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Fire danger creeping up

Wildfire season quiet so far, but danger is increasing, according to officials

By **JAYSON JACOBY AND PHIL WRIGHT**
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — The fire season has been more fizzle than flame so far in Northeastern Oregon, but Joel McCraw doesn't expect the tranquility to last.

"Our fire danger ratings are starting to creep up with the hotter, drier weather," McCraw, a fire management officer for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's Whitman District, said Monday afternoon.

July has been a bit cooler than usual. But Monday's high temperature of 97 at the Baker City Airport was the hottest this year, eclipsing Sunday's maximum of 95. And only a trace of rain has fallen at the airport during July.

Through Monday the average high temperature at the airport was 84.6 degrees. The long-term average high for July is 85.2. Last July the average high was 91.8, the second-hottest since record-keeping started at the airport in 1943.

Pendleton reached 95 on Monday, 4 degrees above normal, according to the National Weather Service. Fire agencies in the northeast portion of Umatilla County felt the heat as a grass fire took off Monday afternoon.

Dave Baty, chief of East Umatilla Fire & Rescue, said he revisited the site north of Helix and estimated the burn spanned 400 acres. It would have been worse, he said, if crews had not stopped it from crawling over a hill and into acres of wheat.

The Milton-Freewater Rural Fire Department hit the scene first Monday and at about 3:45 p.m. called for assistance. East Umatilla as well as Walla Walla Fire District crews answered. Baty said he found a perch on the fire's south flank and took command of the attack at that location.

Communications in that part of the county are sketchy, but between radios and cellphones he and others directed the effort and the crew contained the burn sometime around 8 p.m. He said a farmer used a disc harrow to cut a line that helped immensely.

"I think everyone did a really great job," Baty said. "We had some people leave work and come out to the fire and help us put it out."

Baty said he was tired but not quite relaxing just yet. The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning over much of Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Cool temperatures, combined with occasional rain and lingering snow at higher elevations, has kept fire danger measurements below

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Local recall supporters want their voices heard

By **ALEX CASTLE**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — While efforts to recall Democratic Gov. Kate Brown organize around the state, petitions seeking signatures of support have begun to circulate around Northeast Oregon as voters strive to have their

voices of dissent heard. In Pendleton, organizers reached out to local firearm shops Garner's Sporting Goods and Blagg's Rifles last week and both stores have placed petitions on their counters for supporters to sign, while elsewhere political activists like HollyJo Beers are bringing

petitions to communities in the area for residents to sign. "I believe we're going to get it done," said Beers, the Umatilla County vice-leader of Oregon III%, which is a state militia movement focused on protecting the Second Amendment through protest. On July 15, two efforts

to recall Democratic Gov. Kate Brown were officially filed with the Secretary of State's office. Each will have 90 days, until Oct. 14, to submit petitions totaling 280,050 valid signatures from registered Oregon voters. The signatures cannot be combined from the separate

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Republicans frustrated by losing their grip on political power in some western states have begun deploying a new weapon: the recall. Page A2

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AVIATION INDUSTRY COURTS WOMEN PILOTS



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Women pilots and aspiring pilots gathered at the Pendleton airport on July 13 to start an informal day of lunch, yoga and networking. Most are members of a female flying group called the Ninety-Nines. Tania Wildbill, sitting on tarmac, and Natalie Bridgman (to her right), of Pendleton, are just starting out their aviation journeys.

Women pilots bond during Pendleton fly-in

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — History is full of female pilots who shattered glass ceilings in the wild, blue yonder.

Harriet Quimby flew across the English Channel in 1912. Bessie Coleman, the first black female pilot, went to flight school in France after no American flight schools would admit her. Amelia Earhart flew solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932. Jacqueline Cochran in 1953 became the first woman to fly faster than the speed of sound. Jennifer Murray in 2000 was the first female pilot to circumnavigate the world in a helicopter.

Yet, today, women still make up only 6% of American pilots, according to Women in Aviation International. As the world faces a projected shortage of pilots, the aviation industry increasingly looks toward recruiting females and others in historically under-represented demographics as a way to ease the crisis. Last month in a CNBC video, Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg said an increasing demand for air travel means an estimated worldwide shortage of 800,000 pilots in the next 20



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Aileen Coverdale, left, and Lindsey Vice arrive at the Pendleton airport on July 13 for an informal gathering of female pilots, most of whom are members of a female flying group called the Ninety-Nines.

years and called it "one of the biggest challenges we have."

Natalie Bridgman and Tania Wildbill, of Pendleton, are two women who hope to help close the gap. The pair recently began training and want to eventually fly commercially.

Bridgman, 25, has been around aviation most of her life. She grew up with her aunt and uncle, who both work

in the aviation industry, her aunt as a flight attendant and her uncle as a pilot for Alaska Airlines. Learning to fly has always beckoned and now it feels almost imperative.

"The need for pilots is massive," Bridgman said.

Wildbill, 49, said her passion to fly

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Pendleton Heights developer says he has loan to restart construction

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The 100-apartment addition to Pendleton Heights has been in limbo for months, but its developer said it will move ahead soon.

Saj Jivanjee of Newberg said Monday afternoon that he had secured a loan to build the road that will service the planned apartments, and it was only a matter of processing all the paperwork to get the project started.

As a part of an incentive deal with the city, Jivanjee must pay the city \$150,000 before he can start construction.

As of Monday morning, Finance Director Linda Carter said Jivanjee has not made his payment. Once all

the paperwork is processed, Jivanjee said he could pay the \$150,000 by this week.

In late May, the developer sent a construction crew to the site to start work on the project before he made the payment.

Jivanjee said he thought he had the money secured from his bank to start the project, but his banker went on a three-week vacation before the loan could be finalized.

Although Jivanjee violated the deal he had with Pendleton, the city decided against punishing him. Early Monday afternoon, there wasn't any construction activity at Pendleton Heights.

Getting started on the road extension could provide new momentum



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

The site for the 100-unit addition to Pendleton Heights sits uphill of the existing development and adjacent to Olney Cemetery.

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