

# Appeal Tribune

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## Quiet wildfire season likely in state

### Rangeland could face threat if dry conditions persist

ZACH URNESS  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

It was a recipe for disaster. Last weekend, a thunderstorm arrived over Oregon on a boiling hot day and proceeded to rake the forest with hundreds of lightning strikes. It might have been the moment multiple large wildfires sparked and spread. Instead, the incident produced a handful of minor fires with little impact. "Fortunately," said Willamette National Forest deputy forest supervisor Holly Jewkes, "conditions are still rela-

tively wet." The incident illustrates why officials are projecting a second straight quiet wildfire season in Oregon. Even as wildfires roar across Utah, Arizona and Southern California, Oregon has remained free of large blazes despite high temperatures and storms like last Sunday's. "In wet years like this, we typically don't see major fires until late August, if at all," said Jessica Gardetto, spokeswoman for the National Interagency Fire Center. "The Northwest is just so wet, and there's still so much snow in the

mountains, that it's going to take a while to dry out and be fire-prone." But wet conditions don't mean Oregon is home free, especially in the state's rangeland. The same rainfall that saturated Western Oregon forests also allowed Eastern Oregon grasslands to grow a large amount of potential fuel, Gardetto said. "If we get prolonged hot and dry temperatures, that could spark some pretty large fires in the rangeland areas," Gardetto said. **See WILDFIRE, Page 3A**

### Acres burned in Oregon over the years

<b>2016:</b> 219,509 acres (human caused: 970 fires, 159,814 acres burned)	<b>2010:</b> 93,731
<b>2015:</b> 685,809 (human caused: 1,397 fires, 139,483 acres burned)	<b>2009:</b> 100,668
<b>2014:</b> 984,629	<b>2008:</b> 136,572
<b>2013:</b> 350,786	<b>2007:</b> 648,046
<b>2012:</b> 1,256,049	<b>2006:</b> 545,870
<b>2011:</b> 285,712	<b>2005:</b> 155,331
	<b>2004:</b> 30,018
	<b>2003:</b> 160,191
	<b>2002:</b> 1,010,952

## No injuries reported in Freres Lumber fire



Firefighters from multiple districts responded to a large structure fire in Building No. 4 at Freres Lumber Company, Lyons. ODOT closed Highway 226 near the entry point to the building.

### Blaze contained to facility's veneer storage area

JUSTIN MUCH  
STAYTON MAIL

A fire struck Freres Lumber Company's building #4 at its Lyons veneer plant June 26. Lyons Fire Chief Bob Johnson posted on Facebook that the fire would be contained and no injuries were sustained from the fire or efforts to combat it. On its Facebook page, Freres posted on June 27 that the fire was contained to the "Plant 4 veneer storage area and (was) not expected to spread to other facilities." The company indicated that the fire would continue to burn within the controlled environment. The post added:

"Displaced employees will be offered temporary positions at other plants. We are confident in our ability to keep our team employed. One of the main ideas being discussed is adding a relief shift to Plant 3, the plywood manufacturing plant in Mill City." The blaze prompted Oregon Department of Transportation to close Highway 226 in Lyons June 26 to ensure firefighters could arrive and get in a position to fight the fire. There have been no reports as yet to the cause of the fire or estimated damages. "We are especially grateful to the first responders," the Freres statement read. "There were many moments of heroism last night. It will

take time to thank everyone appropriately." Freres issued a statement expressing its gratitude for the salvo of local fire districts responding. In addition to Lyons Rural Fire Protection District, responses came from Gates Rural Fire Protection District, Stayton Fire District (including the Mehma station), Sublimity Fire District, Marion County Fire District No. 1, Turner Fire District, Jefferson First District, Scio Fire District, Albany Fire Department, Aumsville Rural Fire District, Silverton Fire District and Salem Fire Department. On June 27, in the late afternoon, the company posted that its workforce had "been working all-hands on deck toward extinguishing the fire."

## Marion County Fair will feature diverse music

### 80s rockers, country band bring their talents to town

BILL POEHLER  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Performances by Night Ranger and Diamond Rio highlight the Main Stage at this year's Marion County Fair, which returns Thursday through Sunday. Night Ranger, the multi-platinum '80s hard-rock band best known for its 1984 power ballad "Sister Christian," will play at 8:30 p.m. Friday. Diamond Rio, the multi-time Grammy-nominated country band that hit big in the 1990s with songs like "Meet In The Middle," will play at 8:30 p.m. Saturday. Admission to the concerts is included with admission to the fair, which is \$5 to \$9. Among the attractions at the fair are the 4H-FFA Barns, the All Alaskan Racing Pigs, pedal pushers (child pedaled tractor pullers), barnyard adventures, flyball dogs and a petting zoo. There also will be a rough stock rodeo at 6 p.m. July 8 including bull riding, barrel racing and saddle bronc riding. Admission is free with fair admission. On Friday and Saturday, there will be a series of live science demonstrations titled "STEAM." "Awesome Eclipse Adventures" (technology) will take place at 10:30 a.m., "Rootopia's Natural Paintbrush" (art) will take place at noon, "The Science of Sport" (mathematics) will be at 1:30 p.m., "Fizz Whizz" (chemistry) will be at 3 p.m. and "Build a Boat" (engineering) will conclude the series at 4:30 p.m.



Colorful carnival rides are seen on the first day of the Marion County Fair in 2015. The fair returns Thursday through Sunday.

## Popular swimming spot has reopened

ZACH URNESS  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

North Fork Park, a popular swimming spot on the Little North Santiam River, opened Saturday. The park's opening was delayed while work crews expanded and paved the parking lot. "North Fork Park is one of our most popular parks in the North Fork corridor and we're happy to be able to open it for the July 4

weekend with enhanced parking for parkgoers," Marion County parks coordinator Russ Dilley said. There is now a \$5 fee to park at North Fork — along with all the county parks in the North Fork corridor, including Bear Creek and Salmon Falls. Visitors will also find fees to park along North Fork Road. Visitors can purchase a \$30 annual parking passes from Marion County Public Works.



The popular swimming spot North Fork Park reopened Saturday.

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