

UNICYCLE: Before the trip the farthest unicycled was 20 miles

Continued from 1A

bluetooth speaker attached to the handlebar blaring his favorite tunes.

The ambitious ride came about because Hermiston Church of the Nazarene has been needing a new roof and its parking lot was badly in need of repaving. The total between the two projects is about \$45,000 — a steep ask for a congregation of about 180 members.

Pastor Eric Fritz said members have been sacrificing and scraping money together for their meetinghouse since January, and at about \$3,000 short they were “pretty much tapped out.” That’s when Patrick came up with the unicycle idea, and Harrison volunteered to join in on the 30-mile ride from the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton to Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, putting in plugs on Facebook Live for people to donate to a GoFundMe account.

“Patrick has a very creative mind,” Fritz said.

Harrison said his dad has been excited about the project.

“He bought a selfie stick just for this trip,” he said.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Harrison Temple looks up after realizing the sprocket on his unicycle is broken as his father, Patrick Temple, looks on Thursday east of Stanfield. Patrick Temple continued on while Harrison Temple rode the rest of the way in the chase vehicle.

Before the trip Harrison said the furthest he had ever unicycled was about 20 miles, so the fundraising journey would be a test of his endurance. But Patrick said he wasn’t worried about his son keeping up.

“The student is now the master,” he said. “He can do stairs and all sorts of things I

can’t do.”

Harrison isn’t the only person Patrick has taught to unicycle. As an elementary school teacher in Hermiston, Patrick said students have asked him to teach them over the years and he has found it to be a good way to connect and teach life lessons about things like patience.

He first started learned to ride a unicycle as teenager.

“I was a senior in high school and I had a dream about unicycling and it was so fun I went up to the Tri-Cities and bought one — and it was nothing like my dream,” he said.

He remained undaunted by the difficulty of learn-

Learn to ride

Patrick Temple will be holding free unicycling clinics for children at the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene’s Kidz Fest in August. The free event open to the public will run from 6-8 p.m. each night, at Harrison Park on Aug. 19, at Newport Park on Aug. 20 and at Victory Square Park on Aug. 21. It will include cotton candy, hot dogs, inflatable games, yard games and unicycling lessons.

ing to ride, however, and spend much of his college years zipping around campus on a unicycle. His interest in the hobby dropped off a bit as an adult, but resurged in recent years as he found it to be a good form of exercise that is less hard on his knees and hips than jogging. He frequently goes on 10-mile rides.

On Thursday the Temples set out from the airport in Pendleton at 6 a.m. It was 66 degrees out and “cool and pleasant,” Patrick said. The ride along Barnhart Road was a breeze, but getting on Interstate 84 was a little scary.

“When the first truck passes you, it’s a little different ride,” he said, noting he quickly stowed the selfie stick. “It was hands on and paying attention.”

Harrison said he was disappointed not to be able to finish the ride due to technical difficulties, but it gave him a new appreciation for just how far it was between Pendleton and Hermiston.

“It’s something you don’t grasp until you’re in a car,” he said.

Fritz, who drove the chase vehicle, said he was grateful for the Temples for their help in raising money for the church, and for the other “awesome” members of the congregation who had given generously to the campaign over the past few months. It can be a challenge for churches to raise money for capital improvement projects without taking away from the tithing money used for the ministry, and Fritz said the church did not want to go into debt for the parking lot or new roof.

As of the time they finished the ride, the GoFundMe account had risen to \$1,785.

“That was a lot of fun,” Patrick said.

NETWORK: State data center plans to change the way it tests

Continued from 1A

interruption in online access. Each router has a battery and a generator backup and two motherboards. The second motherboard is meant to take over if the other one fails.

“When the outage happened, one of things we did not understand was why all

of sudden within the state data center things stopped communicating,” Wheeler said. “We could understand two pieces failed and couldn’t get information to the data center, but what we couldn’t figure out why those other things also stopped communicating.”

“There were key network files sitting on those two

pieces of equipment at Revenue and the Public Services Building that were not on the pieces of equipment in data center.”

Technicians copied those files June 20 over to the two pieces of equipment at the state data center.

“By putting that there — if we were to have the same kind

of experience, the state data center would keep routing traffic,” Wheeler said. “Anything dependent on internet would continue working.”

The state data center also plans to change the way it tests the network. Tests used to test equipment at one location at a time. Now, the tests will focus how the four routers

work together, Wheeler said.

Crews were able to replace defective equipment in the system in a matter of hours, but it took up to nearly 48 hours for some agencies, including the Oregon Department of Transportation, to get websites back in operation.

State data center experts are still investigating why

ODOT took longer than other agencies to recover.

“We take this and we learn from it and we continue to modify our procedures and processes,” Wheeler said. “Hopefully, we won’t have this kind of incident again because we have made technical changes as well as procedural changes.”

“Instead of falling apart, we fell together.”

— Dani Moore

ALZHEIMER’S: Focused on her grandfather’s selfless love

Continued from 1A

and her independence.

In her essay, Dani focused on her grandfather’s selfless love for his wife. Ken Bjorklund, who lives in Athena, is a retired Wheatland Insurance agent and one of 16.1 million Americans providing unpaid care for loved ones with Alzheimer’s or other dementias. He took on an increasingly heavy load as Dorothy’s condition worsened.

“He was there with her from the beginning and stuck by her side. Even when she kept him up at night. Even when she pushed him away

and refused to let him help her. Even when she no longer resembled the woman he met so long ago, the woman who he had fallen in love with and started a family. To me, that’s an entirely different genre of love. That’s a selfless, pure sort of love, a love stretching on further than just romantic or platonic. That kind of love, that kind of devotion, was foreign to me before I witnessed my grandma’s downfall. It surprised me. It still surprises me,” Moore wrote.

