

FIRES: Human-caused blazes are a threat in Central Oregon

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caused,” said State Fire Marshal Jim Walker. “This demonstrates that all of us need to take responsibility for protecting ourselves and our neighbors by preventing wildfires in these extreme conditions.”

In the past month, Central Oregon has had numerous human-caused fires. Now, Oregon State Police along with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry and Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office believe that several of those fires were intentionally started. Specific details will not be released while investigations are ongoing.

While an investigation by all cooperating agencies is in progress, the agencies urge the public to report suspicious activity on public lands by calling the Oregon State Police at 503-375-3555 or if it is an emergency, call 9-1-1.

Central Oregon is currently in the peak of its fire season, and the fire danger level is extreme with very dry fuels and continued hot and dry weather in the forecast. The public is reminded that every wildfire puts our firefighters, visitors, residents and properties in danger.

In addition to the arson fires, firefighters have responded to numerous abandoned or escaped campfires. Campfires should never be left unattended and should be cold to the touch whenever they are left. Properly dispose of cigarette butts, park only in areas clear of vegetation, and in general use caution while working and recreating.

HIKERS: Women were treated and escorted to the trail head

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cell phones were nearly out of power. Prior to calling for help, they had flagged down a passerby on the summit who provided them with a small amount of water.

Tanton and Chenoweth were now alone on the summit with no one around to potentially assist them.

Five DCSOSAR Volunteers, comprised of medical and mountain rescue personnel, responded to the Devil’s Lake Trailhead and ascended the trail on foot through the night, making contact with the two women at about 11 p.m. Tanton and Chenoweth were both treated at the summit and guided down the mountain by the DCSOSAR Team. The DCSOSAR team and

female hikers arrived back at Devil’s Trailhead at about 6 a.m., where Tanton’s mother was waiting to further assist Tanton and Chenoweth, who did not require any further medical attention.

The Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office reminds those who recreate outdoors to prepare for the activity. Some considerations include proper clothing for day and night conditions in your environment, as well as footwear. Ensure you have adequate water and food, topographical trail maps, extra batteries or charging options for phones or GPS units. Bring a light source and a signaling device. Seek out information regarding the area and what may be encountered, such as current and projected weather conditions as well as terrain in the area. Tell someone where you are going, what you will be taking with you and when you plan to return.

Group sues over forest thinning plan in Oregon

BEND (AP) — An environmental group is suing the U.S. Forest Service over its plan to thin trees in an Oregon forest.

The Bulletin reports that the nonprofit League of Wilderness Defenders filed a lawsuit in federal court Monday arguing the Forest Service illegally avoided an environmental review of its thinning plan.

The agency in December 2015 approved the Walton

Lake Restoration Project, which calls for thinning, replanting and other work on about 176 acres near the lake in Ochoco National Forest.

According to the project, some of the conifer trees around the lake have a root disease that could cause the tree to fall, even though it might look healthy. The agency says the process has environmental benefits but could pose a safety risk to people.

LETTERS

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To the Editor:

It appears the progress to a roundabout on the west side of Sisters is progressing nicely, its location determined, its ability to handle truck traffic tested, and money allocated for art, etc.

What I am curious about is: how will this expenditure alleviate the weekend — and sometimes weekday — traffic gridlock east bound which seems to extend from Locust to Barclay and at times to Rail Way and beyond?

We should all expect that this project will move traffic smoothly and with no delays through Sisters. If not, why are we doing this?
Steve Madsen

To the Editor:

Ah, the perils of trying to interview someone in a crowded, noisy space! Jodi Schneider McNamee has faithfully covered the Country Fair and Art Show at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration for several years, and we appreciate her very much.

But chatting with Silent Auction Co-Chair Gayle Rodrigues in the happy and very noisy hum of the venue caused her to make a few misquotes we’d like to correct, as they have caused folks some confusion.

To clarify: Gayle has not chaired the Silent Auction for 11 years — it has been eight years, taking over from Lael Cooksley and Sandra McBride. Her husband, Fr. Ted Rodrigues, is not retiring in April 2017, but in January 2017, after serving the congregation for 11 years.
Gayle Rodrigues

To the Editor:

Thank you for the most interesting article on the Ikhwan and Ibn Saud (“*Ikhwan: Meet the new horde, same as the old horde,*” *The Nugget*, August 17, page 23).

It certainly added to my understanding of the region to know that the unending horrors committed by some groups have been happening for hundreds of years.

If they could only get their tribalism behind them — but that won’t be happening anytime soon, obviously. Education of women would help tremendously, which is, of course, why they oppress that option.

Saying “my understanding” of the area is a joke, actually. Does anybody understand that mentality? The brutality? The lack of compassion seems so contrary to basic humanity. I am speaking of a minority, of course, but what a vicious minority.

Suzi Bradley Sheward

To the Editor:

Thank you so much for giving the opportunity to the Swifts girls (UK basketball team) to attend this event (SPRD’s Hawaiian luau). It was truly the most memorable time and thoroughly enjoyed by all of the girls.

Anabelle enjoyed her whole experience in Sisters and Bend, enjoying the hospitality of all its residents and experiencing all of those things that are culturally different from the UK.

Alyson Yates

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