

IRRIGON

Fire destroys motor home, no injuries

Was not a full-time residence

By SEAN HART
East Oregonian

Firefighters prevented a blaze in a parked motor home from spreading to other structures in Irrigon Wednesday afternoon.

Daniel Castaneda, 15, was the first to spot the fire. He said he lives with his aunt Veronica Garcia and uncle Rene Torres on the property where the motor home was parked.

"I saw through the window (of the motor home) it was a small fire, and it was kind of peeking out of the roof," he said. "I went inside (the house) and told everybody we needed to get out and call the fire department."

At about 3:40 p.m., Irrigon Rural Fire Protection District was dispatched to 80808 Wagon Wheel Loop. Capt. Wayne Huwe said the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and an ambulance were first on scene and reported the motor home was fully engulfed with



Staff photo by Sean Hart

Firefighters from Irrigon and Boardman finish mopping up the charred remains of a motor home on Wagon Wheel Loop in Irrigon Wednesday afternoon. No one was injured, and firefighters were able to prevent the blaze from spreading to other structures.

a nearby shed threatened.

"All we could do was basically keep it contained and then go ahead and put it out before it caught the other camp trailer or the shed on fire," he said.

Boardman firefighters

were called in to assist, and together they were able to contain the fire to the motor home and a nearby sport utility vehicle.

"It was a very good outcome," Huwe said. "Thank goodness it was just a

motor home instead of a full house with full occupancy and belongings in there and stuff destroyed."

Castaneda said the person who lives in the motor home was in California, and no one was injured in the fire.

PENDLETON

Roberts gets longer leash for dealing with dangerous dogs

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

danger levels that could lead to euthanasia.

The Pendleton City Council approved an amendment to the city's dog control ordinance that will give the police chief and municipal court more say when it comes to dealing with dangerous dogs.

The new and revised language in the law gives the police chief more discretion in determining the dangerousness of a dog, removes the city manager from the appeals process and gives the final appeal decision to the municipal court instead of the city council.

In addition, the ordinance gives the police chief the authority to ban the most dangerous dogs from the city.

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts wrote in an email Wednesday that the effort to amend the law came about when City Manager Robb Corbett asked City Attorney Nancy Kerns to look into the appeals process.

"Consequently, it was a good time to change language approved by the council several years ago," he wrote. "For instance, current language instructs me to seize and euthanize dogs the first time they bite a person or injure/kill a domesticated animal. A number of 'bites' that I review do not even break the skin. Yet, if I follow the ordinance those dogs are to be euthanized."

As it is, Roberts spends a lot of time dealing with dangerous dogs, with 75 canines currently under classified under the four

In other council news, the city granted the Pendleton warming station one more year at the city-owned facility at 116 S.E. 12th St.

Chris Clemons, the executive director of the organization that runs the warming station, wrote in a letter to the city council that the warming station was originally going to move to a new location owned by St. Anthony Hospital.

But before the warming station could move in, officials discovered that the 715 S.E. Court St. building did not have the fire suppression sprinkler system necessary to comply with city code.

The warming station's current location has fire code violations of its own, stoking the concern of Councilor Neil Brown.

Warming station volunteer Dwight Johnson said Neighbor 2 Neighbor would do its best to mitigate danger by keeping two volunteers awake at all times.

The council voted 6-1 to allow the warming station to occupy the city facility, with the caveat that this would be the final year. Brown voted against it while Councilor Chuck Wood was absent.

Earlier in the meeting, Mayor Phillip Houk swore in new Pendleton Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo.

Before the ceremony, Ciraulo gave the crowd a brief bio, including his origins in Southern California, his firefighting experience in the Portland metro area and his time as a city councilor and mayor in Battle Ground, Wash.

PENDLETON

Old West credit union receives new grant

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

A little more than a year after moving into its new digs at 301 S. Main St., the Pendleton branch of the Old West Federal Credit Union is ready to expand.

The Pendleton Development Commission approved a \$73,049 grant to Old West to improve the second floor of the former Bank of America building at a meeting Tuesday.

In a letter to the commission, Greg Greb, Old West vice president of retail banking, wrote the grant would help with a variety of projects.

"As referenced in the attached blueprints for the remodel, WC Construction has been hired to complete the remodel of the 2nd floor, and will include all new ceiling/lighting data structure, office machine room, restroom restoration and update, conference room remodel, and the addition of 7 new private offices,"

he wrote. "Our elevator system will be modernized simultaneously as well as building access and security to allow our basement 'community meeting room' to be utilized."

Old West has already added five new employees in 2015, in anticipation of centrally locating the bank's commercial loan processing team in downtown Pendleton. The bank will hire several more workers.

Additionally, the southeastern corner will be demolished to make way for a call center that would service "intelligent teller machines," which use video feeds to provide more advanced banking services like loan applications.

Although the exact number isn't known, Old West would have to hire more employees to speak with customers through the machines, which the bank is planning to install throughout Eastern Oregon.

Including the \$292,194 cost of second story rehab-

itation and modernizing the building's elevator, the total cost is estimated at \$452,194.

The commission unanimously approved a grant that would pay for 25 percent of the second story renovation and elevator cost, not to exceed \$73,049.

