediately. We had to do CPR on him, and fortunately it didn't take too long before he regained a pulse."

The responders were able to load him into the helicopter and he was flown to the Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, Wash-

ington.

Jeanette Jacoby, a family friend of Voelker's, told the East Oregonian via email that he is now in a drug-induced coma, and doctors did a procedure on Wednesday to relieve pressure on his brain. She said he was breathing on his own for a while, but on Thursday, doctors put him back on a ventilator.

The Umatilla SAR sergeant said all of the agencies were working together when he arrived on scene, and "it was really cool to see" the professionals working as a team to try to save a life.

Vora agreed.

"There were a lot of other agencies (at the scene) that we don't often work with, but I was impressed by how smoothly everything went. There was no single person who deserves praise. Everyone worked together. It was an unusual situation (and) everyone went above and beyond. It was a job very well done."

BGOOD

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work at a local bank.

"One day the owner (of Arrowhead Chocolates) came to me and said, 'No one can make those bars (like you). If you made them, we'd buy them from you,'" she said. "I guess people were coming back to the chocolate shop and asking for the bars after I'd left."

Though intimidated by the prospect of entrepreneurship, Goodman didn't need much convincing.

"I went back to the bank the next day and gave notice — that was scary," she said. "The thought had never occurred to me to have my own business. I borrowed the kitchen at Calderas and just figured it out, and I started my business a month later."

Goodman was health-centric from the beginning when creating the recipes, using mostly organic ingredients, no preservatives or artificial additives and local or homemade ingredients when possible. She would later create two other flavors — Cranberry Hemp and Espresso Date Nut — with inspiration from different trail mixes.

She makes and uses her own almond butter for the recipes, as well as chocolate from Arrowhead and espresso from a local coffee shop — combining and preparing the ingredients herself in

a commercial kitchen she rents in Joseph.

"I came up with a formula that now I can follow and can change out (with different ingredients). The formulas and the process just seemed to work," Goodman said. "I feel like I have a unique process. It's a trade secret of infusing the flavors. There's nothing really like it on the market. These are all handmade (and) hand-dipped."

From start to finish, an entire batch typically takes three to four days to complete, as the bars and chocolate need time to set up before they can be packaged. Though she's had volunteer help in the past, Goodman does almost everything herself, from making and packaging the bars to social media marketing and bookkeeping — on top of a part-time job as educational programs coordinator at Wallowology Natural History Discovery Center in Joseph.

With the last three months being some of the business' best and her busy season kicking off in September, one of Goodman's goals is to double sales within the next year. She's also considering ways to modify the production process, both to accommodate larger orders/higher volume and streamline the entire production process, given the restrictions of a one-woman assembly line.

"I've been trying to figure out ways I can scale up, make more bars and make it more efficient in the space that I have," she said. "What I'm trying to (eventually) do is crank out 1,000 bars in four days and start to build my inventory. It's been hard to keep up this summer, (but) I have ways I can increase my production without having to hire anybody."

Expansion to more or larger markets and company longevity are other goals of Goodman's moving forward. BGood bars are sold in 10 states already, as well as included in a number of monthly subscription boxes, and are soon-to-be found at vendors across the University of Oregon campus. A member of the Good Food Merchants Guild, Goodman brought her bars to the orga-

nization's Portland expo in May, where representatives from stores from around the country were able to sample her bars and potentially offer to sell them in their stores. Currently, she's working on getting into New Seasons Market and Market of Choice, both chains in the Pacific Northwest.

Until then, Goodman hopes to continue building a positive reputation for BGood and, of course, to keep making bars.

"I wanted to create something beautiful that tasted good and that people could really enjoy," Goodman said. "This (bar) kind of reflects on a lot — all those years walking streams, eating granola — it's all kind of tied in to this one little bar. It still gives me a lot of pleasure and joy."

VETERANS

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clinical pharmacists. Through telehealth, far-away nurses and doctors are able to conduct examinations via video technology.

Telehealth care, Gregg said, is proving quite popular.

"Patients are reluctant at first, but then they like it," she said.

Melanie Thompson, a physician who is chief of staff for the Walla Walla VA Medical Center, foresees more use of telehealth services at VA clinics in the future. She said it will help address the lack of health care providers in this region.

"There is a national shortage of primary health providers. Staffing is continuing to be a challenge we will be addressing," Thompson said.

Gregg said that telehealth helps veterans in this region get appointments with specialists they would otherwise not be able to see without traveling long distances.

"In rural America, we are not going to get (a number of) specialists to move here," she said.

Allen also believes telehealth will be playing a big role in the health care of veterans in the future.

"I see us moving in that direction," he said.

LAWSUIT

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Burgess said she's been receiving inquiries from attorneys representing the counties for the lawsuit. She said the county is owed about \$39,024.

County Commissioner Donna Beverage said opting in to the lawsuit isn't a retaliation against anyone.

"This is something that should've been done," Beverage said of the federal

government making the annual payments.

Also at Wednesday's meeting, Union County Fire Chief Larry Wooldridge requested the complete burn ban be eased now that the weather has cooled.

Wooldridge, on behalf of the other fire chiefs in the county, said the regulated fire season will remain in effect until Sept. 30 with a ban on open burning, with the exception of regulated field burning.



As the parents of Cash and Grady Troyer, we would like to take a moment to express our sincere feelings of gratitude to all our family, friends, neighbors and folks that we didn't know until now.

For every tear shed, every prayer offered up, words of comfort, for every kind gesture that has honored the memories of Cash and Grady, thank you.

For every person that fixed a meal, donated time or money, gave a hug at the grocery store, thank you. Words fail to express the overwhelming awe of coming around the corner to see the crowd at Max Square. For the wonderful artwork and memories shared by classmates, thank you.

For everyone on the river that day, the first responders, the nurse who somehow brought a glimmer of peace and comfort in the middle of a nightmare ... thank you. It is not lost on us the emotional toll it took on each of you.

Loveland Funeral Chapel, your team was incredible. Your genuine love, care and professionalism will never be forgotten ... thank you.

In all, words seem to fall short in expressing the generous love of each of you towards our families and two incredible little boys. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



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