

Health partnership aims to immerse medical students in rural health care and way of life

Published May 16, 2016 by Northeast Oregon AHEC. Reprinted with permission.

According to the National Rural Health Association, only about 10 percent of physicians practice in rural America despite the fact that nearly one-fourth of the population lives in these areas.

"When I tell people who are not from a rural community that I wish to practice rural medicine they generally give me the same response. They react with a look of sympathy and congratulate me on my altruistic sacrifice to society,"

said Nicholas West, MD candidate 2019, at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) School of Medicine, from Imbler, OR.

This illustrates the undeniable need for the redistribution of primary care providers, but how?

"I believe physicians from small towns are more likely to return to small towns. By taking on a leadership role as a medical student from a small town, I hope to create more opportunities for medical students to experience what

small-town life is like," said Emily Thompson, MD candidate 2019 at OHSU, from Heppner, OR.

First-year medical students Thompson, West and Abigail Huddleston are part of a rural student advisory group to the assistant dean of rural medical education in the OHSU School of Medicine. During their spring enrichment week, May 23 to 25, these students along with Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center (NEOHEC) have planned activi-



Emily Thompson

Area bids farewell to long-time community members, volunteers



Al and Jean Brazell stand in the midst of a few of the flowers that are Jean's pride and joy. Among her other pursuits, she is an avid gardener, and husband Al says he has been spoiled by all the fresh fruits and vegetables over the years. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

By Andrea Di Salvo

The Heppner Methodist Church will bid farewell to long-time choir director Jean Brazell this Sunday as she and husband Albert "Al" Brazell of Lexington attend worship there for the last time as members. They leave for a new home outside of Roy, WA on May 28.

However, her time as choir director at the Meth-

odist church—important as that is—only scratches the surface of the Brazell's involvement in the South Morrow County Community.

Neither of the Brazells was born here, though Jean, who turns 73 the day they move, came here young—her father brought the family up from Central Oregon around 1947 to take up

wheat farming outside of Lone.

"I've been around doing 4-H and all that when I was a kid," she says.

Jean Martin attended school in and graduated from Lone before going on to obtain a Bachelor of Science in home economics from Oregon State University.

Al Brazell's journey to Lexington was a little longer. Born in West Palm Beach, FL and raised in northern Florida where his father was stationed at an Air Force base, Al says he came west "for the trees."

"My uncle had a sawmill, and I used to work there. A big tree there is two feet in diameter," the 73-year-old says. "I wanted to see the really big trees."

He attended OSU to pursue a degree in forestry. The two met there, and were married in the Methodist church in Corvallis. As it turned out, though, he decided working for the forest service wasn't for him. After the couple spent a summer at a guard station in Utah, he went into logging for a short time. The two then both attended the University of Idaho, she to obtain a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in home ec and he to finish his bachelor's degree in forestry. Even though he never worked for the forest service, Al Brazell still says it was worth the time, especially the machine classes.

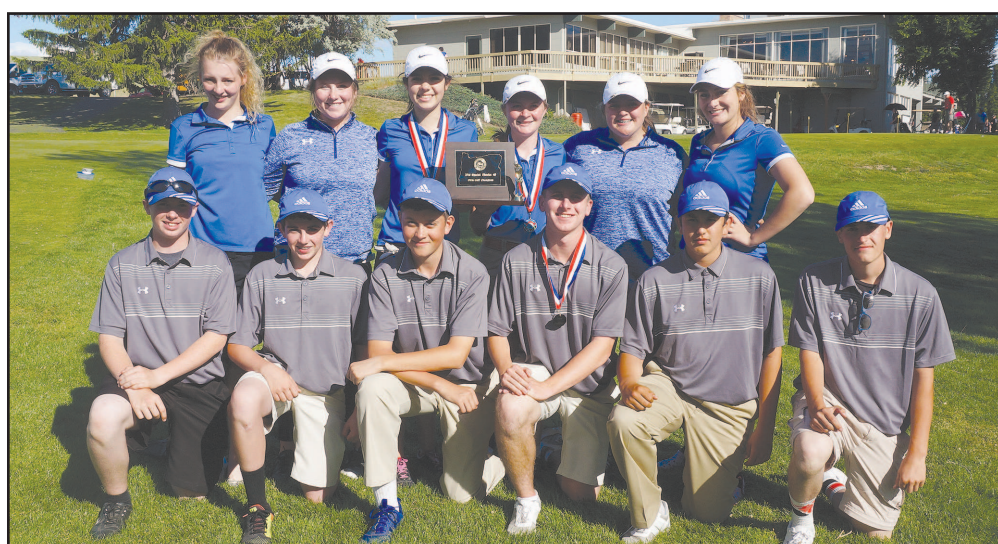
"It's amazing how much of that info you use in a lifetime," he says. "It wasn't wasted time."

