

Firefighters make gains against southwest Oregon wildfire

Associated Press

CANYONVILLE — Fire bosses say another four or five days of moderate weather will make a big difference in containing a wildfire in southwest Oregon’s Cascade foothills.

The wildfire 16 miles east of Canyonville continued to grow primarily because of burnout operations to strengthen fire lines, according to the Oregon Department of Forestry.

On Tuesday, the fire perimeter encompassed 27 square miles of private and federal forestland. The blaze was only 10 percent contained since starting last week near the community of Milo in Douglas County.

Smoke has moderated as winds shifted, but the air remained unhealthy in Shady Cove, Medford and Klamath Falls. Weather forecasts call for higher humidity and temperatures in the low 80s all week.

More than 300 homes remain threatened, but no evacuations were in effect.

On a nearby wildfire that is six miles east of Glide, also in

Douglas County, officials said firefighters have turned a corner by strengthening a line that encircled the blaze, which has burned through 1,819 acres. It is 30 percent contained and has cost \$3.2 million so far.

On the coast, a 27-acre wildfire closed a popular fishing area near Fort Stevens State Park.

The fire began Monday afternoon near the park’s South Jetty, sending up a big column of smoke as it burned through beach grass, brush and pine and spruce trees, The Daily Astorian reported. The cause was under investigation.

The fire illustrates how dry things are, even at the coast, Warrenton Fire Chief Tim Demers said.

In northeastern Oregon, a wildfire burned 1,500 acres in the Umatilla National Forest seven miles northwest of Elgin. It was 2 percent contained since starting Saturday, burning through grass, brush, logging debris and heavy timber. It threatened 37 homes. Thunderstorms and strong winds were predicted for the area the next three days.



Firefighters worked to contain a 27-acre brush fire near the South Jetty at Fort Stevens State Park Monday. Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

NAACP chapter president says Eugene police used force on sister

By STEVEN DUBOIS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — An NAACP chapter president says police in Eugene used excessive force on his sister after she tried to stop an officer from deploying a Taser stun gun on her 19-year-old son.

Eugene-Springfield NAACP President Eric Richardson said Ayisha Brown called a mental health service early July 16 because her son was in crisis. The assistance team could not respond, and police officers arrived.

Richardson, who said he witnessed the incident, said Brown hugged her agitated son to prevent an officer from using the stun gun.

An officer, who was white, threw Brown to the ground, put a knee in her back and arrested her, Richardson said. His sister, he said, suffered a concussion and has back and knee problems.

Richardson said he raised his hands and identi-

‘Our hope is that, together with NAACP and others, we can create greater mental health care capacity and better ways to care for people whose lives would benefit from those services.’

— Pete Kerns
police chief

fied himself as the chapter president of the NAACP. He said the officers told him he was at risk of being tased.

“I asked everyone to calm down, and I don’t believe my efforts were respected,” he said.

Richardson said he has spoken with Police Chief Pete Kerns about the incident, and those talks have gone well. Richardson said his goals are to improve police training and transparency, while boosting resources for mental health.

“I want to be as positive as possible, while at the same time showing that I felt the whole situation that happened to my sister was unjust,” he said in a phone

interview Tuesday.

Police and jail records obtained by The Register-Guard newspaper show Brown was booked into jail on a misdemeanor charge of interfering with police. She was released the same day, and prosecutors declined to file formal charges.

Kerns did not immediately return phone messages left with his office Tuesday. He said in a statement on Monday that the allegations merit review, but Richardson’s account “is not how we understand the event to have occurred.”

He and Richardson, however, see eye-to-eye on the issue of mental health. “Our hope is that, together

with NAACP and others, we can create greater mental health care capacity and better ways to care for people whose lives would benefit from those services,” Kerns said.

Eugene attorney Brian Michaels said he plans to file a lawsuit on behalf of Brown and her son.

“In our opinion, there was a certain racial overtone here,” Michaels said. “We don’t believe these officers were out gunning for blacks that night by any sense of the word. But I think if it were a white woman hugging her white son, they wouldn’t have tased. I think they would have felt more familiar, more comfortable.”

Newberg city manager won’t face charges after criminal probe

PORTLAND (AP) — Newberg’s city manager isn’t facing charges stemming from a criminal probe into her decision to put the police chief on leave.

Marion County District Attorney Walter Beglau said he found no indication that Jacque Betz engaged in any criminal wrongdoing, the Oregonian reported.

Newberg-Dundee Police Chief Brian Casey was reinstated by Newberg’s city council on July 24 after being on leave for nine days.

