

Surviving a housefire: Moving onto the future, part three

By Bill Bradshaw
Wallowa County Chieftain

This is the final installment of what it's like to lose your home to a fire.

This may be the final installment of this saga for the Chieftain, but it's far from the end of the story. We now must rebuild our lives from the ashes of the April 13 fire that destroyed our garage and damaged our home on Lime Quarry Road above Enterprise.

We're still trying to find a long-term rental that will house us all — four adults, four kids, four dogs and two cats — for about a year. That's the estimate on how long it will take to get the house habitable again.

We're particularly eager to find a rental, to regain some semblance of a normal life and to get our animals out of lockup. They've been at Lin-Lee Kennels in Joseph since the week of the fire.

Don and Pam Kiser there were gracious enough to take the cats within hours of the fire and the dogs within a couple days. They heard about the fire and actually contacted us first and are giving our animals excellent care. But have the critters forgotten us?

In addition to the Kisers, we're quite grateful to Andy and Lindsey Marcum, who came to get the dogs the morning of the fire and kept our two beagles for two days, as well as Andy's mom and Patrick and Amy Patterson who took Zak and Lynn's three dogs.

We know it was a burden and we appreciate these friends. We also can't thank Andy and Vanessa McKee enough for letting us use their bed and breakfast since the fire. Now it's time to find a rental.

We've pretty well found everything salvageable from the fire. We've sent clothing, furniture and other household items off to companies that will do their best to restore them. That which can't be made smoke-free will be replaced.

It seems the insurance company wants to restore the house to, as Zak, says, "what it was 30 seconds before the fire."

That's only fair, and we don't want to see a classic 1904 farmhouse replaced with something modernistic. From what I understand — I'm no construction guru — they plan to strip the house down to studs; seal smoke-tainted wood to keep the odor in; replace insulation, sheet-rock, ceiling and some walls and flooring; and at least portions — maybe all — of the roof.

The garage, its adjacent rooms and the shop, of course, will have to be entirely rebuilt.

Even though there's light at the end of the tunnel, the fire has changed us. As the fire inspector told Zak, "You'll never be the same. It'll change the way you think about many



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Crews from One Call Restoration of La Grande begin cleaning up around the Lime Quarry Road house of Zak and Lynn Bradshaw that was partially burned April 13 when a fire destroyed the garage.



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Tanner Krewson, left, lead technician for One Call Restoration of La Grande, cuts a post holding a beam while Max Hickey, also of One Call, pushes it away Tuesday, April 28. One Call was at the Zak and Lynn Bradshaw house on Lime Quarry Road to begin the work of cleaning, demolishing and restoring the house where the garage caught fire April 13.

things."

How true! Within days, Zak and Lynn said they no longer want wood heat, even though it had nothing to do with causing the fire.

I think my wife, Margaret, agrees, but I'm an old curmudgeon and wouldn't mind another wood stove — carefully tended.

While we're still devastated by the loss of our things and damage to our home, we remain hopeful. Our hope and joy are rooted in our faith and how God has used His people.

I can't begin to list all the people God has put in our lives to help us through this tragedy — and the Chieftain doesn't have the space.

But I will thank the many on the "meal train" who fed us delicious dinners since the fire (I'm getting fatter); our elder son, Seth, and daughter, Amber, who set up a GoFundMe account for us; certainly the firefighters who saved as much as possible; and other community members, family, friends and fellow believers who have been there.

God bless you all.



Bill Bradshaw

Lynn Bradshaw shows Tanner Krewson, lead technician for One Call Restoration of La Grande, her daughter's jewelry box that she wants cleaned. It's covered with soot — like everything in the Alder Slope home that burned April 13. One call was at the Zak and Lynn Bradshaw house on Lime Quarry Road to begin the work of cleaning, demolishing and restoring the house where the garage caught fire.

Evaluating some COVID-19 drugs

Finding effective treatments for COVID-19 infection is an international priority. Today's Mountain Medicine

MOUNTAIN MEDICINE

Ron Polk



reviews two drugs recently reported to be effective for treatment of COVID-19 infections: hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and remdesivir. The goal is to describe how treatments for COVID-19 will be evaluated so you will better understand reports of clinical trial results in the coming months.

Evaluating new treatments requires knowledge of a framework that helps us sort out good data from bad. Note that the following are not considered evidence: "I read on the internet..." or "A friend told me..." or "Why not try injecting bleach into the body?"

Until recently there has been little evidence of an effective therapy for COVID-19 infections. A randomized controlled trial can establish whether a causal relationship exists between a therapeutic intervention and an effect.

What have we learned by applying this evaluation framework to new evidence regarding COVID-19 treatments?

On March 21, President Trump tweeted that hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin have "a real chance to be one of the biggest game changers in the history of medicine." This comment followed a French research report from the previous day. Dr. Fauci was unimpressed; he referred to the study as "anecdotal."

Why this difference in interpretation? Because Fauci is an expert in assessing the quality of clinical trials, and the president is a real estate developer. The French study reported that 26 adult patients with COVID-19 infection received HCQ; six also received azithromycin. The authors recommend that COVID-19 patients be treated with hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin to cure infection. There was no valid control group and it is impossible to determine if HCQ had a real effect.

On April 2, Trump said

of HCQ, "What do you have to lose? Take it."

We now know what you have to lose is possibly your life. Since the president's comments at least 3 studies have documented that a majority of patients receiving HCQ, with or without azithromycin, will develop cardiac rhythm aberrations that place them at high risk for potentially fatal arrhythmias.

The first good evidence that there may be an effective drug to treat COVID-19 infections was announced by Fauci one week ago: remdesivir "will be the standard of care." He provided summary results of an unpublished clinical trial conducted by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The study treated 1,063 hospitalized patients with remdesivir or placebo and reported that patients treated with remdesivir had an average recovery time of 11 days compared to 15 days for placebo recipients. Mortality was lower in the remdesivir group, but the difference was not statistically significant.

This study used a superior design, enrolled a large number of patients and therefore its observations and conclusions are far more reliable. It is possible that deficiencies in the study may appear during the peer-review process, but at this time remdesivir is the only drug "proven" to be effective for COVID-19. It is likely to be widely used until superior therapies are found.

There are hundreds of ongoing clinical trials for treatment of COVID-19 infection.

Assessing the quality of evidence for new therapies and separating good science from bad is critical for identifying effective treatments.

I am optimistic that good science will prevail, but finding the truth takes time. Meanwhile, listen to scientists and doctors, not politicians.

Ron Polk is the editor of Mountain Medicine.



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Pet of the Week




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A neutered male tabby kitty with beautiful markings, born approx. September 2019. Sam is a quiet, mellow and affectionate fellow looking for a loving home. Up-to-date on vaccinations, de-worming and litter box trained.

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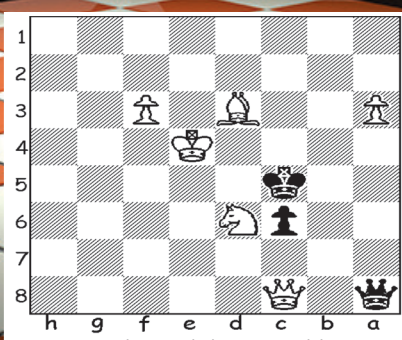
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