Eventually, Dorothy couldn’t be alone. She wandered off and needed help getting dressed.

“It got to the point where he couldn’t take care of her,” Dani said. “It was a hard pill to swallow.”

“The words ‘care facility’ and ‘nursing homes’ became more and more frequent, at first spoken in whispers, then casually voiced around the dinner table,” wrote Moore.

A couple of years ago, the family moved Dorothy to Ashley Manor in Pendleton. Ken visits regularly and takes Dorothy to Sunday mass. Karen takes her for daily walks or breakfast dates.

“Even though my grandma could barely speak

and didn’t know who she was, my mom remained patient and true to her cause,” Moore wrote.

The teenager said her grandmother’s illness also brought the family closer together.

“It’s a bit odd, that something that would be seen as a tragedy was almost the opposite for my family. Our bond improved drastically. Instead of falling apart, we fell together, and leaned on each other to support and love my grandmother. I may have lost a grandma, but I gained a relationship with not only my grandpa, but my aunt and uncles, and my

parents.”

Moore offered some advice for families embarking on the Alzheimer’s journey.

“Don’t treat it like a burden,” she said. “Don’t make a big deal about it. Take it one step at a time.”

Ken, cheerful and outgoing by nature, said he teared up as he read his granddaughter’s essay. As he revealed this, he teared up again and couldn’t continue for a beat. He said it was tough to go on some days, but “you have to.” He said he manages with the support of his close family and by focusing on the part of Dor-

othy that still remains.

“She still has a beautiful smile,” he said.

Moore will make good use of her \$2,500 scholarship. First, she’ll attend Blue Mountain Community College for a year, then head to a university. She loves both writing and art and dreams of someday writing and illustrating books.

Grand-prize winner Laurence Crandon, of Clarks-ville, Maryland, received a \$5,000 scholarship.

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DRUG: Brain scans add evidence that the drug might be effective

Continued from 1A

by company scientists rather than academic researchers and not reviewed by outside experts. The study also was too small to be definitive and the results need to be confirmed with more work, dementia experts said. But they welcomed any glimmer of success after multiple failures.

“We’re cautiously optimistic,” said Maria Carrillo, chief science officer of the Alzheimer’s Association, whose international conference in Chicago featured the results.

“A 30 percent slowing of decline is something I would want my family member to have,” and the drug’s ability to clear the brain plaques “looks pretty amazing,” she said.

About 50 million people worldwide have dementia, and Alzheimer’s is the most common type. There is no cure— current medicines just ease symptoms. Some previous efforts to develop a drug to slow the disease may have been tried too late, after much damage had already occurred. The new drug aimed sooner, in people with early Alzheimer’s, and the drug works at an earlier step in formation of the sticky brain plaques.

Study participants were given one of five doses of

BAN2401 or a dummy treatment via IV. After one year, the companies said the drug didn’t meet statistical goals. But after 18 months, they saw a benefit in the highest dose group.

What makes it tricky, though, is that they used a new way to measure mental decline, a scale that combines parts of three other widely used tests. This is the first study to use that measure, and it’s unclear how much of a difference a 30 percent slowing of decline makes — whether it allows someone to continue to bathe or feed himself, for instance.

“It’s intriguing, but these are designs we’re not used to seeing,” and it will require more study for doctors to feel comfortable with this as a measure of success, said one independent expert, Dr. Julie Schneider of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

On one traditional measure of thinking skills, those at the highest dose declined 47 percent less than people given a dummy treatment.

Brain scans added evidence that the drug might be effective. All participants had signs of the sticky plaques that are the hallmark of Alzheimer’s at the start of the study, but 81 percent of people on the highest dose saw all signs of them disappear after 18 months, an

Eisai official said.

Side effects leading to discontinuation of treatment occurred in 19 percent of those on the high dose and 6 percent of the dummy treatment group. Cases of brain swelling, which have been seen in other treatments targeting the plaques in the brain, occurred in two people in the placebo group and 16 of those in the high dose group.

Other dementia experts were encouraged.

“That’s a very hopeful outcome. It means we may be on the right track,” said another scientist with no role in the work, Dr. Stephen Saloway, neurology chief at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

Dr. Reisa Sperling, a neurologist at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, said it’s important to realize that this is not a cure, just possibly a slowing of decline.

“We’re not suddenly returning people back to their pre-Alzheimer’s baseline,” she said.

Dr. Lynn Kramer, chief medical officer of Eisai’s neurology unit, said the companies would talk with regulators about further studies.

Shares of Biogen, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Eisai, based in Tokyo, soared after July 5 when they announced that

the drug had slowed the progression of early Alzheimer’s disease for certain patients. Biogen’s stock jumped 19.6 percent in one

day, its biggest move in 14 years, and has continued to rise. Eisai rocketed 40 percent in two days.

Biogen stock gyrated in

aftermarket trading after the study results were released. After switching between gains and losses several times, it fell 6.5 percent.

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Dr. Libby is originally from Hilton Head, South Carolina and graduated from Furman University in Greenville, SC. She attended medical school at the University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine, and completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. She then spent three years at Western Family Care/Lander Medical Clinic in Riverton, Wyoming. Dr. Libby is Board Certified, American Board of Family Medicine. She has a passion for rural medicine and looks forward to living in Pendleton with her husband Brandon and daughter Sophie Belle.



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