

PILOT ROCK



Staff photo by Jonathan Bach
Jaymes Buchanan, of Boise, Idaho, takes off the line at the 2015 Pilot Rock Community Days lawn mower races on Saturday.

Smoky skies don’t halt community days

By JONATHAN BACH
East Oregonian

Bruce Hilde outfitted himself and his grandchildren with protective masks while they watched the lawn mower races at the Pilot Rock Community Days on Saturday.

“It was clear as a bell here yesterday,” he said, standing along the makeshift racetrack by Pilot Rock High School. Racers ripped by drag-race style at up to 80 miles an hour.

But now, thanks to fires burning throughout Eastern Oregon, he said he could not see too clearly in town. And he wasn’t going to bring his grandchildren out to the festivities without masks. At one point, his grandson asked if he could take the mask off, to which Hilde said, “No.”

Smoke clung to Pilot Rock during the 2015 Community Days event, during which yard sales, a parade, wiener dog races and lawn mower races all took place.

The smoke was in what is called an inversion, where it is trapped close to the ground and is unable to



Staff photo by Jonathan Bach
Earl Perry, of Pendleton, peers inside an old Dodge pickup truck at the 2015 Pilot Rock Community Days event on Saturday.

dissipate in the atmosphere, said Pendleton Fire Captain John Richardson. Wildfires continue to burn near John Day, Warms Springs and Baker City, to name a few.

Jaymes Buchanan, 48, is a lawn mower racer from Boise, Idaho. Buchanan, in Pilot Rock for the first time, said, “I didn’t even know where it was until I got here,” of the small town.

The racer of around 12 years drove from Soap Lake, Washington, to attend Saturday’s event. “I haven’t seen blue skies for more than a week,” he said of the

northwest’s weather.

Despite the poor air quality, community members attended the festivities, shopping for wares from street vendors like Marion Schuening, of Pilot Rock.

Schuening was also at the event for the first time, peddling wooden cows, sheep and pigs her late uncle crafted. She said she found them in his attic, and was selling them on Main Street as the executor of his estate. She sold around 10-15 items on her street-side table. But she said she was glad her daughter, who works with Pilot Rock Fire Department, did not have to go out on any fires as of Saturday afternoon.

Earl Perry, of Pendleton, peered into the cab of an old Dodge pickup parked for display nearby. He lived in Pilot Rock in the 1960s, and has come to the Community Days event for the last several years. He was a regular at the lawn mower races, too.

“It’s amazing what they can do with those little devils,” he said.

Contact Jonathan Bach at jbach@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0809.



Staff photo by Jonathan Bach
Bruce Hilde, of Pilot Rock, wears a protective mask against smoke as he watches the lawn mower races with his grandchildren during Saturday’s Community Days event in Pilot Rock.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Smoky air expected all week in Umatilla County

The sun sinks in a smoky sky Sunday over Pendleton Grain Growers’ Rew Elevator. Smoke from multiple wildfires affected air quality and limited visibility in much of the state over the weekend.

The Umatilla County Public Health department is urging residents to limit outdoor activity when air quality is visibly poor. Residents should take precautions as smoke from northwest fires continues to drift into this part of the state. Unhealthy smoke levels will occur throughout the week, and likely into the weekend.

Umatilla County’s air quality fluctuates throughout the day from “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (orange)” to “Good (green).” When the Air Quality Index is yellow or orange, the elderly, children, and those with respiratory health ailments may experience adverse health effects such as coughing, wheezing, or headache, thus they should limit time spent outside.

To monitor air quality levels, residents can follow UCo Health on Facebook or visit the Department of Environmental Quality’s Air Quality Index site at www.deq.state.or.us/aqi/index.aspx.

HERMISTON

City releases survey about community brand

East Oregonian

The city of Hermiston and Chamber of Commerce are asking for input on the city’s brand.

Answers on the anonymous survey will be collected by an independent consultant and used to assess perceptions of the “You can GROW here” brand developed by Hermiston’s Future Task Force Branding and Community Promotion Committee.

According to a news release, the purpose of developing a cohesive “brand” for Hermiston is to give Hermiston an identity, promote Hermiston’s livability, remain the largest city in Eastern Oregon, attract more businesses and families to the area and increase tourism.