Special investigations Capt. Jeff Kosmicki, a subordinate of Casey’s, compiled an 11-page report that was handed over to Marion County prosecutors. The report contains statements from members of the department who say Betz was having a sexual relationship with Officer Jeremy

Fair and that Casey was targeted in order to keep the relationship a secret.

“It is possible that the actions of the city manager in suspending and stripping the chief of all authority constitutes her attempt to prevent an investigation,” the report said.

Attorney Judy Snyder is representing Betz and released a statement Friday.

“Ms. Betz was acting entirely within her authority as City Manager when she placed Newberg-Dundee Police Chief Brian Casey on leave,” Snyder wrote.

Betz has been on leave since July 20.

Council members plan to discuss Betz during a closed meeting on Aug. 17. She could face administrative action.

University of Oregon settles lawsuit over rape allegations

Associated Press

PORTLAND — The University of Oregon has agreed to pay \$800,000 to settle a lawsuit brought by a student who claimed she was sexually assaulted last year by three basketball players.

The unidentified 18-year-old woman on Tuesday dismissed all claims against the university. Last week, she also dismissed all claims against head basketball coach Dana Altman.

According to the settle-

ment, the school will also waive her tuition, housing and student fees for four years.

In addition, the school will pursue a policy change requiring all transfer applicants to report any disciplinary history.

In the suit filed in January, the woman said Altman knew when he recruited one of the players that he had been suspended from another college because of allegations of sexual misconduct. Altman denied he knew it.

Cooler weather allows fishing to resume on lower Deschutes

Associated Press

The DALLES — Anglers can resume fishing the lower Deschutes River — one of Oregon’s most popular summer steelhead destinations — in the afternoons now that water temperatures are returning to normal.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has lifted restrictions that went into effect last month from Macks Canyon to the mouth of the Deschutes.

Last month, the depart-

ment shut off fishing altogether for some rivers and after 2 p.m. in others due to water conditions that were lethal for salmon, steelhead and trout.

Fish biologist Rod French says temperatures are returning to normal for August in the lower Deschutes. He says with river levels dropping, cold springs keep the river colder, as do longer and cooler nights and the changing angle of the sun casting more shadows.

For online updates: www.dailyastorian.com

Consult a PROFESSIONAL

JEFFREY M. LEINASSAR
DMD, FAGD

503/325-0310
1414 MARINE DRIVE,
ASTORIA
www.smileastoria.com

Q: Now that I am pregnant, my gums are more sensitive and bleed more easily. Why?

A: The body during pregnancy is going through many hormonal changes and a common side effect is sensitive or inflamed gums. Meticulous oral hygiene and brushing is very important during this time to keep gums healthy and reduce chance of infection getting into the mothers bloodstream. Women who take proper oral hygiene measures and have a nutritious diet are more likely to avoid gum problems

LEO FINZI
Microsoft REGISTERED Refurbisher

Let us do it for you. Our \$69.99 tune up speeds up your system and installs Windows 10

Astoria's Best
NETWORK AND COMPUTER SALES, SERVICES & REPAIRS

M-F 10-6, Sat 12-5
1020 Commercial #2
503-325-2300

Q: I'm tired of waiting. How can I get Window 10 NOW!

A: Go to www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows10

Click on the 32 or 64 bit version, depending on your computer. While you can keep using your computer while Win 10 is downloading, the whole process can take most of a day.

We also recommend you install all updates and back up your data before any operating system upgrade.

Devonna Edwards
CDC II

CLATSOP BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE
"Helping People Live Well"

65 N. Hwy. 101 Ste.204
Warrenton
503-325-5722

Q: What is CBH's philosophy for problem gambling treatment?

A: The Compulsive Gambling Program is dedicated to a holistic approach to treatment as we support our clients in their recovery. We consider each person's family, work and social life in creating individualized treatment plans and goals. Our staff is prepared to treat other mental health issues that often surface during involvement with our program. We advocate empowerment. This is helping our clients meet their own needs through self-awareness.

DOROTHY OLSEN & PAUL ST. JAMES
RIVER SONG FOUNDATION
RIVERSONG FOUNDATION.ORG/

astoria SUNDAY MARKET
astoriasundaymarket.com

Now through Oct. 11
12th Street • 10am to 3pm

Q: Who are the crossing guards at Astoria Sunday Market?

A: They are volunteers for River Song Foundation who come every week to help pedestrian traffic at the 12th & Duane intersection of the Market. Astoria Sunday Market donates \$100 a week to River Song Foundation to help their mission as advocates for responsible animal stewardship by offering services, support and education.