

Students practice fighting car fires

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
STAFF WRITER

Through the light rain Tuesday morning, firefighters battled a blaze. In the parking lot of the Hermiston Conference Center, 11 trainees for the Umatilla County Fire District were busy practicing how to extinguish car fires — one piece of a two-week academy all aspiring volunteers have to attend.

The students, clad in turnout gear, took turns hosing down a practice car, which was hooked up to a propane tank and repeatedly lit on fire from the inside. On each try, it took several students to maneuver the hose and attack the flames.

“For many, it’s the first time actually handling a fully charged hose,” said Matt Fisher, a UCFD shift lieutenant and training coordinator. “So far, it’s a lot of dealing with hose-nozzle reactions. It’s a hundred (pounds per square inch of pressure), and it’s flowing at 150 gallons per minute. If you’re not used to it, that’s a lot to handle.”

The entire experience is new for most students, all but two of whom are completely “green.” Three of the students were also sent over from Pendleton’s fire department for training. Fisher said the people who sign up for the volunteer program often have no prior firefighting experience, and the department is always looking for volunteers.

Last week, he said, stu-



UCFD firefighter trainees put out a car fire on a practice run in the Hermiston Conference Center Parking lot Tuesday morning.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

dents were in the classroom. This week, training will be hands-on, with students learning how to do CPR, throw ladders and use the hose — as well as other entry-level firefighting tasks. Once the students are done with this training, they will enter a term of firefighter classes at Blue Mountain Community College.

After that, many students continue their studies to become paramedics.

Jenna O’Brien said the most challenging part of training has been preparing for the physical toll.

“It’s hard work,” she said. “You go home exhausted.”

O’Brien, an Irrigon na-



tive, said she has had wildland fire training, but this is her first official firefighter training.

Cooperation is a big part of fighting fires successfully, she said.

“You have to practice,

and get to know each other’s movements,” she said. “We’ve been working on this all last and this week. It’s nice to be able to apply it to a real fire. It’s a little different seeing it up close.”

Two surgeons join Good Shepherd staff

By **JADE McDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston has two new surgeons in town.

Patrick Harrison, D.O., has joined Advanced Orthopedics and Sports Medicine from Kearney, Nebraska, where he has been practicing since 2015. He is now accepting new patients.

Good Shepherd Medical Group Vice President Troy LeGore said in a statement that having another orthopedic surgeon is good news for Umatilla and Morrow counties, because the area is facing an active, but aging population. Medical

journals project that in the next 20 years there will be a 174 percent increase in patients in need of a hip replacement, and a 673 percent increase in knee replacements.

“The addition of Dr. Harrison will help with the demand for care that our community already has,” LeGore said.

According to a news release, Harrison has been practicing the anterior approach to hip replacements, custom-cutting guides approach to knee replacements and platelet-rich plasma injections for osteoarthritis, all of which

improve the patient experience by reducing time in surgery and/or recovery.

Harrison brings with him a wife and three children, one of whom is in college. His hobbies include golfing, hunting and fishing.

To schedule an appointment, call 541-298-7075.

Earlier in the month Good Shepherd also welcomed R. Todd Jones, M.D., who is working as a general surgeon. He will work with primary care physicians, emergency room physicians and hospitalists to provide procedures for a variety of conditions, and has extensive

specialized training in treating venous disease such as varicose veins, ulcers and deep vein thrombosis.

Jones is a native of Bellingham, Washington, and recently completed his residency at Metropolitan Hospital of New York. His wife Jennifer Poste, M.D., is a local endocrinologist.

“Working in a smaller community really gives me a chance to have a more intimate relationship with my patients and their families — something that ‘big city’ medicine would never have to offer,” he said.

To schedule an appointment, call 541-667-3804.

FOOTBALL

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CASCADE (WA) 42, HEPPNER 12 — At Heppner, the Mustangs fell to 0-3 on the season with another tough defeat, this time at the hands of Cascade Leavenworth (WA), 42-12, on Friday night.

“I think the teams we’re playing are pretty good, and the kids step up and did some good things, but we need to finish,” Heppner coach Greg Grant said. “But we’re to the point where we need to get it done.”

Jayden Wilson threw for 110 yards and one touchdown on 9 of 21 passing and Beau Wolters was the leading receiver with five catches for 89 yards and a touchdown. Coby Dougherty was the Mustangs’ leading rusher with 34 yards on 11 carries.

Cascade gashed Heppner for 236

rushing yards and 344 total yards overall, which was a disappointment for Grant.

