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Prairie City resident remains in critical condition after fire destroys home

Waits hospitalized for complications from smoke inhalation

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

A mobile home in Prairie City was destroyed by a fire early Sunday morning. The Prairie City Fire Department was on scene with two fire engines within minutes of receiving the call just after 8 a.m., but the structure was deemed a total loss by Fire Chief Marvin Rynearson. Eula Waits, the homeowner, was transported to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend

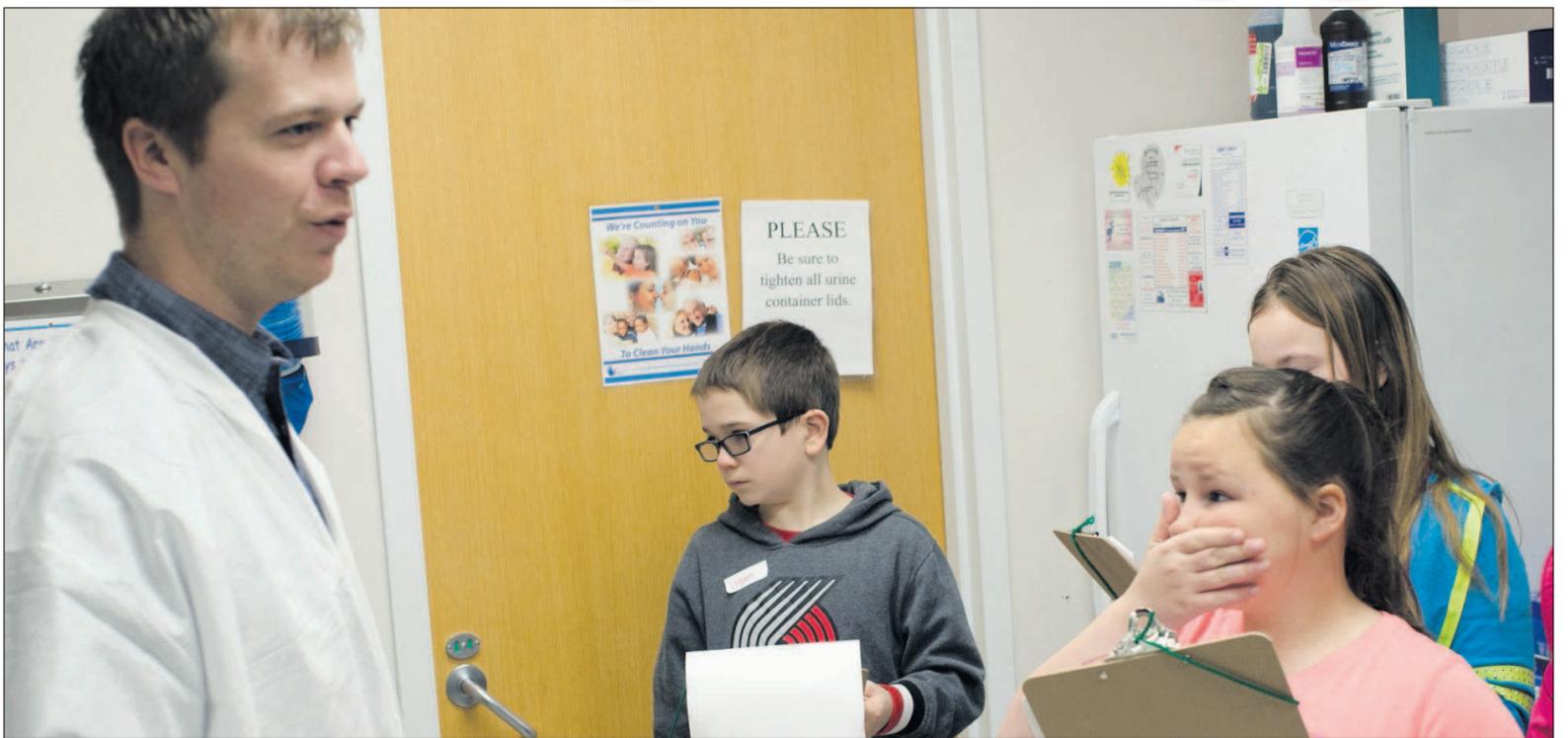
for respiratory complications stemming from smoke inhalation, Rynearson said. She remains in critical condition as of Tuesday afternoon, according to the hospital. After making initial contact, the Prairie City department requested assistance from John Day, and another fire engine was dispatched. The scene is currently ribboned off and under guard to keep people off the property due to fears it may be unsafe, Rynearson said. Disaster responders with the

