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Utilities work to minimize fire risk

After devastating California blaze, local power providers are on alert

By KATY NESBITT
For the East Oregonian

Wildfires caused by electrical transmission lines are becoming an increasing concern in the western United States, and the fallout from last year's Camp Fire in Northern California has local utilities that serve power to Umatilla and Morrow counties on alert.

The Camp Fire, which killed 85 people, burned 150,000 acres and destroyed nearly 15,000 homes in Butte County, California, was sparked by Pacific Gas and Electric power lines, according to a report from California fire investigators. The fire had two ignition sites, according to investigators, as the second fire in a different part of the county was consumed by the initial blaze that started near Pulga, California.

In a prepared statement, Drew Hanson, senior communications representative for Pacific Power, said safety is his company's top priority.

"Wildfires are a serious issue in all the states served by Pacific Power and its sister utility, Rocky Mountain Power," Hanson wrote. "Our priority is the same in all states — to protect our customers and provide safe, reliable power."

Each state Pacific Power serves has a comprehensive wildfire safety and mitigation plan, including Oregon, Hanson wrote.

"During past wildfire seasons, when a fire occurs, it has, at times, become necessary to temporarily shut off power to a section of line so firefighters could do their work," Hanson wrote.

Hanson wrote Pacific Power technicians train for wildfire season just like they do for winter storm season and work with the agencies

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KING OF COWBOYS

INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



Staff photo by E.J. Harris, File

Trevor Brazile of Decatur, Texas, finishes with a 20.9-second time in steer wrestling on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018, at the Pendleton Round-Up.

Trevor Brazile, winner of six all-around cowboy titles in Pendleton, leads hall of fame class

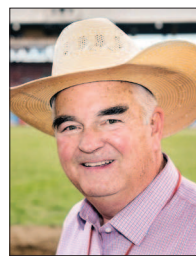
By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Trevor Brazile's induction into the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame should surprise no one.

The Texas cowboy, the winningest cowboy of all time, took home his share of honors at the Pendleton Round-Up. Last year, he won a record sixth all-around cowboy crown in Pendleton. He is a 23-time world champion.

The guy is mortal, but barely.

In 2018, he busted the 100-year-old record for number of all-around cowboy wins at Pendleton, held by bronc rider Yakima Canutt. If not for his attempt to avoid disaster, Brazile might also have won the steer roping event last year, though we'll never know for sure. He pulled up before crashing into a cluster of photographers at the edge of the grass after his steer veered their way and looped around them. Generally, roping steers tend to avoid clumps of people, but Brazile's steer had a mind of its own. The act of selflessness by Brazile caught the attention of spectator Mike Thorne.



Corey



Staff photo by E.J. Harris, File

Trevor Brazile of Decatur, Texas, poses with the All-Around trophy after winning the title at the Pendleton Round-Up in 2018.

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HERMISTON

Hermiston volunteers show love for their city

Annual event draws residents to clean up trash, pull weeds, paint over graffiti

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Volunteers were out in full force on Saturday to show Hermiston a little love.

The annual I Love My City cleanup event spread community members out across the city to pick up trash, weed flower beds and paint over graffiti.

Across from the Hermiston Community Center, a group of families in red "I Love My City" T-shirts were planting flowers and trimming bushes Saturday morning.

Al Llanos was handing flowers out of the bed of pickup truck to his daughters, who passed them assembly line-style to his wife Ana.

"We're out here to support our community," he said.

The family moved to Hermiston from Idaho recently and decided to sign up when their church asked for volunteers.

"It's a really nice way to teach our kids how to important it is to help," he said.

Other groups spread out through downtown and along the railroad tracks, beautifying as they went, or washed cars for free.


The I Love My City movement began in 2016. Hermiston had been rocked by a murder-suicide and several other tragedies, and members of Hermiston Assembly of God church wanted to do something to help raise the community's spirits. Their first day of service included creating a free car wash, handing out snacks at parks and going door to door with offers of service and prayers.

Since then the campaign has grown, encompassing several area churches and bringing out hundreds of volunteers each spring for their largest event of the year.

This year's I Love My City cleanup was perfect timing for Riverfront Park, which was damaged by floodwaters after the Umatilla River overflowed its banks in April. Much of the heavy lifting has already been completed, but Saturday morning dozens of volunteers were at the park pulling weeds, sweeping dried mud off the trail and refilling the playground area with bark chips after the river washed all of them away.

Judy Vogt stood under the swing set with a rake, spreading bark chips as they were

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