

Hermiston and Stanfield fire crews extinguish small blaze on Hermiston Butte

No structures threatened, no injuries reported

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

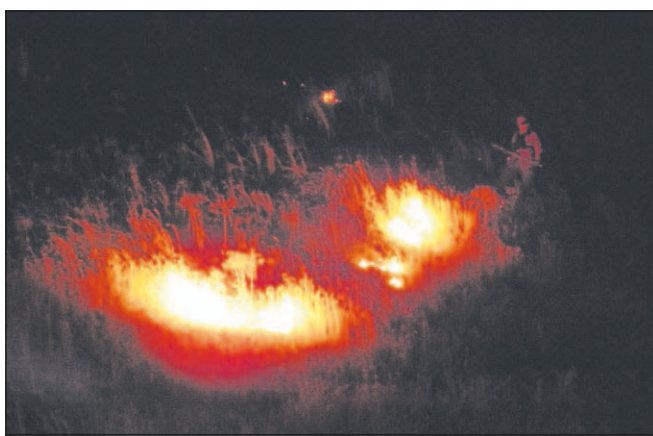
No structures were damaged during a small fire on the Hermiston Butte just after midnight.

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services Lt. Dennis McClure said the agency was dispatched at 12:12 a.m. to a report of visible flames by the swimming pool on the northwest side of the butte.

He said three Hermiston units and two from Stanfield responded and worked to quickly extinguish the blaze.

"The fire was in steep terrain on the butte in the area behind the swimming pool," he said. "It was controlled at 12:38. That's when the fire was out, and they started to mop up. At 12:55, all the hot spots were put out, and they cleared the scene."

Although he was not at the fire, McClure said the report indicates approximately one acre of grass was burned, but no structures were threatened. He said the cause of the fire is undetermined, but with no signs of arson reported, further investigation is unlikely.



JADE MCDOWELL PHOTO

Hermiston and Stanfield firefighters work to extinguish a small grass fire on the northwest side of the Hermiston Butte just after midnight Friday.

"Typically, for small grass fires like this, we won't go in any farther," he said. "Sometimes, (we are) really just unable to find (the source)."

A controlled burn planned at the butte at 5 p.m. June 25 will probably still occur if the weather conditions are appropriate, McClure said, because only a small portion of the butte was burned in the unplanned fire. The controlled burn was planned to reduce the risk of fire during the July 4 fireworks show.

McClure said people should be mindful of the dry conditions this time of year.

"Conditions are really dry all over the county," he said. "People should be careful of where they burn

and what they do. They should just be careful and cautious of their activities in dry areas."

Echo community dedicates official city tree

BY JADE MCDOWELL
EO MEDIA GROUP

Judges from the national America in Bloom competition got a feel for the community of Echo Thursday while attending a dedication ceremony for the town's official city tree.

Bruce Riggs, a judge from New York, said he had wanted to visit Echo for a while and was not disappointed. Echo has won in the national beautification contest's small cities category three times since 2006, and Riggs said it is impressive how much city manager Diane Berry does to cultivate the Eastern Oregon oasis.

"I've been involved in America in Bloom since it was created, about 11 years ago, and Diane is a legend," he said.

The tree that was being dedicated Thursday, a red horse chestnut at Fort Henrietta Park, was christened the Dorn Tree in honor of Fred and Mildred Dorn.

Berry said the Dorns lived across from Echo School for

most of their lives and were heavily involved in the community, hosting all of the class reunions and serving as a gathering place for alumni at all times of the year.

"Whenever people returned to Echo, they knew they could get a warm welcome from Fred and Mildred," she said.

The tree was chosen and named through a community-wide vote that included surveys at the school and polls on Facebook.

Anita Dorn, daughter-in-law to Fred and Mildred, represented the family at the ceremony. She said it was an honor to have the couple be memorialized with a plaque below the tree.

"I was real proud, because they were proud of this little town, and I know how they would feel about it," she said after the ceremony.

After the tree was dedicated, city staff also dedicated the new picnic shelter, kitchen, playground and restrooms at the park, which were finished recently using a combination of grants.



JADE MCDOWELL PHOTO

Echo city manager Diane Berry, left, introduces America in Bloom judge Leslie Pittenger, right, in front of the newly-christened Dorn Tree at Fort Henrietta Park.

Class of '80 reunion next month

The Hermiston High School Class of 1980 is hosting its 35th class reunion Friday, July 18 and Saturday, July 19 in Hermiston.

Friday's event is an 1980s theme night for socializing and bowling at Desert Lanes Bowling Alley in Hermiston. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. Saturday will feature a golf tournament at Big River Golf Course. It begins at 8 a.m. and costs \$40 for 18 holes and a cart. At 9 a.m. on Saturday, a walk at Riverfront part in Hermiston starts. The final event Saturday is dinner and dancing

at Stetson's Steakhouse in Hermiston. The social hour begins at 6 p.m. and runs for an hour. At 6:30 p.m. is a class picture, and dinner begins at 7 p.m. with a choice of prime rib or chicken buffet. During dinner is a memorial and awards presentation, and after is dancing.

The registration deadline is July 7. The cost, excluding golf, is \$40 per person for \$20 person without dinner. Checks may be mailed to Di Fordice, 29723 Minnehaha Road, Hermiston, or people can register online at www.debbiaioa.com.

False report of shooting locks down hospital

Boardman man arrested in hoax

BY JADE MCDOWELL
EO MEDIA GROUP

A reported shooting that turned out to be a hoax briefly locked down Good Shepherd Medical Center on Thursday.

Jose Guadalupe Rizo, 24, of Boardman, was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail on charges of first-degree disorderly conduct, making a false report and misuse of 9-1-1 following the incident.

Officers from Hermiston Police Department, Oregon State Police and

Umatilla County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to Good Shepherd shortly before noon after Rizo called 9-1-1 and claimed he had shot someone at the hospital. When officers arrived, they determined that no one had been shot, located Rizo and took him into custody without incident.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said it appeared "alcohol and/or other potential mental issues were at play."

The incident may have caused some public inconvenience and alarm, but it did provide an opportunity to put emergency procedures at the hospital into practice.

"In the past, we have participated in tabletop discussions with members of the hospital so it is nice to see a relatively seamless flow between the police response and the hospital policy and procedures," Edmiston said.

Good Shepherd spokesman Kelly Sanders said Rizo also appeared to have pulled a fire alarm before being taken into custody. He said the medical center was grateful for the quick response by police, even if it turned out no one was injured.

"There was nothing really to it, except it was good practice for a situation like that," he said.

iPhone 6 on U.S. Cellular.[®] Together, you can do more.

Now get \$100 off iPhone 6. A great deal on a great network that covers you in the Middle of Anywhere.[™]



Apple iPhone 6

iPhone 6 isn't just bigger — it's better in every way. Larger, yet thinner. More powerful, yet power-efficient. It's a new generation of iPhone.

 U.S. Cellular

Things we want you to know: New Retail Installment Contract and Shared Connect Plan required. Credit approval required. Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee applies (currently \$1.82/line/month); this is not a tax or gov't. required charge. Add. fees, taxes and terms apply and vary by svc. and agmt. Offers valid in-store at participating locations only, may be fulfilled through direct fulfillment and cannot be combined. See store or uscellular.com for details. \$100 discount off the MSRP of iPhone 6. Kansas Customers: In areas in which U.S. Cellular receives support from the Federal Universal Service Fund, all reasonable requests for service must be met. Unresolved questions concerning services availability can be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027. Limited-time offer. Trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners. Additional terms apply. See store or uscellular.com for details. ©2015 U.S. Cellular