

House fire guts 7th Street home

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

A fire in the 100 block of Southeast Seventh Street in Hermiston gutted a house early Tuesday morning.

Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services, assisted by mutual aid from Umatilla and Stanfield fire crews, responded to the structure fire at about 1 a.m. and had it knocked down within half an hour.

Hermiston Fire Chief Scott Stanton said the cause is still under investigation. He said the residents were checked out by medics on scene, but no one was taken to the hospital.

He said it wasn't clear yet whether the house was a total loss, but the damage was "extensive."

Thad Sells was working on salvaging a few items from the ashes Tuesday afternoon. He said his ex-wife Molly Sells and their two sons lived in the house. He said what the family needs more than anything right

now is a place to rent, preferably two or three bedrooms in the \$500 to \$800 range.

"Everyone wants to give us stuff, but we have no place to put it," he said.

The family has been able to salvage a few items, including a handful of family photos, but lost most of what they owned.

"They lost their wallets, they lost their driver's licenses, they lost a dog, they lost everything," Sells said.

He said anyone with leads on a rental could call Molly at 541-969-0294 or him at 541-786-1193.

The house fire was Hermiston's second in the space of a week. Shortly after 11:30 p.m. on Saturday Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services responded to a house fire in the 1900 block of Townsend Road.

The single-story house was a total loss, but the residents got out safely and were assisted by the Red Cross. The cause of the fire was determined to be accidental.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TRAVIS COOK

Firefighters work to put out an early Tuesday morning house fire on SE 7th Street in Hermiston.

Street renamed for UEC's Eldrige

Steve Eldrige, outgoing CEO of the Umatilla Electric Cooperative, is being honored with his own street in Boardman.

The Boardman City Council voted earlier this month to change the name of Puskarich Avenue at the Port of Morrow to Northeast Eldrige Drive. Construction is already underway to build a new \$5.5 million UEC operations center along the



Eldrige

newly renamed road. Barrett Business Ser-

vices Inc. is the only other location that will be affected by the name change.

In its resolution, the City Council notes Eldrige's "significant presence" to the growth of the Boardman area during his 44-year career with UEC. Eldrige has served as general manager and CEO of the co-op since 1990.

Eldrige announced his retirement April 18 at the

annual UEC membership meeting in Hermiston. He will remain in the position until 2016 as the board of directors recruits his replacement from a nationwide search.

Around the same time, UEC plans to finish building its Boardman Operations Center. The facility will be 23,970 square feet and include a drive-up kiosk for 24-hour bill pay.

Council relaxes rules on taxi drivers

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

The Hermiston City Council officially resolved its disagreement about background checks for taxi drivers this week, voting on an amendment that forgives some crimes after 10 years, but not others.

The original ordinance barred any drivers with past convictions, no matter how long ago the crimes were. The amendment that passed 6-1 (with Doug Primmer in opposition) still bans drivers with convictions more recent than 10 years but only considers "person felonies" like robbery and assault past 10 years.

The amendment passed without discussion Monday night, but Primmer had argued at a previous meeting that the city was placing an implicit trust in the taxi drivers it licensed to drive around the elderly and disabled, so it should have high standards for those people.

On Monday the City Council also voted to accept up to \$3.3 million in grant money from the Federal Aviation Administration. The money will help fund a project at the Hermiston Municipal Air-

port to move the airport's taxiway, which is currently too close to the runway for FAA regulations. The project also includes moving the airport's fuel station and installing a bigger tank.

Mark Morgan, assistant city manager, said the project might not seem like a big deal but it will set the airport up for possible expansion in the future.

The council also approved a lease with Lohman Helicopter LLC out of Lewiston, Idaho, for the private helicopter company to build a 6,000-square-foot hangar there.

The company, which provides helicopters on contract for firefighting, stringing power lines across rivers and agricultural use, wants to locate a helicopter in Hermiston.

Acting as the Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency, the council met to approve a change to the facade grant program. Recipients complained that it was hard to find three qualified bids for work on such a small scale, so the requirements were changed to merely require proof that they asked three contractors to submit bids.

No injuries reported in Hermiston crash

HERALD STAFF REPORT

An elderly man crashed into a pole at a business in Hermiston Thursday.

According to a Hermiston Police Department report, at about 11:24 a.m. Richard Peck crashed his 2005 Ford Mustang into a pole supporting a roof at Columbia Outdoor Sports & Surplus, 395 E. Main St., Hermiston. The report states no injuries were reported. No passengers were in the vehicle.

