

Local / Outdoor Rec

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Ladies golf, bridge scores

The Bridge scores for the Quail Ridge Ladies Day on October 5 are: Bridge Winners: 1st Dianne Ellingson; 2nd Glenda Cole; and 3rd Janice Smull. For the end of the season, Bridge Winners on October 12 are: 1st place Deni Smith; 2nd place Betty Combs; 3rd Place Kitty Nichols. 3rd 9- week winners are: 1st Betty Combs; 2nd Janice Smull; and 3rd Lavelle Raley. All year winners are: 1st-Janice Smull; 2nd Betty Comb; 3rd tie-Marlene Cross, Joan Colton; 4th-Judy Karstens; 5th-Kitty Nichols; 6th-Lavelle Raley; 7th-Dianne Ellingson; and Deni Smith.

LOC meeting in Huntington: 2017 solar eclipse

BY EILEEN DRIVER
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The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Region 8 Small Cities Support Network Meeting was held in Huntington on October 20 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall/Community Center.

The topic for this quarter’s meeting was the Solar Eclipse of 2017.

Jim Todd, OMSI Director of Space Science Exploration, was on hand to give a presentation on what we can expect in this area when the Eclipse comes to Oregon August 21, 2017.

“The population of Oregon is approximately three million people. We expect to have one million more people come to Oregon in the path of totality on the days leading up to the Eclipse,” Todd told the assembly. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime event and won’t happen again for 154 years.”

All the phases of the eclipse from beginning to end should last approximately four hours with the totality lasting in the

Baker County area for two minutes, nine seconds.

The best place to view the eclipse, taking into account the weather and longest totality time is the Lime / Huntington area, which should expect 15 to 20 thousand people.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management in partnership with ODOT, OPRD, OHA, OMD, Travel Oregon, and the Governor’s Office are coordinating plans and providing assistance to local jurisdictions for this event and analyzing the impact it will have on the state.

For more information on this contact Emergency Management Planners Erik Rau at erik.rau@state.or.us or Zachary Swick at zach.swick@state.or.us.

ODOT also announced the recipients for the 2017 Special City Allotment Grant for Region 5 as the following: Vale - B Street paving project, Seneca - Various city streets paving project, Echo -Theilson Street, John Day - US 395, Nyssa - 5th Street, Helix - various city streets paving projects.

Michael Barry of ODOT

encouraged every eligible city to continue to apply for the street grant every year as the more need there is for the grant the more money they hope will become available.

Each city was given 2-3 minutes to give an update on what’s happening in their city.

Kathleen Cathey, Field Representative from Senator Ron Wyden’s office, reported that the Senator is supporting the removal of marijuana as a Schedule I drug, the allowing of marijuana businesses to use banking services and the changing of the IRS codes so that marijuana businesses are allowed the same tax deductions given to all legal businesses in the US.

They are also making the support of rural communities a top priority.

Huntington City Recorder Tracy McCue reported that Huntington is in the final stages of property acquisition for the new sewer plant, making plans for the influx of people for the Eclipse and looking for other ways to increase revenue and create jobs for

their citizens.

Seneca City Recorder and Manager Josh Walker reported that their city was working on staying educated and getting smart on infrastructure and applying for a CBDG grant for a new sewer project.

They recently sold 15 acres that had been set aside for an industrial park to a logging company for post and pole products production. He also reported the acquisition of a new fire truck, which has prompted the need for a new fire station as the new fire truck is to big to fit through the doors of the current station.

LOC, Intergovernmental Relations Associate, Wendy Johnson reported that the next City Hall day will be January 8th. She encouraged cities who are planning to impose a marijuana sales tax to look into signing a tax collection agreement with the Oregon Department of the Treasury and to go over the proposed changes to the CBDG grant rules as soon as possible and forward comments any comments on the proposal before it is

set in stone.

