

Firefighters make progress on local fires

Dixie Creek Fire near Prairie City 25% contained

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle



The Dixie Creek Fire burns 3.4 miles northwest of Prairie City. The fire was 25% contained Monday.

Contributed photo

Firefighters have made progress on the Dixie Creek Fire north of Prairie City.

The fire 3.4 miles northwest of Prairie City was 25% contained on Monday, according to an Oregon Department of Forestry press release. The fire has burned approximately 541 acres of grass, brush and timber within lands protected by ODF and the Prairie City Rural Fire Department.

ODF said the fire was reported just before 2 p.m. on Saturday. Air and ground resources were able to stop the fire late in the evening on Saturday and have kept the fire within the same footprint since the report.

ODF noted Monday that fire personnel patrolled the fire on Sunday and monitored for any changes to fire behavior or areas of concern to keep the fire contained.

The fire, which prompted Prairie City to cancel its fireworks show, is under the command of the High Desert Inter-agency Type 3 Team, under the leadership of Incident Com-

mander Tim Boyce.

Lovlett Corral Fire

The Lovlett Corral Fire 10.8 miles northwest of Monument is approximately 137 acres and is now 95% contained. Fire behavior has been minimal, primarily consisting of smoldering and creeping.

Firefighters continued to strengthen containment lines and completed mop up activities farther into the interior of the fire perimeter. Mopping up includes searching for pockets of heat, digging out the heat source and cooling with water.

Where containment lines are secured, firefighters also completed suppression repair (such as constructing water bars to help reduce erosion potential) based on identified rehabilitation needs.

Lewis Rock Fire

The Lewis Rock Fire bal-

looned to 448 acres and has moved chiefly south away from Mitchell and surrounding areas as fire managers and the Wheeler County sheriff remain confident that there is no threat to the communities.

According to a Tuesday press release from the Oregon Department of Forestry, the winds calmed down overnight and allowed fire crews to hold the fire in check.

ODF's press release noted that, while an overnight infrared flight detected heat close to containment lines, firefighters have established hose lays along much of the fire's perimeter and are beginning to mop up toward the interior to prevent spot fires.

Fire crews are working against the clock as thunderstorms are expected to develop over the area over the next week, bringing the threat of lightning and erratic winds, the

press release noted.

According to ODF, fire crews will be "at-the-ready" should additional fires spark from the predicted lightning.

An ODF incident management team took command of the fire Monday and relieved local assets battling the blaze since June 30.

ODF said that temperatures forecast to return 100 degrees in the coming days prompted the team to highlight safety for firefighters and heat-related illnesses. According to the press release, there have not been any accidents or injuries.

During an in-briefing for the team on Monday, Wheeler County Commissioner Rick Shaffer said he has lived in the county for upwards of 70 years and had never seen it this dry.

"You think you've caught the fire, and then you hear on the radio that there are spots across the line," Shaffer said. "It's just really dry out there."

Bologna Fire

The Bologna Fire, burning on private ownership and Prineville District Bureau of Land Management lands near Spray, is 75% contained. The fire will have one crew and one engine assigned to the fire. They will be working to find any hot spots within the perimeter and monitoring the fire.



Contributed photo Michael Wenzel, 55, of Dayville reported he was working on a headlight issue when his pickup began to roll back down the roadway, dragging him along.

Sheriff's office responds to multiple incidents

Crashes, fires and an unattended death

Blue Mountain Eagle

June 30 was a busy day for the Grant County Sheriff's Office with a vehicle incident, motorcycle crash, fires and an unattended death.

The eventful day began with a call for a vehicle that was reported as teetering precariously over a steep road bank about 2 miles up the South Fork of the John Day River, according to a press release from Sheriff Todd McKinley.

Michael Wenzel, 55, of Dayville reported he got out of his pickup at about 10 p.m. to work on a headlight issue when the vehicle started rolling back down the road. Wenzel attempted to stop the vehicle and was drug down the roadway by it, narrowly escaping serious injury when the vehicle

went over the embankment. The vehicle was removed without incident, and no property was damaged.

Later that morning, a Forest Service crew working in the south end of the county near Silvies-Hopper Lane reported a motorcycle crash with injuries. Eric Wolf, 55, of Upland, California, failed to negotiate a curve at milepost 45C and sustained minor injuries.

Sheriff's office staff helped crews in the Mt. Vernon area locate lightning fires later in the day.

At 8 p.m., a caller reported finding a deceased person in the pit area of Little Canyon Mountain. Ryan Nichols, 42, of John Day had been riding a motorcycle in the area when he suffered an apparent medical issue and died.

McKinley thanked the public for reporting the incidents and encouraged them to continue to do so.

COPS AND COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Grant County Circuit Court

A charge of harassment against Aaron M. Roseberry of John Day allegedly committed July 20, 2020, was dismissed June 30 based on a motion by Grant County District Attorney Jim Carpenter that the victim is unavailable due to unforeseen emergent medical conditions. Roseberry had pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Grant County Justice Court

Exceeding speed limit: Jerry L. Johnson, 65, Powell Butte, May 19, 75/65 zone, fined \$165; Dusty V. Anderson, 23, Pendleton, May 30, 75/65 zone, fined \$165; Joseph S. Baker, 23, Gladstone, May 29, 40/30 zone, fined \$115; Casey E. Coberly, 30, Boise, Idaho, May 28, 80/65 zone, fined \$265; Bryson C. Zacharias, 27, Post Falls, Idaho, May 29, 48/30 zone, fined \$165; Dillon C. Sederland, 26, Seneca, June 2, fined \$165; Joseph T. Trzos, 49, Honey Brook, Pennsylvania, May 29, 79/65 zone, fined \$265; Jeffrey E. Schons,

66, Pacific City, May 29, 79/65 zone, fined \$265; Andrew R. Poulsen, 31, Ellensburg, Washington, May 25, 78/65 zone, fined \$265; Heidi M. Baker, 56, Sisters, June 2, 56/30 zone, fined \$265; Lacey M. Mortimore, 41, John Day, May 15, 38/25 zone, fined \$165; Kurt T. Streit, 55, Prineville, May 27, 62/35 zone, fined \$265; Anthony J. Webb, 34, Portland, May 28, 54/35 zone, fined \$165; John V. Nordlund, 72, Junction City, California, June 10, 75/55 zone, fined \$165.

