

Family gives thanks

By Kathy Aney of the East Oregonian
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Travis Bellamy and Tyson Niles, now 23, were born an hour apart. Since then, their paths haven't meandered too far apart.

As cousins and friends, they spent hours together as boys, four-wheeling and hunting in the wheat fields surrounding the house where Travis lived, with his family near Heppner.

As young men, they joined the Marines - Tyson joined first, then Travis. They ended up on the same base in Iraq.

This week, parents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents embraced the two young men at an emotional homecoming at the Riverfront Lodge in Boardman.

"It's nice to have them back in the United States," said Mary Kay Bellamy, Travis' mom.

She said having both boys in Iraq at the same time was emotionally taxing, but it was also oddly comforting for the parents knowing they were together.

"We knew they were going to watch out for each other," said Sam Bellamy, Travis' dad.

"If we didn't hear from Travis, I could call Kitty and Darrell and find out about Tyson," said Kitty Niles, Tyson's mom. "It was a double check."

New Year's Eve party planned

The Seventh-day Adventist Church will hold its second annual New Year's Eve Party on Sunday, Dec. 31, from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the church gym.

There will be snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, games, face painting, ping pong, board games and other family activities, plus a Warren Miller ski movie.

This is a free party and everyone is invited to attend.

Niles, Tyson's parents, live near Pasco. Darrell said he stayed fairly positive.

"Statistically, it was safer than being on the highways here," he said. "I didn't dwell on the dangers."

Kitty had a harder time suppressing her fears.

"I worried," she said. "On one hand, I was extremely proud of them - on the other, it was extremely worrisome."

The cousins had different rationales for joining the Marines. Tyson sought self-improvement and "something different." Travis, a 2002 Heppner High School graduate, said his reason for signing on was to carry on a noble tradition.

"I followed out of respect for veterans that fought before me," he said.

Tyson, a water purification specialist, arrived at the Alquim Marine base in the Al Anbar Province first. He was surprised when he learned that Travis' unit had been assigned to the base.

"We really hadn't seen each other," Tyson said. "We'd been at opposite sides of the country"

Tyson didn't know when Travis would show up. They finally met in the chow hall last March.

"I was sitting down eating when he came up to me," Tyson said.

"I went crazy," remembers Travis.

In Iraq, Tyson stayed mostly on base, wiring buildings and repairing generators. His water purification role wasn't necessary as the troops relied on bottled water, so he performed electrical work. Travis repaired tanks at night and ventured out on patrols during the day.

"The fear of hitting a roadside bomb was a constant threat," he said. "We averaged 30 missions a month."

His unit often patrolled twice a day. Travis made it through without injury, though he lost a close friend.

Now that they are safely back in the U.S., Travis still has more than a year to serve stateside at the Marine base in Twentynine Palms, Cal. Tyson is hoping for a job with Burlington Northern Santa Fe.

But whatever they do, their parents are thankful to have them home together.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

-MCSO responded to a non-injury accident on I-84 with two vehicles, a Dodge pickup and a Kia, in the ditch and another one on location to assist.

-MCSO received request for a deputy to respond to the courthouse to speak with a female who had bruises.

-MCSO received report of pickup pulling an empty trailer that was all over the road on I-84. Sheriff followed vehicle for several miles and observed that the vehicle was driving fine, not allow the road.

-MCSO received report that James Gary Johnson was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail on a parole and probation warrant.

-MCSO received report from an Irrigon subject that an 18-wheeler was blocking his driveway. By the time the deputy responded, the vehicle had been moved.

-MCSO received report of a burglary and items stolen in Irrigon while the subject was out of town for a week.

-MCSO received report from a female subject who said she was in a custody battle with her parents over her son.

-MCSO assisted BPD with a possible trespass.

December 22: MCSO received report of three suspicious males hanging around the bank in Heppner. Reporter said that the subjects were trying to hide and kept ducking whenever a vehicle drove by.

-MCSO, Boardman Ambulance, Boardman Fire Department received a report from OSP of a non-injury rollover on Tower Rd. A subsequent report indicated that there were injuries with one man cut and bleeding.

-MCSO received report of lost Siberian huskies in Heppner.

-MCSO, BPD received report of a domestic abuse with no injuries in Boardman. John Marion Talbot, 47, was arrested for domestic harassment and interfering with a 911 call. He was lodged at UCJ.

-MCSO received report from a Heppner woman who said she awoke to a dog barking and saw three subjects come out of a garage. When she opened the door and yelled, the subjects took off running.

-MCSO received two reports of a subject opening a front door of a Boardman business without a pass

code. The subject was authorized to be there.

-MCSO received report from a subject in Irrigon who said he had sold a vehicle and the buyer had not been making payments.

-MCSO received report of a possible assault from a Heppner woman. She said a male subject grabbed her arm while he was holding her daughter and she was attempting to get her daughter back. The woman also said she was hit in the eye with an unknown object.

-MCSO received report from a subject on Hwy. 730 in Irrigon who said a vehicle was driving down the center line and almost hit him on I-84.