Peck, 79, Heppner, was issued a citation for careless driving and released at the scene.



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

Richard Peck surveys the damage to his 2005 Ford Mustang after he crashed into a pole on the Columbia Outdoor Sports & Surplus building Thursday from Northeast Fourth Street in Hermiston.

Umatilla school district registration set Aug. 18-20

HERALD STAFF REPORT

Registration for all three schools in the Umatilla School District will take place from Aug. 18-20.

Umatilla High School and Clara Brownell Middle

School will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. McNary Heights Elementary School will be open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.

The first day of school for the district is Aug. 31.

New student registration now underway in Stanfield

HERALD STAFF REPORT

Registration for students new to the Stanfield School District began this week.

School offices will be open from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1-3 p.m. New students should register before the first day of school, Aug. 24.

The high school fee for a student body card and a year book is \$45. The middle school fee for the student body card is \$30.

Supply lists for kindergarten through sixth-grade students will be available at the elementary school office. Students in grades seven through 12 should bring

a pencil and a notebook to the first day of school, and supply lists will be available during the first week.

Stanfield Elementary School will host an open house at 4 p.m. Aug. 20. Stanfield Secondary School will host an open house at 6 p.m. Aug. 20.

The district will also be offering free preschool to 4-year-old children who live within the district boundaries. Preschool registration also began Monday at the elementary school office. Parents should bring their children's birth certificates, immunization records and proof of address to the registration.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Worship with us!

<p>The Full Gospel Home Church 235 SW 3rd Phone 567-7678 Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker Sunday: Sunday School.....10:00 am Worship.....11:00 am Evening Service.....7:00 pm Wednesday Service.....7:00 pm "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Pet. 5:7</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church Of Hermiston Rev. Dr. James T. Pierce, Pastor Open Hearts, Open minds, Open doors 191 E. Gladys Ave. Sunday Worship at 11am (541) 567-3002</p>	<p>First Christian Church "Proclaiming the Message of Hope, Living the Gospel of Love" SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM No Sunday School CHILDREN'S CHURCH 11:00 AM Nursery Provided 567-3013 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston</p>
<p>Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church 565 W. HERMISTON AVE. DAILY MASS: Monday-FridayEnglish 7:00 am THURSDAY.....Spanish 6:00 pm SATURDAY.....English 5:00 pmSpanish 7:00 pm SUNDAY.....English 9:00 amBilingual 11:00 am OFFICE.....Spanish 1:00 pm567-5812</p>	<p>Grace Baptist Church 555 SW 11th, Hermiston 567-9497 Nursery provided for all services Sunday School - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM 6:00 pm Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM "Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"</p>	<p>HermNaz the best thing about Sundays 1520 W ORCHARD AVE Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am Classes for kids @ 9:15 am SEEKING JESUS, SHARING LIFE, SERVING PEOPLE www.hermistonnazarene.org</p>
<p>NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH 1350 S. Hwy. 395, Hermiston "People Making A Difference" Sunday Worship Services 9:00 am, 10:45 am Classes for kids during both Services en Español Dave Andrus, Pastor For more information call 567-8441</p>	<p>THE COUNTRY CHURCH Pastor James Becker 32742 Diagonal RD Hermiston OR 97838 Sunday School 10 am Worship 7 am Evening Service 7 pm Bible Study Wednesdays 7 pm Firestarter Youth Ministry (Ages 12-17) Monday @ 6 pm</p>	<p>LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH 125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232 Pastor David Dever Sun. Bible Classes.....10:00am Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm Wed. Prayer & Bible Study...6:00pm www.hermistonlmbc.com</p>

<p>NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Worship Service 10:30 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Pastor J.C. Barnett Children's Church & Nursery Available 700 West Orchard Avenue P.O. Box 933 Hermiston, Oregon 541-289-4774</p>	<p>Echo Community Church 21 N Bonanza Street Echo, OR Phone: (541) 376-8108 Sunday School.....9:30 am Worship.....10:45 am Children's Church.....11:15 am Potluck & Communion ~ First Sunday of the Month</p>
<p>Oasis Vineyard A COMMUNITY OF HOPE 1255 Hwy. 395 S. • 567-5834 oasisvineyard.us Worship 10:00 AM "come as you are"</p>	<p>Seventh-day Adventist Church Saturdays Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m. Worship Service.....11:00 a.m. Allan Payne, Pastor 567-8241 855 W. Highland • Hermiston</p>
<p>To share your worship times call Amanda Jacobs 541-278-2683</p>	