

Area sees early start to fire season

By **STEVE TOOL**
Wallowa County Chieftain

Fire season made an early appearance with the Little Basin Fire, burning around Little Basin Creek, near the Dug Bar Road in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. The fire was reported at 10:30 a.m. on the morning of Monday, June 15. The fire grew to 100 acres in size by Monday afternoon and increased to 500 acres by Tuesday morning, June 16.

Both the U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry are fighting the blaze, which is burning in steep terrain with light, flashy fuels with a few small stringers of trees along some of the ridge tops.

On Monday afternoon, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest reported that five fire engines, two helicopters, a hand crew and a Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) along with both the Union and La

Grande Hot Shot crews were fighting the fire with an additional Hot Shot crew and air tanker support en route as well.

According to Matthew Burks, USFS public affairs specialist, resources are limited across the region at the moment as fire season is getting underway and not all firefighting resources are in active duty status. Burks also said that although the cause of fire is unknown at this time, a fire investigator is on site.

Because of warm, dry and windy weather as of late, the Oregon Department of Forestry declared the opening of fire season as of 12:01 a.m. June 16 for forest and range lands protected by the ODF Northeast Oregon District, according to an ODF press release. "We want to make sure that we are prepared with the prevention measures that help us to minimize human-caused fire starts," states Steve Meyer, unit forester for La Grande and Baker.

Umatilla forest supervisor leaving for new position

East Oregonian

Umatilla National Forest Supervisor Kevin Martin is leaving Pendleton for Portland to become director of fire and aviation management for the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest and Alaska regions.

Martin will begin his new job July 12. He replaces David Summer, who retires July 2 after 42 years of service.

Northwest Regional Forester Jim Pena said Martin brings senior leadership skill to the position. As a forest supervisor for 10 years,

Martin formed relationships with states, counties, tribes and the public at large, Pena said.

"He values learning, and will be a strong proponent for integrating fire with other functions across both regions," Pena said.

In addition, Martin has been an active member of the National Line Officer team for wildfire management and serves as a coach for agency administrators at the National Fire Training Center.

"The position is very different from what I have been doing for the last 10

years as a forest supervisor," Martin said.

The USFS Pacific Northwest Region consists of 16 national forests, 59 district offices, a national scenic area and a national grassland. The Alaska Region consists of just two national forests — the Tongass and the Chugach — though they are the two largest national forests in the country.

Agency spokesman Glen Sachet said they are in the process of recruiting a new supervisor for the Umatilla National Forest. An acting supervisor has not yet been named.

Pendleton fights cancer during annual Relay for Life event

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
East Oregonian

Sandy Morris first got involved with Relay for Life to fight back.

The Pendleton woman was diagnosed with breast cancer in November 2009. In addition to being a survivor, her previous husband died 14 years ago from the disease and her current husband's former wife died eight years ago.

"It hits everybody," Morris said. "I don't want my grandkids to hear the words that I heard — that you have cancer."

Relay for Life is the signature fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. Opening ceremonies for the Pendleton event are Friday at 6 p.m. at Sunridge Middle School, 700 S.W. Rynnion Ave. It continues through the night with closing ceremonies Saturday at 7 a.m.

Relay For Life was started in 1985 by a doctor who wanted to do something to fight the disease, said Gert Hawthorne, who has been active on the Relay for Life committee for the past decade. Dr. Gordon Klatt and some friends spent 24 hours running and walking around a track in Tacoma — raising \$27,000 in donations from supporters.

Klatt, who was 71, died Aug. 3, 2014, as a result of heart failure after fighting stomach cancer. However, his legacy continues as Relay for Life events are held across the globe.

The event's goal is to raise money to help fund cancer research,



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini
Teenagers walk under the Relay for Life banner while participating in a past fundraiser at Sunridge Middle School. This year's event begins Friday at 6 p.m.

to recognize cancer survivors, to honor those who have died from the disease and to raise community awareness of cancer.

"Relay is a fun event, and features entertainment, food, games, contests and information booths," Hawthorne said.

New this year is The Garden of Hope. A small fenced area will offer a peaceful retreat with seating, plants and water features.

"It's for anyone if they want

to get away and reflect or relax," Morris said.

In her third year as event lead, Morris is still moved by the Luminaria Ceremony, which is planned around 9 p.m. Lighted paper bags with the names of survivors and those lost to the disease will line the track.

