

FIRE: Blaze will continue to burn for many days

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reported. “All firefighting resources were diverted to Whychus Fire to protect life and property in its path of progression.”

The Whychus Fire went from 34 acres to more than 2,000 that afternoon, and the fire on Black Crater grew modestly to about 200 acres. However, veteran fire-watchers in Sisters knew that there was every likelihood that it would ramp up and get big. And it did.

Driven by winds, high temperatures, and dry conditions, the fire blew up on Wednesday afternoon, making a significant run to the east. The fire continued to grow on Thursday, as a Type 1 Incident Management Team came in to take command of the fire. Residents of Crossroads and the Edgington Road area were placed on evacuation alert.

On Friday, as the fire continued to challenge firefighters and run to the east, authorities triggered a Level 3 evacuation, requiring residents of Crossroads and Edgington Road and environs to leave their homes. Soon, residents along Forest Road 16 (Three Creek Road) south of Sisters were also required to evacuate as the fire pushed toward the road and Whychus Creek

Firefighters held the fire from jumping across Road



PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

Fire crew battled a tough Milli Fire for days. Burnout operations help create containment lines.

16 on Saturday and finally caught a break with calmer winds, lower temperatures and higher humidity on Sunday. Relatively favorable weather conditions continued on Monday as handfuls of folks in Sisters took in a smoky total eclipse on streets that were nearly deserted.

While the intense fire-fight that characterized Wednesday-Saturday has abated somewhat, the Milli Fire will continue to challenge the region for some time. Evacuations were still in place on Monday afternoon, and the fire was growing on its west end.

Fire officials reported that the main part of the fire was backing into the wilderness area to the west. The

fire grew toward Lava Lake Camp and North Matthieu Lake on Sunday, and crews were working off of Highway 242 to clear heavy fuels and strengthen the control line.

Temperatures were expected to peak in the high 80s Monday and Tuesday afternoon and moderate later in the week. There is a slight chance of thunderstorms forecast for Wednesday.

The Nugget will continue to provide regular updates on the Milli Fire at www.nuggetnews.com and on *The Nugget's* Facebook page.

WILD WEST: Re-enactors made Wild West come alive

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Characters, from Annie Oakley to Tetherow Tex La Rue dressed in authentic or authentic replica clothing for their skits. Kathy Howard, aka .38 Kate, provided the costumes. The firearms were pre-1900 replicas.

New Sisters resident and first-time performer Evan Leiser, aka Deputy Duke, portrayed the town deputy who stood by his sheriff at all times.

Tony Schultz, aka Tony Two Toes, hung up the Western façade and James Hawkins, a longtime member of Pine Mountain Posse jumped back into his role of Tetherow Tex La Rue.

First-time reenactment player Mark Richardson, aka Shady Silver, from Redmond, looked realistic dressed as a cavalryman. Tim Barrier, aka Tumbleweed Tim, from Sisters and his 12-year-old granddaughter Taylor Barrier, aka Tricky Taylor, enjoyed their first time as re-enactment players during the Wild West Show.

“I liked how we could make things up as we went through the performance. Kind of like improvisation,” Taylor said.

Nine-year-old Zeke Esterman played Tricky Taylor’s brother Zeke the Sneak.

“It was fun when I had to run before the bad guys started with their gunfire,” Zeke said.

It was a family affair for Richard Esterman, aka Rawhide Rick, with his grandson Zeke and brother Brian Esterman, aka One-Boot Brian, performing in all the skits.

And new player Susan Moss, aka Sassy Sue, from Sisters reveled in playing Annie Oakley.

In between shootouts folks got to browse through Western art, crafts, and clothing.

With a background in cosmetology, vendor Johnise Thomas from Redmond showcased her booth of hand-crafted hot-pressed soaps.

“With cold-press soap the oils will cook out,” Thomas said “All my oils stay in the soap. I use hemp oils, olive oils, grapeseed oil, Emu oils, coca butters, and we have our special tribute to the eclipse. “The Great American Eclipse” soap and it is activated charcoal hot-processed soap. Toxins stick to the activated charcoal, so it makes a good candidate for a deep-cleaner and detoxifier.”

Scott Brown and his band cranked it up for the country western dance Saturday evening, while Bad Boys Barbecue provided the grub.

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