

**BOARDMAN**



Staff photo by Gary L. West

# Fire destroys barn, trucks

A firefighter walks past a burning barn Thursday evening in the 78800 block of Laurel Lane south of the Port of Morrow. Boardman Fire Marshal Marty Broadbent said 18 firefighters from the Boardman and Irrigon fire departments were called to the scene of a barn fire about 6:24 p.m. The barn housed wooden pallets and some potato trucks and it was burning between two trailer houses. Firefighters took up defensive attack positions and were able to prevent the fire from spreading to the two homes. "Obviously, 20 mph winds didn't help," Broadbent said. The cause of the fire had not been determined as of Thursday evening.

**PENDLETON**

# Tough Enough to Wear Pink raises over \$39K

East Oregonian

In 2015 the Pendleton Round-Up Association's Tough Enough to Wear Pink campaign raised a record \$39,604 for local organizations that support cancer patients and survivors.

The amount eclipsed the previous year's total by \$13,476. The association announced Thursday that proceeds were donated to St. Anthony Hospital Cancer Care Clinic and Kickin' Cancer New Beginnings Program. A \$1,500 donation was also given to Pendleton High School Spanish teacher and cancer patient Kathryn Youngman.

Contributions were raised through sponsorships, Tough Enough to Wear Pink merchandise sales, the TETWP Let'er Buck Run, donations from spectators, volunteers and the Happy Canyon Company.

Casey White Zollman, co-chair of the campaign, said in a statement that Tough Enough to Wear

Pink has helped to raise funds and cancer awareness for the past decade.

"We are so appreciative of the community's generosity towards this important program to support local cancer patients and survivors, as well as the tremendous amount of time and effort our volunteers put in to make the event a success," she said. "It's always heartwarming to see the sea of pink on Thursday of Round-Up each year."

The Kick'n Cancer program provides free massages, personal training and Pilates for recovering cancer patients. The St. Anthony Cancer Care Clinic provides support such as breast prosthetics, mastectomy bras and swimwear, wigs and financial support for cancer patients.

Anyone interested in serving as a Tough Enough to Wear Pink sponsor for the 2016 Round-Up can contact White-Zollman at [cmwzollman@gmail.com](mailto:cmwzollman@gmail.com) or Jill Gregg at [jill.c.gregg@gmail.com](mailto:jill.c.gregg@gmail.com).

**PENDLETON**

# Conductor recuperates after crash

Bruce Walker may direct rehearsals from wheelchair

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

Six-foot-six-inch-tall conductor Bruce Walker normally doesn't need a podium to stand on when he directs Pendleton's Oregon East Symphony and A Sharp Players.

The next time he conducts, however, he may wave his baton from a much lower vantage point—a wheelchair. The Richland resident broke his pelvis and suffered other injuries after crashing on May 13 as he drove home from Yakima on Interstate 82.

According to a Washington State Patrol police report, Walker came upon a disabled vehicle blocking a lane as he drove eastbound in his Hyundai Sonata near Prosser. The Sonata collided with the vehicle, containing a Kennewick woman, an adult passenger and four children. All, including Walker, were taken by ambulance to hospitals.

Walker prefers not to share details of the accident because of ongoing legal action, but he sums it up as "a major wake-up call."

The Washington State Patrol cited Walker with negligent driving in the second degree. Police charged the other driver, Barbara Balcita, with three counts of failure to use child restraints.

Walker had been returning from a rehearsal in Yakima. Despite the jarring crunch of metal on metal and the fact that rescuers needed the Jaws of Life to remove him from his vehicle, the 33-year-old said he felt fairly calm in the aftermath. His glasses had flown off to who knows where and a piece of his pelvis had snapped out of place, but he could move his hands.

"I opened my eyes and looked around and knew it wasn't my time to go yet," Walker said. "I told responders that the biggest box has already been checked—I was alive."

He worried, however, about the people in the other car. The four children—3 to 11 years old—and the other two occupants were transported to PMH Medical Center in Prosser.

Eventually that night, Walker's sense of humor emerged.

"At least it's not raining," he recalls wisecracking to the six rescuers who moved his gurney to the ambulance.

Surgeons at Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland repaired his pelvis with a plate and four screws and mended



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Conductor Bruce Walker leads a 2014 rehearsal of the Oregon East Symphony at Pendleton High School. Walker is recuperating from a car crash near Prosser on May 13.

**"I opened my eyes and looked around and knew it wasn't my time to go yet."**

— Bruce Walker, Oregon East Symphony and A Sharp Players conductor

a tear in the area. Walker will recuperate at home for a while before easing back into his work life. The injuries have caused the conductor to slow his frenetic pace to granny gear.

"Bruce Walker has a walker," he said. "Walker's walker."