While the commission approved an investment in Old West's future, it also took a look at its own.

At the end of a two-day goal setting workshop in early October, members of the commission, its various committees and the downtown business community voted on what the urban renewal district should prioritize.

The seven goals, from most votes to least, were to increase commercial development and housing in the urban renewal district, develop a plan for the G2 properties, improve downtown streets and public parking lots, develop a festival area, improve gateways and signage, implement projects for the

central river quarter and the river parkway and increase awareness of the commission.

Charles Denight, the commission's associate director, said the commission would need to whittle down that list to two or three goals to accomplish over the next two years.

The commission will hold a joint meeting with the advisory committee to determine a final draft of the goals.

Denight also informed the commission that the planned demolition of two mobile homes on 447 SW Fifth St. will be postponed because a tenant still occupies one of them.

"It's fluid at the moment until they get that person out of there," he said.

The commission approved a demolition grant for up to \$10,000 at its last meeting.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

BRIEFLY

Meetings set for Forest Plan revision

PENDLETON — The U.S. Forest Service has scheduled a series of public meetings to discuss the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision on the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur national forests.

Each meeting will discuss a certain topic or feature of the plan, which provides a framework for future management decisions. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires each national forest to prepare a forest plan and revise it every 10-15 years to address changing needs and conditions.

The current plans for the three Blue Mountains forests were last updated in 1990.

The first meeting will take place Monday, Nov. 2 at the Blue Mountain Conference Center in La Grande to discuss access and wilderness. The second meeting will come two days later, Wednesday, Nov. 4 at Heppner City Hall to review livestock grazing.

Livestock grazing will also be the topic at a third meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10 at the North Fork John Day Ranger District office in Ukiah. A final meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 12 to discuss the pace and scale of restoration back at the Blue Mountain Conference Center in La Grande.

All meetings will run from 6-9 p.m. For more information, contact Peter Fargo, spokesman for the forest plan revision, at 541-523-1231.

Umatilla passes park ordinance

UMATILLA — The Umatilla City Council adopted an ordinance Tuesday regulating city parks.

The ordinance sets rules for reserving parks, allows the city to post signs at each park setting hours of use and restricts alcohol use to only pre-approved events. It also bans smoking, littering, vandalism, playing loud music, letting dogs off leashes, building fires outside designated fire pits, using bicycles outside designated bike paths, threatening violence or using "loud, obscene or abusive language."

The rules come into effect Nov. 20.

The council first discussed the ordinance on Oct. 6 but councilors voiced some concern over the effect of banning firearms at the Umatilla Marina and RV Park. Ward said Tuesday that the new draft of the ordinance made it clear that the marina and RV park, which are fee use areas, had their own set of rules and were not affected by the ordinance.

"Someone who has a slip at the marina has signed a separate contract," Ward said.

He also said provisions were made in the ordinance to accommodate Landing Days.

Councilor David Lougee said he was not sure he would agree with banning legally concealed firearms in parks, but staff pointed out that Oregon law exempts those with concealed carry permits



from local bans. Visitors can still carry a concealed weapon in Umatilla parks with a license, but none can open carry.

The ordinance applies to all city parks, including ballfields and basketball courts.

ConAgra Foods to host hiring event

BOARDMAN — ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston will host a hiring event Thursday, Oct. 29 at the SAGE Center in Boardman.

The company is hiring general laborers, backup receiving operators and backup process operators at the Boardman West plant in the Port of Morrow. Attendees should come interview-ready with a resumé in hand.

The SAGE Center is located at 101 Olson Road. Candidates also need to apply online before the event at www.conagrafoods Careers.com.

Memorial fountain project seeks donations

IONE — A memorial fund established at Ione Community School in honor of Wyatt Aleksa is seeking donations to install a water fountain in the seventh grader's memory.

Aleksa, 13, died Feb. 27 in Ione.

Body of Boardman man found near Zillah

Yakima Herald-Republic

area.

A DNA analysis has confirmed that a body found near Zillah in September is that of a 24-year-old Boardman man believed killed in the Lower Valley earlier this year, the Yakima County Sheriff's Office announced this morning.

Antonio Hernandez-Ledezma's decomposing body was found by a hiker in a ravine near an orchard. An autopsy showed he had been shot in the back of the head at close range, the Yakima County Coroner's Office reported earlier.

Yoset Dominguez-Serrano, 19, of Outlook is charged with first-degree murder in Hernandez-Ledezma's death. Officials believe the victim was fatally shot in February in the Sunnyside-Granger

The victim was facing rape charges in Yakima County Superior Court for allegedly impregnating a 13-year-old relative of Dominguez-Serrano.

According to the sheriff's office, Hernandez-Ledezma was last seen Feb. 3, in the passenger seat of his 1999 Ford Mustang. Officials said he was showing it to Dominguez-Serrano, who he thought wanted to buy it.

Deputies found the car abandoned in a Zillah-area orchard later that day with a broken front passenger window, blood on the passenger seat and a spent cartridge inside.

Dominguez-Serrano is charged with first-degree murder and first-degree assault. He is being held in Yakima County jail on \$1 million bail.

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