

Insurance will cover Wallowa school's hail damage

BY DICK MASON

The Observer
WALLOWA — The severe hailstorm that battered the Wallowa School District's campus earlier this month will not shake the district's financial stability.

"Insurance should take care of everything we need. We should be fine," Wallowa School District Superintendent Tammy Jones said.

The superintendent said representatives of the school district's insurance companies have indicated that the Wallowa School District will have most of its losses covered. This means the new roofs needed for the school district's major buildings will be covered by insurance, Jones said. She said that as long as a building has a foundation, most restoration work will be covered.

The roof replacement will be done starting with the roofs most seriously damaged.

The roof of the high school's gym and of the building that houses the school district's vocation-agriculture and music programs will be replaced first. Next the roof of Wallowa Elementary School will be replaced and finally the roof of Wallowa High School. The goal is to have all of the roofs replaced before winter, Jones said.

Temporary repair measures for the roofs have already been taken. Tarps have been placed over the roofs of the high school gym and the building housing the school district's vocation-agriculture and music programs. Sealing work has been done on the roofs of the elementary school and the high school.

Some water from the thunderstorm that brought the hail seeped through the damaged roofs. Computers and printers in classrooms were seriously damaged as a result but little else. Jones said it has not been

determined if insurance will cover the cost of replacing the computers and printers.

Items lost to the hailstorm include the school district's greenhouse, its Ford Expedition SUV, and the scoreboard and field lights at the football field. Jones said it is not known if insurance will cover these losses.

Another expense the Wallowa School District will have to pay for will be removing the glass that fell from the football field's lights. About half of the field will have to be vacuumed before games can be played on it, Jones said.

The Aug. 11 hailstorm that caused damage on the Wallowa School District campus struck the Wallowa community with equal force, leaving a high percentage of its homes with badly damaged roofs and windows.

The school district will reach out to storm victims in

a big way on Friday, Aug. 26, when it will conduct an open house from noon to 2 p.m. Many items will be provided to families at the event, including shoes, clothing, bedding and backpacks — items that will help the community's children be ready for the new school year. School will start in the Wallowa School District on Monday, Aug. 29, four days later than originally scheduled due to the storm.

Jones said the school district's staff wants to make sure everything possible is done to help families, especially their children.

"We want to make sure that the kids feel safe and cared for," Jones said.



Katy Nesbitt/For EO Media Group

The battered scoreboard at the football field in Wallowa on Monday, Aug. 22, 2022, is a vivid reminder of the Aug. 11 hailstorm that caused damage throughout the town.

Three cougars shot and killed by police in Bend and Sisters

BY BRYCE DOLE

The Bulletin
Police shot and killed three cougars in Deschutes County last weekend after residents reported the animals near their homes in Bend and Sisters and authorities deemed them dangerous to the community.

One cougar was killed on a property in southwest Bend on Saturday, Aug. 20, Oregon State Police reported. Two more were killed after they ran up a tree in Sisters on Sunday, Aug. 21.

State police Sgt. Lowell Lea said Monday it is uncommon for three cougars to be killed within city limits in broad daylight on the same weekend in Deschutes County.

"In 22 years, I can't recall another situation like that," Lea said.

Police responded around 11:30 a.m. on Saturday to reports from Jean Houser, 77, and Doug Putschler, 73, on Hitching Post Lane in Bend that a cougar was lying 10 feet from their property.

The cougar was near the porch when police arrived, and they determined that it was a "danger to the neighborhood." After they shot and killed the cougar, police reported that a neighbor's cat was found half eaten and buried beside it.

In Sisters, Jerry Davis, 57, reported to police around 9:30 a.m. on Sunday that his dog had startled three cou-



Brian Wolfer/Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, File

Cougar seen during a big game surveys in the mid-2000s in the Beulah Wildlife Management Unit in Malheur County.

gars near his home on Foot-hill Loop. One cougar ran off while two others ran up a tree. Davis reported to police that, after taking his dog inside for 30 minutes, the cougars were still in the tree. When police arrived, the cougars were still in the tree, and they shot and killed the cougars.

Lea said that, because of where the cats were found, police had no option but to shoot and kill the cougars. He noted that there is inherent risk that comes with tranquilizing a dangerous, agitated animal within a community.

"If we were just to let that cat go, you don't know where that cat is going to go and jump a fence and land next to a kid in someone's yard or something like that," Lea said.

It's the latest in a string of incidents involving cougars, including when police shot and killed a cougar that was acting aggressively toward

two people in Deschutes River Woods in July.

An Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife spokesperson told The Bulletin at that time that "(t)here is no way to know for certain, but it was likely the same cougar seen at Deschutes River Woods in late June," which was the first time a cougar had been spotted so close to Bend in two years.

People who encounter cougars should not run, according to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. Instead, they should make noises, pick up their children, raise their arms and prepare to fight back. People who come face-to-face with a cougar should call the nearest ODFW office, Oregon State Police office or land manager if on public land.

