



AP Photo/Noah Berger, File

**A home burns as the Camp Fire rages through Paradise, California. California fire authorities say that Pacific Gas and Electric equipment was responsible for the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in state history.**

## Wildfire: Local utilities work to minimize fire risk

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in charge of protecting communities.

"When, and if, fires do threaten the communities we serve, we work with the people fighting the fires to make sure they are able to do their jobs while we do ours, protecting the grid and our customers."

Under new state regulations in California, Pacific Power has protocols in place to shut down power supply to specific areas when certain hazardous conditions are met in order to prevent fires. Hanson wrote this scenario is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff and is used as a line of last defense in the interest of public safety.

"We have been working closely with emergency services, local officials and communities to prepare if a public safety power shutoff is required in the areas CAL FIRE and the California Public Utilities Commission has designated as high risk zones."

In Oregon, Hanson wrote, Pacific Power is adopting a wildfire safety plan that includes active grid monitoring as well as forecasted and current weather conditions, satellite imaging, enhanced facility and equipment inspections and increased vegetation management.

Kevin Wingert, public affairs specialist for Bonneville Power Administration, said one of the triggers to shutting off power is when there is a direct risk to members of the public or firefighters. Wingert responded to questions of wildfire preparedness in an email.

"Life safety of the pub-

lic and our crews as well as the reliability of the electric grid are our top priorities at the Bonneville Power Administration," Wingert wrote.

However, he wrote, BPA does not currently de-power lines as a preventative measure to address wildfire potential.

"The only times we de-energize a line in response to a wildfire is when thick smoke enters our transmission corridor or if there is an imminent life-safety risk," Wingert wrote.

Thick smoke can potentially lead to a fault on a line or in the most extreme of cases, Wingert wrote, result in an arc from an energized line to the ground.

"If wildfires approach our transmission corridors, BPA sends line crews to monitor the actual conditions from a safe distance and relay information to our dispatchers, including whether de-energizing a line due to smoke or a potential life-safety perspective is needed," Wingert wrote.

To prevent wildfires, Wingert wrote BPA focuses on vegetation management, asset management and training field employees.

"Our rights of way are managed to promote low-growing plant communities, and we clear all brush within 50-feet of our scheduled maintenance," Wingert wrote. "As a result of our vegetation management practices, firefighters often use our transmission corridors as fire breaks."

A representative from Umatilla Electric Cooperative was unavailable for comment.

## Hermiston: Volunteers show love for their city

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dumped in by the wheelbarrow-load. She joined the event through Oasis Vineyard Church.

"My church likes to help the community," she said. "We're not just a sit-at-home church."

She said she was enjoying meeting new people at the event and was happy to see all ages participating.

Sharon Welsheimer said it was her first time participating in the I Love My City cleanup day because she has been out of town previous years.

"We love our city, what can I say?" she said when asked what brought her out to the park that morning.

Gina Castillo, who was weeding the landscaping around the park's paths, echoed that sentiment.

"The name says everything," she said. "I love my city and I want to be a part of it."

On the other side of the park, Hermiston High School's Eco Club was painting over the graffiti covering the underside of the Highland Avenue bridge.

Rachel Cairns, the club's



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

**Jair Tzomeaxle pulls weeds near the Hermiston Community Center Saturday during the I Love My City event.**

advisor, said they were hoping to persuade the city that the area needed to be covered with a mural and a statue now that the new West Highland Trail travels underneath.

"Research shows that once you beautify a public space in a more permanent way, graffiti artists tend to

leave it alone," she said.

Harrison Temple, who was using a roller to spread gray paint over names and swear words scrawled on the underside of the bridge, said most of the graffiti wasn't very family-friendly and he was glad to help get rid of it, but there were a few things

that he was a little sad to paint over.

"This is something we've been planning for a long time, but this is the city stepping in and giving us some resources," he said. "This is not the end of what we want to do here. We want to make it a family-friendly art space."



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

**Rachel Cairns, left, and Schae Borego paint over graffiti under the bridge at Riverfront Park in Hermiston during the I Love My City event.**



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

**Volunteers and Hermiston parks manager Jason Barron, right, spread bark chips at Riverfront Park during the I Love My City event.**



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

**Al Llanos hands flowers to his daughter outside the Hermiston Community Center during the I Love My City event Saturday.**



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

**Volunteers shovel bark chips at Riverfront Park in Hermiston during the I Love My City event Saturday.**

## King of Cowboys: Brazile inducted into hall of fame

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"He waited for his horse and steer to clear several cameramen, then completed his run," wrote Thorne in a letter to the editor in the *East Oregonian* soon after. "His act of protecting others at a time when his self-interest could have taken control was the demonstration of a real champion in the contest of rodeo."

In December, Brazile announced his departure from full-time competition. The King of Cowboys' induction into Pendleton's hall of fame caps off an amazing run. As Brazile eases back on the throttle, he leaves a trail of records broken. He earned almost \$6.5 million and had 52 National Finals qualifications. He is one of only three cowboys to win world titles in four different events.

Brazile chatted about the Pendleton Round-Up by phone on Monday evening. The rodeo is iconic, he said, in everything from its bucking chutes to its huge grassy arena.

"It's one of my favorites," Brazile said. "It's always been a really special rodeo to me. It's so different than any other rodeo. It's played a big part in a lot of my success."

He said he wasn't planning on competing in Pendleton this year, given his reduced schedule, but he may have changed his mind

with the news of his hall of fame induction. Brazile said he pared his number of rodeos from 100 to 25 this year.

"I couldn't quit cold turkey," he said.

Joining Brazile as inductee into the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame are Marlo and Billy Ward, Steve Corey and Dean Forth.

The Wards, of LaGrange, Wyoming, were recognized in the contract personnel category. Billy has worked as a pick-up man for the last 14 years and Marlo has served as a timer since 2007. The couple provided parade and grand entry horses for the Round-Up court at Cheyenne Frontier Days in 1990 and continue to provide horses for royalty visits to the Wyoming rodeo.

Inductee in the volunteer category is Steve Corey. Corey has volunteered with Happy Canyon and the Round-Up for over 65 years, starting when he acted in the Happy Canyon Night Show as a boy. Corey served as president of the Round-Up and Happy Canyon associations. The Pendleton attorney also donated his legal expertise to both during contract negotiations with sponsors and helped establish the Profession Bull Riding event in Pendleton.

Dean Forth was honored in the early years cate-

gory. Forth had more than 70 years of volunteering for the two organizations under his belt when he died in 2006. He was a Happy Canyon Night Show cast member since his boyhood. He maintained livestock owned by the Round-Up Association on his own property for more than 15 years. For the Westward Ho! Parade, he maintained rolling stock, secured teams of animals to pull wagons and buggies, and organized the formation along the

parade route. He served as the parade's grand marshal in 1991 and won the Round-Up Appreciation Award in 1981.

The Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame kicked off in 1969 with the induction of 10 men and five horses. An honoree must have a long association with the Round-Up and/or Happy Canyon.

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Contributed photo

**Marlo and Billy Ward**



Contributed photo

**Forth**

**The Hermiston office of the Hermiston Herald & East Oregonian will be closed at 3pm on Friday, May 24th and all day on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day**

**HONORING THEIR Service & Sacrifice**