

BOARDMAN

Fire burns wildlife area, knocks out power

**By GEORGE PLAVERN**  
*East Oregonian*

Fire consumed about 100 acres in the Coyote Springs Wildlife Area east of Boardman Tuesday night, engulfing trees and shooting flames high in the air.

The blaze also triggered outages at five Umatilla Electric substations, knocking out power to 1,460 Boardman-area customers — including the Port of Morrow — for nearly three hours.

Boardman Fire Marshal Marty Broadbent said the fire started at 8 p.m. and officials temporarily closed part of westbound Interstate

84 due to heat and smoke. The cause of the fire is undetermined.

Coyote Springs is one of four Columbia Basin Wildlife Areas managed by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, providing a variety of habitat for birds and animals.

Vegetation was too thick for engines to access the land, Broadbent said, so crews used controlled burns to keep the fire from spreading. Flames reached 100 feet high in the canopy of the trees, he said.

“We just basically ended up burning the whole refuge down,” Broadbent said.

About an hour later, utility lines

sparked over Homestead Lane on the outskirts of the Boardman Tree Farm, igniting another 40-acre grass fire. UEC spokesman Steve Meyers said there is no evidence to suggest the two fires were related.

Firefighters from Boardman and Irrigon remained on scene until 3:30 a.m. Employees from the Port of Morrow also sent a loader, grader and three water trucks to help, Broadbent said.

No one was hurt and no structures threatened, though the fire at Coyote Springs did creep close to haystacks owned by Frederickson Enterprises at the port.

“It was a battle to protect the

haystacks,” Broadbent said.

The fire at the Boardman Tree Farm burned mostly on adjoining land owned by Larry Lindsay, said Don Rice, director of operations for GreenWood Resources. No trees were harmed inside the property.

“It tripped the power system, and we had to restart irrigation, but there was no damage,” Rice said.

Rice said the 23,000-acre tree farm has a fire plan, and GreenWood Resources works closely with the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District in case of an incident.

It has been a busy fire year so far in Boardman, Broadbent said. The department has fielded 56 more

calls than it did at this time a year ago — which itself was a record-breaking year.

“We’ve been running hard,” he said. “This was typical of what we’ve been going through this year.”

The Boardman fires capped an intense day of firefighting across Eastern Oregon. Earlier in the morning, one man was killed in an explosion and fire at the old Pendleton city hall, and a wheat field also burned south of Milton-Freewater.

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

Deadline for fair exhibits is next week

*East Oregonian*

The Umatilla County Fair encourages people to enter exhibits as it’s gearing up to celebrate its centennial with 100 Years What a Ride!

Open class and FFA exhibitors need to pre-register items they plan to enter by Wednesday, July 29. Although entries aren’t due at that time, the registration process allows for preprinted tags and early premium payouts. 4-H participants need to register with 4-H leaders or the OSU Extension Office.

Those who register items can purchase discounted season passes for \$14 or \$10 for FFA members. Regular rates are \$40 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$24 for youths 6-12 and free for children 6 and under.

Exhibitors need to read department and division rules in the Umatilla County Exhibitors Guide. Register online at <http://umatillafairmanager.com>.

For those who don’t have access to a computer, assistance is available at the fairgrounds office. In addition, local libraries offer computer use and Internet access.

After completing the registration process, write down the confirmation number. If a confirmation number doesn’t show up, the registration process isn’t complete.

For the actual exhibits, Open Class Home-Ec, Arts and Creative Kids



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

**Representatives from open class photography judge and arrange the department during the 2014 Umatilla County Fair. Pre-registration of open class entries for this year’s fair must be completed online by July 29.**

**100 YEARS, WHAT A RIDE!**

**Umatilla County Fair parade REGISTER: by July 31 for judging DATE: Saturday, Aug. 8 LINE-UP: 4-6 p.m. STARTS: 6:30 p.m. WHERE: Hermiston High School INFO: 541-567-6121 www.umatillacounty.net/fair**

entries are accepted Sunday Aug. 9 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Price and Hoeft

PILOT ROCK

New officer hired, city cops get a raise

**By PHIL WRIGHT**  
*East Oregonian*

Pilot Rock City Council hired a new police officer and approved higher pay for city cops.

The council voted 4-0 Tuesday to hire Daniel Badal, 23, who works as a corrections officer at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton. Badal and his wife, Marisol, live in Pilot Rock.

