

CHURCH LENDS A HAND

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adding that the men cut as close to the ground as they could but that the stumps were "huge."

Though Mecham says she was grateful for the aid, the disaster still took a toll on her yard. The grass was dead and the stumps remained in place. That was when Mecham found out her homeowner's insurance wouldn't cover the damage.

That left her in a bind, she said, with no money to take further action. That was because, just the month before, she had reached out with financial assistance to struggling family members. Mecham's daughter, Heather Wyatt, was in nursing school. That was enough of a burden for Wyatt, husband Travis and their three children, ages nine, six and four. When Wyatt also had health concerns last November, Mecham promised the family a portion of her own monthly income to help them through the rough patch.

"I didn't leave any margin for error at all," Mecham says.

When disaster hit in December, she worried about cleaning up the mess but says her commitment to her family was her first priority. Relief came when she returned home from a walk and found a note on her door from former city manager Dave DeMayo saying the Nazarene church had volunteered to take care of it if she was interested.



Heather and Travis Wyatt and their children. -Contributed photo



Crews work to clear debris last December. The two felled trees damaged Mecham's fence, as well as a neighbor's fence and some phone lines, and blocked part of the street. -File photo

"I called them right away," says Mecham.

The volunteer crew showed up last Friday, July 19, tools in hand. They worked about six hours, Wanda Lee said. First, they attacked the stumps with picks, digging out as much of the dirt as they could from the stumps and roots. They then used a pickup to pull out the stumps, cutting them up once they got them out of the ground. That afternoon, Ryan Miller of Miller and Sons arrived with a backhoe to remove the last stubborn bits and haul it all away. Meanwhile, volunteers Lisa Cutsforth and Eve Ironhawk worked on the Gilmore Street side of the property, chopping down thistles and digging up puncturvine.

The crew wasn't finished, though. On Saturday, Wil White arrived with another piece of equipment to fill in the holes and level the yard. They then put water on it to settle the dust; Nazarene Pastor Norman Lee says he plans to go back later in the fall to help replant the yard.

Helping neighbors this way is part of what they want their church's outreach to be, he explains.

"We're out to help around the community and we're going to keep our eyes open for more community projects we can help people with," says Lee. "We just wanted to

hopefully prompt other churches to reach out and help us do some things around town and just keep growing," adds Wanda Lee.

Other volunteers that helped with the cleanup were Don Tindall, Bret Thompson, Maralee Turley, Echo Chess and Lori White.

"With two days' work it was a just a miracle, as far as I'm concerned, what they were able to do," says Mecham.

"The big thing is how depressed it made her," shares Wanda Lee. "She didn't even want to look out her window, and now she has her curtains open."

Yes, Mecham says she feels blessed, but she adds that the blessing extends beyond herself to five other people. Her daughter completed her associate's degree in nursing and recently passed her state boards; she is now a licensed nurse in the state of Oregon.

"She said she couldn't have gotten there without the money," Mecham says, adding that the young couple has thanked her several times but that the aid from the church made it possible for her to send the money to her daughter rather than spending it on cleanup.

"A portion of that thanks goes to each person who helped," she says. "It was just an incredible blessing."

County leaders, ambassadors garner support for fair

"Harvesting 100 Years of Memories at the Morrow County Fair!" is centennial theme

On Thursday, July 11, and Friday, July 12, a team of leaders from the Morrow County Fair headed out on a business and industry tour across Morrow and Umatilla counties.

Kane Sweeney, an upcoming freshman at Heppner High School and current 4-H Ambassador for Morrow County; Sydney Qualls, an upcoming freshman at Lone High School and current 4-H Ambassador for Morrow County; Timothy Gould, an upcoming freshman at Heppner High School and the current Heppner FFA Sentinel; and Krysten Powell, the 2013 Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen, traveled to 12 different businesses during their tour.

From Heppner, Lexington and Lone all the way up to Hermiston and Boardman, these young leaders were on a mission. Their goals?

First, to spread the word about the 2013 Morrow County Fair, the 100th celebration of this event.

The second was to inform our community about how the Morrow



(L-R): John Swaggart of Swaggart Brothers Construction in Hermiston with Morrow County Fair and OPR Queen Krysten Powell, 4-H ambassador Sydney Qualls, 4-H ambassador Kane Sweeney, FFA Sentinel Timothy Gould and fair manager Zech Hintz. -Contributed photo

County Fair impacts multiple organizations and community members each year, and how much it needs support.

Among other things, the Morrow County Fair provides opportunities for 4-H and FFA members. 4-H ambassadors Kane and Sydney both work with 4-H year round. Sydney shows lambs and enters exhibits at the fair, while Kane is really into the leadership portion of 4-H and says he is ready to help make the 100th fair a success.

Tim is involved with FFA year round and not

only has hogs that he shows at the fair, but also has chickens and geese he brings to fair for show as part of his FFA yearlong project.

The goal of the Morrow County Fair is to get students and community members involved with the fair and create a secure financial future so Morrow County may have another 100 years of the Morrow County Fair.

Anyone who would like to help support the Morrow County Fair, call Zech Hintz at 541-676-9474.

BICYCLE TOURS

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mechanics he trained in after high school.

"But in the end it's all about hospitality. You give the people a good experience and take care of them, whether it's bikes or birds," says Carlson.