Zona Kay (Irby) Hiatt

October 23, 1953 - August 5, 2022

Zona Kay (Irby) Hiatt, 68, was born on October 23, 1953, to Truscott and Grace (Anderson) Irby of Wingville. She joined her older sister, Lenora, and brother, Rod, and was followed by her younger sister, Carolyn. Zona was raised in Baker City and attended Baker schools. After graduating, Zona traveled to Wyoming for further education in equine science.

Zona was an outdoor girl and spent many hours riding her horse with neighborhood friends which, in her words, was escaping doing the dishes! Being raised on Irby Farms, she also drove grain trucks to Haines during harvest time.

Zona loved nature and horses. She spent hours upon hours riding, training, and loving her horses. Zona diligently worked with horses in 4-H and earned championship trophies in horsemanship. While furthering her education, she also worked with the Brownlee Arabian horses and her own Arabian, Kira.

Zona's career with the Forest Service and the BLM was long and rewarding, for her as she truly enjoyed being outdoors. Zona revered nature and all animals early on in her childhood. Hers was a free spirit, her favorite places were the headwaters of the streams she surveyed as a Biological Technician. Zona worked on numerous fish habitat projects in both the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. One of Zona's greatest accomplishments was building fish weirs at the Powder River Recreation Area below Mason Dam. She also worked for several years with the Whitman Engineering Zone as an Engineer Tech.

Zona met and married Mickey Hiatt when they both worked for the Forest Service. They enjoyed an outdoorsy lifestyle together - loading up their horses

and going into the forests for camping, recreation, and elk hunting in the high country.

Zona was very kind and dedicated to her mother and father as they aged; she was supportive and willing to help her family at any time.

Survivors include Zona's husband, Mickey Hiatt of Baker City; her sister, Lenora Way of Albany; her niece, Lisa Daugherty of Washington, and nephew, John Way of Albany; her brother, Rod Irby and wife Susan; her niece, Krystal Irby of Baker City, and niece Heather Anderson and



her husband, Trevor, of The Dalles, OR; her sister, Carolyn Irby and her husband, Stuart Davis of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Zona's cousin, Glenabell Lewis of Baker City, and aunt, Beverly Anderson and cousins in Boise, ID. Zona has numerous nieces and nephews and cousins from The Baldoock/Truscott families of Nancy Johnson, Diane Spence Davis, Rusty Truscott, and Suzanne Zimmerman.

Zona was preceded in death by her parents, Grace and Truscott Irby, her aunts, Edith Morin, Carleen (Truscott) Hottendorf, and Sylva Zimmerman, and her uncles, Kenneth Irby, Charles (Bink) Lewis, and Elwin (Andy) Anderson.

Donations may be made to the "Acres of Hope." Acres of Hope is a horse therapy facility in Independence, OR, with a mission to work with adolescents who need Healing, Opportunity, Purpose, and Education (HOPE). Acres of Hope 6665 Rickreall Rd. Independence, OR 97351. Donations may be made through the Coles Tribute Center 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814.

A gathering of family and friends will be held at the Irby home, 42580 Lindley Rd., on Saturday, September 17, 2022, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tom McCornack (Mac) Kerns

October 31, 1934 ~ July 5, 2022

Mac's Story

Mac Kerns passed away, peacefully, at his home outside of Haines, Oregon, July 5, 2022, with his loving family at his side. Tom McCornack (Mac) Kerns was born in Sheridan, Wyoming, on October 31, 1934, to Tom and Janet (McCornack) Kerns. In 1936 the little family moved to Eugene and then Lorane, Oregon. Soon, Mac's father researched a desirable location (out of the Willamette Valley because of hay fever and allergies) for the family to settle and farm. The beautiful Baker Valley reminded Tom of the Sheridan area he'd grown up in and it had a railway which he knew was very important for transporting crops and farm animals. In 1939 Mac and his family moved to a ranch in Haines. He and his older sister Jean attended grade school at Rock Creek, then Muddy Creek, riding horseback to and from. His freshman year of high school was in North Powder. Because his older sister Jean was attending high school in Baker, Mac's folks determined it would be best if he attended there also. Lucky thing because it was there he met his future bride Joyce (Cole).

Joyce and Mac were married June 21, 1953 and began 57 years of marriage and adventure. The newlyweds resided on the ranch in Haines until that fall when Mac resumed his studies at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Mac completed his college career with a degree in Agricultural Engineering which he used thoroughly throughout the rest of his life. In 1959 the ranch had a rough year and Mac's brother-in-law Tom suggested he seek employment with the U.S. Forest Service. Mac signed on for what was going to be a temporary job but the Forest Service offered him many ways to use and expand his knowledge so he stayed with them until 1984. He obtained his professional license as a Civil Engineer in 1962. In 1978 he became a licensed land surveyor and in 1991 he added Certified Water Rights Examiner to his resumé. The family had expanded with the birth of Lorance Brent in 1954, Wesley Allen in 1958 and Janet Irene in 1960. Mac's career with the Forest Service took them to many postings throughout the Northwest, then Missouri and finally Washington, D.C. They often purchased a home that benefited from remodeling or later on constructed their homes. Mac included the children in all aspects of the building projects and they learned many valuable skills in the process.

