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WEEKEND EDITION

75 cents

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Hood River News

Dee blaze contained

Quick collective response to heavy drought conditions

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

A wildfire near Dee consumed roughly three acres of trees and brush Tuesday — and threatened nearby orchards and homes — but a valley-wide response wrestled down the flames within hours.

Every fire department in Hood River County responded to the fire, which broke out at about 1 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7. Smoke billowed from a patch of wilderness land between Tony Creek Road and Dee Highway, half a mile south of Dee Mill. The smell of smoke and burned timber wafted for nearly a mile downwind on the highway.

“It had the potential to get a lot larger,” said Jim Trammel, West Side Fire Marshall.

Trammel considered the joint agency response a success. “The fire services, as far as operationally, almost work as one agency,” he said. “It’s all part of our mutual aid ... it keeps getting better year after year.”

At the scene Tuesday, officers and deputies from Oregon State Police and Hood River County Sheriff’s Office posted up at the confluence of Highway 281 and Lost Lake Road, and closed off the latter road, which leads to the popular recre-

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Photos by Patrick Mulvihill

PARKDALE FIREFIGHTER hoses down the scorched area during mop-up. Quick and collective efforts by multiple agencies quelled the fire, which authorities said could have been far worse. At left, smoke column pinpoints the location south of the former Dee mill site, Mt. Hood the backdrop. A Parkdale fire rig dispatched as backup to Wasco County turned around and came back to the scene with the Dee fire was reported.



Director’s firing roils Museum

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

The Hood River County History Museum is re-orienting following the loss of its executive, as is the Hood River Heritage Council — one board member stepped down citing a need to spend more time volunteering elsewhere, as well as “frustrations” with the council.

Museum director Megan Shue-mate was dismissed June 26, less than four months after moving from Wisconsin to Hood River to take the position. Later that month, Ralph Staley, Heritage Council Board Member, resigned from his volunteer position.

Staley, who had served on the board for three years, said he wanted more time to volunteer at his church, Seventh-Day Adventist in Hood River, and to work on

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Parkdale man dies in Dee Highway crash Sunday

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

A 51-year-old Parkdale man died Sunday in a single vehicle crash on Dee Highway, near Odell.

Frederick Cranston Schmidt was heading southbound on State Highway 281 at mile post 10.5 when the truck he was driving left the road, struck a power pole and slid down an embankment before coming to rest against a tree, according to report from Oregon State Police.

OSP trooper Gavin McIlvenna of The Dalles patrol responded to the crash at about 9:15 Sunday

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Spotlight

A weekly series about a day in the life ...

Genesis Quezada, 16, takes summer one scoop at a time

BY TRISHA WALKER
News staff writer

Genesis Quezada just turned 16, but she already has four years of business experience under her belt.

Her parents, Socorro and Carlos, own The Heights Ice Cream and the neighboring Hood River Taqueria Mexican Restaurant (the family also includes brother, Diego, 12, and Carlos, Jr., 22). She’s been working at the ice cream shop since it opened in the summer of 2011. As an 11-year-old, her sole responsibility was running the cash register.

These days, she runs the register, serves customers, trains and manages employees, orders the supplies — ranging from ice cream and cones to bowls and utensils — and cleans inside and out.

“I’m responsible for everyone, and to make sure things are going right,” she said.

But her parents are in charge of the “really important stuff, like with the money, they do all the deposits,” she said. They also hire any new employees.

“I just learn more each year,” she said. “I become more responsible and learn to accept it — because when I was

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tidy.



Photos by Trisha Walker

GENESIS QUEZADA, 16, runs The Heights Ice Cream, located on 12th Street. She’s responsible for ordering product, managing the workers, running the cash register, serving customers and keeping the store

Four To Go

‘Movies in Park’ starts July 11

Movies in the Park starts Saturday, July 11 in Jackson Park at dusk (around 8:45 p.m.).

“Frozen” (PG) starts the series. Bring lawn chairs and throw on your PJ’s! Andrew’s Pizza will be selling pizzas and the Leos Club will be selling other refreshments and popcorn. There is no movie July 25, Fair week, but they return on Aug. 1, 8, 15, and 22. There are also movies being shown at the Cascade Locks Marine Park on July 24 and 31, Aug. 14 and 21, and Sept. 2. All movies begin at dusk and are subject to weather conditions.



‘Movie on the Lawn’ July 12 at Town Hall

Mount Hood Town Hall will show “Big Hero 6” (PG) at a free Movie Night on the Lawn for the community July 12.

Community Ed will do the honors; the movie will start at about 8:45 p.m. Popcorn, cotton candy, soda, candy bars and water will be for sale and all proceeds for the planned Town Hall kitchen remodel project.

Calling all ‘Leaders for Tomorrow’

Leaders for Tomorrow (LFT) celebrates its 20th anniversary on July 17 at Best Western Plus Hood River Inn. Organizers are looking for alumni of the program, originally called Leadership for Youth with students from HRVHS, Cascade Locks and Summit (now Horizon).

Gov. Kate Brown will speak during a brunch starting at 10 a.m.

Participants, alumni, sponsors, and staff who have been involved should contact Kristin Reese at 541-806-0278, (or email kristinr@hrcn.net) by July 13.

HR Art Club celebrates 66 years

The Hood River Art Club is celebrating its 66th anniversary with an art show at the History Museum of Hood River County July 10-18. The show will be open daily, excluding Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the upstairs balcony. Each of the club’s members will have something special on display, some of which will be for sale. On the lower level will be artwork by the club’s founding members, including Norman Tucker and Gilbert Clarke.

A reception will be held July 18 from 1-4 p.m. with refreshments and exhibits. At 2:30 p.m., Percy Manser’s granddaughter Marilyn Avolio will give a short talk, and at 3 p.m., artist Gayle Weisfield will relate stories about the classes she took with founding member Phil Tyler. Please see related photo, page A2.