

STANFIELD

Trailer fire displaces couple

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

A fire at the Stage Gulch RV Park in Stanfield destroyed one RV and damaged two others Monday evening.

Dean Marcum of the Stanfield Fire District said personnel on duty received a report of an explosion at the park at 8:10 p.m. and arrived shortly thereafter to find a fully engulfed RV.

The trailers on either side sustained significant damage, he said, but were probably still "livable."

Marcum said the man and woman who lived in the fully engulfed trailer escaped, but the woman had second degree burns on her arm that were treated on scene. The occupants from all three trailers were put up in a hotel for the night and Marcum said they were put in touch with the Red Cross. Marcum didn't identify any of the residents.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by Hermiston/Stanfield fire marshal Tom Bohm, but Marcum said the suspected cause was a gas leak.

Darlene Mosqueda, who lives across the street, said she was home Monday night when she heard a loud explosion and looked out to see her neighbor standing in the doorway of her burning RV before turning back inside, presumably to get her husband.



A late-night fire engulfed this trailer and damaged the two adjacent trailers Monday evening at the Stage Gulch RV Park in Stanfield.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

"I called 9-1-1," Mosqueda said. "I kept telling them that they were still in the house. I couldn't see either one of them."

After they exited the RV, Mosqueda told them the dispatcher said to move everyone away. She said she was afraid the fire would spread, because it was bringing up memories of two years ago when her own family's trailer burned down at Vista Court in Hermiston, a week before Christmas.

"I was yelling at everyone to move their cars because I

was afraid the gas tanks would catch on fire and the whole trailer park would go up," she said.

Mosqueda said she didn't know the couple's name, or of any efforts being made to set up an account or donation drop-off for the couple.

Sharlene Marcum, whose RV was one of the two damaged but not completely engulfed by the fire, said upon further inspection she and her husband John would not be able to continue living in the trailer. They will be able to save the possessions not ruined

by smoke damage, she said, but the RV is "totaled" and was not insured. She said she and her husband had moved into it three weeks prior and she had talked to some insurance companies but not purchased a policy yet in the "chaos of Christmas."

Her husband emptied three fire extinguishers into the RV before the fire department arrived, she said, but was not able to put out the fire.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

BRIEFLY

County's vote on EOTEC debt deal on hold

PENDLETON — Umatilla County Board of Commissioners will not vote Wednesday on a deal to allow the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center to take on \$1.5 million in debt.

County commissioners Tuesday morning confirmed the matter was off the table while the county waited for information from financial institutions that could provide funds to EOTEC.

Commissioners still will have plenty to consider at the weekly meeting, including a presentation from Oregon Office of Emergency Management director Andrew Phelps and what to do with the county's own emergency management position. Jack Remillard, the county's emergency manager, has indicated he wants to retire.

Commissioners also plan to discuss reorganizing their duties. The board in the past two years cut the county's executive assistant and economic development positions, then took on those duties, including liaison work with departments.

And there is a possibility the board could hear an update from the Columbia Development Authority, the local body waiting for the U.S. Army to hand over control of the former Umatilla Chemical Depot land. Commissioners said they are waiting for confirmation on that.

Michael Jackson tribute comes to TRAC

PASCO — The King of Pop is gone, but fans of Michael Jackson will be treated to a tribute concert New Year's Eve at TRAC in Pasco.

The "I Am King" tribute concert, a family-friendly event, is from 8-10 p.m. at the TRAC Center, 6600 Burden Blvd. Doors open at 7 p.m. Las Vegas performer Michael Firestone will bring a live band, dancers and the King of Pop's signature moves.

Tickets are \$22 for general admission, \$17 for those under 18 and \$45 for VIP seating. Tickets are available at Ranch and Home in Kennewick, the Pasco Red Lion or online at www.traconline.com.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/122643214039686/

Fundraiser set for GrosJacques family

PILOT ROCK — Live music from local musicians, food and beverages are featured in a fundraiser for the family of Jeremiah GrosJacques.

The former Pilot Rock athlete is fighting an aggressive form of leukemia and money raised from the event will help with medical expenses. The fundraiser is Saturday from 6-9 p.m. at the Pilot Rock Community Center, 285 N.W. Cedar Place. The cover charge for the all-ages event is \$5 per person. In addition, food

and beverages are available for purchase.

For more information, call 541-215-5485.

Art event seeks regional artists

RICHLAND, Wash. — Calling all artists, Tri ART for Giving is seeking artists for its exhibition, which runs from April 29-May 21.

The event features an art exhibition, contest and fundraiser that gives artists and businesses an opportunity to showcase art and stimulate the minds and economy of the community.

The public and a jury will vote on their favorite art pieces. Artist awards include \$1,000 best in show, \$500 second and \$250 third for both a people's choice and a juried vote. The artwork can be through any medium.

The registration fee is \$50 per piece. Those registering by Sunday, Jan. 10 will receive a 10 percent discount. In addition, scholarships are available for registration fees. For more information, contact triatr.for.giving@gmail.com.

Registration for artists 18 and older is now open and runs through Friday, Feb. 12. For more information, visit www.artsfoundationmc.org.

Oregon Blue Book available for purchase

SALEM — The newest edition of the Oregon Blue Book features an expanded color section exploring Oregon's early rural schools with photos, artwork and memorabilia from Oregon's historical societies.

