

HERMISTON

Crews extinguish small blaze on Butte

By SEAN HART
EO Media Group

No structures were damaged during a small fire on the Hermiston Butte early Friday morning.

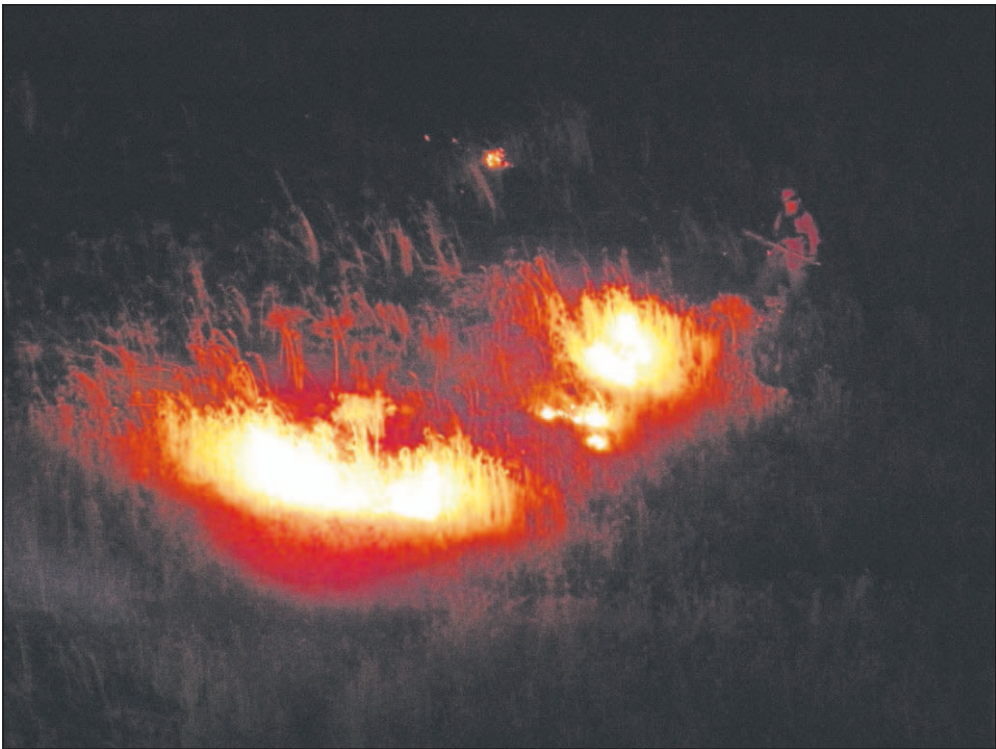
Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services Lt. Dennis McClure said the agency was dispatched at 12:12 a.m. to a report of visible flames by the swimming pool on the northwest side of the butte.

He said three Hermiston units and two from Stanfield responded and worked to quickly extinguish the blaze.

“The fire was in steep terrain on the butte in the area behind the swimming pool,” he said. “It was controlled at 12:38. a.m. That’s when the fire was out, and they started to mop up. At 12:55, all the hot spots were put out, and they cleared the scene.”

Although he was not at the fire, McClure said the report indicates approximately one acre of grass was burned, but no structures were threatened. He said the cause of the fire is undetermined, but with no signs of arson reported, further investigation is unlikely.

“Typically, for small



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Hermiston and Stanfield firefighters work to extinguish a small grass fire on the northwest side of the Hermiston Butte early Friday morning.

grass fires like this, we won’t go in any farther,” he said. “Sometimes, (we are) really just unable to find (the source).”

A controlled burn planned at the butte at 5 p.m. June 25 will probably still occur if the weather conditions are

appropriate, McClure said, because only a small portion of the butte was burned in the unplanned fire. The controlled burn is planned to reduce the risk of fire during the July 4 fireworks show.

McClure said people should be mindful of the

dangerous fire conditions.

“Conditions are really dry all over the county,” he said. “People should be careful of where they burn and what they do. They should just be careful and cautious of their activities in dry areas.”

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 20
HERMISTON’S OWN FARMERS MARKET, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., McKenzie Park, 300 S. First St., Hermiston. Food, crafts, live music, art.

PARKING LOT SALE, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Agape House, 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. Clothing, furniture, knick-knacks, books and more. Clothing 3 for \$1, knick-knacks you name the price. (Dave 541-567-8774).

