

# Cardboard recycling center catches fire



A firefighter sprays a mountain of burning cardboard July 12 at a recycling facility south of Hermiston on Highway 395.

STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY ANEY

HERMISTON HERALD

A fire started around 1:30 p.m. July 12 at the cardboard recycling facility on South Highway 395 and spread to a nearby field.

Fire Marshal Tom Bohm said he didn't know what had caused the fire or exactly how wide it had spread, and neither did the owner of the facility, Medelez Trucking.

More than 30 firefighters from Umatilla County Fire District, as well as fire departments from Umatilla, Pendleton, Boardman, Echo and East Umatilla County were on scene to help control the blaze. Bales of cardboard were engulfed in flames, and firefighters were filling large containers with water to help tackle the fire.

The Oregon Department of Transportation briefly shut down Highway 395 due to smoke crossing the roadway.

UCFD Battalion Chief



A firefighter sprays a mountain of burning cardboard July 12.

J.W. Roberts said no structures were affected by the blaze, though he estimated \$60,000 in losses for cardboard and \$5,000 in equipment at the facility.

"It's just a pain with this wind," Roberts said. "These things don't go out. This'll burn all night."

Roberts said the fire would likely continue to burn into the grass as well, so crews would probably just burn the whole field.

Crews responded to a fire at the recycling center last year as well, Roberts said.

# Water on Seventh Street coming from excess groundwater

Water flowing from a catch basin on the corner of Southwest Seventh Street and Division Avenue is coming from an "abundance of ground water" according to Hermiston street superintendent Ron Sivey.

The water had been flowing along the side of the road down to Highland Avenue for about a week when the source was determined.

Sivey said the subdivision there has tile pipes to collect groundwater, and the system is working as it should as the pipes overflow. He said the excess groundwater may be a combination of the unusually wet winter and spring and extra irrigation on a field.

The city will work to determine if there are any blockages that are contributing to the overflow.

"There's nothing to be concerned about at this point," he said.



Water flows from a storm drain at the corner of West Division Avenue and Southwest Seventh Street. The water, which has been flowing steadily out of the drain for about a week, has been traveling two blocks down Seventh Street to another drain on Highland Avenue.

STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

# Non-ag burn ban coming for Umatilla County

By PHIL WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Commissioners will consider passing a non-agriculture burn ban in Umatilla County.

Gina Miller, the staff liaison for the county's smoke management committee, asked the board in a memo to impose the ban as soon as possible.

The county is experiencing wildfire conditions, Miller said, and Pendleton, the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Umatilla County Fire District have burn bans in place now.

The board meets Wednesday at 9 a.m. in room 130 at the Umatilla County Courthouse, 216 S.E. Fourth St., Pendleton.

The county board also will consider an order transferring ambulance ser-

vices from the East Umatilla County Health District to the new East Umatilla County Ambulance Area Health District, which voters approved in the November election.

And the board will consider approving the county's four-year plan for preventative maintenance. Commissioner George Murdock is keen on the plan. He has said local government during times of tight budgets too often ignore maintenance, which leads to more expensive repairs later.

Under the plan, the county would spend \$151,000 this fiscal year on 18 maintenance projects, ranging from a low end of \$150 for parking lot striping to highs of \$25,000 for a new roof on the maintenance shop and \$50,000 to replacing

the parking lot there.

For fiscal year 2018-19, the county projected spending \$197,100 on 11 projects, including \$114,000 to replace the floor at the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. And for 2019-20,

seven projects would cost \$109,560, with painting the exterior of the county jail topping the list at \$34,480.

The fourth year of the plan has one project: replacing the roof at the county jail for \$350,000.

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Worship • 10:45am  
Children's Church • 11:15am  
Potluck & Communion ~  
First Sunday of the Month

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**Saturdays**  
**Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.**  
**Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.**  
**English & Spanish Services**

**567-8241**  
**855 W. Highland • Hermiston**

### 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  
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Children's Church 10:00 am  
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Thursday.....Spanish 6:00 pm  
SATURDAY:.....English 5:00 pm  
.....Spanish 7:00 pm  
SUNDAY:.....English 9:00 am  
.....Bilingual 11:00 am  
.....Spanish 1:00 pm  
Office.....567-5812

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Pastor David Dever

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Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am  
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm  
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