

Wind-driven grass fire burns three acres near Canal

BY TIM TRAINOR
Redmond Spokesman

A grass fire burned about three acres on a gusty Thursday afternoon in Redmond.

No one was injured and no structures were damaged, according to Redmond Fire & Rescue.

Crews were alerted to the fire in the 3600 block of NW Canal Blvd. about 2:48 p.m., after a large column of black smoke became visible in northeast Redmond.

Crews arrived on scene to find a wind-driven brush fire moving across multiple pastures. Due to limited access and the gusting winds, the fire burned across open pasture

ground until crews were able to gain access and stop the fire's advancement. Before it was extinguished, it burned roughly three acres.

According to an initial investigation, a landowner was actively burning a nearby ditch when the winds picked up and carried the fire beyond their control.

Reminder, call 541-504-5035 to determine if burning is allowed. Residents planning to burn are required to have on hand a shovel, garden hose or water truck to control any fires that may get out of control.

Crooked River Ranch Fire & Rescue assisted at the scene.



Photo courtesy Redmond Fire & Rescue
A grass fire burned about three acres off Canal in Redmond on Thursday, March 31.



Photo courtesy Redmond Fire & Rescue
Crews mop up after a grass fire burned Thursday in Redmond.

Redmond librarian amplifies culture, diversity in schools

BY BRYCE DOLE
The Bulletin

Pia Allende says her passion for storytelling stems from her parents.

Libraries in her hometown of Santiago, Chile, were "pitiful," she said. Being a librarian in the capital city, which sits in a valley at the foot of the Andes mountains, was not a popular career choice. Books were expensive. Her family was relatively well-off, but her parents were stern, urging the family to be cautious with money.

Books and reading became a family treat, delivered on Sundays by Allende's father, a lawyer with high standards and a "strong but soft heart." Allende's father would read to the family from books he crafted with pieces of cardboard and kept in a basket in the closet.

This was how books became a guiding force for Allende, a librarian whose life and career have spanned multiple countries and impacted students, teachers and libraries around the world.

While school districts across the country are banning books about gender and race amid a national reckoning over equitable education, Allende is stocking shelves in Redmond School District libraries with books that illuminate the experiences of people from underserved and marginalized communities.

The 60-year-old Allende has played a major role in



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin
Librarian Pia Allende in the Elton Gregory Middle School library Thursday in Redmond. Allende is one of three librarians in the country recently nominated for School Librarian of the Year by the School Library Journal.

revamping libraries in the district, replacing withered old books with new ones and getting rid of literature that perpetuates racist stereotypes.

"I want to have books that represent them, not misrepresent them," said Allende, who serves as part of the Redmond School District Equity Task Force and is co-chair of the Oregon Library Association's (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) and Antiracism Committee. She added: "I feel that it's really, really sad that we, as school librarians, need to fight for kids to read."

Allende's work has not gone unnoticed. She is one of three librarians in the country recently nominated for School Librarian of the Year by the School Library Journal.

In addition, she raised more than \$2,500 by completing a 347-mile bike-packing trip through Oregon, just before her 60th birthday. The funds went to libraries across the district, she said.

Allende uses part of the grant funds to bring in Spanish-speaking authors and hold monthly bilingual family engagement nights where students and their families hear stories and play Latin American games. She said she wants to "foster the idea that their Spanish is good, that their culture is good, that whatever they do is good, and feel proud."

It was through her parent's storytelling that Allende found an interest in history. She attended a Catholic high school and university in Chile, but she grew bored. She wanted to go to America. She applied, and received a scholarship through the U.S. Fulbright Program, the flagship international academic exchange program meant to foster relationships between countries. With the grant, Allende traveled to New York in 1990 to study history at Stony Brook University.

The move was hard on her relationship with her parents, she said. But Allende fell in love with big city nightlife — and with a Spaniard from the Montana farmlands. After college, she struggled to find work because of language barriers. With her new husband and a child on the way, Allende moved back to

Chile and to her childhood home. "We had nothing," she said.

After having children, Allende and her husband moved their family to a town south of Santiago. She worked at a private school, but Chile still wasn't where she wanted to raise her kids. The family headed back to the United States after obtaining work visas. She landed a job as an interpreter at a school in Arlington, Virginia, where she became an advocate for families from Latin America.

There, she found a love for libraries.

Her commute to work near Washington, D.C. was long, requiring the family to leave their kids in day care for hours. So she proceeded to look for jobs elsewhere in the country. She eventually landed a job as a media library specialist at Redmond High School in 2006. Three years later, amid the nationwide housing crisis and ensuing economic meltdown, Allende was laid off.

