

STORM

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The weather station nearest the fire, at Mule Peak Lookout about three air miles southwest of the fire, recorded 0.19 of an inch of rain.

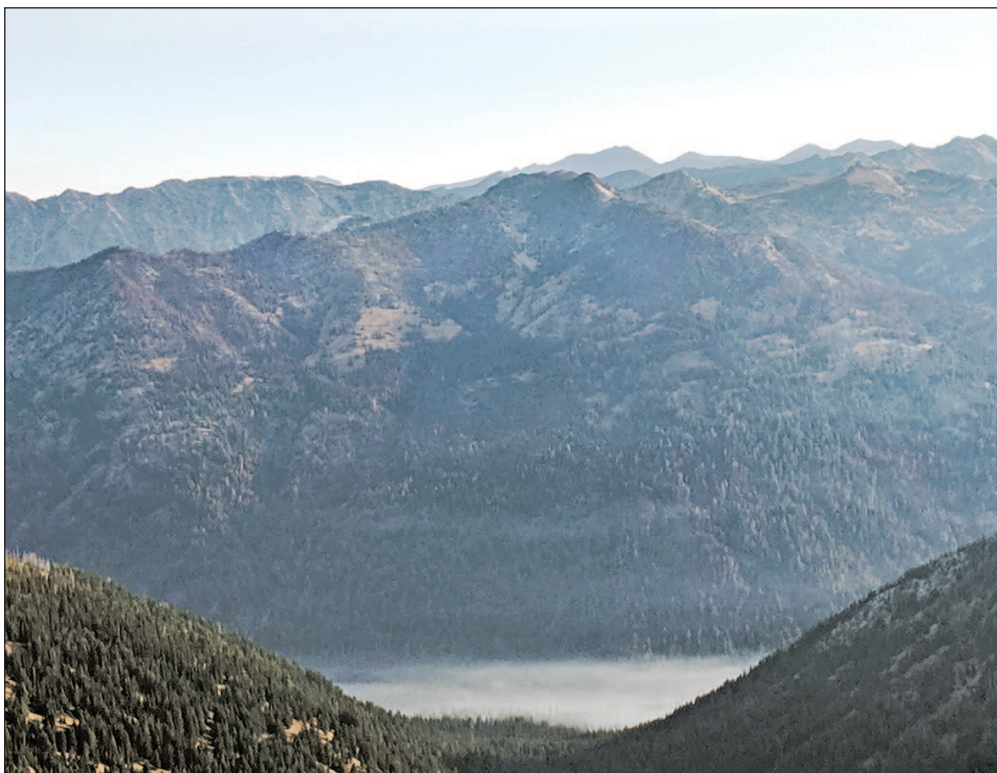
Higher amounts were recorded elsewhere, including 0.83 of an inch at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and 0.23 of an inch at the Baker City Airport.

Sunday was the wettest day at the airport since March 24, when 0.32 of an inch fell.

Fire officials don't consider Sunday's storm a "season-ending event," referring to the official end of fire season, said Larisa Bogardus, a public information officer for the BLM serving in that capacity for the Granite Gulch fire.

But with the ground still wet, and temperatures forecast to remain below average much of this week and a chance of additional rain, it's "highly unlikely" that the fire will generate much smoke, Bogardus said.

A similar situation prevails at the region's other large blaze, the 204 Cow fire burning in the extreme southwest corner of Baker County about 17 miles southwest of Unity.



U.S. Forest Service photo

This photo, taken early Saturday from Granite Butte, shows low-lying smoke from the Granite Gulch fire in the Minam River Canyon at the confluence with Elk Creek.

The 204 Cow fire, started by lightning on Aug. 9, has burned 9,668 acres and is 73% contained.

According to an update from fire managers this morning, "cool wet weather continues over the fire area today, making fire spread very unlikely in the near future. Rainfall and high humidity are penetrating more deeply into burnable mate-

rial. Isolated concentrations of heavy fuels will continue to smolder and produce smoke."

Managers expect to cancel the road closures near the fire soon.

The first major rainstorm of the season also prompted the Umatilla National Forest to end restrictions on campfires and other activities on that forest.

As of press time this morn-

ing the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest had not changed its public use restrictions.

Sunday's soggy and cool weather was preceded by thunderstorms that brought widespread lightning, but also rain showers, on Friday night.

Lightning ignited about a dozen wildfires across North-eastern Oregon, including several in Baker County, but crews from the Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry took advantage of the rain and quickly stopped the blazes. None burned more than 2 acres.

Man dies in I-84 crash

By Chris Collins
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A 19-year-old Beaverton man died Sunday afternoon when the vehicle in which he was traveling as a passenger was involved in a three-vehicle crash on Interstate 84 near Farewell Bend.

Aislynn Hoang, 19, of Salt Lake City was the driver of the Subaru Crosstrek in which Garrett Carpenter was riding when he died, an Oregon State Police press release stated.

