

FIRES RAVAGE TWO PENDLETON HOMES



Fire gutted a home at 1908 S.W. Goodwin about 3:30 a.m. Saturday.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Family of five loses home, car and pets

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Fires Friday and Saturday destroyed two Pendleton homes. “It took everything,” Alicia Reynen said. “It took our two dogs, and my cat and all the presents my kids got for Christmas.” She said her husband, Jesse Reynen, was playing video games early Friday when he spotted flames on the front porch of their 1970 model trailer home at Shadeview Mobile Home Park, 1437 S.W. 37th St. She called 911 at 1:14 a.m. “He tried to find a way to put it out,” she said, “and I ran after my kids because they were in two different rooms.” Alicia, Jesse and their three children, Dean, 4, Breelynn, 6, and Athena, 8, escaped unharmed. Assistant fire chief Shawn Penninger said crews rolled up at 1:17 a.m. and found the heavy fire engulfing the trailer home and threatening to spread to more homes.



Fire destroyed this mobile home at 1437 S.W. 37th Place on Friday.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

“They concentrated their effort on saving the adjacent trailer,” he said. The fire caused some minor exterior damage to the next-door home, Penninger said, but there was no hope of saving the Reynen’s home. The fire also totaled their 2017 Jeep Renegade in the driveway. Penninger said the cause appears to

be hot coals from a wood stove. The coals were in a bucket on the wood deck, and something, perhaps the wind, knocked over the bucket, spilling the coals. He said he and the state fire marshal concluded the blaze was an unfortunate accident.

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Hansell introduces firefighting legislation

Bills would give farmers more freedom to fight fires

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

In the wake of a July fire that burned 80,000 acres of land in Sherman and Wasco counties, state Sen. Bill Hansell is introducing a package of bills that he thinks will improve firefighting efforts on farmland.

The four bills sponsored by the Athena Republican are intended to provide flexibility in fighting wildfires in the area and move a previously unprotected land into the Oregon State Fire Marshal’s jurisdiction. At its height, the Substation Fire was the largest fire in the United States, burning thousands of acres of wheat in the process.

Hansell attended a debriefing on the fire with Gov. Kate Brown and several other legislators in Sherman County.

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Environmental groups leave wolf plan talks

Opposed to rule allowing private citizens to kill wolves

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Environmental groups in Oregon announced Monday they have withdrawn from talks on how to manage the state’s rebounding wolf population because of what they called a “broken” process, and concerns that state wildlife officials want to make it easier to kill wolves that eat livestock without trying other alternatives.

The announcement came after months of negotiations to update rules on how and when wolves can be killed as their numbers increase and they spread farther west and south after reentering north-eastern Oregon from Idaho more than a decade ago.

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EVERY DROP COUNTS

Local blood donations can help save lives around the country

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Lives were being saved at the Hermiston Public Library on Monday. While patrons browsed through books on the main floor, people were trickling downstairs into a city-sponsored Red Cross blood drive. Karis Miller, one of several phlebotomists on-site, said Red Cross employees in the Tri-Cities area spend their days traveling

to churches, athletic clubs, libraries, hospitals, schools and other places willing to host a drive. “We do a lot of high schools,” she said. “People 19 and under make up a good 30 to 40 percent of what we collect.” On the other end of the spectrum are many retired donors who have been donating regularly for years. “The older donors who donate all the time are starting to pass away and the next generation isn’t stepping up,” Miller said. After the blood is collected, it is sent to a processing center in Portland where it is tested for diseases, such as hepatitis, and separated out into three components: red blood cells, plasma and plate-

lets. The components are then packaged and sent to hospitals, which have a contract with the Red Cross for a certain amount of blood per month in addition to extra supplies during a crisis. Red blood cells can be stored for up to 42 days, platelets are stored for up to five days and plasma can be frozen and saved for up to a year. Usually blood processed at the Portland center will stay nearby, but if there is a surplus or a greater need somewhere else in the country, a donation in Oregon could end up in a patient in North Carolina. If a hospital in Eastern Oregon needs more blood urgently, they

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney/
Jennifer Fullerton watches as phlebotomist Victor Reyna, of the Red Cross, tends to the Umatilla woman during a blood drive Monday in the basement of the Hermiston Public Library.