

FIRE: Ban on campfires set to take effect in national forest

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tree on fire at the residence. Homeowner Kay Temple was evacuated and the fire was quickly knocked down and kept to around one-third acre.

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District responded with 11 firefighters and eight emergency vehicles. Additional units from Cloverdale and Black Butte Ranch fire districts brought an additional four firefighters. Crews from Oregon Department of Forestry and USFS also assisted at the scene.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Conditions remain ripe for fire across Sisters Country, and with thousands of visitors to the area expected during the solar eclipse on Monday, August 21, everyone in the area is advised to be exceptionally vigilant.

Do not smoke in areas where there is combustible material at hand, and avoid parking in any area with high grass or brush — heat from vehicle engines or exhaust can start fires.

Starting Wednesday, August 9, there is a ban in place on all open fires anywhere in the Deschutes National Forest.

PIGEON: Birds can grow attached to people and place

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band with that white number 15 attached to one leg.

It doesn't, however have the familiar black banding on the sides and wings of a racing pigeon — though even some of those possess different plumages.

OK, they reasoned, a banded bird means someone owns it. The American Racing Pigeon Union, however, does not use a solid black band, their bands are burnished metal and have a prefix "AU" on them.

The highest authority governing the use of a band on birds is the USGS Banding Lab in Patuxent, Maryland. When contacted, they said the solid black band is unknown to them, and as far as they're concerned, is being used inappropriately even on a domestic bird.

So, where did it come from? Who owns the bird? What was it doing running around with a flock of wild rock doves? Or was it? Did it just join them for that swift dash in Whychus Canyon and then suddenly recognize something familiar about Ann and Clyde's house and think of it as home?

It must like something

about the layout, as it has adopted Ann and Clyde's place, and they in return have adopted the pigeon by providing a safe place for it to shelter and keeping it in food and fresh water. But they worry that someone may be missing it.

This is not an unfamiliar scenario. Throughout the year several domestic pigeons, lost or otherwise confused, have descend on the populace of Sisters Country. The ones wearing a regulation band are usually returned to their owners and all ends well.

It's not uncommon to see a small truck-load of pigeons in cages going through Sisters. They are racing homers heading off into the unknown, where they're released.

The racing association tells members, "Remember, these birds are very different, in nearly every way, from anything you have ever thought of when you thought, 'pigeon.' The registered Homing Pigeon — the athlete — will be a source of great enjoyment..."



PHOTO BY JIM ANDERSON

Unknown homing pigeon — or whatever — that just wandered into Sisters Country, wearing a band that no one knows anything about.

They may get lost on occasion.

The best place to begin a search for the owner or role of a banded pigeon that drops in on you is to Google "lost pigeon," which will get you to the American Racing Pigeon Union. Nine times out

of 10 that will provide you with the name and contact if the pigeon is wearing the proper band.

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