Fortunately, she found a job as the head librarian at the International School of Seville San Francisco de Paula in Spain. Her family moved to Seville, where they remained for a decade. Allende helped modernize libraries and led workshops for librarians and teachers in places like Dubai, Budapest, Thessaloniki, Paris and Madrid. Meanwhile, her children, who had lost some of

their knowledge of Spanish while living in the U.S., became bilingual, she said.

"That was pretty neat," she said of her kids. "I couldn't have done it."

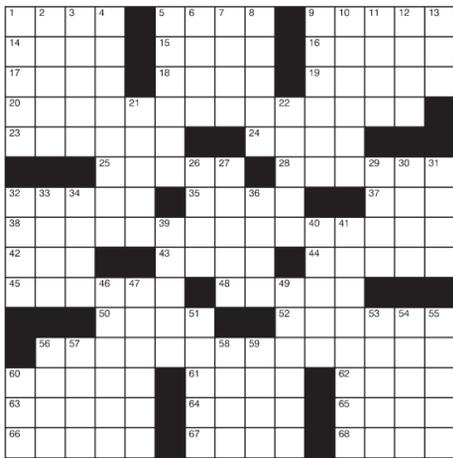
In 2019, after Allende's children finished high school, the family returned to Redmond and moved back into their home on the Crooked River Ranch. After applying to nearly every school district in Central Oregon, she accepted a job as a library technician at a local elementary school in Redmond. Allende looked toward schools with more economically disadvantaged families and saw that many of the schools had outdated books. She wanted to help.

The pandemic only strengthened Allende's resolve to help struggling students. She made weekly videos for children and helped them engage with their schooling as they navigated online learning. She purchased a reading app for district students to have access to digital materials and pushed for bilingual videos. As one of the few Spanish-speaking teachers at the school, she wanted to foster the idea in students that "their countries, their cultures, matter."

She's moved to help them by a book she has in her home, a book written by a friend and mentor who once told her: "Everyone has a story to tell and if you don't write it, it doesn't exist."

CROSSWORD

All That Jazz



CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Mauts

ACROSS

- 1 Nick's barker
- 5 Doting
- 9 Ham it up
- 14 Anab's crew
- 15 Mythical archer
- 16 Wanderer
- 17 Hebrew prophet
- 18 Kind of package
- 19 Take a turn
- 20 Jazz trumpeter
- 23 Slipped
- 24 Christian god, in China
- 25 Ringlet
- 28 Took a break
- 32 Sideline support
- 35 Milan's USA locale
- 37 Egg cells
- 38 Jazz guitarist-singer
- 42 He thrilled 'em in Manila
- 43 Bottom or Ariel
- 44 Staffordshire river
- 45 Carry lingo
- 48 Earl ___ Hines
- 50 Lather ingredient
- 52 Chef's utensils
- 56 Jazz and gospel

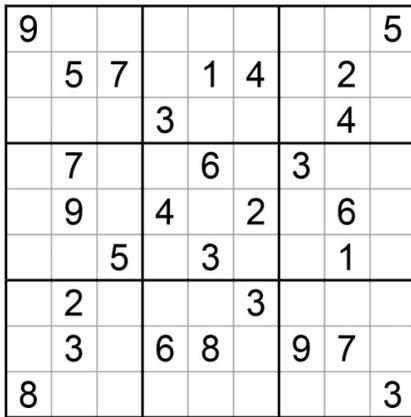
DOWN

- 1 In any way
- 2 Mead's setting
- 3 Bowler Guppy
- 4 Gave a hand
- 5 Phony appearance
- 6 Gen. Bradley
- 7 Standard
- 8 Prepare for eating
- 9 Dinner course
- 10 Blockheads
- 11 Tea-leaf reading
- 12 Citric quality
- 13 "Kookie" Byrnes
- 21 Saw; prefix
- 22 Palpitate
- 26 Aria, e.g.
- 27 Bookcase board

Answers on Page 6

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, with no repeats.



MEDIUM

77

Answers on Page 6

WEATHER

FORECAST

	HIGH	LOW	
Tuesday	48	25	Partly Cloudy
Wednesday	66	34	Partly Cloudy
Thursday	74	39	Partly Cloudy
Friday	62	34	Partly Cloudy
Saturday	55	32	Partly Cloudy
Sunday	51	26	Partly Cloudy
Monday	50	27	Partly Cloudy

LAST WEEK

	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
Saturday, March 26	71	28	0
Sunday, March 27	66	39	0
Monday, March 28	61	37	0.03
Tuesday, March 29	68	31	0
Wednesday, March 30	54	34	0
Thursday, March 31	53	23	0
Friday, April 1	64	23	0

Precipitation to date this year: 1.15 inches

* = daily record

National Weather Service broadcasts are on 162.50 mhz.

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