The city’s attempt to adopt the “You can GROW here” brand, promoting the idea that Hermiston is a prime place to grow everything from produce to businesses, fell flat with some citizens. The council



heard criticisms last year from people who didn’t like the paint job on the water tower that replaced a watermelon image with the tagline, and others said “You can GROW here” opened the city up to jokes about marijuana cultivation.

The stated purpose of the survey is to “determine if any changes should be made before moving forward further with the community brand.”

The survey is available online at www.hermistonbrand.com and can also be filled out by hand at Hermiston’s Saturday Market at McKenzie Park Saturday from 8-10:30 a.m. or at Wal-Mart Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fire at Foxwood Apartments displaces one

HERMISTON — A fire at the Foxwood Apartments on Orchard Avenue in Hermiston early Sunday morning displaced one person.

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services responded to a report of a residential fire at 3:13 a.m. that had started on the porch of a one-story apartment in the 1000 block of Orchard Avenue.

Fire marshal Tom Bohm said the fire started in the vicinity of an ash tray sitting on the porch. He said the resident woke up to the sound of a smoke detector going off, saw the fire on the front porch and exited out the back.

Bohm said the front of the apartment was “severely damaged,” there was smoke and water damage inside the apartment, the attic was damaged and the department had to cut a hole in a wall. Two apartments on either side also sustained some smoke damage.

The Red Cross provided lodging, food and clothing to the man displaced by

the fire.

There were no injuries and mutual aid was provided by Stanfield Fire District and Umatilla Fire Department.

According to a post on the department’s Facebook page the call came in on a busy night when the department was in the process of responding to a car crash, but personnel still responded in nine minutes and “C-Shift did a fantastic job handling these emergencies and stopping the fire before it could spread to other units.”

Fire contained on Cabbage Hill

PENDLETON — A fire burned near the Old Emigrant Hill Road on Monday east of Pendleton.

Tribal police blocked Old Emigrant Hill Road near exit 224 and at the bottom of the hill, according to Umatilla Tribal Police Officer Chas Koenig.

Emergency responders contained the blaze by mid-afternoon, according to Umatilla Tribal Police Chief Timothy Addleman.

The size of the fire was not reported.

IMAC cooks up fundraising breakfast

IRRIGON — For a hearty homemade breakfast, Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center volunteers have just the deal for you.

The regular fundraising breakfast is Saturday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon. The cost is \$4.50 per person.

The group is dedicated to the preservation of Irrigon’s 1921 school building. For more information, call Peggy at 541-567-3806.

Potluck event invites widows, widowers

PENDLETON — Area widows and widowers are invited to a potluck gathering to enjoy the company of others.

WW.Friends meets Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 5:30 p.m. at 511 N.W. Eighth St., Pendleton. Those attending are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. The hostess will provide a main dish.

All widows and widowers are invited to attend. Although not a support group, the participants meet

monthly for friendship and an opportunity to share positive experiences.

For more information, call 276-4708 or 276-2790.

‘Hotel Hell’ seeks Oregon establishment

As it prepares for its third season of “Hotel Hell,” FOX officials are seeking a hotel in Oregon to be featured in the series.

They are looking for an independently owned and operated hotel, motel or resort that needs help from Gordon Ramsey. Show officials love unique businesses that need some help in marketing themselves, or 2-3 star hotels that would like to move up in the rankings. To be eligible, the hotel must have an onsite restaurant.

Ramsay attempts to help turn around failing establishments — making changes to meet his impeccable standards.

Wednesdays in the Park Concert Series

Dakota Brown Band

Aug. 26, 2015 • 6 PM

Roy Raley Park

www.pendletonparksandrec.com

To submit a hotel establishment, contact Jeanette Ochoa at jeanetteocasting@gmail.com or 323-203-1337. For more about the show, visit www.fox.com/hotel-hell.

SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

The Center for Excellence in Dermatology welcomes

Heidi Tate, PA-C

to our satellite clinic in Pendleton, Or.

She is located in the Family Medicine building, behind the Interpath building at 2450 SW Perkins Ave, Pendleton, OR.

Services related to the diagnosis and treatment of skin cancers, moles and sun damage. General services including the evaluation and treatment of acne, psoriasis, warts and eczema will also be available. Stop by the new office and meet the medical staff dedicated to taking care of all of your skin needs.

Appointments are available Mon-Thurs 8am-5pm

Call toll free: 1-855-525-4677

Pendleton Office: 541-276-6936