



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Round-Up ready

Bobby Kerr of Hico, Texas, rides Cinch, a wild mustang he broke three months ago, down the sidewalk Wednesday on Southwest Court Street in Pendleton. Kerr owns and operates the Bobby Kerr Mustang Act and will be performing at the Pendleton Round-Up.

Wildfire prompts evacuation notices near Baker City

Griffin Gulch blaze 15 percent contained

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
East Oregonian

Eighteen homes were evacuated Wednesday night after the Griffin Gulch Fire erupted two miles southwest of Baker City.

Residents were allowed to return home later that night, but remain on a Level 2 evacuation notice, which means they should be prepared to leave again at a moment's notice. The blaze is 27 acres in size and 15 percent contained, according to the Oregon Department of Forestry.

A Level 1 evacuation notice is in effect for homes in Elk Creek, Washington Gulch, Old Auburn and the foothills south of Baker City as a cold front moves through

the area, bringing gusty winds. Forecasts call for a chance of showers and thunderstorms through midnight Thursday.

In other Eastern Oregon fires:

- **Rail Fire** — The region's largest wildfire is now 41,614 acres and 70 percent contained, burning near Unity in Baker County. Fire activity increased Wednesday, and crews are working on finishing containment lines in the Monument Rock area. The cause of the fire, which started July 31, is still unknown.

- **Indian Crossing Fire** — Firefighters are mopping up the 87-acre blaze, 15 miles north of Halfway on the Wallowa-Whitman National

Forest. The fire is now 65 percent contained. Campgrounds in the area will reopen for the holiday weekend, with Indian Crossing and Hidden campgrounds open Friday morning and Coverdale Campground open by Friday evening.

- **Cherry Road Fire** — Located near the Oregon-Idaho border east of Owyhee Reservoir, the 35,308-acre blaze is now entirely contained. The cause is still under investigation.

For updates on fires and public restrictions, visit the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch website at www.bmidc.org or call 541-963-7171.

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

PENDLETON



Photo by Antonio Sierra

Gilda Ciraulo stands at the counter of her store Bella Cosa, which will open Sept. 8.

New home decor store to offer 'beautiful things' on Main Street

Wife of new fire chief to open doors Sept. 8

East Oregonian

When Gilda Ciraulo moved to Pendleton in January, she had trouble decorating her home with locally-bought wares.

Her solution was to open Bella Cosa Gifts & Home Decor, a 133 S. Main St. store that will feature some of the types of decorations she would put in her own home.

When Bella Cosa opens

its doors Sept. 8, Ciraulo said she will sell pictures, candles, pillows and wedding gifts, many of them unique to Pendleton.

Additionally, Bella Cosa will also have screen-printed shirts exclusive to the store.

Ciraulo moved to Pendleton from Battle Ground, Washington after her husband Mike was named fire chief in September.

She has long wanted to own her own business, but her former job running a nonprofit after-school program left her with little

time to do it.

With more than six months residency in Pendleton, Ciraulo said she is now ready to establish her niche in the Round-Up City.

Ciraulo hopes to open Bella Cosa, which means "beautiful thing" in Italian, with her husband in attendance, especially considering he has been helping fight a fire near the Canadian border for the past two weeks.

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

PENDLETON

Kidnapping plan to embarrass man ends with guilty verdict

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
East Oregonian

Sarah Carr of Pendleton faces prison time after a jury convicted her Wednesday of second-degree kidnapping.

The jury at the end of the three-day trial in circuit court in Pendleton determined Carr, 25, was guilty of the class B felony that carries a mandatory prison sentence of five years, 10 months. The court set Carr's sentencing for Sept. 27.

Carr on April 24 took a Pendleton man outside city limits and shocked him twice with a stun gun, then left him. The victim reported the crime, which led to the investigation.

Police questioned Carr,

according to court documents, and she claimed she borrowed \$30 from the victim, whom she believed had slashed tires on her car. She fooled him into going with her to get his money and planned to leave him naked and stranded on a dirt road miles outside Pendleton as retaliation and to embarrass him.

Carr had help in carrying out the scheme, according to court documents.

Her sister, Stephanie Carr, 22, of Pendleton, has a Sept. 23 court date to plead guilty to attempted coercion, a class A misdemeanor, for threatening to harm the



Sarah Carr

victim during the kidnapping.

Brad McDonald, 35, of Pendleton, pleaded no contest on July 14 to attempted coercion. He is free and has a sentence hearing Sept. 14.

The plea petition shows he agreed to three years of court probation, among other punishments, and agreed to testify at the state's request.

And Daniel Joseph Avila, 28, pleaded guilty on July 19 to second-degree kidnapping and received 46 months — almost four years — in state prison.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833.

BRIEFLY

Crashes, fires wreck havoc Thursday on Interstate 84

Interstate 84 had a rough Thursday afternoon.

The interstate was closed in three different places, hundreds of miles apart, within a couple of hours.

A little after 1 p.m., the highway was closed going in both directions near Biggs Junction because of a brush fire. The highway soon reopened but the closure backed up traffic.