Sumpter Planning Commission Member LeAnne Wolf reported that they are looking at the City’s comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances for any needed updates. They have been contacted about the potential for two retail marijuana outlets and three indoor grow operations.

Sumpter City Councillor Greg Lucas also reported that the new interim Mayor of Sumpter is Carey Clark.

They are celebrating the early snow and working on a possible Eclipse Train with the Sumpter valley Railroad.

Hines City Administrator Judy Irwin reported that they are working on their water master plan and the need for more storage.

They are currently in a “battle” with FEMA on the floodplain maps for their city. They also expect to have a marijuana grow operation opening their soon.

Present at the meeting were Michael Barry, ODOT Region 5 Liaison, Michael Swan, ODOT Circuit Safety Rider, Kathleen Cathey, Field Representative Senator Ron

Wyden’s Office, Mayor Chuck Guerri, City Recorder Tracy McCue, Deputy City Recorder Shellie Nash and Councillor Eileen Driver of Huntington, Councillor Greg Lucas, Councillor Samantha Rowan, City Recorder Julie McKinney and President of Planning LeAnne Wolf of Sumpter, City Manager Josh Walker of Seneca, City Administrator Judy Erwin of Hines, DEQ Liaison to the Regional Solutions Center Randy Jones, LOC Intergovernmental Relations Associate Wendy Johnson and OMSI Director of Space Science Exploration Jim Todd.

The next LOC Small Cities Meeting is planned as a combination Elected Essential and Regional meeting, and will be held on March 30, 2017 and is tentatively planned to be located in Ontario. The next regular Small Cities Support Meeting will be held in Hines on April 20, 2017 and the topic will be Annexation, Zoning and Emergency Management.

—ODFW WEEKLY RECREATION REPORT—

HUNTING—OPEN: COUGAR, BEAR, UPLAND BIRD, WATERFOWL, CONTROLLED ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK

BAKER COUNTY

Cougars can be found throughout Baker County but hunters should target areas with high concentrations of deer and elk. Setting up on a fresh kill or using distress calls can all be productive techniques. Hunters are required to check in the hide of any cougar taken, with skull and proof of sex attached.

Coyote numbers are good throughout the district. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Remember to ask for permission before hunting on private properties.

GRANT COUNTY

Elk and Deer –Fawn ratios were fair and buck ratios were near MO this year so hunting should be similar to last year. The Murderers Creek-Flagtail and Camp Creek TMA’s are in effect so hunter need to be aware that the green dot road closures are in effect. The Rail Creek Fire west of Unity is contained but area closure do to the fire may limit access for hunts in portions the West Beulah unit. Hunters are encouraged to check inciweb.nwcg.gov for updated fire information. The USFS is conducting some controlled burns throughout the forest so hunter should pay attention to signed areas where burns are planned and avoid those areas.

Cougar hunting remains open. Successful hunters should remember that check-in of the hide with skull and proof of sex attached is mandatory; see the regulations for details.

Coyote numbers are good in most of the district. Coyotes may respond to distress calls. Try calling in the early morning and late evening.

Bear population are doing well and archery hunters reported seeing bear frequently, so rifle deer hunters may want to purchase their fall bear tag before deer season. Fall bear tag sale dead line is Sept. 30.

MORROW, GILLIAM AND WHEELER COUNTIES

Cougar hunting is open. Cougar are well distributed in our forested areas. Calling with distress calls or cougar vocalizations can be effective. However, locating a fresh, naturally made kill has the best chance of success.

The Coyote population is healthy with good numbers of coyotes available for those who wish to pursue them. Watch wind direction to help prevent giving away your location. Calling with game distress calls can be very successful.

UMATILLA COUNTY

Cougar are well distributed in forested areas of the Walla Walla, Mt. Emily, and Ukiah units. Hunters will have best success by finding a fresh naturally made kill and sitting on it, or by using predator calls. Some success has come from following tracks until the cougar is located.

Coyote are numerous throughout the County and hunters should have good success calling. Remember to ask permission before hunting on private lands.

