

BRIEFLY

Man believed swept away in John Day River

SPRAY (AP) — An Eastern Oregon sheriff’s officer says a 30-year-old man is believed to have been swept away in the John Day River.

Wheeler County sheriff’s Chief Deputy Michael Boyd said Monday that deputies were called Sunday afternoon to an area west of the small town of Spray. They were told that a 30-year-old man from Fossil had been swept away in the water. His name has not been released.

An initial search by deputies, Oregon State police, local firefighters and a fast water rescue team failed to find the man.

On Monday, members of the Deschutes County Water Rescue Dive team assisted in the search.

Boyd said that due to recent heavy rains, the river is unusually fast-moving and hazardous to swimmers and boaters.

Umatilla County resets meeting for dispatch issues

HERMISTON — Umatilla County moved its meeting for local police and city leaders to discuss the sheriffs’ office dispatch services from Tuesday to Thursday.

County Commissioner Bill Elfering originally planned the meeting for Tuesday, but that conflicted with city councils that also met that night. Elfering in an email last week said canceling and rescheduling the meeting was “definitely in order” after receiving feedback about the meeting date.

“The error was unintentional,” he also said. “Thank you for bringing the Tuesday night conflicts to my attention.”

The sheriff’s office is facing criticism for what it charges for dispatch services, including from small cities that never paid for the services before. The meeting is to address those concerns.

The county reset the meeting to Thursday at 2:30 p.m. at the Stafford Hansell Government Center, Hermiston. Elfering also stated the council will make a “special effort ... to provide the information to any who cannot attend but still wish it.”

Daily bag limit increased for Columbia chinook

Anglers can now keep up to two fin-clipped spring chinook on the Columbia River from Tongue Point to the Oregon-Washington border above McNary Dam through the end of the season on June 15.

Fisheries managers with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife increased the daily bag limit based on a new run projection of 271,000 fish — well above the original estimate of 232,500 in January.

The overall daily limit remains unchanged at two salmonids per day, including both salmon and steelhead. But under previous restrictions, only one of the fish could be a

chinook.

All other regulations remain in effect. The summer chinook season will begin Tuesday, June 16. Anglers will also be able to keep sockeye salmon as part of the bag limit once the summer season begins.

Warming Station offers cool reprieve

HERMISTON — With predictions for the mercury edging closer to triple digits, the opening weekend of the Cooling Station is this weekend.

For a safe and relaxing place to beat the heat, people are invited Saturday and Sunday from 1-7 p.m. at 224 E. Main St., Hermiston.

Bottled water, a quiet place to read and possibly a movie will help pass the time.

For more information, search Facebook for “Hermiston Warming Station” or contact Carol Johnson at warmingstation@gmail.com or 541-720-4295.

OFA holds public meetings in Pendleton

PENDLETON — A pair of public meetings are scheduled by the Oregon Facilities Authority to discuss its SNAP Bond Program and to hold its regular business meeting.

The program helps charities of all sizes secure low-cost financing to remodel, expand, construct, or purchase new facilities, through the use of tax-exempt conduit revenue bonds. This session is Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate.

Then, from 1-2:30 p.m., the authority will address principal business items, including consideration of final approval for the application for an OFA SNAP Bond for Mercy Corps, an OFA Traditional Bond for the Oregon Episcopal School, preliminary approval for the application for an OFA Traditional Bond for Personal Learning, Inc. Redmond Proficiency Academy and other matters affecting the OFA.

For more information, contact Gwendolyn Griffith at 503-802-5710 or ofa@tonkon.com or visit www.oregon.gov/.../Oregon-Facilities-Authority_old.aspx

Driving class provides safety refresher

PENDLETON — A pair of AARP Smart Driver courses will be offered in Pendleton.

The 6-hour enhanced driver refresher class is Saturday, June 13 or Saturday, Aug. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital, 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton. A break is provided for lunch. The cost is \$15 for AARP members, who must present their card, and \$20 for non-members. All ages are welcome.

For more information or to register, call Nikii Murtaugh at call 541-861-0024.

BOARDMAN

Haystack combusts, starts large fire

Crews from 13 local agencies respond

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
East Oregonian

Firefighters from virtually every department in Umatilla and Morrow counties have spent the better part of two days chasing a wind-whipped blaze that burned tens of thousands of acres of dried grass and sagebrush near Boardman.

The fire started Monday from a haystack that spontaneously combusted at Threemile Canyon Farms close to Highway 74, according to Boardman Fire Chief Marc Rogelstad. From there, stiff winds pushed the flames 10-12 miles along the south end of the Boardman coal-fired power plant and Navy bombing range until crews could finally cut off the spread at Bombing Range Road.

Just when they thought they had the fire contained, winds once again kicked up flames Tuesday and forced firefighters to resume their attack, which lasted into the evening. Nobody was hurt, and no structures reported damaged.

At the fire’s peak on Monday, resources were on scene from 13 local agencies: Boardman, Heppner, Ione, Echo, Pilot Rock, Pendleton, Stanfield, Irrigon, Umatilla, Herm-



Smoke from a field fire rises out of Boardman on Monday. The fire started when a haystack combusts and spread over 10,000 acres, requiring 13 agencies to respond.

iston and Lexington fire departments, as well as the Morrow County Sheriff’s Office and Morrow County Road Department. They worked well into the night, Rogelstad said, until about 1 a.m.

