

Boat bursts into flames at Hat Rock

Witnesses say two children suffer minor injuries

East Oregonian

Black smoke billowed from the Hat Rock marina Sunday afternoon when a boat suddenly caught fire at the docks and drifted into a row of trees on the opposite shore.

Umatilla Fire Chief Mike Roxbury said the boat's owner was gone by the time firefighters arrived. According to witnesses, the fire started due to some kind of mechanical failure in the engine, and two children suffered minor injuries.

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services also reported minor injuries on its Facebook page, but did not elaborate.

Roxbury said crews were able to extinguish the blaze before it could burn up the shore and into dried grasses surrounding nearby homes. He was not immediately able to contact the boat's owner for more information.



A boat caught fire Sunday afternoon at the Hat Rock marina and drifted into trees on the opposite shore. Witnesses reported two children suffered minor injuries.

Photo contributed by Louis Plaven

Indian Lake day camp teaches science in nature

By JONATHAN BACH
East Oregonian

The Bendixsen family just came to Indian Lake for a weekend camping trip away from Hermiston. They didn't know their kids would learn about the science behind light at a free group activity.

The third annual Family Fun Day at Indian Lake ran from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Indian Lake campground, about 20 miles south of Pilot Rock.

The focus of this year's day was science and nature. Dale Ingram from the LIGO Hanford Observatory in Richland, Washington, taught people about the scientific properties of light with prisms for participants to look through, said Leigh Pinkham-Johnston, who coordinated the event with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. "I like science," she said. "That's why I like to bring the science aspect of things."

She said a bird-watching activity was also popular with participants. About 40 people made their way to



Staff photo by Jonathan Bach

Kennedy Bendixsen, 4, and Addelyn Bendixsen, 6, show off bracelets they made during Saturday's 2015 Family Fun Day at Indian Lake. The bracelets glow different colors when exposed to ultraviolet light, their parents learned from a group activity.

the day camp, according to Pinkham-Johnston, 46. For her, the purpose of the day camp was two-fold: advertising the campsite and helping parents spend time with their children.

Pinkham-Johnston said Saturday's turnout was similar to that of years past. She seemed nonetheless

frustrated by this year's low turnout. "(Heading to) the mountains would be better than staying in town," she said, citing hotter weather within city limits. She said people who participated in the day camp even got a free night of camping.

A mixture of kids and teens attended the day's

activities, she said after the camp concluded.

The Bendixsens, with younger children, decided to take a vacation at Indian Lake this week rather than last to avoid the Fourth of July camping rush. Pinkham-Johnston approached the camping family about attending, so they came for both the LIGO and arts-and-crafts activities. "Our kids are 6, 4 and 2. So it was perfect for their age," said Cameron Bendixsen, 33, at his camp site with wife Camilla, 25, plus family members Tyler, 32, and Tara, 29.

Tyler's favorite part was "that it was hands-on for the kids. It kept them entertained," he said. Tyler's daughter, Addelyn, 6, and Cameron's daughter, Kennedy, 4, made bracelets during an arts and crafts session that glow after exposure to ultraviolet light.

About the turnout, Cameron said, "It's worthy of a larger group."

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ATHENA



Photo by Antonio Sierra

Dancers from The Boise Highlanders perform at the Caledonian Games in Athena Saturday.



Photo by Antonio Sierra

Bagpiper Eric Albert performs at the Caledonian Games Saturday.

Kilts, bagpipes pervade Caledonian Games

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Bagpipes are a common sight at the Athena Caledonian Games, but Eric Albert is one of the few who takes time to explain them.

Albert, a native of Eugene who's played the bagpipes for the past 30 years, said the biggest misconception about the instrument is that it's a novelty.

Despite its brash sound, Albert said the bagpipe is a technically complicated instrument with a rich history. "It's a hard instrument," he said.

To disabuse laypeople of that notion, Albert led a Saturday performance with the self-explanatory title of "Pipin' and Talkin'."

In between performances of traditional bagpipe songs, Albert would share stories about song origins and bagpipe technique.

Albert got started in bagpiping in his late 20s as a way to connect with his Scottish heritage, an aspect of life the Caledonian Games were created to celebrate.

Dan Seltmann, the vice president of the games' organizing committee and the honorary chieftain, said the event first started in the late 18th century as the Caledonian Picnic.

Attendance was mandatory for the community event — absentees were levied a \$50 fine.

The picnic was discontinued during World War I and World War II before being resurrected in 1976 by a local attorney.