Badal will start Aug. 1, according to city recorder Teri Porter, and will join officer Gary Thompson. Badal, though, will have a limited role for months to come. His state certificate as a corrections officer will not transfer to his new job, so he is bound for the Oregon Public Safety Academy, Salem, where he will have to take the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training’s 16-week basic police officer class.

This year’s two remaining

classes are full, according to the department’s online schedule, and the next available class is in January.

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said in an email enough demand can prompt the department to schedule a new class before then, and the Legislature typically allots money for emergency academies each biennium.

“Oregon is somewhat unique in that persons have to be hired before they can be considered for academy attendance,” according to Roberts. “The employing entity has 90 days to secure an academy date from the time of hire.”

Roberts said without the state approval Badal will not be able to do much on his own outside the presence of a certified field training officer.

Badal was at the city council meeting, and he waited outside city hall while councilors and staff discuss his hiring behind closed doors. After the executive session, Badal resumed his

seat and saw the unanimous vote. He beamed, thanked city officials and shook their hands. (Councilors Bob Deno and Raymond Doherty were absent.)

In the meantime, the city continues to negotiate with Pendleton police to provide oversight to the police department and sift through candidates for a chief to head up the three-person department.

The council earlier in the meeting voted 4-0 to increase the pay for police officers and the chief. Porter explained to the council the city needed to raise the wage scale to recruit and retain officers. Pilot Rock was paying \$3,276 a month for entry-level officers, for example, while Pendleton paid \$700 more each month.

The new police pay scale increases monthly salaries by about \$300 a month and includes a 2 percent cost-of-living raise. Officers will make \$3,576-\$3,782 a month, a sergeant \$3,905 and the chief \$5,000-\$5,750 depending on

experience. The scale went into effect July 1.

City staffer and public works director Steve Draper said the raise would help stem the flow of Pilot Rock spending money to train new officers only to lose them to the better-paying competition. Councilman Deacon Perkins said he understood the need to be competitive, but he was concerned about long-term budget implications. Porter said at least for this year, the city has the money to cover the hikes.

The council also approved bumping officer Thompson’s pay from \$3,476 to \$3,679. Porter said Thompson was a certified officer when he came to Pilot Rock, so he deserved a midrange salary. The council also gave the OK for Thompson to drive an unmarked police car to and from his Pendleton home three nights a week to cut down on response time and agreed to pay him overtime for comp time beyond 80 hours.

PENDLETON

City council gets ball rolling for new charges

**By ANTONIO SIERRA**  
*East Oregonian*

While the Pendleton City Council took another step toward implementing system development charges, city residents might not see the charges introduced for another year.

The council approved the methodology reports for water, sewer and stormwater system development charges Tuesday, which accepted a fee structure for the charges without adopting them.

Deb Galardi, a subconsultant for the city’s utility master plans, said the council should change city laws to allow the charges before the end of the year and then implement them sometime between January and July 2016.

The charges would be a first for Pendleton, which would assess a one-time fee to new developments based on their impact on the utility system.

A water system develop-

ment charge was the largest proposed fee, which is determined by meter equivalents.

If implemented citywide, the charge would range from \$3,769 for a three-quarter-inch line to \$301,550 for an eight-inch line.

Those costs would be considerably lowered if the airport industrial area was spun off into its own development zone with its own set of system development charges.

If the council chose that option, which Galardi recommended, developments outside the airport would be charged between \$3,420 and \$273,635.

Councilwoman McKennon McDonald said she was concerned that a higher system development charge for the airport might discourage development in an area the city has targeted for that purpose.

Sewer charges were slightly lower, ranging from \$3,089 to \$247,106.

Both the water and sewer

charges were in the middle of the pack in a study of Oregon cities Galardi conducted, although it was significantly higher than charges of nearby cities like Umatilla, Hermiston and Boardman.

The stormwater fee is based on the square footage of impervious area instead of meter equivalent.

According to the methodology report a 5-cent charge would result in a \$125 fee for the average housing development.

Some councilors were concerned that the master plans were based on the city’s comprehensive plan, which projects Pendleton to have more than 30,000 residents within 20 years.

Galardi said that even if

Pendleton fails to meet that mark, the per capita costs of development would remain the same.

Councilman Neil Brown appealed to the public to stay patient during the process of creating new charges and raising existing ones.

“Nobody wants to be scaring people to death,” he said. “We’re talking gas taxes, we’re talking about system development charges, water rates going up, sewer rates going up. There’s an awful lot to absorb.”

BRIEFLY

Milton-Freewater City Council meeting canceled

MILTON-FREEWATER — The Milton-Freewater City Council meeting for Monday, July 27 has been canceled.

