

Blood: Local donations can save lives around the country

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don't have to wait for it to be brought all the way from Portland.

David Rodriguez, a volunteer working at the blood drive Monday, is one of the volunteers on call 24 hours a day to transport blood. When Good Shepherd Medical Center has an unexpected number of patients coming into the emergency room in need of blood, for example, he might get a call that he needs to pick some up from Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland and bring it down to Hermiston.

On Monday, Rodriguez was doing everything from checking people in to bringing over snacks to a first-time donor who was feeling too faint to get up from the cot.

"I'm a people person, and I enjoy getting to go out and meet new people and help these folks," he said.

He said before he started volunteering for the Red Cross six and a half years ago he was a blood donor.

He felt especially grateful for the opportunity to donate after his father had emergency surgery and needed seven pints of blood (donors give a pint at a time).

"It's just always important," he said. "People don't look at it that way, but it could be your own family member or close friend."

Miller said she finds many of the Red Cross's donors are inspired by someone close to them whose life was saved by donated blood or plasma.

In addition to its life-saving potential, Miller said donating blood a few times a year also has several health benefits for the donor, including increased cardiovascular health.

"It's really good for your body, especially men, because they don't have menstrual periods and so they don't lose that blood," she said. "So it's kind of like an oil change for them. It takes the old stuff out and forces their body to make new."



Staff photo by Kathy Aney/

A phlebotomist collects blood from a donor Monday during a blood drive in the basement of the Hermiston Public Library (identification number on vial obscured for donor privacy).

Groups: Opposed to rule allowing private citizens to kill wolves

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It wasn't immediately clear what would happen to the talks, although the environmental groups said they would "collectively and actively" oppose the wolf management plan proposed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Michelle Dennehy, an agency spokeswoman, did not return a call and email seeking comment. The agency oversees the group of ranchers, hunters and wolf conservation advocates formed by Gov. Kate Brown to update the state's management plan after an initial draft plan was rejected in 2017. The state is supposed to update its plan every five years to account for changing wolf population numbers but is four years overdue with a revision.

The environmental groups Oregon Wild, Defenders of Wildlife, Cascadia Wildlands and the Center for Biological Diversity said in a Jan. 4 letter to Brown that the fish and wildlife agency has rejected their suggestions for managing wolf-livestock conflict as too expensive or too difficult.

A key sticking point for the conservation groups is a plan provision that would allow the state or deputized private citizens — likely ranchers affected by livestock attacks — to kill culprit wolves after two documented attacks on livestock herds by the same wolf pack, said Nick Cady, legal director for Cascadia Wildlands.

The groups are particularly unnerved by a provision that would allow the depu-

tized citizens to keep wolf pelts, said Cady, who called the idea a "trophy hunt."

"With a population of wolves that's 120 animals statewide, that's a ridiculous, ridiculous proposal," he said in an interview.

The groups also feel the state agency's plan favors hunters, who contend more wolves mean fewer deer for them to hunt.

Ranchers reacted to the news with surprise and disappointment.

Rodger Huffman, a small-scale rancher in rural northeastern Oregon, said wolf numbers have risen so dramatically in recent years that it's no longer useful to focus on conservation. The population now needs to be managed to minimize damage to livestock, he said.

"There's a huge cost, there's a toll there," said Huffman, who's negotiating for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

"I don't think anybody can expect to get everything you want, and so to pick up your marbles and say, 'I'm going home because I'm not getting my way' is a little bit unprofessional," he said.

Conflict between ranchers and wolves has grown sharply in recent years as the species makes a comeback after being wiped out by a bounty-hunting program more than 70 years ago.

Wolves were reintroduced to central Idaho in the mid-1990s and in 1999, a lone wolf wandered into northeastern Oregon. It was trapped and returned to Idaho.

Two more were found dead in Oregon in 2000.

But the first definitive proof wolves had returned to the Oregon came in 2007, when a wolf was found shot to death. The following year, a wolf nicknamed Sophie by conservationists gave birth to the first litter of pups born in Oregon in decades.

Most Oregon wolves live in remote northeastern areas where cattle, llamas, sheep and goats graze on private land and in federally managed forests and grassland. Ranchers often use range riders, flashing lights, remote cameras and fluttering devices on miles of fence line to keep wolves at bay — sometimes with little success.

Several packs have also established themselves in the forests of rural southwestern Oregon, near the California border, where they have attacked livestock.

The species lost its endangered status under Oregon law in 2015 — when the state's population hit 81 wolves — and is no longer federally protected in the eastern third of the state.

As of April 2018, there were at least 124 wolves in Oregon. There were 12 known wolf packs and nine more groups of two or three wolves that are not considered packs were noted.

In 2017, two wolves were captured by remote camera in Mt. Hood National Forest, a popular recreational destination for hiking and skiing about an hour east of Portland.

It was the first time multiple wolves were documented in Oregon's northern Cascade Mountain range since they returned to the state.

Hansell: Introduces firefighting legislation

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He said firefighter after firefighter praised the work done by farmers to assist them in fighting the blaze.

If it wasn't for the help from local farmers, "we may have had a miniature Paradise, California situation," Hansell said.