Each move was considered an adventure by Mac and Joyce and he not only made a difference with his engineering skills in building roads and reservoirs, but became active in community affairs and their church. Locally, while working in the Malheur Forest out of John Day, Oregon, Mac was the chief engineer in the project creating the Tipton Cutoff highway. He was awarded "Best Road Job In the Nation" for that project. He also served on the John Day city council while living there.

Upon retirement in 1984, Mac and Joyce moved back to Haines to ranch with their family. There, Mac was active in several aspects



of agriculture, especially as a Water Rights Examiner, and he even served as chairman of the Oregon Wheat Growers Commission. In that position he was able to visit China on a marketing trip. Mac remained active and positive all through his life, by participating in community activities. The 4th of July Haines Fun Run was rarely missed by him and as a member of the Haines Methodist Church, he assisted with the construction of that Community Hall.

Mac was a proponent of water and stream enhancement and use, while also especially a champion in advocating for better forest management to prevent fires. The children of Haines Elementary School (many of whom were great-grandchildren and great-nieces and nephews, he loved to point out) benefited from his volunteering in the classroom. He served on a board for the rural fire district as an activist for getting support through tax rolls for better fire protection. His interest in local history led him to involvement with the Baker County Historical Society and Eastern Oregon Museum at Haines, OR, where he helped inspire people with his own memories of early years. Mac had a way of linking the past to the present, learning from experiences not only of his own, but also of others, to aptly apply them in solving problems. In his last days he still displayed an interest in what each of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were working on, learning or simply interested in. In 2021 Mac, with assistance of his youngest brother James, penned a "Christmas letter" that eventually grew into a book entitled "Our Oregon Heritage." These writings document and celebrate the lives of Thomas and Cornelia Condon (Mac's great-great-grandparents) and Herbert McCornack's family. (Herbert being Ellen Condon's husband and grandfather and Mac's great-grandparents).

Mac was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Joyce Avon (Cole), daughter Diane, parents Tom and Janet, and sister Jean (Tom) Griffith.

Mac is survived by his children Brent (Mary), Wes (Mary Davies), Janni (John) Eggers, grandchildren Jacque (Josh) Cobb, Logan (Holly) Kerns, John (Catie) Kerns, Jeff (Kim) Kerns, Mark (Savannah) Kerns, Zach (Savannah) Eggers, 1st Class Petty Officer Eli Eggers, and Andy (Chelsey) Johnson, great-grandchildren Colt and Orin Cobb, Weston Kerns, Lance and Joy Kerns, and Bridger and Briar Johnson. Brothers Tim (Jan) Kerns, James (Margery), sister Ellen (Philip) Stevenson and brother-in-law Tom (Jeff) Griffith plus numerous nieces and nephews. Also Mac's special friend, Mary Boyer. Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, September 3, 2022 at the Haines United Methodist Church. Memorial contributions in Mac's memory may be sent to the Eastern Oregon Museum or the Haines United Methodist Church via Cole's Tribute Center.

Paid for by the family of Mac Kerns.

Walmart ordered to pay Oregon man \$4.4 million in racial profiling lawsuit

PORTLAND (AP) — A Multnomah County grand jury has ordered Walmart to pay \$4.4 million in damages to a man who sued the store, saying he was racially profiled and harassed by a Walmart employee at a Portland, Oregon, area store in 2020.

According to the lawsuit the employee "spied" on Dovey-Mangum while shopping, ordered him to leave and called police when he refused, KGW reported.

According to the lawsuit and a news release from his attorneys, Mangum, who was 59 at the time, visited the Walmart in Wood Village on March 26, 2020, to buy a light bulb for his refrigerator.

After Mangum arrived, he noticed store employee Joe Williams watching him as he shopped.

Williams told Mangum to leave the store, but Mangum refused, saying he'd done nothing wrong. Mangum's lawyers said Williams told Mangum he was going to call the police and tell them Mangum had threatened to "smash him in the face."

Williams called the non-emergency police dispatch line and told the operator he "had a person refusing to leave," the lawsuit states.

According to Mangum's lawyers, deputies from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office responded and "refused to take action against Mangum." The lawyers said deputies made that decision

based on Williams' "shifting explanations" for the reason he called and because of his "reputation for making false reports to police."

According to Mangum's lawyers, the next day, Sheriff's Sergeant Bryan White and another deputy met with the director of the Walmart and the assistant manager and explained that deputies had noticed a "pattern of behavior" in which Williams would call police to report "dangerous active situations, such as customers physically assaulting him or other employees," that were not happening.

The store and Walmart corporate officials kept him on the job for several more months, and fired him in July 2020 for "mishandling \$35 of Walmart property," the lawsuit said.

Williams in a deposition denied the allegations that he wrongly called the police, saying Mangum had threatened to hit him.

Mangum filed the lawsuit against Walmart for negligent retention and action against person who summons police with improper intent.

"He lives the same message of self-respect that he teaches to young people, 'stand up for yourself when you know you're right,'" Mangum's trial lawyer, Greg Kafoury, said in a statement. "Because of his courage, we were able to show the jury an unconscionable failure of responsibility by the world's largest corporation."