

Fire damages Pendleton home Monday

By East Oregonian

Several people escaped a burning home Monday morning in Pendleton.

The Pendleton Fire and Ambulance Service received the call at 7:33 a.m. for a blaze at 616 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. Fire department Lt. Dan Hergert said crews arrived to see flames leaping from the back of the one-story home.

"The entire back area was fully involved," he said.

Witnesses said there was an older couple and children in the house. Police Lt. Tony Nelson said the occupants got out unharmed. The American Red Cross reported the fire affected two adults and two children, and the organization's local disaster responders helped them with immediate basic needs, such as temporary housing, food and clothing.

Hergert said the fire was in a back laundry room and covered access area to the basement. He said the cause of the fire remains under investigation.



Staff photo by Phil Wright

Fire broke out Monday morning in this Pendleton home at the corner of Southwest Emigrant Avenue and Seventh Street. Pendleton police Lt. Tony Nelson reported the occupants escaped the flames.

PENDLETON

Air Museum celebrates downtown location

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Supporters of the Pendleton Air Museum gathered Saturday to celebrate its relatively new downtown home.

The small museum at 21 S.W. Emigrant Avenue is dedicated to the aviation and military history of the Pendleton area. Its displays — which change every three to four months — include paintings, old uniforms, newspaper clippings and a variety of artifacts from several wars.

Anthony Bowman, who was heavily involved in the museum's creation and donated a variety of artifacts for display, was at the celebration with an old 1942 M3 troop transport, which weighs 19,600 pounds empty.

"I've been collecting military stuff since I was a kid," said Bowman, who is an Army veteran. "I like displaying it, and here, people get to see something they don't normally get to see."

He pointed out a display that pairs U.S. and German artifacts from World War II side by side, showing the differences between the two sides' helmets, grenades, canteens and more.

"You can kind of see comparisons of the different sides," he said.

Joe Ford, who was also involved in the museum's new location, said touches like that make Bowman a great help to the museum, along with his vast knowledge of local military lore.

"It's important to represent the entire story," Ford said. "The Allies and the enemies — all of it. This is what our guys had, and what they were up against."

Ford brought a 1941-era Dodge ambulance to the celebration. He said he bought the ambulance from someone in



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

A set of uniforms hangs inside the new Pendleton Air Museum location.

California and had a lot of fun restoring it.

"I met a lot of great people because of it," he said. "I love restoring old cars, but that one's different."

While the vehicles aren't normally on display at the museum, inside are a variety of historical artifacts from not only World War II but also the first world war, the Korean War, Vietnam War and Iraq. Bowman pointed out a long green woolen coat, made for an officer of World War II in the Pendleton Woolen Mills.

He and Ford said that during the war, factories that were usually used for non-military items were re-purposed to serve the war effort. A large navigation compass in the museum, for example, was made at a Chrysler factory, and Bowman said he also owns a machine gun made by Chrysler. Even children

helped out with the war effort, going door to door collecting tin cans and other scrap.

"People really took that seriously," Bowman said.

The museum also owns military uniforms from a number of prominent Pendleton residents, past and present.

During Saturday's opening — which drew in some curious passerby participating in the annual Pendleton Underground Tours Comes to Life event — Cheryl Lewis of Weston was browsing displays. She said she brought her niece and nephew because her nephew loves learning about World War II.

"I think it's all pretty cool that they're able to preserve this stuff," she said.

For more information about the Pendleton Air Museum, call 541-278-0141 or visit www.pendletonairmuseum.org.

STANFIELD

Saturday's Spring Fling draws area vendors

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Everything from tacos to turtles were on sale at Stanfield's Spring Fling downtown on Saturday.

The market took over Coe Avenue for the day offering up food, crafts, art and vendors for items such as Tupperware and Scentsy.

Susan Kendrick of Ione was there selling jewelry and Western-themed purses. She said she sets up her booth at markets on the weekend to raise money for the Stormy Kendrick Memorial Scholarship, which she gives to a local student each year in honor of her son.

"Anything local I can do, I try to get out there," she said. "I'm glad to be here."

Around noon she said crowds had been pretty steady so far, and she enjoyed seeing people stop by and check out her wares. She originally started sell-



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Kim La Plant, right, who works under the name Ozark Hippie, shows one of her paintings to a customer at the Stanfield Spring Fling on Saturday.

ing beadwork necklaces she made herself but has since expanded.

Charles Hlawek was set up on the edge of Coe Avenue selling freshly made kettle corn, which he churned out over an open flame. He said he came down for the

market from the Tri-Cities because he knows organizer BeAnn Smith from her time working on the Hermiston Farmer's Market. Hlawek said he also plans to be at the Hermiston market this year, which has been rebranded as the Maxwell Market and

moved to Thursday nights on South First Street.

He said he was excited about the thought of some new life being breathed into that market. Saturday, however, he was focused on the Stanfield market.

Some vendors had their attention split over multiple markets Saturday, as the Open Air Market in Echo and Crafters in the Pasture in Hermiston were running at the same time. Jose Gutierrez of Potteryplus in Hermiston said his business also had a stall at Crafters in the Pasture.

