

Fire threatens homes in Gilliam County

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
East Oregonian

A wind-driven wildfire continues to burn in rural Gilliam County as firefighters from across Eastern Oregon race to get it under control.

The Scott Canyon Fire erupted Thursday afternoon along the banks of the John Day River and spread quickly toward the small unincorporated community of Mikkalo, located halfway between Arlington and Condon. Local volunteers worked through the night to protect farms and homes, though 30 mph wind gusts made for difficult conditions again on Friday.

Chris Fitzsimmons, emergency management coordinator for Gilliam County, said the blaze is now estimated between 22,000 and 30,000 acres and still zero percent contained. The cause remains undetermined.

"It kind of blew up on us," Fitzsimmons said.

No structures have been damaged, and Fitzsimmons said the threat to homes appears to be tempered. Some ranchers did evacuate their animals as a precaution, and the fire also swept over farmland including wheat fields and stubble.

Fire crews arrived from Umatilla County, Wheeler County, Heppner and Lone to assist the Arlington and Condon departments. The Bureau of Land Management's Prineville District has also sent a helicopter to do water drops over the fire. As of Friday morning, the fire appeared to be moving north into Hay Canyon.

Fitzsimmons said fire-fighting efforts could last into Saturday if the wind continues to blow.

"We'll be out there until we get everything taken care of," she said.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.



Bureau of Land Management fire crews drop retardant on the Scott Canyon Fire, south of Arlington, on Friday. Photo courtesy Gilliam County Judge Steve Shaffer

BOARDMAN

Ordnance Brewing to expand distribution

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
East Oregonian

At just two years old, Ordnance Brewing is already expanding its reach across much of the Northwest.

The brewery, based in Boardman, signed on with the Odom Corporation earlier this month for distribution across eastern Washington, Seattle, northern Idaho and Alaska. The move comes as Ordnance prepares to roll out 22-ounce bottles of its beers, which should hit store shelves by September.

"We've been moving very quickly," said Dewey Weddington, director of sales and marketing for Ordnance. "We've put together a solid team of salespeople with a lot of experience."

On Monday, the brewery officially ramped up its capacity from seven barrels to 50 barrels. Weddington said sales have nearly quadrupled over the last two months based on demand.

Ordnance already works with Hodgen Distributing in Pendleton for local distribution. Weddington said they're also nearing a deal with Bigfoot Beverage, of Eugene, to help fill out their Oregon market.

"As the brewery expands, we have far greater capacity for draft and now bottled beer," Weddington said.

Ordnance plans to start bottling its five core beers, including the Kolsch, FMJ IPA, EOD IPA, RX Rye Extra Pale and Bloops blueberry wheat. John Ioane, senior vice president of sales for the Odom Corporation in eastern Washington, northern Idaho and Alaska, said Ordnance initially came to them with their ducks in a row and ready for market.

"That, and their team's vision combined with an excellent lineup of beers, made it an easy decision to bring them on board," Ioane said.



Photo courtesy of Ordnance Brewing

Ordnance Brewing's Kolsch, a lighter German-style lager, will be among the five beers it plans to start bottling after signing on with Odom Corporation earlier this month for distribution across eastern Washington, Seattle, northern Idaho and Alaska.

HERMISTON

Council to consider public art plan Aug. 8

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Hermiston's city council is keeping it short and sweet on Monday.

The agenda for the council's meeting at 7 p.m. at city hall does not include a work session, or any new ordinances or resolutions to consider.

The agenda does include a proclamation for National Night Out, the June financial report and committee reports.

The city also sent out a press release announcing that it will consider adoption of a public art master plan during its August 8 meeting. The proposed plan is available for viewing on the city's website.

The plan lists five general themes for Hermiston's public art: water, agriculture, watermelons, heritage and transportation. It identifies 37 potential locations for art installations and creates a set

of policies for the city to follow in accepting and maintaining art. It does not call for city funds to be set aside for art, but instead creates an approval system for community members to raise donations.

Mayor David Drotzmann, who has been a part of the Community Enhancement Committee's efforts on the plan, said in a statement that he was excited about the opportunity to enhance the community through art.

"This plan is a proactive approach to head-off the challenges that can come up when someone proposes placing art in our public spaces," he said. "My hope is that by going through this extensive process now, it will be much easier to install public art that the entire community is proud of."

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

BRIEFLY



Rock State Park and Power City north of Hermiston.

The application comes as the district has discovered West Nile virus in six mosquito samples collected from near Stanfield, Umatilla, Hat Rock and Spearman Road east of Hermiston. The most recent samples tested positive on Friday, July 16 at the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Corvallis.

For more information, contact the district office at 541-567-5201 or visit www.wumcd.org.

Sports physicals offered at HHS

HERMISTON — Sports physicals will be offered Thursday, Aug. 4 at Hermiston High School. Students from Echo, Stanfield, Hermiston, Umatilla and Irrigon and welcome and encouraged

to take advantage of this opportunity.

The staff from Family Health Associates will be providing physical exams from 8-11 a.m. The cost is \$10 and the physical is valid for two years.

Email press releases at news@eastoregonian.com

Center Market to provide U-Haul rentals

STANFIELD — U-Haul now has a neighborhood dealer in Stanfield.

The company announced Friday that Center Market, 530 N Main St., will offer trucks, trailers, equipment rentals and in-store pickup of boxes from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. After-hours drop-off will also be available.

Customers can reserve U-Haul rentals at the Center Market location by calling 541-449-8793 or visiting www.uhaul.com/locations and searching for Stanfield.

According to a news release from the company, Center Market owner Parvinder Kaur is "proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Umatilla County." The release said use of rental trucks and trailers helps keep more personally owned vehicles off the road for less traffic congestion and pollution.

Residents who take their picture in front of a U-Haul product and upload it to www.uhaulfamous.com or Instagram using #uhaulfamous could get their face painted on the side of a U-Haul truck.

EOCI reopens visiting hours following fight

PENDLETON — Following a fight inside the walls of Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution Thursday, the facility remains on partial lockdown.

Although the west side of the prison is still on lockdown, EOCI



Contributed photo by U-Haul

Center Market's owners stand next to a U-Haul truck.

spokeswoman Jackie Peck said visiting hours will reopen at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Several inmates started fighting in the yard Thursday afternoon, and after verbal commands and pepper spray didn't work, a warning shot was fired to end the fight.

EOCI was put on lockdown and a total of 47 inmates were put in special housing. Peck said two inmates were taken to St. Anthony Hospital and are already back at EOCI following treatment.

The investigation into the cause of the fight is ongoing.

Aerial spraying for mosquitoes Sunday evening

HERMISTON — The West Umatilla Mosquito Control District will conduct an aerial spraying for mosquitoes Sunday after sunset over several areas along Diagonal Road, Hat

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