KIDS’ FISHING DAY, 9 a.m. to noon, Umatilla National Forest Pond 5412, south of Pilot Rock on USFS Road 5412-050, off Yellow-jacket Road. Free fishing for ages 6-14 and their parent/guardian (who may not fish). Blue Mountain Flycasters members will provide instruction and help with cleaning and icing the catch. Kids should bring their own tackle and bait; a limited amount of loaner gear may be available. A hot dog lunch will be provided to all participants. (Gary Bell 541-276-5865 or John Dadoly 541-377-2943).

KIDS’ ART IN THE PARK, 9 a.m. to noon, McKenzie Park, 320 S. First St., Hermiston. Free kids’ art activities with Laurie Ellis for ages 6-17. All supplies provided, drop in, make it and take it home.

NORTHWEST RUNWALK FOR EPILEPSY, 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. event begins, McKenzie Park, 320 S. First St., Hermiston. The one-mile run/walk raises awareness and funds for Epilepsy Foundation Northwest. Register online at www.NWRunWalk.org/Hermiston.

FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Family art experience for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (541-278-9201).

LIVING CULTURE VILLAGE AT TAMASTSLIKT, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tamastslikt Cultural Institute, 47106 Wildhorse Blvd., Mission. View replicas of traditional and prehistoric Plateau Indian people and participate in cultural activities. Free with admission. (541-429-7700). May 23 through Aug. 30 2015

“ROBBERS, REPROBATES AND THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT” WALKING TOUR, 10:30 a.m. beginning at MaySon’s General Store, 369 S. Main St., Pendleton. Cost is \$5 per person. (541-276-8206).

HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m. to noon, Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in art project class for adults. (541-278-9201).

TILLAMOOK CHEESE DAYS, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. Lunch of grilled cheddar and barbecued pork sandwich, side, dessert and drink is \$5, which includes admission to the center. (541-481-7243).

STRAIGHT TALK WITH BECKY MARKS, 2-4 p.m., Prodigal Son



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Brady Goss, a crowd favorite throughout the region, will perform Monday at 7 p.m. at Music in the Parks at Irigon Marina Park.

Pub & Brewery, 230 E. Court Ave., Pendleton. Share thoughts with Ward 1 councilwoman. (541-276-9147).

SUMMER POPS CONCERT, 4 p.m., Lone Community School, 445 Spring St. A repertoire of popular tunes will feature Sen. Bill Hansell narrating “Lincoln Portrait” by Aaron Copland. A reception with refreshments will follow the concert. Free.

IONE RED WHITE & BLUES TEXAS HOLD’EM AND CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT, 5 p.m. dinner begins, 6 p.m. game signups, 6:30 p.m. play begins, Lone American Legion Hall, 325 W. Second St. Cost to play is \$40 for poker, \$20 for cribbage. No late buy-ins. Cash prizes for winners. Chicken barbecue dinner will be available by donation; no-host bar by Route 74. (Arlinda Gates 541-422-7534 for poker; Betty Gray 541-422-7335 for cribbage).

SUNDAY, JUNE 21
PAUL GORHAM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST, 8 a.m. to noon, Pendleton Masonic Lodge No. 52, 1350 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. Costs \$6 for adults and \$4 for ages 6-12. Call-in orders to go are welcome. Proceeds benefit the lodge fund. (541-276-3760).

KBLU-FM CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP, 3 p.m., Prodigal Son Pub & Brewery, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. Share ideas on format of Pendleton area’s newest radio station. (Vicki 541-566-2744).

SUMMER POPS CONCERT, 4 p.m., Weston-McEwen High School, 540 E. Main St., Athena. A repertoire of popular tunes will feature Sen. Bill Hansell narrating “Lincoln Portrait” by Aaron Copland. A reception with refreshments will follow the concert. Free.

ADULT OPEN GYM, 7-9 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. Free access for ages 16 and up. (541-276-8100).

MONDAY, JUNE 22
WALKING FOR WELLNESS,

8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. (541-276-8100).

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30 a.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St. For ages birth to 6. (541-566-2470).

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 noon, Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 for seniors, \$6 for those under 60. Meet new friends, enjoy pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store and more from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels call CAPECO at 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101).

ART STUDIO, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. Free class for ages 7-12 to develop skills and encourage art exploration. (541-278-9201).