While there are some modern touches — the traditional Scottish athletic competitions like the stone putt and sheaf toss are now sanctioned by the Scottish American Athletic Association instead of a contest amongst neighbors — Seltmann said the core of the event is still the same.

Seltmann said the games draw clans from across the Northwest and the competitions can draw people from as far away as southern California and Utah.

And while not the preferred bottom wear for both attendees, many men and women were not shy about wearing kilts. While laboring through intensive tosses and throws, athletic participants wore shirts that read, "We kilt the last one who called it a skirt."

As the co-owner of the Scottish Country Shop, Rick McCaul and his wife are two of the top proprietors of kilts at the games.

The McCauls operate a permanent store in Portland

but frequently set up shop at Scottish festivals across the region.

While most of the customers on Saturday seemed more interested in other Scottish memorabilia, McCaul said he's sold a few

kilts.

"We like this because it's a nice community event," he said.

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BRIEFLY

Traffic stops lead to arrests of sex offenders

PENDLETON — Oregon State Police arrested two sex offenders Saturday following unrelated traffic stops.

An Oregon State Police trooper stopped a vehicle at 10:25 a.m. on Yoakum Road off the westbound side of Interstate 84 near milepost 199. The trooper found the driver, Liza Natasha Trujillo, 27, of Hermiston, was driving with a suspended license. The trooper then searched the vehicle and found Trujillo and passenger Adrian Allen Coleman, 47, of Portland, were in possession of meth.

State police arrested both on the drug charge and booked them into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton. State police also arrested Coleman on two warrants and for giving false information to police, as well as for failing to report as a sex offender.

State police did not arrest or ticket a third occupant, a 51-year-old man from Umatilla.

And another traffic stop led a second trooper to arrest another man who did not register as a sex offender for two years.

A trooper stopped a Jeep Grand Cherokee at 7:27 p.m. for a violation at White Eagle Road and Highway 395. Cory Ryan Mowdy, 25, of Pendleton, was the driver, and the trooper found Mowdy had no driver's license. Mowdy also is a sex offender and in 2008 he last registered in Oregon and in 2013 in Tennessee, but he said he has been in Oregon for the past two years and had no reason for not registering.

Mowdy ended up in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton for driving without a license and felony failure to register as a sex offender.

Bend man dies in motorcycle crash

PENDLETON — A Bend man died last week in a motorcycle crash in Wheeler County.

An Oregon State Police trooper found Michael C. Denmark, of Bend, dead at about 9 a.m. Friday near milepost 93 of Highway 26 after initial attempts to locate the motorcyclist Thursday night failed.

Denmark, 64, was traveling eastbound from Bend to Baker City when his 2007 Yamaha motorcycle left the road for unknown reasons, according to the initial investigation. The motorcycle traveled a short distance on the gravel shoulder before dropping off a steep embankment to an area not easily visible to passing motorists.

He was reported

missing to police Thursday, but an area check along Highway 26 at night yielded no results, according to a news release from OSP.

Police said the investigation is ongoing and more details will be released as they become available.

Drunk driver arrested after nearly running over officers

PENDLETON — Police looking for a drunk driver Saturday found him after he nearly ran over them.

A caller at about 6:30 p.m. reported a newer Mazda Protege almost ran him off the road at Barnhart and Rieth roads. Oregon State Police trooper John Juzeler spotted the Mazda at about 6:45 p.m. on Rieth Road near milepost 14 with no one around it.

The trooper traveled down the road and met Umatilla County sheriff's Sgt. Josh Roberts when the Mazda came high-tailing it around a corner and missed the two cops by a few feet before leaving the road and crashing over an embankment.

The sheriff's office arrested Jacob Ryan Dingman, 22, of John Day, for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, three counts of recklessly endangering others and refusing to take an intoxication level test.

Nothing indicated Dingman nor his 24-year-old passenger from Pendleton were injured.

Mother arrested for leaving sons in hot car

HERMISTON — A Hermiston woman accused of leaving her five sons in a hot car Sunday in Placentia, California, was arrested and her children placed into protective custody, police said.

Police arrested Rhonda Colgrove, 36 of Hermiston, after a resident reported her five sons, ages 2 to 6, were left unattended in a hot car at about 10:51 a.m. at a 99 Cents Only Store, said Sgt. Bryce Angel.

Colgrove was arrested on suspicion of child endangerment.

At about 10:49 a.m. the temperature in Placentia was 81 degrees, according to the Weather Underground. The five boys were taken to Orangewood Children's Home. — *Orange County Register*

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to news@eastoregonian.com

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