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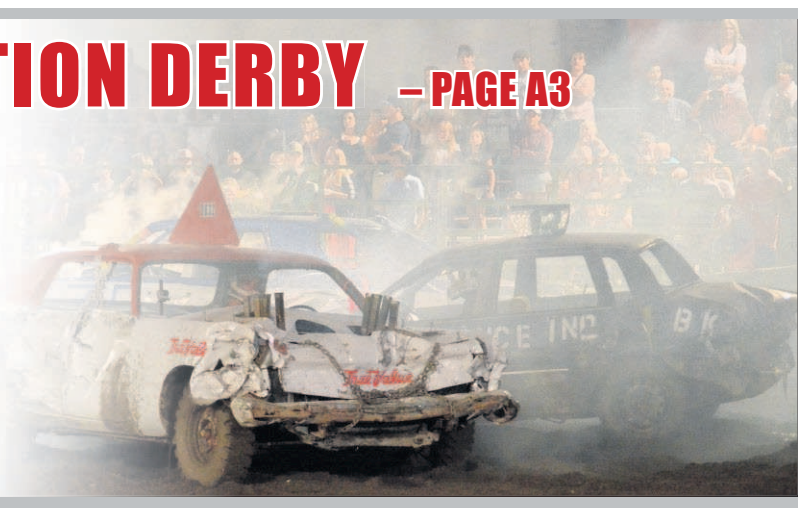
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Eclipse sites popping up, and filling up

Pandyfest, Paiute event among options

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

There are just 32 days left as the total solar eclipse countdown continues.

Some say the Monday, Aug. 21, celestial event will be an experience of a lifetime.

Camping and RV sites, which have popped up throughout Grant County, are filling up.

The campsites will offer observers a view of the two minutes of totality, and some will also host a weekend of entertainment.

The Burns Paiute Tribe is hosting cultural event called Experience Beechcreek for campers.

Located 2-3 miles north of Mt. Vernon off of Highway 395, the weekend will include drumming, singing, dancing, native stories and games for the kids on Saturday, and comedian entertainment on Sunday.

Jarvis Kennedy, a tribal council member, said the property includes 300 tent sites and 100 RV spots with space for vendors.

Tepees will be set up near a cabin on site, and a check-in office will provide a respite for elderly to cool off.

The tribe purchased the 2,400-acre property in March of 2016, and Kennedy said it includes aboriginal territories of the natives.

"We're just trying to have a community gathering with not just the Burns Paiute people but with all the people of this area and visitors to celebrate this eclipse," Kennedy said.

For more information, call Kennedy at 541-589-4191.

"Pandyfest," hosted by the Weaver family on West Bench Road in John Day, includes two nights of camping, four meals, entertainment from six Portland bands, a 100-foot slip and slide and other backyard games.

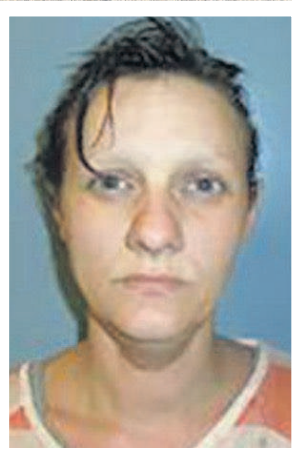
Mandy Weaver, who is spearheading the event with her husband, Patrick — the combination of their two names creating the word "Pandy" — said they have 20 tent spots left with 60 spots already rented to 105 people.

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One dead in arson fire

PILOT ROCK SUSPECT ARRESTED



Angela Fix arrested for first-degree arson.

Records show Angela Fix has multiple criminal convictions dating back to 2011 for meth possession and failure to appear. Arson is the most severe charge she has faced.

Laurie Sammons of Canyon City thumbs through a box of family photographs salvaged from the home of her father, Larry Castro, on Monday in Pilot Rock. Castro died in an early morning fire Sunday.

'I was on my stomach crawling through the house'

By Phil Wright
EO Media Group

John Day resident Brandon Cross remembered crawling on his belly to search the burning Pilot Rock home for anyone in danger. He said he spent a few frantic moments inside the house before the overwhelming heat and flames forced him to retreat.

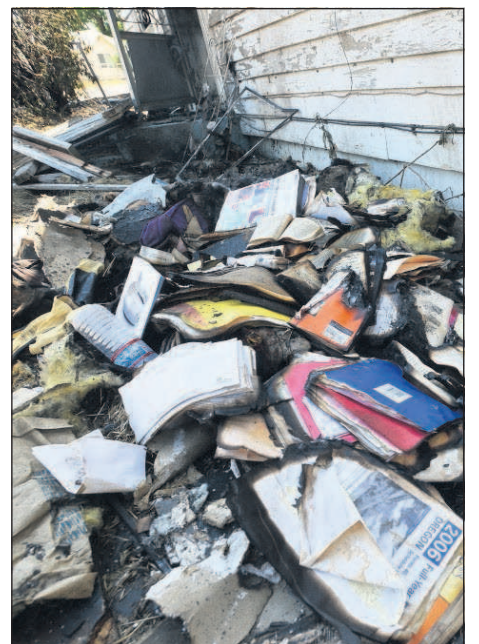
"It burned the hair off the back of my head," said Cross. Pilot Rock Police Chief William Caldera in a written statement reported firefighters found the body of Larry Eugene Castro, 72, just inside the front door of his home at 439 S.W. Birch Place off Highway 395 in the small town.

Caldera also reported police arrested Angela Marie Fix, 40, of 522 S.W. Birch Place, for first-degree arson.

Cross and his girlfriend were returning to John Day after attending the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest when they saw smoke coming from the home Sunday around 1:45 a.m. Their day of fun, he said, turned into a nightmare.

"As soon as I seen the house was on fire, I started beating on the door," Cross said, while his girlfriend called 9-1-1.

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The remains of charred books lie in a pile next to the home of Larry Castro on Monday in Pilot Rock. Police believe arson to be the cause.

City investigating problem with water and sewer payments



Nick Green

Customers not credited for June sewer and water payments

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

The city of John Day has opened an investigation into discrepancies in sewer and water bill payments.

Water and sewer payments for almost every account in the city were not credited for June payments, so balances reflected an extra payment was needed, City Manager Nick Green said. He described it as a software error, not

an accounting error.

"The city is conducting an internal investigation, and we should be able to provide more information in the near future," Green said.

Green said he would not com-

ment further during the ongoing investigation.

Janine Weaver, who served as the city secretary/cashier in June, is no longer working for the city, Senior Accounting Clerk Julie Larson said Monday, and the city is currently seeking to fill the vacancy.

A fading Rainbow

Hundreds clean up the mess of thousands after gathering

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

As Don Joseph picks his way through a pine forest used by the Rainbow Gathering, it's obvious people were here.

Paths snake in between trees and sites where tents and latrines were set up a couple weeks ago for more than 13,000 attendees, but it's hard to say where exactly they were.

Beyond a few orange peels, there's no garbage in a small chunk of forest used



Eagle photos/Rylan Boggs

Lesa sorts recycling after the Rainbow Gathering Friday, July 14.

by several hundred Rainbow Gathering attendees who stayed behind after the July 1-7 gathering to clean up.

Joseph, a Vietnam veteran and regular gathering attend-

ee, takes pride in the condition in which the gathering attendees leave their sites.

As with the gathering,

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David sorts recycling after the Rainbow Gathering on Friday, July 14.