Violation of the basic rule: Jennifer C. Smoot, 42, John Day, May 31, 79/55 zone, fined \$265; Daisy E. Goebel, 24, Eugene, June 20, 85/55 zone, fined \$265; Kendra L. Smithhart-Lundine, 48, Medford, June 4, 75/55 zone, fined \$165; Matthew H. Katakura, 37, Mililani, Hawaii, May 29, 75/55 zone, fined \$165; Anita W. Hanks, 62, Tulalip, Washington, May 26, 73/55 zone, fined \$165; Candice C. Hook, 54, Eugene, June 13, 75/55 zone, fined \$165.

Driving while suspended: Bradley R. Bolin, 34, Mt. Vernon, April 27, fined \$440; Ashlie R. Clark, 29, John Day, May 25, fined \$440; Britt M. Wilcox, 26, John Day, fined \$440; David J. Darling, 46, John Day, May 29, fined \$440; Travis A. Fisher, 22, Bend, May 31, fined

\$440; Micailen S. Thornburg, 31, Bend, May 21, fined \$440.

Driving uninsured: Ashlie R. Clark, 29, John Day, May 25, fined \$265; Britt M. Wilcox, 26, John Day, fined \$265; Micailen S. Thornburg, 31, Bend, May 21, fined \$265; Dillon C. Sederland, 26, Seneca, June 2, fined \$265.

Failure to properly wear seat belt: Andrea O. Barnes, 45, John Day, May 29, fined \$115; David J. Darling, 46, John Day, May 29, fined \$115; Gary L. Bruno, 55, Washougal, Washington, May 30, fined \$115.

Failure to wear helmet (motorcycle): Brian C. Bennett, 25, Long Creek, May 29, fined \$115.

Operating a vehicle without privileges: Juvenile, 17, Mt. Vernon, May 27, fined \$265.

No operator's license: Dillon C. Sederland, 26, Seneca, June 2, fined \$265.

Richard E. Wich pleaded no contest to second-degree criminal trespass as a violation June 28 and was fined \$440.

Dakoda K. Cazier pleaded guilty to offensive littering as a violation June 28 and was fined \$465.

Oregon State Police

June 25: A trooper stopped a vehicle on Highway 26 near milepost 173 for impeding traffic and failure to maintain. The

driver, a 78-year-old man, was having a medical emergency and was taken to the hospital.

June 26: A trooper observed several boaters drinking alcohol and discarding the empty containers into Magone Lake. At the boat ramp, indicators of impairments were noticed on several of the boaters and the driver of a pickup. The boaters were younger than 21. Five boaters were cited and released for several charges including furnishing alcohol to a minor, offensive littering and minor in possession of alcohol. One of the boaters was charged with boating under the influence of intoxicants.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch responded to 233 calls for service during the week of June 28 — July 4, including:

John Day Police Department

June 28: Cited David Darling, 46, John Day, for driving while suspended and uninsured.

June 28: Cited Courtney Fox, 39, John Day, for speeding.

June 29: Cited Somer Robinson, 32, Dayville, for driving while suspended and uninsured and failure to present license on Highway 26.

June 29: Cited Adrian Couey, 36, John Day, for driving while suspended and unin-

sured on Highway 26.

June 30: Received a report of shots fired at Riverside Home Park.

June 30: Arrested Travis Freniere, 34, John Day, on a Grant County warrant.

July 2: Received a report of sexual abuse in John Day.

Grant County Sheriff's Office

June 28: Received a report of sexual abuse in Monument.

June 29: Responded for theft on Moon Creek Road.

June 29: Cited John W. Dippold, 18, Summerville, for a charged with boating under the influence of intoxicants.

July 2: Responded for a fight at Mountain View Mini Mart.

July 2: Cited David R. Kodesh, 26, John Day, for failure to obey a traffic control device.

July 3: Received a report of a fight at Prairie City Pub.

July 3: Cited Jacob Gonzales, 35, Prineville, for an unspecified offense.

July 4: Received a report of a burglary on East Front Street.

July 4: Cited a 17-year-old juvenile for speeding on Highway 26.

John Day ambulance

June 28: Responded with Seneca ambulance for an unreponsive man on B Avenue.

June 28: Responded with Seneca ambulance for a man

who had fallen on Park Avenue.

June 29: Dispatched with Prairie City ambulance for a man who was disoriented with involuntary movements on North McHaley Avenue.

June 30: Responded for a man with heat stroke at Riverside Home Park.

July 1: Dispatched for a 62-year-old man with heat illness.

July 2: Responded for a 86-year-old man who fell and injured his hip on Thompson Avenue.

July 2: Responded for an 82-year-old woman on West Main Street.

July 2: Responded for a 92-year-old woman with heart problems on North Humbolt Avenue.

July 3: Dispatched for a woman who was disoriented and unable to eat on Ninth Street.

July 3: Responded for a man with chest pain at Chester's Thriftway.

Mt. Vernon fire

June 30: Received a report of a forest fire on Coyote Butte.

U.S. Forest Service

June 29: Received several reports of forest fires.

June 30: Received multiple reports of forest fires. July 3: Received multiple reports of a fire near Prairie City.

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