UNION COUNTY

Rifle Elk hunters can expect to find good numbers of animals in all Union County units. Spike hunters will find yearling bulls with cows in herds. Bull hunters should focus efforts on areas of steep terrain and heavy cover adjacent to water and feed. Older bulls often seek solitude to recover from the rut.

Forest Grouse should be plentiful this season. Look for ruffs in moist canyon bottoms choked with Alder and Hawthorn trees. Blues can be found above 5000 feet elevation on ridge tops.

Fall turkey season continues for those hunters who already have a tag; tags for 2 Eastern Oregon hunts have sold out. Birds are plentiful everywhere in Union County. Hunt around water sources and in areas with wild fruit trees.

Black bears will be focused on fruit and berries in the early fall. Look for bears in riparian areas with Hawthorn trees or on slopes with Huckle or elder berries. Hunters should concentrate hunting during the early morning and evening hours. All bears taken must be checked in within 10 days of harvest; call for an appointment before check in. Season closes Nov. 30.

Cougars are common in Union County. Focus on game rich areas with long ridgelines or saddles that cats typically travel. Setting up downwind of a deer or elk killed by a cougar can be productive. Nonresident hunters can include a cougar tag with others tags for only \$14.50. All cougars taken must be checked in within

10 days of harvest; call for an appointment before check in.

Coyote numbers are high throughout the district. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Remember to ask for permission before hunting on private properties.

LADD MARSH

This summer, Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area has experienced dry and windy conditions resulting in significant water loss. ODFW would like to make sure hunters have the most current information of these condition before planning their hunt.

With the recent storms and available irrigation water, 2 or three additional wetlands have huntable water as well as the original four wetlands that have water left in them from the summer. Water is still very limited. There are ducks using the area, but with limited water, pressure will push waterfowl off the area quickly. Waterfowl does key in on the grain food plots around the wildlife area. These areas can be productive hunting spots.

Glass Hill is open for Big game hunting. Elk, Mule Deer, and Whitetail deer utilize this area year around. Whitetail are usually found on the lower elevation portion amongst the thick shrub vegetation while Mule deer and elk inhabit primarily the upper timber habitat.

The Ladd Marsh Whitetail deer population have suffered from blue tongue disease in the last few years the same as the rest of Union County.

Mule deer and elk populations are still holding solid on Glass Hill. Increased pressure usually moves these animals onto private property early but they may return later in the seasons.

Slow stalking or stand hunting should be effective on Glass Hill.

WALLOWA COUNTY

Elk: First bull elk season starts Oct. 26 and hunters can expect good success as elk numbers are generally above management objective. Further, some rain has fallen recently and fall green-up is underway, which provides improved feed conditions and allows the elk to spread out across the landscape more.

Deer: Antlerless deer hunts in agricultural areas ended on Oct. 23. Antlerless hunters experienced good success, particularly if hunting for white-tailed deer.

Forest Grouse: Forest grouse

in Wallowa County did not fare as well as grouse in other parts of the state this year because cold, wet weather in June when the eggs were hatching caused high chick mortality early on. Some ruffed grouse can still be found in draw bottoms with dense brush. Blue grouse are found higher on the slopes and on ridgetops near the edge of timber stands.

Black Bear: Bear hunting has been good early in the morning

and late in the evening in draw bottoms and along streams where bears are feeding on hawthorn, service berry, elder berries, and other fruits. However, many bears will be going into their dens in the next few weeks as the weather cools and we start getting some snow. Season closes Nov. 30.

Cougar: Populations are moderate throughout Wallowa County. Most lions are taken incidental to other hunting; however, calling

with fawn bleat, or locating a cougar kill and waiting for a cat to return are often successful techniques.

Coyote: Good numbers of coyotes can be found throughout Wallowa County. Calling coyotes with rabbit distress type calls has been effective for hunters. It is important to choose areas with abundant coyote sign and little human activity.

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