This is a man who dons a flak jacket to teach cello at music summer camps in Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. He plays cello and is the assistant symphony conductor for OES, and directs the A Sharp Players. He also teaches at Columbia Basin College in Pasco, directs the Yakima Symphony Orchestra and is cover conductor for the Yakima Symphony Orchestra. When he lifts his baton, Walker is known for an energetic style with full-body twists, pokes of his baton, meaningful looks and realistic impressions of various instruments. In

the wake of the crash, he knows he has to temporarily dial everything down.

"I'm an extremely independent individual," Walker said, "but this has taught me to slow down. I just bought a new recliner."

He will continue to teach his online music appreciation course at Columbia Basin College. He hopes to try conducting again when his doctor gives a thumbs up.

"A conductor can do a lot of jumping around," Walker said, "but I may be able to conduct from a wheelchair."

OES Executive Director J.D. Kindle said the organization feels Walker's absence.

"He's pretty important to what we do," said Kindle. "He conducts our rehearsals for weeks leading up to our concerts."

Walker won't make the next OES concert, "A Fundraising Tribute to Saturday Morning Classics" at 8 p.m., June 11, at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino. Symphony Director/Conductor Beau Benson will direct a piece performed by the A Sharp Players in Walker's stead.

Contact Kathy Aney at [kane@eastoregonian.com](mailto:kane@eastoregonian.com) or call 541-966-0810.

**BRIEFLY**



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Firefighters put on gear before heading into the Best Western on Highway 395 north of Hermiston, where they put out a small fire in a room Thursday.

## Fire evacuates Best Western

HERMISTON — Local fire departments responded Thursday afternoon to a small fire at the Best Western on Highway 395 south of Hermiston.

The damage was limited to smoke damage in one room and possible water damage in adjoining rooms. A customer had been staying in the room but was not present at the time of the fire. The cause is not yet known.

Guests were evacuated from the building and no one was injured.

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services, Umatilla Fire Department, Stanfield Fire Department and Hermiston Police Department responded.

## USFS to sell home in Ukiah

UKIAH — The U.S. Forest Service will conduct a sealed bid, followed by an oral auction, to sell a residential home owned by the Umatilla National Forest at 301 E. Waid St. in Ukiah.

The bidding process is open to the public, and sealed bids will be accepted through Monday, June 27.

Sealed bids will be opened at 10 a.m. June 28, followed by an oral auction at the North Fork John Day Ranger Station in Ukiah. The minimum suggested bid is \$25,000, with a bid deposit of \$2,000. Two open houses will also be held June 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. to

2 p.m.

The house was built in 1933 and served as the original Ukiah Ranger District Office. Most recently, it was used for permanent and temporary housing for forest employees. The house has been empty for 10 years.

More information about the house is available online at [www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla](http://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla), or by calling Karen Gamble at 541-523-1245 or Laura Livingston at 541-523-1230.

## DHS seeks public input

PENDLETON — The Department of Human Services is seeking public input during a series of town hall meetings, including one in Pendleton.

The agency is interested in information about programs, services and priorities for the 2017 budget and legislative session. Programs and services to be discussed includes child welfare, aging and people with disabilities, intellectual/developmental disabilities, self-sufficiency, vocational rehabilitation and other central services.

The local meeting is Tuesday, June 28 from 1-3 p.m. at the Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to send an email with "Pendleton" in the subject line to [gene.evans@state.or.us](mailto:gene.evans@state.or.us). For more information, call Gene Evans at 503-269-7950.

# Local author invited to Memorial Day breakfast with Obama

By WENDY CULVERWELL  
Tri-City Herald

Karen Spears Zacharias will make her annual trek to Washington, D.C., to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial over Memorial Day weekend.

This year, the Hermiston author and Umatilla High School educator's agenda includes a detour.

Zacharias is part of a group of 10 members of Sons and Daughters In Touch and Gold Star Mothers who will join the first family for a Memorial Day breakfast at the White House. The event honors families of fallen soldiers.

She won't arrive empty

handed.

The former *East Oregonian* and *Tri-City Herald* reporter will present President Barack Obama with a copy of her first book, a memoir about her father who died in Vietnam 50 years ago.

"After the Flag has been Folded" was edited by Henry Ferris, the same Harper Collins editor who edited President Obama's memoir, "Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance."

There's no reason that Obama will know they shared an editor, but Zacharias expects it to be a fun talking point.

"I'm sure we'll both have

a laugh or two about being edited by Henry," she said.

Her White House visit coincides with the 50th anniversary of the death of her father, Staff Sgt. David Spears, who died at the Ia

Drang Valley in July 1966.

Zacharias was 9 when he died. As she grew older and immersed herself in the community of war families, she came to count herself as one of the lucky ones.

**Music on the Laren**

**FRIDAY, MAY 27**

**Dakota Brown**

**6:00-9:00 PM**

**HAMLEY STEAKHOUSE & SALOON**

COURT & MAIN, PENDLETON • 541.278.1100

## ROCK & ROLL CAMP

**2016**

5 days of FREE rock & roll learning for teens age 13-18

August 8-12, 2016 • 8:30-4:00 each day

**WANNA JOIN?**

stop by the PCA for a registration form!