

It's not a normal burning season

The current warm, dry weather across Central Oregon comes on the heels of an abnormally dry winter. As a result, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) advises landowners to follow safe burning practices as they dispose of woody material, whether it is an industrial forest burn or backyard burn.

"Forest fuels are uncharacteristically dry for this time of year," said Protection Unit Forester Kristin Dodd. "They are well ahead of this time during most years and as a result, a burn that escapes control can spread rapidly. We are still allowing burning but we need the public's help to accomplish their burning goals successfully, without escape."

It is a good time to perform spring cleaning around the home and reduce the excess vegetation that could pose a wildfire threat later on in the summer — just follow these fire safety tips to prevent a wildfire:

- Seek alternatives to burning yard debris, such as chipping or hauling to a transfer site.
- If burning is your best option, call your local fire department or Oregon Department of Forestry office to see if a burning permit is required. Burning

regulations are not the same in all areas and can vary with the weather and fuel conditions. Follow all conditions of the burn permit.

- Have the appropriate equipment and water supply at the burn site based on what you are burning.
- Avoid burning during windy conditions.
- Scrape down to mineral soil around incinerators or debris piles.
- Divide large piles into smaller piles. Smaller piles burn quickly and efficiently and are easier to control.
- Stay with the fire until it is completely out. Remember, unattended piles can spread quickly out of control. If your debris burn escapes control, call 911 immediately.

Check with the local fire department or ODF office right before burning, as conditions can change quickly during the seasonal transition.

"If conditions continue ahead of schedule, we may shut burning down sooner than normal," Dodd noted.

Sisters Library calls for artists

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Sisters Country artists are invited to submit up to three pieces of their work for the Friends of the Sisters Library (FOSL) April exhibit in connection with the 12th annual Deschutes County Library Novel Idea program. Submission day is Tuesday, March 31, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Sisters Library.

This year's literary selection is "A Tale for the Time Being," by Ruth Ozeki, who is also a Zen Buddhist priest. In the words of the author, "There are so many wonderful stories about communities that form in the wake of disasters and catastrophes... I can't say that the idea for the novel came entirely from the earthquake and tsunami (Japan, March 11 2011). Half of it did.

"'A Tale for the Time Being' is a story about a writer and her reader, and it's told in two parts. The writer is a Japanese schoolgirl named Nao, who is trying to record the life story of her 104-year-old great-grandmother in the pages of her

diary. Nao is getting bullied at school, and she's decided that making this record of her great-grandmother's life as an anarchist, feminist Zen nun will be the last thing she does before she commits suicide."

The diary winds up on the shores of British Columbia, probably carried there by the ocean currents, and is accidentally discovered by a novelist — named Ruth Ozeki.

Copies of the book are available at the Sisters Library. For a description of the book visit www.deschuteslibrary.org. For additional information on the novel and all the activities planned during April, stop by the Sisters Library and pick up the reader's guide.

The FOSL art committee encourages artists to submit work that represents their own interpretation of themes in the novel such as:

Zen Buddhism, tsunamis, origami, British Columbia, Hello Kitty, pop Japanese culture, sushi, or kamikaze. These are only suggestions and artists may choose any themes they glean from reading the book.

The artwork must be able to be wall-hung (with wire hangers already attached) or displayed on tabletops as no display cases will be available. All artwork must be identified either on the back or the front with the name of the exhibitor and the title of the artwork. The artists may determine whether or not their work is for sale. The pick-up day for art will be Thursday, April 30, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the library.

Artists may contact Linda Davis with questions, or for more information, at 541-549-1222 or tomlin@bendcable.com.

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