Jean had been teaching while he finished his degree, but didn't argue when Al took them to Castle View, WA to work for Longview Fibre. He worked there for nearly 10 years, while she taught and then subbed, and raised their two children, Brian and Kathleen. They left Western Washington

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Heppner teams punch tickets to state golf tournament

Girls take district championship



The Mustang girls' and boys' golf teams traveled to the district competition in Pendleton last week, where the girls brought home a championship while the boys took an impressive second place. Pictured are: Back L-R: Caitlyn Scrivner, Claire Grieb, Sophie Grant, Amanda Rea, Madison Combe, Riane Dompier. Front L-R: Charles Cason, Reno Ferguson, Cason Mitchell, Logan Grieb, Logan Burrig, Dan Bretsch. -Contributed photo -See fully story PAGE THREE

Teen arrested for rest stop stabbing

A 17-year-old Idaho boy allegedly stabbed a 51-year-old woman in the women's restroom at rest stop near Boardman Saturday afternoon, police say.

Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a 9-1-1 call at 3:44 p.m. Saturday reporting an attack in the restroom of the state rest stop off the westbound side of I-84, just outside of Boardman. Oregon State Police responded, and police arrested Talon James Davis of Clarkston, ID, who will turn 18 in June.

The victim, Sandra Byers, was taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston with non-life-threatening injuries. She was reportedly released Monday morning.

Davis was lodged at Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility (NORCOR) in The Dalles with bail set at \$100,000. Davis is being charged with first-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon. Because assault I is a Mea-

-See TEEN ARRESTED FOR STABBING/PAGE THREE

Local girl on target in archery championship

Brianne Smith, an eighth grader at Heppner



Brianne Smith with four of her Wyoming state trophies; she also completed a set of four national trophies over Mother's Day weekend. -Contributed photo

Junior/Senior High School, spent Mother's Day weekend in Redding, CA defending her national title at the second largest Marked 3D Archery competition in the world.

This was Brianne's last year in the Youth Bowhunter Freestyle (BHFS) class, in which the archers use a compound bow with fixed sites, short stabilizer and a release. At the end of the weekend Brianne had won her fourth national marked 3D championship, winning all three years she was in the youth class and once as a cub.

Brianne was curious about archery from an early age. Her dad, Brian Smith, is an avid archer and hunter. She watched her dad come home from hunting with his bow and she watched him come home from archery tournaments with trophies. When Brianne was two, her dad bought her a recurve bow and taught her how to shoot. Noticing Brianne's desire to shoot archery, her mom, Megan Smith, gave up archery to help Brianne participate in the sport. At age three Brianne participated in her first archery shoot.

By age five Brianne had won her first state archery tournament, the Wyoming State 3D in 2007. She continued her winning streak by winning three archery categories at age six: Wyoming State Field, Wyoming State Target and Wyoming State 3D.

As a pre-teen she continued to impress the adult

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Heppner shines on prom night



Students at Heppner High School celebrated prom on Saturday, May 7. Pictured is the prom court. Front L-R: Princesses Sydney Maben and Jessica Kempken. Middle L-R: Princess Kaelyn Lindsay, Queen Rylee Kollman, King Kaden Clark and Princess Caitlyn Bailey. Back L-R: Princes Tommy Bredfield, C.J. Kindle, Will Lutcher and Weston Putman. -Photo by Moderne Studio

G-T Trophy Corner



Kayden Piper, 7, of Heppner caught this 10-1/2 inch trout at Anson Wright Park on Sunday, May 15. It was his second time fishing. -Contributed photo

G-T closed Memorial Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times office will be closed Memorial Day, May 30, for the holiday. All news and ad deadlines will be Friday, May 27, by 5 p.m. The newspaper office will reopen on Tuesday, May 31.



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