

Credit union pays it forward to homeless advocate

By ARLA SHEPHARD
MASON COUNTY LIFE

As the weather cools and the rains pour in, Tyler Music thinks about the people living without a roof over their heads.

Music is North Mason Resources' homeless advocate, working with people to find anything they need, from housing and job search assistance to locating a warm meal or a tarp to keep the rain out of a soaked tent.

When it came time to "pay it forward" in the community, Music was the first person that Peninsula Credit Union CEO Jim Morrell thought of in terms of making his dollars count.

"My thought was if anyone is able to stretch this money the farthest, it's the work that Tyler is doing in the community to assist the folks that he is working with," Morrell said. "He does exceptional work with the homeless population."

Pay It Forward is a new campaign from the Northwest Credit Union Association that shows the cascading benefits a potential credit union member can create by joining a local credit union.

The average amount of money that people in Washington and Oregon save by choosing a credit union over a bank is \$114, according to a study by the NCUA.

The association handed out \$114 to attendees of its annual Amplify Convention, held Oct. 8 in Spokane, to celebrate International Credit Union Day and launch the Pay It Forward campaign.

Morrell and the other attendees at the conference were tasked with paying it forward and spreading their stacks of cash within their local communities.

North Mason Resources plans to leverage the \$114 donation by asking for other pledges in the same amount to generate funding for a



PHOTO COURTESY OF PENINSULA CREDIT UNION

Peninsula Credit Union CEO Jim Morrell, left, donates \$114 to North Mason Resources homeless advocate Tyler Music, as part of the Pay It Forward campaign from the Northwest Credit Union Association. \$114 is the average amount of money people in the Northwest save by choosing a credit union over a bank.

program the nonprofit is calling Poverty to Prosperity, said North Mason Resources director Cat Ross.

The program is the same as the nonprofit Mason Matters' program, Bridge to Self-Sufficiency.

"We want to help make a difference in the lives of people who want to work their way out of poverty," Ross said. "We're going to ask the community to do a match to use as seed money for a program to help families who will receive intense case management, supportive coaching and more to help them move out of poverty."

From July to September,

Music saw between 150 and 160 clients who needed some type of assistance due to their homelessness.

The homeless advocate was surprised and excited about the donation from Peninsula Credit Union.

"It was fantastic," he said. "We're going to be creative with it. Bridge to Self-Sufficiency is important because of the people we'll help. The (bad) weather is upon us and it's at the point where bedding is getting wet, clothes are getting wet, so we have a need."

For more information on North Mason Resources, call 552-2303.

Historic Preservation Commission seeks applicants

MASON COUNTY — The Mason County Commissioners are seeking applicants to fill two open positions on the Mason County Historic Preservation Commission.

The major responsibility of the HPC is to identify and actively encourage

the conservation of Mason County's historic resources by initiating and maintaining a register of historic places and reviewing proposed changes to register properties.

They will also work to raise community awareness of Mason County's history and historic resources and serve as Mason County's primary resource in matters of history, historic planning and preservation.

Commission members

serve three-year terms and meet monthly, during business hours at the county offices in Shelton. The open positions expire in November 2017.

Interested persons are encouraged to apply by completing an advisory board form at www.co.mason.wa.us or by calling the commissioner's office at 427-9670 or 275-4467, extension 419.

Questions can be directed to Michael MacSems at 427-9670, extension 571.

Author Lindstrom discusses infamous Grays Harbor killer

Veteran newsman Bill Lindstrom has pursued the truth about John Tornow for almost three decades. Among the several outcomes of his work is a new book, "John Tornow: Villain or Victim?"

Lindstrom will discuss the book, the research and the Tornow legend at three Timberland libraries in November, including the Shelton Timberland Library, 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 25.

The Shelton Timberland Library is located at 710 W. Alder Street.

This meticulously researched history reads like a blend of mystery and tragedy as it reinterprets the life of an enigmatic man accused of heinous crimes.

A veteran news reporter, Lindstrom poured over century-old court documents, transcriptions, contemporary news articles and interviews to produce his account.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

He brings the Tornow family's life and times alive, describing the daily routines and personal sorrows that led up to multiple murders, a 19-month manhunt and an enduring

Northwest legend.

All programs at Timberland libraries are free and open to the public.

For information, contact the individual library or visit www.TRL.org.

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