"We're doing double duty," he said.

The Potteryplus booth featured small, colorful turtle sculptures and larger peacock statues. Sitting on the corner across from the kettle corn, the peacocks drew in passerby to the market, which stretched down Coe Avenue past the city council chambers.

HERMISTON

Hermiston man shot, police searching for person of interest

A Hermiston man was shot Saturday evening but is expected to recover from his injuries.

Carlos Ramirez, 27, was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center in a private vehicle after he was injured. Hermiston Police Department Capt. Travis Eynon said someone called 911 to report a shooting at 9:47 p.m. and when officers arrived at 220 E Beebe Ave. in Hermiston they were informed the victim had already been taken to the hospital.

He said the incident took place in the back yard of a residence but he could not yet release more information about what led up to it.

No one has been taken

into custody, but Eynon said Monday afternoon that police are searching for Alex Ahumada, 33, of Boardman, who is described as a person of interest. If members of the public know where Ahumada is they are asked to call law enforcement and not try to detain him, as he could be armed and should be considered dangerous.

In an earlier Facebook post, Eynon described the shooting as "an isolated incident" that "does not appear to be a random act." He said Ahumada and Ramirez are well-known to each other.

Umatilla County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police also assisted at the scene.

Friends mourn death of Sundown chef

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Rob Hoffman may have been the chef and co-owner of Sundown Grill & Bar-B-Q, but his death was felt throughout the Pendleton restaurant community.

Hoffman, 59, died in his home on Sunday.

Occasionally adjusting her glasses to wipe away a stray tear, Kim Burt said she would have never been able to open OMG! Burgers & Brews if it wasn't for the mentorship offered by Rob and his wife Raphael.

Burt worked for 25 years as a server at Sundown, which was known as Raphael's until the owners rebranded the restaurant in 2013, and became friends with Hoffmans across that span.

"He was always a happy guy, always willing to help out," she said.

Burt said Rob was passionate about motorcycles and boating, sometimes taking her and her husband Rodney out on the water.

When Kim and Rodney got married in Las Vegas in 2016, the Hoffmans were there to witness it. And when the Burts struck out on their own to start OMG!, Rob gave their new venture his blessing.

"I know he's in a better place," Burt said.

Under Rob and Raphael's guidance, the restaurant has endured plenty since the couple bought the historic Roy Raley House at 233 S.E. Fourth Street after their restaur-

rant lease ended at the Pendleton airport.

Raphael's burned down in 1999 as a fire gutted most of the building, but the Hoffmans rebuilt and reopened.

One of Pendleton's few fine dining options at the time, the restaurant was faced with another challenge when the recession hit, spurring them to go on a three-year hiatus in 2010.

The restaurant reopened again in 2013 under a new moniker — Sundown Grill & Bar-B-Q — and a new focus on more casual fare.

Throughout the restaurant's various trials and tribulations, Burt said Rob's steady demeanor was a source of strength.

Rob was not only a friend to his workers, but a friend to the competition as well.

Norm Linnebur now tends bar for the Packard Tavern, but he operated The Hut Restaurant & Lounge for 15 years.

Linnebur remembered Rob as a friendly guy and a hard worker who always took the time to chat with him.

"He will be missed," he said.



Robert Hoffman, co-owner of Sundown and Raphael's restaurants, died Sunday at the age of 59.

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO

5/21-22

Cineplex Show Times

\$5 Classic Movie • 5/23 • 12:00 PM Trading Places

DEADPOOL 2 (R)
3:50* 4:30 6:30 7:10 9:10 9:50

LIFE OF THE PARTY (PG13)
4:40 7:20 9:40

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (PG13)
3:40* 6:50 10:00

OVERBOARD (PG13)
4:20 7:00 9:30

*Matinee Pricing
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 • Exit 216

NWMP POWDER COATING

COME SEE US FOR ALL YOUR POWDER COATING NEEDS:

- Wheels • Truck Beds • Trailers • ATV'S
- Motorcycles • Fencing • Railing

GIVE US A CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE:
541.567.7171

80496 N. HWY 395 • Hermiston (Behind Oxarc)

Pergolas • Patio Covers • Awnings Sunrooms • Patio/Solar Shades Screens & More!

Proudly Serving Eastern Oregon With Quality Outdoor Living Products Since 2009!

Backyard By Design, LLC

541-720-0772

FREE Estimates!

www.mybackyardbydesign.com

102 E Columbia Dr. Kennewick WA 99336 License #188965

FOUR SEASONS BUILDING PRODUCTS | SUN CONTROL | Sunesta AWNINGS & OUTDOOR COMFORT | BUILD THE BEST FOUR SEASONS SHEDS

Gifts for Graduates

Candy Bar Bouquets • Balloons Gifts & more!

Put a smile on the heart with the power of flowers.

Cottage Flowers

HWY 395, HERMISTON • 541-567-4305
Mon-Sat 8am-6pm • Sun 12pm-5am

www.cottageflowersonline.com