To get the business off the ground he has hired people in Portland to generate business, put up a new web site at treobiketours.com, and tried other innovative advertising to attract customers and get the new venture going. His bike tours offer various routes and accommodation packages complete with a support van, food, water and nights at the lodge with or without meals provided.

Carlson says catering to the needs of his biking guests is similar to the bird hunting; however, they are a different type of guest. He goes as far as to replace photos of bird hunting with biking groups on the walls of the lodge during bike season.



A bike riding "cowgirl" gets a cheer from a fellow bike rider at TREO. -Contributed photo

"Each group likes to see photos of what they do."

He says some of the bikers can have bikes that easily cost more than \$5,000, and some of the riders actually want to ride on gravel roads.

In both the bird hunting and the bike riding he also offers corporate packages, which have proven a good way for a company to foster team building and camaraderie within the business. They now offer

multi-sports for bike riders including target shooting, hiking, rafting and calf roping (actually roping a bale of hay).

"Get your photo taken being a cowgirl," he advertises on his website.

Carlson says he enjoys running the business and especially meeting new people.

"Not only am I teaching them about our lifestyle, but they are teaching us about them," he says.

Local boys play in final season baseball tournament

Heppner, Ore.— Jacob Lindsay, Patrick Collins and Weston Putman gave it their all playing a tough round of baseball.

Collins, Lindsay and Putman play for the Stanfield Thunder, a traveling baseball team for boys 14 years old and under. The Thunder has played in tournaments throughout Oregon and Washington during the summer.

The weekend of July 12-14, the Thunder team traveled to Happy Valley, OR to compete in the NW Nations Summer Championship games. During the three-day tournament, Collins, Lindsay and Putman's contributions on offense led to runs scored and runs batted in. Collin's stellar pitching on the mound, Lindsay's assurance on second base and Putman's competence behind the plate helped secure a win on Friday.

As part of the NW Nations baseball program, the boys are competing against talented players from a variety of areas;



The Stanfield Thunder competing in the Nations NW Summer Championship July 12-14 in Happy Valley. Back Row (L-R) Coach Dusty Grogan, Brody Woods, Dylan Grogan, Weston Putman, Jacob Justesen, Tony Flores, Patrick Collins and Coach Kent Barnes. Front Row (L-R) Tim Roa, Hunter Barnes, Jake Lindsay, Tyler Monkus, Maverick Winslow and Ryan Bailey. -Contributed photo

the teams they were faced with play year-round, and this is their only sport. The Thunder didn't bring home a trophy, but the team comprised of 12 young men who represent Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and

Sherman counties let the valley know that Eastern Oregon boys know how to play ball and gave them a competition worth playing.

The boys also say they made lasting friendships that will never be forgotten.

Community lunch menu

Willow Creek Baptist and Elohim Covenant church members will serve lunch on Wednesday, July 31, at St. Patrick's Senior Center. The meal will include chicken enchiladas, Mexican rice, green salad with tomatoes, tortillas and flan. Milk is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

Boardman appoints Arthur Kegler to city council

At its July 16 meeting, the Boardman City Council appointed Arthur Kegler to the city council. Arthur Kegler and Zack Lantis each expressed an interest in the vacant council seat left by Tony Navarro in February. Each candidate was asked questions by the council and, with a vote of four to one, Kegler was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Kegler has a long history of serving in the Boardman community, dating back 30 years. He has served on both the Boardman Planning Commission and the city council. He was Boardman's mayor from 1988 to 1989. Kegler

is currently a Boardman Planning Commissioner, a position he will have to resign in order to serve on the city council. Mayor Sandy Toms will swear in Kegler at the Aug. 7 city council meeting. His term will end Dec. 31, 2016.

In other city business, the council passed an ordinance changing 4.5 acres of property at Frontier Trailer Park zoned Tourist Commercial to a Manufactured Home Park

Subdistrict. The council approved sponsoring the Puncturevine Eradication Program again this summer, and approved a 20-dollar fee for fingerprinting non-residents. Also, the council approved an agreement with the Columbia River Enterprise Zone for the City of Boardman to act as fiscal agent for the zone.

The next meeting of the Boardman City Council will be Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 7 p.m.

Kinzua lunch group

There were 22 at the Kinzua lunch at Service Creek on July 19. Present were Pat Hyatt; Shirley

and Tom Gregson; Dixie and Bruch Hollomon; Jean Ann and OL Adams; MaryLee and Bob Britt; Montell McDonald; Midge and John Geer with grandson Jonathan; Bonnie Campbell; Windy Liptak; Jackie and Pete Hester; Melba and Frank Cecil; Marilyn Garcia; Ernie Schell; Bob Slinkard; Sheridan Ledford; and Bill Potter. The group will meet again at Service Creek on Aug. 20 at 11:30 a.m.

Ione Summer Volley Ball Clinic
July 27, 2013
Ione High School Gym

Grades 5th-8th
From 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
Cost \$15.00

Contact Tobey Garrett to sign up.
Tobey.garrett77@gmail.com or 541-571-5444
Instructor: Whitney Haley
Assistant Varsity Coach for Crescent Valley High School in Corvallis, OR

DOG BITE HARRIS

ALBUM RELEASE PARTY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 - BUCKNUM'S

BILLY COOK

DAN INFECTO

DOG BITE HARRIS