

Long Creek man dies in house fire

Wood stove indicated as likely cause

Blue Mountain Eagle

LONG CREEK — A 68-year-old man died in a house fire early Sunday morning.

At about 4:10 a.m., a house fire was reported at 122 N. Highway 395 in Long Creek, according to a press release from Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer. When Long Creek Volunteer Fire Department arrived, the house was fully engulfed in flames.

Subsequent investigation indicated the occupant, Ronald Roy Horsman, was not accounted for. Due to the amount of damage to the structure, cadaver dogs from Deschutes and Crook counties were called to search

the residence. At about 6:30 p.m., after excavating the scene, the sheriff's office, fire department and the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office located Horsman's body inside the residence.

Long Creek Mayor Don Porter, who called 9-1-1 to report the fire, said nine fire personnel and two engines from the Long Creek Volunteer Fire Department responded immediately. Porter said the building was already "totally engulfed" upon their arrival.

He said it took about an hour to control the fire, which he called a "tragic event."

Palmer said in the statement the fire was likely caused by a wood stove, and the structure and contents were completely destroyed.



Contributed photo

Fire fully engulfs a home at 122 N. Highway 395 in Long Creek early Sunday morning.

On the Town

'IT'S SMALL, AND IT'S HOME'

Life is Monument-al in northern Grant County town

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle

MONUMENT — Self-sufficiency is a requisite for living in Monument.

Given the distance from the town to larger ones in the region — about 60 miles from John Day to the south, 40 from Spray to the west and 56 from Heppner to the north — Monument residents often need to rely on their own resources.

But make no mistake, gas, food, lodging, groceries and even a bank machine provide comforts and amenities for both locals and travelers.

A spacious and shady community park in the heart of town has a playground, basketball and tennis courts, horseshoe pits, restrooms and covered picnic areas. Thomas Cavender Reservoir just west of town and Monument River Park to the south offer opportunities for nearby water recreation fun.

Monument's picturesque valley setting, surrounded by juniper-covered rimrocks, is an attractive locale for outdoor activities — hunting, fishing, hiking, photography and more. A temperate climate — Monument sits at about 2,000 feet in elevation — combined with a location at the confluence of the North and Middle forks of the John

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The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler

A picturesque view overlooking the Monument area from above Cavender Pond, which is just west of town.



Despite being without a mayor at present, a dedicated team of city officials and staff keep things moving smoothly in Monument. Back, from left, councilor Bill Turner; Public Works Director Michael Schafer; councilors Phil Merricks and Steve Ussery; Council President Carrie Ussery; and Councilor Pat McCary. Seated, from left, Finance Manager Robert Yukawa; City Recorder Dorothy Jordan; and Maintenance Assistant Cinimon Derowitsch.

Contributed photo



Contributed photo

A sign on a car in Burns this weekend urges armed protesters to leave.

Armed standoff continues in Burns

By Rebecca Boone
and Gene Johnson
Associated Press

BURNS — A pickup truck blocked the entrance Tuesday to a national wildlife preserve where a small armed group upset over federal land policy has occupied the frozen swath of remote Oregon since the weekend.

From a watchtower, a member of the group looked out over the snowy grounds. The activists who came to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge were bundled in camouflage, ear muffs and cowboy hats in the bleak, high desert of eastern Oregon where they seemed more likely to encounter wildlife than people.

That may be a key reason why law enforcement has not taken action against the group of about two dozen activists opposing the imprisonment of father-and-son ranchers who set fire to federal land.

"These guys are out in the middle of nowhere, and they haven't threatened anybody that I know of," said Jim Glennon, a longtime police commander who now owns the Illinois-based law

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New laws take effect in the new year

By Jade McDowell
EO Media Group

With the new year comes a slate of new laws that went into effect Jan. 1.

Here's a look at how they will affect the lives of Oregonians.

Workplace: Some of the most notable laws are part of the "fair shot" package passed by the legislature this summer in an effort to expand protections and opportunities for workers.

Every business with more than 10 employees will be required to provide sick leave for their workers in 2016 — even those who are part-time or paid by the hour.

Sick leave policies can still vary by employer, but each will be required to provide at least one hour

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of sick leave for every 30 hours worked, up to 40 hours a year.

Oregon is also "banning the box" in 2016, making it illegal for employers to ask on a job application whether an applicant has a criminal history. They can still ask during an interview, but the idea is to prevent blanket discrimination of ex-offenders by allowing them to get a foot in the door.

Employers will no longer be allowed to forbid workers to inquire about their co-workers wages, or disclose their own salaries. And employers will be barred from

requiring their employees create personal social media accounts, provide the passwords to their accounts or promote the company on their personal profiles.

Domestic workers such as nannies and housekeepers will be extended several new protections in 2016, including mandatory breaks, paid vacation time and recourse against harassment.

Law enforcement: The legislature also worked to provide increased protections to crime victims.

The statute of limitations on rape will double in 2016, allowing

prosecution up to 12 years after the crime occurred instead of six. If the crime happened to a minor, the victim has until age 30 to come forward.

Secretly filming someone in a place of "presumed privacy" — including bathrooms and locker rooms — will be upgraded from a misdemeanor to a felony in 2016. That law complements a slew of other invasion-of-privacy laws that came into effect in 2015, including a ban on "upskirting" (intentionally photographing up a woman's skirt or down her blouse without permission) and "revenge porn" (posting nude photographs or video of someone online with the intent to humiliate them).

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