Hansell later returned to Moro for a town hall where farmers and other local residents talked about how the fire affected them and how the response could be improved.

He said giant wildfires over the past few years have made firefighting a hot topic in Salem, but fighting fires on farmland or rangeland doesn't attract the same sort of attention.

Based on the input he received from the town hall and work he did with the

governor's office, Hansell crafted four bills to address the issue.

Hansell said farmers were worried about assuming liability for property damage or injuries while fighting fires, so he created Senate Bill 290, which grants civil immunity to people fighting fires in good faith.

He added that Oregon already has a similar law on the books for civilians who help people who have been injured in car crashes.

"You may have not made every decision correctly," he said. "(But) we want to protect that kind of response."

Hansell said the fire response was also hurt when the fire jumped the Deschutes River and entered land that wasn't protected by any fire agencies.

Firefighting efforts are

hampered when fire agencies are trying to determine who is responsible for extinguishing the fire rather than responding to it quickly, he said.

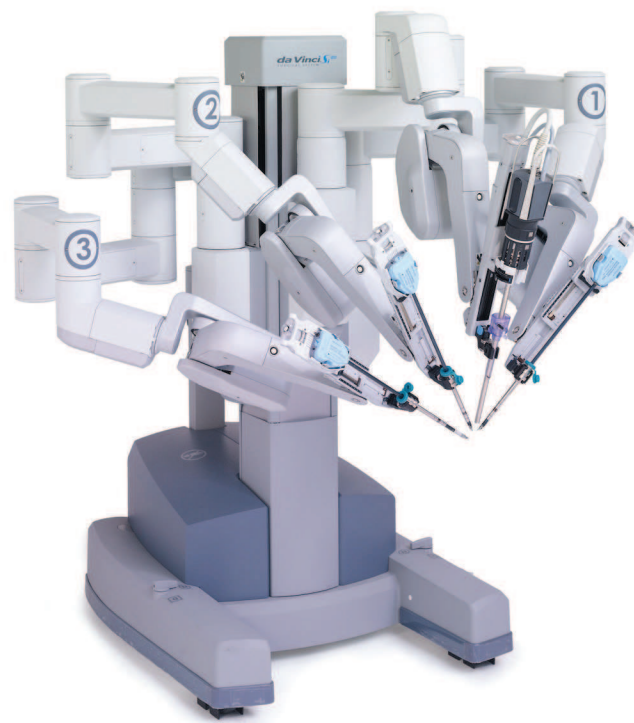
SB 311 moves 400,000 acres of land in Sherman and Wasco counties into the state fire marshal's jurisdiction.

The other two bills in Hansell's package — Senate bills 291 and 292 — allocate more resources to air response for wildfires and gives the governor and fire marshal more flexibility in fighting them.

In a session where legislators will be considering hundreds of bills, Hansell said he can't predict the bill package's prospects, but he will make the legislation a priority.

The 2019 legislative session starts Jan. 22.

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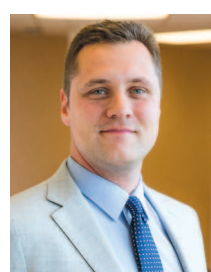
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Fires: Family of five loses home, car and pets

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The Reynen family for the time being is staying with friends at Shadeview and relying on donations.

"We have an awesome community," she said. "All three kids have new clothes and shoes."

But the home was too old to carry insurance, she said, and they need to replace what they lost. Jesse Reynen explained in a post on Facebook they might eventually place a new trailer home in the space or rent elsewhere in town, but they will need household items when the time comes.

The children go to school, Alicia and Jesse work, and he also is attending Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton. Alicia Reynen said she is placing donation jars in Pendleton businesses, the Bank of the West opened a donation account for them and there is an online donation page at gofundme.com, which has a goal of \$20,000.

Penninger said the second fire occurred Saturday around 3:30 a.m. at 1908 S.W. Goodwin Ave., where crews saw smoke billowing from a home and found fire raging within.

"It was a defensive operations for the initial 10 to 15 minutes before crews could get inside," he said.

That home also is a total loss, Penninger said, and earlier in the day was the scene of a stabbing. However, he said, the fire investigation revealed nothing suspicious, "just a bad set of circumstances that were coincidental."

Pendleton police Chief Stuart Roberts said officers Friday just after 4 p.m. responded to the home on a report of an assault. He said the place is a local flop house for transients and the like, and a 20-year-old woman staying there accused a fellow transient, Dominic Michael Silva, 25, of stabbing her in the lower leg.

Roberts said she suf-

fered a small wound that was non-life threatening. He said the victim claimed she was sleeping on a bed when Silva told her to make room for him or he would stab her. She did not move, Roberts said, and, according to her story, Silva pulled out a small knife and stabbed her.

Silva took off, but police caught him Saturday at about 1:30 in a room at the Knights Inn, 310 S.E. Dorion Ave., and booked him into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, for second-degree assault and warrants for failure to appear. Roberts said Silva had a folding knife with a 4.5-inch-long blade, and police are submitting that for forensic testing. Roberts also said in spite of rumors flying about social media, nothing connects Silva to the house fire.

"There are so many people coming and going from this place at any given point in time," Roberts said, "it would be difficult to put anything together."