“We have youth, we have some injuries and I think between the two it’s showing,” he said of the defense. “I don’t feel that we’re not doing what we should be doing, it’s just kind of disjointed. But it’s not for a lack of effort, we’re inexperienced in a lot of places and we’ve played some really good teams.”

Heppner will host Toledo this week.

Boys Soccer

HERMISTON 12, ST. HELENS 0 — At Hermiston, the Bulldogs rebounded from a loss on Tuesday to pick up a big shutout victory at home against St. Helens, 12-0, on Friday.

Eight different Bulldogs (4-2) scored a goal in the game, with Mark

Mejia, Joel Mendez, Noe Silva and Oliver Nava each scoring two goals apiece. The blowout also allowed for Hermiston coach Rich Harshberger to get some good minutes from his bench players and give the starters a breather.

UMATILLA 2, RIVERDALE 2 — At Umatilla, the Vikings scored a late second-half goal to salvage a tie with Riverdale in a non-league game on Friday.

Luis Castro opened the scoring for the Vikings (0-3-1) with a goal from outside the box to put the Vikings up 1-0 just two minutes in. But Riverdale tied the game at 1-1 a few minutes before halftime and then 15 minutes into the second half took a 2-1 lead on the Vikings.

Then Jeffri Coria scored the equalizer from just inside the box with eight minutes left in the game.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Graduation about the achievement, not the venue

As a senior at Hermiston High School I am very concerned with where to hold graduation, whether it be local or out of town. Three options have been making the rounds; Kennison Field, EOTEC Arena, and the Toyota Center. The football field still has the same issue of limited seating that the Purple Gym has, as it only adds about 200 extra seats, and it adds the issue of unpredictability with the weather. The EOTEC arena has the major issue of cost as well as the unpredictability of weather. This unpredictability of weather forces the district to prepare the gym anyway, as if graduation was being held there, just in case, which costs upwards of \$10,000 (and if it is decided that graduation will be held at EOTEC, this \$10,000 will be on top of the already staggering \$35,000 per year to use the arena).

I see the Toyota Center as the only viable option at this time. I am concerned that we are letting emotion drive this decision, or indecisiveness, instead of logic. The longer we put off this decision, the harder it will be to book any of these options. I would like to know when, and where, graduation is

going to be held. I would like to know that my family is going to be able to come enjoy seeing the accomplishments I have made. I would like to know that, no matter the weather, we have a venue that will accommodate the size of the graduating class of 2018, and a facility that will be able to accommodate the size of graduating classes in the future. I also would like to know that those who are sensitive to the sun, wind, and extreme heat, as much of my family is, will be able to attend the ceremony, and if the EOTEC arena is chosen, I do not see this being the case. Most of all I would like everyone involved in making this decision to take a step back, remove all emotion currently invested into the situation, and look purely at the facts. We will have Hermiston pride no matter where graduation is held.

Hermiston pride isn’t about the venue, it is about the people. We have to remember, this is ultimately about congratulating the graduates for their accomplishments, and this needs to be kept in mind when making the final decision.

NOAH ROBERTS
SENIOR, CLASS OF 2018
HERMISTON, OREGON

Family treasures tributes to former mayor Harkenrider

I would like to try and convey my appreciation to the many people who were involved in caring for my husband, Frank Harkenrider, during his last illness.

From the time that he fell carrying in a large bottle of drinking water till the moment his kidneys failed and he took his last breath, we were met with kindness, professionalism and care. The 911 responders, the staff at Good Shepherd, the emergency room doctor, Dr. Jeremy Anderson, and the nurses and caregivers at Regency Hermiston Nursing and Rehabilitation Center were exceptional. I know they were “just doing their job,” but they did their jobs with outstanding compassion.

The response to Frank’s death has been

overwhelming. Ken Huber and his staff from Burns Mortuary and Dr. Jim Pierce from the Methodist Church have made this very difficult time in our lives bearable.

The Celebration of Life at the high school was a perfect tribute to Frank. Thank you, HHS Band, for playing the Bulldog Fight Song. Frank would have loved it.

The flowers, donations, cards, news articles, food, and other expressions of friendship and caring are so appreciated. It is impossible for me to list everyone who has touched our lives and shared our sorrow.

Please accept our thanks and know that we treasure your love and friendship.

BEVERLY HARKENRIDER
HERMISTON

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It is the policy of the Hermiston Herald to correct errors as soon as they are discovered. Incorrect information will be corrected on Page 2A. Errors committed on the Opinion page will be corrected on that page.

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