-MCSO received report of a trespass in progress in Hardman.

-MCSO received report of suspicious circumstances with an Irrigon woman saying that a guy had asked her about a surprise birthday party. She said she had a subject's horses and wondered if it was retaliation.

-MCSO cited Ryan Evan Paddock, 32, for VSL 70/55. -MCSO arrested Craig Michael Scott, 23, on a Klamath Falls warrant for Failure to Appear/Harassment. He was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO cited Feliciano Lomeli Gutierrez, 27, for no operator's license and failure to carry proof of insurance.

-Boardman Police Department cited David Dwight Harlos, 39, for no operator's license and failure to carry proof of insurance. -BPD received report of a \$25 drive-off from a Boardman gas station.

December 23: MCSO cited Michael Glade Binks, 39, for VSL 90/65.

-MCSO received request for a death notification for a Heppner woman who requested that her mother be notified that her son was involved in a fatal motor vehicle accident the previous night in Redmond.

-MCSO received report of a missing person in Hermiston. -MCSO received report that three big dogs tore three little dogs apart in Heppner. The big dogs were in a pen at the time the subject reported.

-MCSO received report from a woman in Boardman that her son was assaulted at a bonfire by 13 other males about the same age. She said her son was just getting out of surgery and three other boys also had severe injuries.

-MCSO received report from a Heppner man that multiple kids were going to be out between 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. running through

town, wearing reflective tape and playing a game, trying to get from one end of town to the other without the parents finding them.

-MCSO received report of a 55-year-old diabetic man who had stomach pain and was dizzy at Willow Creek Lake.

-MCSO received report of a white or silver Mustang traveling 55 mph, straddling the fog line and center line. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

-MCSO cited Chantell Leone Lynn Moreno, for failure to carry proof of insurance and defective license plate light.

-MCSO arrested Richard Allen Combs, 52, for DUII with a BAC of .25, on Hwy. 730, Irrigon.

December 21: Boardman Fire Department and Boardman Ambulance received report of a non-injury motor vehicle accident on I-84

-BPD received report of criminal mischief with a window broken out of a vehicle the previous night.

-BPD cited Michael Robert O'Berg, 32, for Driving While Suspended and Violating the Speed Limit 36/30.

-BPD received report of a silver Nissan all over the road, tailgating, speeding and acting aggressively.

-BPD received report of an audible alarm going off at Sam Boardman Elementary. -BPD received report of a subject having problems with a gas station putting unleaded into her diesel pickup.

-BPD received request from a subject in Boardman who found a pit bull and didn't want it to bite anyone. BPD picked the dog up.

-BPD received a 911 hangup call. -BPD officer responded to a call reporting class breaking at Riverside High School. The noise had come from a man scraping ice off a windshield.

-BPD received report from a woman who said she heard her dogs barking and when she opened the door, she saw a male subject jump her fence and take off running into the field beside her house.

-Morrow County Sheriff's Office arrested Kim Bernice Jorgenson, 45, on probable cause charges of DUII and resisting arrest and was cited for VBR. The subject was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO received report of a motor vehicle accident involving a semi off Tower Road. The accident was an old one and tow trucks were already on the scene.

-MCSO received report of a motor vehicle accident on I-84 with the vehicle completely across the median but not blocking. Oregon State Police advised they had already checked it out and driver had called for tow.

-MCSO received report of a blue SUV on its top. OSP advised they had already

checked out the accident and a tow was on its way.

-MCSO received a report of a motor vehicle accident with a vehicle in the sagebrush on Hwy. 730.

-MCSO received a report of a fender bender. OSP was with the vehicles.

-MCSO received a report of a Toyota pickup that had rolled over. It was a non-injury accident with no property damage.

-MCSO responded to a vehicle that had slid off the road on Hwy. 74.

-MCSO received report of a Milky Way truck that had slid off the road on Hwy. 207. A deputy was unable to locate it.

-MCSO received report of juveniles playing with a wheelchair in the middle of the road. The juveniles were advised to take the wheelchair home.

-MCSO received report of a Ford pickup in the ditch with no one around on Hwy 730.

-MCSO received report of a non-injury accident involving a Chevy on I-84. The vehicle had blown two tires and driver was on the phone with an insurance company.

-MCSO received report of a Honda that had slid off the road on I-84. It was a non-injury accident.

-MCSO received report of Volkswagen that had slid off the road on I-84.

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Real Estate

By DAVID SYKES

REALTOR

ACCORDING TO CPAs

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, puts home ownership at the top of ways to shelter income.

According to the Institute, a second home is almost as good a tax shelter as the primary residence. Both can bring deductions on mortgage interest up to one million dollars for acquisition or improvements, and up to \$100,000 for loans secured by the home and used for other purposes. (These are overall, not per home limits.)

Mortgage interest can be a

huge deduction during the early years of the loan when the interest can be over 90 percent of the monthly payment. Also, state and local real estate property taxes continue to be deductible.

If you leave the home to your heirs, the gain won't be taxed at all for the heirs assume ownership at today's fair market value.

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