Paula Messenger of Hermiston will share about being a caregiver as both her parents fought cancer. The ceremony also features singing,

Summer sun sheds light on skin cancer

This month's American Cancer Society focus is skin cancer, since June is the official start of summer.

Skin cancer is the most common form of the disease in the United States — it's also one of the most preventable forms. The American Cancer Society encourages people to take steps to help lower their skin cancer risk.

Limit time spent in direct sun, especially when the sun's rays are most intense — generally from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. When in the sun, remember this: Slip, Slop, Slap, Wrap.

Slip on a shirt. Wear protective clothing, including long sleeves.

Slop on sunscreen. Use broad spectrum protection and an SPF of 30 or higher. Check the expiration date.

Slap on a hat. A wide brim protects areas exposed to intense sun. A dark, non-reflective underside to the brim helps lower the amount of UV rays that reach the face from reflective surfaces.

Hats made of tightly woven fabric are better than straw hats and baseball caps.

Wrap sunglasses around your face. UV-blocking sunglasses help protect eyes. Children need real, protective sunglasses — not toy sunglasses.

Some people believe UV rays from tanning beds are harmless. This is not true. Tanning lamps give out UVA and usually UVB rays as well. Both UVA and UVB rays can cause long-term damage and can contribute to skin cancer. An increased risk of melanoma has been linked to tanning bed use, especially if it's started before a person is 30.

For more information, visit www.cancer.org or call 800-227-2345

Information contributed by Gert Hawthorne, who on the committee for Pendleton's Relay for Life. The signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, the Pendleton relay is June 19-20 at Sunridge Middle School. For more information, call her at 541-215-9767.

BRIEFLY

Heppner DMV to change day of operation

HEPPNER — Beginning July 9, the Heppner DMV will be open on Thursdays instead of Tuesdays. The last day the Heppner DMV will be open on Tuesday is June 30.

Business hours will remain the same — 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a lunch closure from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.

Local schools earn national ranking

HERMISTON — Five Umatilla County high schools and two in Morrow County were given bronze medal status this year in the *U.S. News and World Report's* annual school rankings.

Hermiston High School,

Pendleton High School, Echo School, Ione Charter School, Pilot Rock High School, Heppner Jr./Sr. High School and Irrigon High School were all recognized by the publication.

Out of 325 high schools in Oregon, 114 made the list, with three gold medals, 25 silver medals and 86 bronze medals.

Rankings are based on the percentage of students earning college credit through Advanced Placement tests and state test scores for reading and math.

Run/walk raises money for epilepsy support

HERMISTON — The 2015 Northwest Run/Walk for Epilepsy, held in conjunction with The Arc Umatilla County, will raise awareness and money to

support families affected by the disease.

Partnering with Epilepsy Foundation Northwest, the event will provide support for those who are impacted by seizure disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The event is Saturday with registration at 9 a.m. McKenzie Park, 320 S. First St., Hermiston. The run/walk begins at 10 a.m. A celebration ceremony is planned from 11-11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$25, which includes a T-shirt for registered participants. Prizes will be given for top team and individual fundraisers.

Epilepsy, which is sometimes called a seizure disorder, is neurological disorder that is characterized by unpredictable seizures

and can cause other health concerns. For more about epilepsy, visit www.epilepsynw.org.

To register or for more information about the fundraising event, visit www.NWRunWalk.org/Hermiston. Those with questions can call 541-561-0380 or 206-291-6893.

Library offers DIY projects, musical comedy program

PENDLETON — For fun projects, be sure to attend DIY @ the Library.

The fourth Tuesday of each month, Pendleton Public Library is hosting a basic program in various interest areas. Participants during the Tuesday, June

23 session will make a charcoal briquette chimney. The program runs from 6-8 p.m. in the library's meeting room, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Although it's free, those planning to participate in the DIY programs must register in advance to ensure there are enough materials.

People are invited to come early for Rick Huddle's musical comedy program. He will perform at 4 p.m. The program includes songs, skits and audience participation.

For more information, call 541-966-0380.

Pendleton to show free films

PENDLETON — Pendleton Cinemas is

teaming up with the Pendleton Public Library to offer free movies during the summer.

Beginning June 24, each Wednesday and Thursday family-friendly movies will be shown free of charge at 10:30 a.m. at Pendleton Cinema, 415 S.W. First St.

For more information, call 541-966-0380 or visit www.pendleton.plinkit.org.

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

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