For more information, contact City Manager Linda Hall at 541-938-8242 or email [linda.hall@milton-freewater-or.gov](mailto:linda.hall@milton-freewater-or.gov).

Clinics teach basketball skills

PENDLETON — Kids wanting to learn basketball skills have a new five-week clinic to attend.

The Overtime Training Basketball Skills Clinic begins Sunday for five consecutive weeks for grades 3-9 to give kids the tools to build their game and confidence. Grades 3-4 meet from 2-2:45 p.m.; grades 5-6 from 2:45-3:45 p.m.; and grades 7-9 from 3:45-5 p.m. Cost to attend is \$50 for grades 3-4, \$55 for grades 5-6, and \$60 for grades 7-9. Registration is due Thursday.

For older players, a Friday option is also available. The five-week clinic begins Friday, July 31 and costs \$55 for grades 5-6 and \$60 for grades 7-9. Registration is due Tuesday, July 28.

Register for all programs at the Parks Office, 865 Tutuilla Road (next to the cemetery) Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., or online at [www.pendletonparksandrec.com](http://www.pendletonparksandrec.com). Call 541-276-8100 for more information.

Adult open gym features basketball

PENDLETON — Looking for a great way to start the week? Adults can hit the gym from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for full court basketball at the Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. Or start your day off right with half-court games from 6-7 a.m. Monday through Friday. It’s free for ages 16 and up thanks to the generosity of volunteer gym supervisors.

For more information, call Pendleton Parks and Recreation at 541-276-8100 or visit [www.pendletonparksandrec.com](http://www.pendletonparksandrec.com).

Summer adventure camp extends into Aug.

PENDLETON — For those who don’t want summer to end, Pendleton Parks and Recreation has extended its popular Summer Parks Adventure Camp with two sessions in August.

The camps will run Aug. 3-6 and Aug.

10-14. The \$84 per week registration fee covers the cost of the camp, which runs from 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and includes a daily snack, lunch and camp activities.

Registrations are limited to the first 50 campers, with registrations due Friday for both camp weeks.

Register for all programs at the Parks Office, 865 Tutuilla Road (next to the cemetery) Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., or online at [www.pendletonparksandrec.com](http://www.pendletonparksandrec.com). Call 541-276-8100 for more information.

Farming 101 features field trip

ENTERPRISE — The public will have an opportunity to learn about farming in Wallowa County through the Into the Wallowa Outings.

Farmer Woody Wolfe will introduce participants to the basics of farming in the area. Farming 101: What’s That Growing There? is Saturday, Aug. 1 from 9 a.m. to noon. People should meet to carpool from the Wallowa Land Trust, 116 S. River St., Enterprise.

The land trust’s mission is to protect Wallowa County’s rural nature by working with private landowners, American Indian tribes, local communities and governmental entities to conserve land.

For more information, including other outings and lectures, contact [julia@wallowalandtrust.org](mailto:julia@wallowalandtrust.org), 541-426-2042 or visit [wallowalandtrust.org](http://wallowalandtrust.org).

Altrusa sets school supply drive

PENDLETON — With tight budgets for schools and many families, Altrusa International of Pendleton and Pacific Power are trying to help fill the gap.

A School Supply Drive is planned to provide needed items to help make students successful in the classroom. Members of the club will collect donated items and cash Saturday, Aug. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wal-Mart, 2203 S.W. Court Ave., and Bi-Mart, 901 S.W. Emigrant Ave., both in Pendleton.

Needed supplies include backpacks, crayons, tissues, PeeChees, rulers, binders, erasers, notebooks, pencils, white glue, colored pencils, glue sticks, paper, pens, scissors and washable markers.

In addition, monetary donations can be sent through Saturday, Aug. 15 to Altrusa International of Pendleton, P.O. Box 1735, Pendleton, OR 97801. For more information, contact [sofi@masterprintersnw.com](mailto:sofi@masterprintersnw.com).

Marla & June's CLOTHING COMPANY  
**Sidewalk Sales**  
Friday and Saturday  
**Up to 70% off**  
207 & 217 SE Court, Pendleton

Have you heard about the **Wednesdays in the Park concert series** starting July 29?  
[www.pendletonparksandrec.com](http://www.pendletonparksandrec.com)

**Nancy and Bill Acoustic Duo**  
featuring soft rock, country and easy listening  
Sat., July 25, 2015  
8 pm - 11 pm  
RED LION MOTEL  
304 SE Nye Pendleton  
541-276-6111