The 2015-16 Blue Book also features — for the first time — winning essays from Oregon's school children. The essays provide a fresh perspective on the state and create a time capsule for Oregonians in the future. Included is an essay by Lily Volger, a student from Echo, who encourages people to visit her hometown in her honorable mention submission of "My Favorite Place to Visit in Oregon."

Also, chosen in a statewide contest, the back cover features a photo of the tree farm at Greenwood Resources, located near Boardman, taken by Kenneth E. Thompson

The Oregon Blue Book, Oregon's official almanac and fact book, has been updated and republished every two years since 1911. The collector's item costs \$18 for paperback and \$30 for hardback. It can be purchased at www.bluebook.state.or.us.

For more information, contact Julie Yamaka at 503-378-5199 or julie.a.yamaka@state.or.us.

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.

PENDLETON

BMCC faculty shares its art

Teachers, staff plan exhibit in Betty Feves Memorial Gallery

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

The talents of nine employees of Blue Mountain Community College will be featured in the upcoming BMCC Faculty & Staff Art Show in the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery.

Gallery Director Lori Sams said although individual staff and faculty have been featured over the years in the gallery, a group exhibition hasn't taken place since 2001. As an open show, any current employee was eligible to submit pieces for the exhibit.

The artists include Michael Booth, an art instructor; Delanne Ferguson, TRiO/Student Success part-time tutor; Andrea Fowler, Small Business Development Center administrative assistant; Catharine Hojem, counselor; Jan Keough, Office of Instruction program assistant; Michelle Miller, biology and general science instructor; Kristen Oja, biology and general science instructor; Adam Sims, library assistant, public services; and Sams.

The opening reception is Thursday, Jan. 7 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the gallery, which is located in Pioneer Hall at BMCC, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. The event is free and open to the public.

"This show will have a great variety of mediums, including photography, painting, fibers arts and encaustic (hot wax painting)," Sams said. "While most of the work is 2-D, there will be some 'wearable art' as well."

Oja, who has taken a number of classes at Pendleton



This photograph taken at Bandon by Adam Sims is among the exhibits during the BMCC Faculty & Staff Art Show in the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

Center for the Arts, became interested in encaustic painting after viewing a friend's work. She took a class from Walla Walla artist Colleen Monette at the arts center.

The molten wax, Oja said, has a translucent quality to it. Attracted to the overall look of the art form, she said it smells good, too.

"I like how it changes from liquid to solid and how you can manipulate it," she said. "It's great with the layering because you can get a lot of depth."

In addition, Oja said if you don't like the appearance, it can be carved off or more layers can be added.

Ferguson, who always liked doing crafts as a kid, enjoys the fabric arts. She learned how to knit from a friend when she was in her 20s, and still enjoys it three decades later. It's also a social activity, she said.

"I've lived in a lot of small towns and you have to learn to

be your own entertainment," Ferguson said. "So many of my friends also knit, and we would spend time together teaching each other as we enjoyed the social interaction."

Mostly taught by friends, Ferguson has taken some felting classes. She also enjoys teaching others at the arts center.

Sims, who hasn't taken any formal classes in photography, has received attention for his creative eye. He garnered a grand champion ribbon in the professional category at the Umatilla County Fair. In addition, he has placed first two years in a row in the *Coast Weekend's* photo contest, as well as a number of first through third place finishes in regional contests.

"I have always been interested in being outside in beautiful places," Sims said. "Photography has given me a way to interact with those beautiful scenes beyond



This shawl created by Delanne Ferguson is among the exhibits during the BMCC Faculty & Staff Art Show in the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

simply just taking it all in." Videotaping lightning during thunderstorms led to an interest in photographing it. He also enjoys taking landscape photos.

The Betty Feves Memorial Gallery is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The nonprofit exhibit space connects emerging and established artists and their work with Blue Mountain Community College, as well as the general public in Eastern Oregon.

It's open Monday through Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and by appointment by calling 541-278-5952. The exhibit runs through Thursday, Feb. 4.

PENDLETON

Housing development near BMCC nixed

East Oregonian

The end of 2014 saw the realization of a much-needed housing development in Pendleton, but the end of 2015 saw the demise of another one.

In an interview Tuesday, City Manager Robb Corbett said a housing development near Blue Mountain Community College would most likely not come to fruition.

Corbett said he recently discussed the matter with principals of Walker Ventures LLC, the Portland development firm behind the project, who told him the development wouldn't be financially feasible for the company.

Walker wanted to build a 24-unit complex for middle income residents at the city-owned site of an old police gun range on Northwest King Avenue.

The city spent \$25,000 on plans to extend King to the development and would have been required to kick in 15 acres of city land and \$500,000 for the \$1.1 million it would cost for the extension, if the project went forward.

Corbett said the city wouldn't actively market the former gun range for future developments, but would be willing to work with developers interested in the property.

The nixing of the Walker

project comes at a time when Pendleton finds itself in strong need of housing, with many of the city's top employers saying their workers are forced to commute from elsewhere because of a lack

of adequate dwellings.

The news comes a year after the ribbon was cut on the first phase of Pendleton Heights, an eventual 72-unit housing development on Tutuilla Road.

It's not like him.

I found Dad's remote in the fridge again. ...I'm beginning to get worried.

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