Several fingers of the fire continued to burn into Tuesday at the southwest corner of the bombing range before jumping containment lines. On its Facebook page, the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District estimated the fire at 30,000-40,000 total acres. A Chinook

helicopter from the Army National Guard in Pendleton also assisted with water drops over the area, taking water from Carty Reservoir at the coal plant.

Rogelstad said Monday all crews did a great job working together, especially as they faced wind speeds as high as 38 mph.

“Everything meshed well together,” he said. “That’s how we’re able to manage these things.”

Fire crews Tuesday made a stand on Immigrant Road on the south border of the

bombing range when the blaze resumed.

The fire was the largest of the year so far, Rogelstad said, and an indicator of the season to come. Burning season will close June 15 in the district, he said, and residents should be especially mindful of conditions moving forward.

“It’s going to be a long, hot, dry summer,” Rogelstad said.

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Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4547.

HERMISTON

Garden tour blooms with event’s founder

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

Growing up in Alaska, Audney Cosand’s family lived off the land with gardening playing a big part of that.

That initial exposure sprouted into more as Cosand has enjoyed gardening most of her life. In the 1980s, she became even more interested in the landscaping aspect of gardening.

Although she’s never belonged to a garden club, Cosand was active for many years with P.E.O Chapter DR and started the organization’s garden tour fundraiser. Cosand’s previous Hermiston home was a part of the garden tour a couple of times.

Cosand and David Hutchinson’s Northwest Eucalyptus Drive home is on this year’s tour. In 2011, Cosand dug in with renovations to liven up the yard and landscaping. She’s particularly proud of the back patio area.

“It’s really quite different, so that’s the best part,” she said.

Previously, the elevated view from Cosand’s patio featured her backyard neighbor’s property. Now, raised beds and a water feature sit prominently between her patio chairs and trees, which as they mature will provide an additional barrier.

With a mixture of annuals and perennials, Cosand is happy with the architectural vision of McLaughlin Landscaping of Pendleton.

“It’s nice to have the ever-green in the winter time,” Cosand said. “It gives even structure and works year



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

A simple lawn area with a single tree was transformed into an inviting park-like setting at the Hermiston home of Audney Cosand and David Hutchinson. Their garden/landscaping is among six featured in the June 13 P.E.O. Hermiston Garden Tour.

around.”

For an opportunity to see the Cosand/Hutchinson creation, be sure to participate in the P.E.O. Hermiston Garden Tour. Others featured on the tour include Buzz and LaDonna Quaemptts, Jake and Deanne Malmberg, Mark and Kris Mulvihill, Cody and Angela Pursel, and Doug and Kris Bennett.

P.E.O Hermiston Garden Tour

DATE: Saturday, June 13
TIME: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
TICKETS: \$10
FROM: The Cottage, 1725 N. First St. Hermiston.

visited in any order. Members of the P.E.O. Chapter will greet participants at each of the locations.

In its 11th year, the event supports local scholarships as well as the organization’s state and international projects. P.E.O. was founded in 1869 as a way to support women and encourage them in realizing their potential through education.

For more information, contact Judi Mason at judimasn@eoni.com or 541-314-5407.

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Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

McKay Creek Estates presents:

SAFETY FIRST

Join us as we host a lecture series to increase safety awareness on fall prevention, common home injuries and provide solutions to keep you and your loved one safe!

Healthy Back Habits for Caregivers - CONCLUDED
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 3:30PM

Many adults spend a considerable portion of their week caring for aging parents, relatives, friends, or other adults. According to the results of a recent study, the stresses and strains of providing care to an ill loved one may take a considerable toll on the mental and physical health of care-givers — including their back and spine health. Learn healthy back habits to keep you safe.

Elder-Friendly Living: Modifying Your Home for Safety
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 3:30 PM

No matter when the older person’s home was built and regardless of whether it is modern or traditional in style, it likely was designed for young adults and their families. As adults age their homes also grow older, but most are not updated to accommodate the resident’s changing needs. Home adaptation or modification can provide friendlier elder living so older occupants may continue to life safely in the comfort of their home.

Know Your Numbers
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 3:30 PM

Are you at risk for diabetes, heart disease and other chronic diseases? Learn about the numbers and what they mean for various screenings to stay in control of your health. We will talk about cholesterol, blood pressure, body mass index (BMI) numbers and more.

For more information or to RSVP, call us at (541) 276-1987 or visit us today!

SafetyMan says
“Always be Safe to Ensure an Active & Independent Lifestyle”

McKay Creek Estates
1601 Southgate Place
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Prestige Senior Living, L.L.C.
www.PrestigeCare.com

HAMLEY STEAKHOUSE & SALOON

Friday June 5

Sponsored in part by Coca-Cola

Party starts at 4p
Dinner Service at 5p

103.5 KRWHEAT

8th Anniversary Celebration

Live Music

CALE MOON 5-7:30p

ELEVENTH STREET INCIDENT 8-11p

FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

“on the lawn” COURT & MAIN, PENDLETON