American Red Cross Cascades Region responded to the home Sunday evening. The fire affected two adults and three children, and the Red Cross provided resources to help address the immediate basic needs of those affected, such as temporary housing, food, clothing, comfort kits, information about recovery services and health and mental health services, according to a press release. Rynearson said the cause of the fire is still under investigation.



Contributed photo/Trever Hamsher
A mobile home burns in Prairie City Sunday, April 9.

AN INSIDE LOOK



Eagle photos
Rylan Boggs

STEM students learn about health care, careers

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

Third- and fourth-graders from Humbolt Elementary got the chance to see the inner workings of Blue Mountain Hospital and learn about health care last week. Forty kids learned about the

different departments and positions in the hospital and how each department works in conjunction with the others as part of the OSU Extension office STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — program Friday. Some of the students' favorites were the ambulance, emergency room and information technology departments.

Ambulance staff answered questions, told students what qualifications were needed to work as ambulance staff and gave them a tour of the inside of an ambulance. The staff work two-day shifts and have four days off. During those two days they are constantly on call and live at the hospital.

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John Nehl raises his hand to ask ambulance staff a question.

Hannah Vaughan covers her mouth as Josh Zigler, left, tells students about blood work at Blue Mountain Hospital Friday, April 7. Also pictured are Logan Randleas and Hailey Mecham.

Grant County midwife's license revoked

Dress accused of falsifying birth certificates, practicing without a license in Washington

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County midwife Sherry Dress' license has been revoked for misconduct, but she claims she has done nothing that cannot be explained. Dress, 69, was accused of falsifying birth certificates and submitting a fraudulent Medicaid claim. Her Oregon direct-entry midwifery license, which expired in September 2015, was revoked. She recently reached a settlement to repay \$20,000 to the Department of Human Services for Medicaid overpayments.



Sherry Dress

Dress is also awaiting trial in Washington on new charges of practicing midwifery without a license — after pleading guilty to the same in May 2016, after being issued a cease-and-desist order by the state in 2013. Dress said she simply could not afford to continue fighting the Oregon cases but plans to plead her case in court in Washington. She said she did not break the Washington law because she

offered her services for free, accepting only "gratuitous" reimbursements for expenses, as a Christian ministry. "I'm a very passionate, loving person, and this is what I do," she said. "I love delivering babies, and I love taking care of people. As a loving Christian woman, I believe that God called me to do this."

Oregon license revocation
Oregon's Board of Direct Entry Midwifery accused Dress of falsifying five birth certificates between May 2014 and May 2015. For each, Dress certified the children were born at her Canyon

City residence, when they were born in Pasco or Walla Walla, Washington. Dress told the Eagle she did list Oregon as the birthplace for Washington births under "special circumstances." In one of the five cases, she said, the mother planned to drive to Grant County so Dress could bill an Oregon insurance provider for the services, which she could only do for births in Oregon. However, the baby came before the mother made it to Oregon, so Dress said she listed Oregon so she could still submit the bill. Dress said, in her profes-

sional experience, the exact place of birth is not always listed on a birth certificate. When she worked as a registered nurse in California in 1971, she said, the hospital was often listed as the birthplace, even for babies born in ambulances, vehicles, abandoned buildings or other places without addresses at the Mexican border, because an address was required. She also said, for two of the five cases for babies born in June 2014, the clients contacted her in December 2014, requesting that she help

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