

UMATILLA



A firefighter uses a ladder to enter the second story of the Tillicum Inn while fighting a fire in the hotel Wednesday in Umatilla.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Fire damages Tillicum Inn hotel

Five or six people were evacuated

East Oregonian

Umatilla's Tillicum Inn was heavily damaged by fire Wednesday.

The hotel, located at 1481 Sixth Street, was the scene of hours of active firefighting and mop-up by fire departments from throughout the region, including those as far away as Pendleton.

The exact cause of the fire was not immediately known. But around 12:30 p.m., Umatilla Police Chief Darla Huxel said it was thought to have been related to maintenance work.

"They were working on a water line, or doing some soldering," Huxel said.

She said she did not know if the person doing the maintenance work was an employee of the inn.

Huxel and other Umatilla police officers directed traffic as crews



Firefighters from Umatilla and Morrow county respond to a fire at the Tillicum Inn on Wednesday in Umatilla.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

from Umatilla Fire Department battled the fire. They received mutual aid from Umatilla County Fire District 1 and Echo Rural Fire Department, Pendleton Fire Department and others.

Five or six people were staying in the motel at the time and were evacuated. Inn manager Josephine Kepich said she did not know details about what happened and could not

comment until she could get in touch with the owner.

Outside the hotel, employees were discussing how to re-house their guests. The hotel has an annex behind the main building.

PENDLETON

Airport area gets OK for nearly \$1M in improvements

East Oregonian

The Pendleton City Council continues to spend significant money at the airport.

At a meeting Tuesday, the council unanimously approved \$995,323 in street and water main work in the airport industrial area. Pioneer Construction's bid will cover water main work that will boost capacity for the airport industrial area, roadway reconstruction on Northwest H Avenue and Northwest 49th Street, and roadway overlays on surrounding streets in the Airport Industrial Area, mostly between Northwest 46th Street, Northwest 53rd Street, Northwest A Avenue and Northwest H Avenue.

Pioneer Construction also won the bid to reconstruct Southwest Marshall Avenue and Southwest First Street.

According to a report from City Engineer Tim Simons, the 1,100-foot section of road between Southwest Nye Avenue and Southwest 14th Street is deteriorating because it was originally built with minimal gravel and asphalt and the soil underneath it has a tendency to move.

The city rebuilt previous sections of Marshall in 2004, 2008 and 2014.

Due to city utility work over the summer, First Street will be reconstructed from Southwest Goodwin Avenue to Southwest Hailey Avenue.

The council finalized

a deal with Newburg developer Saj Jivanjee to move some city-owned liens at his Pendleton Heights subdivision, unanimously approving an ordinance that will reassess a local improvement district between Jivanjee's development company and the city.

The city placed \$320,000 in liens on the townhouses to help cover \$1.3 million in infrastructure improvements, which Jivanjee was originally supposed to pay once they were completed.

As a part of the deal, Jivanjee agreed to pay the city \$200,000 now and will pay the other \$120,000 when he completes a planned 100-unit apartment complex on the property.

Although the council took no action, City Manager

Robb Corbett and Rob Tremper, the city's auditor, presented early proposals to significantly reduce the airport's \$2.5 million in interfund loan debt through an interest write-off.

"It's a huge number that hangs over our head and it becomes a problem," Corbett said. "Once a year, there's a newspaper article that's written when we pass our budget that talks about this interfund loan, because not everybody does it in the way that we do it."

Some council members said they wanted more time to have the proposals explained to them at the a future workshop. Due to Round-Up, the council won't hold its usually scheduled workshop next week.

COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7
PRE-SCHOOL STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 10:30 a.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. (Lili Schmidt 541-938-8247)
BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Cost is \$4 for seniors 55 and over or \$5 for adults. (541-481-3257)
HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church parish hall, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. Cost is \$4 for adults, free for children 10 and under, \$4 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Bus service to parish hall by donation. (541-567-3582)
PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12-1 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. 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)
SENSORY STORY TIME, 12:30 p.m., Boardman Public Library, 200 S. Main St., Boardman. For children from birth to age 4. (541-481-2665)
SKILLS FOR LIFE, 3-5 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Gym activities and life skills for

middle and high school students. Registration requested. (Danny Bane 541-379-4250)
CASON'S PLACE GRIEF SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF EASTERN OREGON ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, 5:30 p.m., Pendleton Early Learning Center, 455 S.W. 13th St., Pendleton. Board meeting at 5:30 p.m. followed by general meeting at 6 p.m. All those interested in volunteering are encouraged to attend. (Matt Terjeson 503-720-1620)
YARN CLUB, 5:30 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)
ARTIST'S RECEPTION: MALCOLM PHINNEY, 5:30-7 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. A new series of paintings featuring Zumwalt Prairie in Wallowa County will be on display through Sept. 30. Refreshments; beer, wine and soda available for a donation. Free admission. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)
THE ARC UMATILLA COUNTY BINGO, 6-10 p.m., The Arc Building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., seats may be held until 6:30 p.m., then all seats first come, first served; games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Umatilla County citizens with developmental disabilities. 18 years or older, must have proof of age and photo I.D.