Oregon State Police reported a separate grass fire soon after, sparked by a vehicle fire roughly 16 miles west of Arlington. That stopped traffic and clogged the freeway, causing multiple-hour delays.

North Gilliam Rural Fire Chief Joe Claughton said Thursday that he had 28 firefighters from multiple agencies working on the blaze, which had spread on both sides of the interstate. He said it started when a motorhome caught fire, flames from which moved east toward Philippi Canyon. Claughton said he did not believe anyone was hurt and no structures were threatened.

And around 4:30 p.m., eastbound traffic as reduced to one lane about 21 miles west of La Grande due to a crash. It too caused a considerable delay for evening travelers that were headed east.

Open Air Market in Echo continues in September

ECHO — Everything from local produce and art to handmade crafts and apparel are available during the upcoming Open Air Market in Echo.

The monthly market has been setting

up on the corner of Main and Dupont streets. However, due to the hot weather, the August event was held at George Park.

Organizers said the August market had huge traffic and a record number of vendors, and they are hoping for the same during the September event. In addition, a generous donation of Hermiston watermelons by Bellinger Farms raised \$72 for the Echo Historical Museum.

The next market is Saturday, Sept. 17 from 4-7 p.m. Vendor space is available for \$12.

For more information, contact echoopenairmarket@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/echoopenairmarket.

Brad Cain named new superintendent of Snake River prison

ONTARIO (AP) — The superintendent of a Baker City prison is heading to Ontario to take the same job at Oregon's largest prison.

Brad Cain starts Sept. 15 at the 3,000-bed Snake River Correctional Institution. He replaces Mark Nooth, who has been promoted to a job overseeing six prisons in Eastern Oregon.

Cain began his career as a correctional officer and worked at Snake River when it opened 25 years ago.

He's spent the past three years as superintendent of the Powder River Correctional Institution, a minimum-security prison with 286 beds.

Briefs are compiled from staff and wire reports, and press releases. Email press releases to news@eastoregonian.com

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPT. 2
FREE FIRST FRIDAY, all day, Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, 47106 Wildhorse Blvd. (off Highway 331 near Wildhorse Resort & Casino), Pendleton. New exhibit "Legend and Legacy: Jackson Sundown and Happy Canyon A Century Later" opens. (541-966-9748).

ADULT OPEN GYM, 6-7 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. Half-court basketball. (541-276-8100).

BENEFIT YARD SALE, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Boardman First Baptist Church, 200 Willow Fork Drive. Proceeds will help build a play area for the church. Donations welcome through Thursday. (541-481-9437).

HEPPNER FARMER'S MARKET, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Heppner City Park. Food, craft and garden vendors. (541-676-8957).

STORY TIME, 10:15-11 a.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave. (541-567-2882).

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 noon, Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101).

PENDLETON FARMERS MARKET, 4 p.m. to dusk, 300 block South Main Street, Pendleton. Browse fresh produce, meats, baked goods and plants, locally crafted jewelry and items for the home. EBT, debit and credit cards welcome. (pendletonfarmersmarket.net).

VFW BINGO, doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 7 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST, 7-10 a.m., Stanfield Community Center, 225 W. Roosevelt. Costs \$5 for full breakfast/\$3 for light meal. (541-449-1332).

BENEFIT YARD SALE, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Boardman First Baptist Church, 200 Willow Fork Drive. Proceeds will help build a play area for the church. (541-481-9437).

HERMISTON'S OWN FARMERS MARKET, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., McKenzie Park, 300 S. First St., Hermiston. Food, crafts, live music, art.

LIL BUCKS OPEN GYM, 8:30-

9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. For students in first and second grade and parents/guardians. Free basketball skills and pickup games.

FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Family art experience for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (541-278-9201).

HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m. to noon, Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in art project class for adults. (541-278-9201).

SATURDAY SPIN-IN, 1-4 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Fiber enthusiasts are encouraged to bring spinning wheels, portable looms and other tools and share fellowship and expertise. (541-278-9201).

ANNIE HARKEY-POWER AND DON POWER IN CONCERT, 3 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Celloist Harkey-Power and violinist Power will perform music of Germany and Eastern Europe. Tickets are \$10. (541-278-9201).

SUNDAY, SEPT. 4
ADULT OPEN GYM, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Pendleton Recreation

Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. Free access for ages 16 and up. (541-276-8100).

MONDAY, SEPT. 5
ADULT OPEN GYM, 6-7 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. Half-court basketball. (541-276-8100).

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 noon, Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101).

ART STUDIO, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. Free class for ages 7-12 to develop skills and encourage art exploration. (541-278-9201).

TUESDAY, SEPT. 6
TERRIFICALLY FREE TUESDAY, all day, Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. (541-276-1066).

ADULT OPEN GYM, 6-7 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave. Half-court basketball. (541-276-8100).

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30-11 a.m., Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave. (541-449-1254).

live
BLUEGRASS
THE EO Scenes

The Pendleton Center for the Arts - tickets 278-9201
Thurs & Fri, Sept. 15 & 16