



Staff photo by Jessica Pollard

Umatilla County Fire District 1 responded to a shed that was fully engulfed after 10:30 a.m. Friday morning.

Fires burn shed, homes in Hermiston

HERMISTON HERALD

Smoke filled the sky on South Highway 395 Friday morning as Umatilla County Fire District 1 arrived to a structure fire on Cherry Avenue, near the Hermiston Veterans of Foreign Wars building.

According to Battalion Chief Ed Clark, a shed behind a home caught fire after 10:30 a.m. on Friday. He said by the time firefighters arrived, flames were shooting in the air.

The fire was put out within 10 minutes, but the shed was a complete loss. No one was injured in the fire, and the blaze did not spread to the nearby home.

Clark said the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Shortly before 1 p.m. Thursday, UCFD 1 was dispatched to a structure fire at 81232 Vetter Lane.

Battalion Chief Ed Clark said the residents had been burning garbage in the grass near the house before the

fire spread to the house and the surrounding field. Clark expects the building will be a total loss due to heavy smoke damage and shattered windows.

While burning is allowed on select days between Oct. 1 and May 31 in Umatilla County, Thursday was not a burn day.

A post on Facebook by UCFD indicated that Thursday's fire was the second in three days where an unattended burn pile had spread to a home.

OSP provides shot of suspect vehicle from fatal hit-and-run

HERMISTON HERALD

Oregon State Police have released a possible photo of the vehicle involved in a fatal hit-and-run crash in Hermiston in August.

The crash took place Aug. 31 about 2:30 a.m. on Highway 395 near Sherrell Chevrolet, killing Antonia Cobarubias, 41, of Hermiston as she was pushing a shopping cart. Left behind at the scene was a passenger-side mirror and a dark red bumper that appeared to belong to an Acura Integra from between 1994-2001.

On Thursday afternoon, OSP released two stills from a security camera that they believe show the vehicle in question in the parking lot of Rocket Mart, which is



Contributed photo by OSP

Oregon State Police pulled this still from a surveillance camera at Rocket Mart in Hermiston, which shows a possible suspect vehicle from a fatal hit-and-run on Aug. 31.

just north of the crash site.

They are requesting that anyone who can identify the vehicle or was in the area of Rocket Mart on Aug. 31 about 2:30 a.m. call Oregon State Police by dial-

ing *OSP (*677). They can reference case number SP19-313012.

The victim's family is offering a \$1,000 reward for information that leads to the driver's conviction.

Pedestrian killed in Stanfield crash identified

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

The pedestrian killed by a vehicle Saturday morning in Stanfield has been identified as Steven Adam Gallegos, 30, from Echo.

According to a news release from Stanfield Police Department, witness statements and evidence at the scene indicate Gallegos was walking southbound on

Highway 395 in Stanfield in the lane of travel near South Edwards Road at 12:58 a.m. when he struck by a vehicle also traveling southbound. He was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The vehicle was a 2002 Chrysler Sebring operated by Gregory Ayling, 44, from Granger, Washington. He and his children, who were passengers, were not injured. Stanfield

police chief Byron Zumwalt said Ayling immediately stopped and did what he could to render first aid, perform CPR and call 911.

He has been cooperative with police, according to a news release, and there is no indication that drugs or alcohol were a factor.

The southbound lanes of Highway 395 were closed for about three hours for an investigation.

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