Basic pot \$20, prizes range from \$20-\$750. (541-567-7615)
FIDDLERS NIGHT, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brookdale Assisted Living, 980 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. Enjoy light refreshments, listen to some favorite oldies or join in the jam session. All ages welcome. (541-567-3141)
FRIDAY, SEPT. 8
HEPPNER FARMERS MARKET, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Heppner City Park, 444 N. Main St., Heppner. Local produce, crafts, baked goods and more. (Don or Jo Ann Shannon 541-676-8957)
STORY TIME, 10:15 a.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)
PENDLETON FARMERS MARKET, 4-7 p.m., 300 block, South Main Street, Pendleton. Local produce, baked goods, crafts, jewelry, live music, food vendors and more. (Cheryl Montgomery 541-969-9466)
VFW BINGO, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-567-6219)
SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER, 6-8 p.m., Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church parish hall, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. Meal features spaghetti, soup, salad, garlic bread and dessert. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 10 and under

or \$30 for a family of 6. Proceeds benefit the Knights of Columbus scholarship program. (541-567-5812)
SATURDAY, SEPT. 9
POW SATURDAY BIKE RIDE, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Chamber of Commerce Parking Lot, 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton. Weekly bike ride by Pendleton on Wheels. Rides are open to the public, as far and at a speed comfortable for you. (Christine 734-755-7034)
L'IL BUCKS OPEN GYM, 8:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For students in first-third grades.
AARP SMART DRIVER CLASS, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Anthony Hospital, 2801 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton. Learn valuable defensive driving skills, proven safety strategies, current technologies and rules of the road, and how to accommodate for age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. Cost is \$15 for AARP members (bring card) and \$20 for non-members, preregistration requested. Lunch is on your own. (Nikki Murtaugh 541-861-0024)
HERMISTON FARMERS MARKET, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Festival Plaza, Northeast Second Street and Main, Hermiston. Local produce, baked goods, crafts, jewelry, art, live music, food vendors and more.

HERMISTON

Alleged attempted kidnapper of high school athlete arrested

East Oregonian

A man was arrested Wednesday, accused of trying to kidnap a Hermiston High School student the previous week.

Joel Cardenas, 35, of 990 W. Juniper Ave., Hermiston, was charged with harassment and two counts of sex abuse in two different incidents. He was lodged in the Umatilla County Jail.

A 16-year-old female student was jogging in the area of Southwest Seventh Street and West Quince Avenue around 5 p.m. on Aug. 28 when a man allegedly grabbed her. The girl reported the incident to the Hermiston Police Department about two hours later. She told police she believed the man tried to get her into his car.

The identity of the man was unknown at the time, but the girl and other witnesses described him as about 5 feet 9 inches tall, balding, with facial hair, noticeable tattoos and driving a dark-colored Toyota Prius.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said his department believed there was a strong likelihood that

Cardenas had demonstrated similar behavior in other incidents, and encouraged those who might have additional information or concerns to call the department.

The same evening he is accused of accosting the high school athlete, Cardenas was later reported to have walked inside the 11th Street Market and grabbed the breast of a 34-year-old female employee.

The store did not report the incident until a few days later, and the officer involved in the case was not able to talk to the employee immediately. Edmiston said the incident in the market occurred between 9 and 10 p.m. on Aug. 28. It was reported Aug. 30. In that incident, Cardenas was charged with sex abuse in the third degree and harassment.

Edmiston added that the cooperation of his department with other entities, along with sharing the information on social media, let to Cardenas' eventual arrest.

"Inasmuch as social media can be distracting with misinformation, calls and tips were made to our department from the Facebook post that assisted (in this case)," he said.



Cardenas

BRIEFLY

Sunset Park celebration canceled

HERMISTON — A planned celebration at Sunset Park has been canceled due to wildfires in the Columbia Gorge.

The city, Moda Health and the Portland Trail Blazers' vice president of social responsibility were set to host a ceremony Thursday to celebrate Hermiston receiving new playground equipment as the winner of the Moda Assist online competition. But parks and recreation director Larry Fetter said the Blazers asked to reschedule the ceremony and outdoor youth basketball clinics in light of Interstate 84 closures and heavy smoke in the area.

Fetter said he is still working with them to set a new date.

Man resisting arrest tased, tackled

HELIX — A man was tased and tackled at Vansycle Road and Raymond Road outside of Helix on Saturday, after allegedly resisting arrest by an Oregon State Police trooper.

Brett Raymond Leake, 55, of Helix, was spotted by OSP trooper Ryan Sharp standing in a driveway, and the officer recognized him as having an outstanding warrant out of Umatilla County for failure to appear on a DUII charge. Trooper Sharp noticed Leake was under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and while being handcuffed Leake resisted and tried to escape. Sharp eventually tased him, but the taser was not completely effective, and Leake wrapped the officer's legs up.

After a scuffle on the ground, Trooper Sharp sat on Leake and handcuffed him, then radioed for backup. Leake was able to get away, and ran around the officer's vehicle until he was tackled. Officers later found Leake was carrying a small bag of methamphetamine.

Leake was transported to St. Anthony Hospital, and then lodged at the Umatilla County Jail in Pendleton.

Possible stabbing sends one to hospital, one to jail

IRRIGON — An Irrigon man was hospitalized and another is missing after a fight that may have included a stabbing.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a call around 7:51 p.m. Tuesday

regarding men fighting near Highway 730 and West Fourth Street in Irrigon.

One combatant reported having possibly been stabbed, and officers responded with assistance from the Boardman Police Department. Deputies were on scene within two minutes of the call and the Irrigon Ambulance crew transported the victim, Jeffrey Alan Kelly, 39, to the Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston.

Officers were able to locate a suspect, 31-year-old Joel Ernesto Rodriguez. Rodriguez was arrested and lodged in the Umatilla County Jail for menacing, first- and fourth-degree assault, and unlawful use of a weapon. Bail is set at \$275,000.

Law enforcement officials are also looking for a potential second victim, a male who left the scene before officers arrived. The unidentified male is being sought for a welfare check and as a potential witness. Members of the public are asked to contact the Morrow County Sheriff's Office if they have any information at 541-676-5317.

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

TWO HOURS every morning paid off my credit card debt.



Become an East Oregonian Carrier.

211 SE Byers Ave. Pendleton or call: 541-276-2211 1-800-522-0255

EAST OREGONIAN