

FIRE

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and an extra credit homework assignment, lost in the fire.

"Gracie's come out fairly well, plenty of people have come forth with clothing in her size," Adams said.

The Jan. 31 article on the fire stated that injuries were minor, but Adams said her father suffered first degree burns to his nose, ears, arm and back, and is under a doctor's treatment.

The fire that destroyed the Westcliff Drive home, leaving the family with literally just the clothes on their backs, is under investigation. Westside Fire District marshal Jim Trammell said, "Because it's a large loss, we are working with the insurance company and inspector, and we need to schedule an engineer to check for structural safety." That could happen as early as Tuesday, Feb. 3, Trammell said.

"We might have to shore up building to see if we can get inside and investigate," he said.

"It was a total loss," Trammell said. The fire broke out at about 5:30 a.m.

"When we arrived on scene, the fire was quite well established in the house, and it took us 45 minutes to knock it down," Trammell said. "The first arriving engine found it fully involved, with fire from all four corners. We're not sure why the fire spread this quickly. The owners believe it probably started in the garage." Two vehicles in the garage were also destroyed.

A total of 25 firefighters responded, aboard three engines and two tenders, according to Trammell. They were from Westside and Hood River fire departments, and the Odell station of Wy'east Fire District.

"We knew immediately we would have to take a defensive tactic, to just get the fire out, and it was too dangerous to go inside," Trammell said.

Hood River Police officer Erin Mason was the first official on scene, one minute after the call came in, and

the home was already engulfed.

The family is being put up at The Vagabond Lodge, a few blocks east of their home, until Feb. 13, and nearby restaurants are providing meals. White Buffalo Wine Bar has invited the family to dinners, and Charburger gave the Maurers a gift certificate for breakfast, lunch or dinner, with no amount filled in.

The next major task is finding a long-term rental, one that accepts a small dog. (Two dogs in the home escaped the fire, Adams said.) Contact the Hood River Windermere office if you can help.

"One lesson we've learned is: don't keep all your valuable papers in the house where they can get burned," Adams said.

She noted the long process of getting inspectors safely onto the property before any insurance reimbursement is possible.

"Hopefully we can get the money and slowly restore items, but we don't expect to rescue anything," Adams said.

They lost everything - even eyeglasses.

Adams said Cascade Eye Center provided her parents with

temporary eyeglasses at no charge, and "a good friend at Windermere rented my Mom a car for a week, which was huge."

"When you lose everything it's really difficult to get identification. I spent all day yesterday driving Dad to utility companies just trying to get copies of bills to get a birth certificate to get a driver's license," she said.

Adams said donations have been coming in at Windermere, but living in a motel makes it difficult to store donations. The Maurers are keeping a list of items people have offered, and Adams asked that donations be made to the US Bank fund. Checks can also be made to the Maurers and sent to Adams at P.O. Box 1724, Hood River, OR 97031.

Adams said, "When a fire happens there are all these things you just don't think about."

"There are the needs in the future, but right now it's the immediacy of keeping them in a place that's warm, and fortunately they have that," she said.

Firefighters spent most of the day Saturday in clean up at the Westcliff Drive fire scene.

HOW TO HELP

Museum hosts educators

■ Warming Shelter — Hood River Warming Shelter is open at Hood River Expo Center building, 405 Portway Ave..

From 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. nightly, homeless people can find a warm place to sleep, bedding, meals, and connection to community resources, all at no charge. The service is offered nightly at rotating locations.

■ Volunteer drivers from the Mid-Columbia area are needed to take veterans to the Portland VA Medical Center. Oregon drivers must have a valid driver's license and a good driving record. CDL is not needed. For more information, contact the DAV Coordinator at 1-800-949-1004, ext. 57804 or ext. 56957.

■ HR Care Center — The Family Council at the Hood River Care Center is seeking donations

Want in?
If your non-profit is looking for volunteers or has other needs, send brief information to hrnews@hoodrivernews.com

for installation? There are so many new exhibits, educational events, and other happenings at the museum, and more volunteers are needed! If you want to become part of our family and have any interest in helping during this exciting time, email Andrea at thmvolunteer@hrecn.net or call 541-386-6772

■ Educator Appreciation Evening, Feb. 5, 4 to 6 p.m.; educators get in free, including home school educators. This is a chance for the museum to thank educators and to demonstrate the educational opportunities available to students at the History Museum of Hood River County.

■ "Made in the Gorge" Movie Night, Friday, Feb. 20, doors open at 5:30 p.m., movie starts at 6 p.m.

SALCIDO

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blocking the flow of the creek, preventing migration of endangered fish species. Other projects have included the cleaning up of nuisance properties — those with stored solid waste — to preserve farmland and property values, and getting unauthorized second dwellings into compliance.

"I look forward to applying my compliance enforcement skills at a local level to pro-

duce tangible results for Hood River County residents, which I hope will include protection of property values, farming practices and promoting a clean environment," she said.

Salcido has 23 years of experience enforcing civil and criminal regulations, "with an emphasis on working with the public to achieve voluntary compliance through outreach and training." Before moving to Hood River, she was Special Agent in Charge of the San Jose Office of Export Enforcement for the U.S. Department of

Commerce, a position that involved investigating technology exports to foreign lands "that posed a threat to U.S. national security, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and freight forwarding companies to prevent illegal exports from delivery to prohibited end uses or end users," she said.

"I am most proud of the contribution my team made interrupting various supply chains of weapons of mass destruction programs in countries that pose a threat to U.S. interests."

Salcido has created fact sheets regarding the limita-

tions on property zoned for rural residential or exclusive farm use for Hood River County; those interested can stop by the office, located at 601 State Street (second floor), or email julie.salcido@co.hoodriver.or.us.

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Dr. Snyder

Dr. Stephen Snyder after 42 years practicing general dentistry here in Hood River, will be limiting his practice at Hood River Dental to the treatment of sleep apnea, snoring and complex denture prosthetics.

Dr. Snyder would like to thank all of his patients for their trust and loyalty allowing him to care for their dental health needs over the last four decades. If you have any friends or family who are suffering from snoring, sleep apnea, are CPAP intolerant, he would love to assist them.

Dr. Snyder will continue at Hood River Dental as a valuable part of this advanced dental team.



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