MUSIC IN THE PARK, 7 p.m., Irigon Marina Park, end of North-east 10th Street.. Brady Goss is the featured performer. Bring blanket, lawn chairs and a picnic.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23
WALKING FOR WELLNESS,

8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. (541-276-8100).

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY, 9 a.m. to noon, Old West Federal Credit Union parking lot, 1739 N. First St., Hermiston. Bring confidential papers to be shredded for no charge. Some restrictions in amounts per household may be given. (541-564-0264).

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30-11 a.m., Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave. (541-449-1254).

LITERARY HOUR, 11 a.m., Children’s Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. A book and activity designed to promote literacy, self-expression and early reading. (541-276-1066).

BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 noon, Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Cost is \$4 for seniors 55 and older and \$5 for adults. All ages welcome. (541-481-3257).

HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 noon, Hermiston Senior Center, 435 W. Orchard Ave. Costs \$4 for adults and children over 10, \$4 for Meals on Wheels home delivery, free for children under 10. Extra 50 cents if center provides table service or dishes. Transportation can be arranged by donation. (541-567-3582).

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 noon, Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St. Costs \$3.50 for seniors, \$6 for those under 60. Meet new friends, enjoy pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store and more from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels call CAPECO at 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101).

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY, 2-5 p.m., Old West Federal Credit Union parking lot, 301 S. Main St., Pendleton. Bring confidential papers to be shredded for no charge. Some restrictions in amounts per household may be given. (541-575-0264).

State struggles to replicate Eastern Promise

By ROB MANNING
OPB News

The state has spent nearly \$2 million to replicate Eastern Promise, a collaboration between Eastern Oregon K-12 schools and higher education to get more students to college or into career training.

The idea is to bring together universities, colleges and K-12 schools to do three things, according to Hilda Rosselli of the Oregon Education Investment Board: “To increase access for students to college credits, and to help create college-going cultures, and to align curriculum between high schools and colleges.”

Eastern Promise offers college credits in rural high schools, for things like native Spanish-speaking ability or college-level coursework. There’s a program in the lower grades to encourage grade schoolers to start thinking early about what it would be like to go to college.

Now there are also partnerships in the Portland area, Eugene, southern and central Oregon, but the Salem-based Willamette Promise is moving the fastest. Just a year in, 80 teachers are running 18 courses. But it’s not totally smooth. Chemeketa Community College is leaving Willamette Promise as the grant runs out this month.

Chemeketa officials say 20 professors helped with course outlines and exams. College deans and a full-time advisor also took part. But in the end, Chemeketa decided to focus on its other programs that are geared toward high school students.

“When it was wrapping up, through, all that effort and work, and then comparing what the program was doing to what our program was doing, it just felt like it was best to focus on our programs,” said Chemeketa spokesperson Greg Harris.

When Eastern Promise started, schools and colleges didn’t always agree, either.

“There had to be a lot of cooperation with the colleges and that wasn’t easy at first,” said Mike Royer, a Morrow County School District

counselor and former Eastern Promise staffer. “Because I think the way they kind of looked at it, the high schools might be stealing some of their business.”

Royer remembers meetings led by the superintendent of the education service district with presidents of Blue Mountain and Treasure Valley community colleges and Eastern Oregon University.

“Some of those meetings got very heated,” Royer said. “But everyone was always back at the table the next week. They didn’t give up on it.”

It’s still not entirely smooth in Eastern Oregon. College professors help grade papers and meet with high school teachers to ensure students are doing college-level work. Jim Whittaker at BMCC said his faculty has limits.

“In some areas, such as writing, it has increased their work load dramatically,” said Whittaker. “They do get paid additionally for their time, but there’s only so much time.”

The Oregon Education Association has similar concerns about the workload for public school teachers. OEA President Hanna Vaandering questions whether replicating Eastern Promise is the way to go.

“One size does not fit all,” she said. “The concerns that you have in Eastern Oregon are very different than those you might in the Eugene area, or in Salem. We want to be sure we build programs that meet the needs of students in that zip code.”

Willamette Promise is moving into 20 more school districts in the Portland area. Portland State University has asked for a one-year moratorium on expansions. Willamette officials have said they won’t interfere with existing programs.

State officials are wrestling with how to regulate the various ways Oregon high schools and colleges offer credits.

High school students earned more than 200,000 college credits in the 2013-14 school year. Eastern Promise was responsible for 13,000 of those.

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Mark Holt

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Dakota Brown & Luke Basile

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