The road was wet when the crash took place about 1:36 p.m. Sunday. Police said Hoang lost control of her vehicle as she attempted to pass an eastbound truck and semitrailer. The Subaru struck the semitrailer, crossed the median into the westbound lanes and collided with a Ford F150 pickup truck pulling a trailer.

Hoang was flown by air ambulance to a Boise hospital for treatment, police said. No information about her condition was available in time for this report.

The pickup truck was driven by John McPherson, 67, of Port Orchard, Washington. He and his passenger, Lou Anne Heim, 64, also of Port Orchard, were transported by Treasure Valley Medics to an area hospital, police said. Information about their conditions also were not available in time for this report.

The truck driver, whose name was not released by OSP, was not hurt in the crash, the press release stated.

FISHING

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The bag limits will be suspended from Sept. 11 to Oct. 15. In addition, during that period anglers can keep fish of any size, and use any harvest method, including by hand or dip net.

In previous years when Thief Valley Reservoir emptied, ODFW has restocked the reservoir with rainbow trout the following

spring.

These fish are of legal size to ensure anglers have a fishing opportunity during the spring and through midsummer when the reservoir generally is near full.

This year ODFW stocked 2,500 legal-size rainbow in the reservoir the first week of April, 5,000 legal-size and 500 trophy rainbow the second week of April, and 5,000 legal-size trout in mid-May.

School board to transfer Central Building to BTI

The Baker School Board is expected to approve transfer of ownership of the historic Central Building Thursday night from the 5J School District to the Baker Technical Institute

The regular meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 1655 First St. The September meeting has been rescheduled to Sept. 12 instead of the usual third Thursday of the month because of scheduling conflicts.

After ownership transfer of the Central Building is completed, BTI will be able to seek grant funding to clean up asbestos and lead paint contamination in the building through its brownfield/environmental science curriculum at Baker High School.

Speaking at the August meeting, Superintendent Mark Witty told the Board that the class could possibly

acquire more grant funding to complete the work needed to restore the historic building and transform it into a community asset that could be used for purposes other than a school building.

The regular meeting will be preceded by an executive (closed to the public) session beginning at 5:30 p.m., at Baker City Hall, 1615 First St. The closed meeting will be for the purpose of negotiating property transactions as allowed by the Oregon Public Meeting law.

In other business Thursday night, the Board will review personnel reports:

- Assistant Superintendent Betty Palmer has announced that she has retired through the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS), effective Sept. 1, but will continue to work on contract with the District through June 30.

- Tim Taylor has retired from his position as a bus driver.

- New classified employees hired for the coming year are Taylor Baker, paraprofessional, Keating Elementary School; Veronica Baxter, BESST (Behavioral Education Social Skills Teaching) clinical paraprofessional at Brooklyn Primary School; Calli Gulick, South Baker Intermediate School secretary; and Jami Standish, South Baker paraprofessional.

- Extra-duty new hires: Mike Long, Baker Middle School football coach; Wayne Dyke, BMS football coach; Alayna Carpenter, BMS cross-country coach; Ethan Wolston, Baker High School assistant cross-country coach; John Quintela, BHS JV boys soccer coach; and Adam Robb, BHS JV girls soccer coach.

BLUEGRASS

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Ron Emmons, well-known as the front man for the popular Cabbage Hill bluegrass band, will bring his college classmates Hugh McClellan, Boyer and Hal Spence back to Eastern Oregon for Round-Up week, Lavadour said. The group will be joined by Alan Feves on bass and National Oldtime Fiddle Champion Dan Emert on fiddle.

Emmons and Boyer met during freshmen orientation week at Eastern Oregon College (now Eastern Oregon University) in La Grande. They connected with Spence and McClellan through their involvement in the EOC Ambassadors, a musical touring group that performed high school assemblies all over the Northwest.

The name EOCenes is a play on the college's monogram, EOC (which later became EOU) and the Eocene epoch, a period on the geological time scale that occurred 55 million to 34 million years ago.

Emmons, who lives at Hermiston, has played mandolin and sung lead tenor and baritone with the Blue Mountain Crested Wheatgrass Boys, the Muddy Bottom Boys, Blue Heat and The Thatchmasters, as well as Cabbage Hill.

Boyer, a longtime Haines resident, plays banjo and guitar, and sings lead,

tenor and baritone. He taught banjo and guitar at EOC and played a major role in bringing national bluegrass acts to this part of the state.

McClellan resides at Oregon City and plays rhythm guitar, harmonica and is known for his low, lonesome bass voice. He's also fronted a

country-swing band and sang in a gospel quartet.

Hal Spence of Dallas, Oregon, played guitar and sang tenor for 27 years with The Sawtooth Mountain Boys, one of the nation's best-known bluegrass bands, whose travels included three tours of Europe.

"Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming: 'Wow! What a ride!'" - Hunter S. Thompson

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