

# Fire Updates

The Canyon Creek Complex south of John Day and Canyon City is currently estimated at 48,201 acres. It is the number one priority nationally for resources. Additional firefighting resources continue to arrive from around the state and country. Approximately 561 firefighters are currently assigned to this incident, with additional personnel expected to arrive Wednesday, Aug. 19. Total personnel is 826. The fire began Wednesday, Aug. 12 as the result of lightning strikes.

**Eagle Complex Situation as of Tuesday night, Aug. 18:** Despite a slight increase in wind speed and temperature, there was minimal growth on the Eagle Complex Tuesday. Crews were able to make significant progress improving structure protection efforts. Additionally, firefighters were able to use both hand and aerial ignition to reduce unburned fuels on the southern portion of the fire. Aviation resources aided firefighters with both the aerial ignition efforts as well as providing water to assist firefighters on the ground to keep the fire from establishing into the East Fork Eagle Creek drainage. There was no movement of the fire in the Bradley Creek area Tuesday. Wednesday, crews will continue much of the same work with the priorities of firefighter and public safety and providing structure protection. Crews continue to look for opportunities to contain the Eagle Complex where feasible to do so safely. Wednesday's weather is expected to be warmer and drier with a slight increase in wind speed as a cold front moves into the area on Thursday.

Personnel: 204  
Size: 2,518 acres

The Cornet-Windy Ridge Fire is generally located west of Durkee, south of Baker City, and north of Hereford be-



tween Highways 84 and 7. It is burning in grass, brush, and timber. It started Monday, Aug. 10 and was caused by lightning. As of Tuesday night the fire is 103,540 acres and 45 percent contained.

Tuesday, fire crews had another successful day. There are still three active areas on the perimeter of the Cornet-Windy Ridge Fires. On the west side of the fire in the Denny Creek area, hose-lines are in place and crews continued to mop up the existing line. On the north side of the fire in the Sutton Creek

area, crews are refining a plan to secure an unburned island of fuels to prepare for higher winds expected later this week. On the east side of the fire between Burnt River Canyon Road and Woods Gulch Road, crews continued to monitor the fire as it backed down off the tops of the ridges. Eight teams worked in Stices Gulch as well as along the Route 245 corridor removing damaged and fallen trees.

The El Dorado Fire was reported Aug. 14, 2015. The

cause is unknown. It's located 5 miles south of Unity. There are 348 personnel and the acreage is 20,601 and it is 34 percent contained.

Tuesday morning a fire in the Morgan Creek Area along

the Snake River near Huntington was reported and Morgan Creek was placed under a Level 1 evacuation. By evening, the fire was considered contained at 108 acres but was continued to be watched through the night.



Submitted photo  
Lance Dixon, Terry Kerby, Randy Newman, Rick Wallace, Gerald Loennig

\$10,000 was awarded by Wild Horse and the Leo Adler Foundation.

Seth Bingham who is the new Ag teacher at North Powder was unable to be present but said he sincerely appreciates the overwhelming gen-

erosity of Ash Grove.

Bingham praised the efforts of retired Ag instructor, Randy Newman, who initially conceived of the idea for a new shop. Newman retired last spring.

Lance Dixon, Superintendent stated that he and Bingham have been working to complete CTE grants, which if successful, could provide a source for a considerable amount of the remaining funds needed.

"It's definitely a competitive process and a lot of programs will be submitting applications," said Bingham.

Bingham said he is very happy to be back at North Powder and is excited to lead the program. He wants to make sure all kids have the opportunity to experience the different aspects of the Ag program.

"Whether it's leadership, livestock, or mechanics," I want to make that opportunity available for students.

Gerald Loennig, a Quarry Cat Operator at Ash Grove and North Powder Charter School parent, is very supportive of the project saying he plans on donating funds, as well. Loennig's sons who have both graduated were part of the Ag program. His son, Lane, who graduated this spring and is now serving in the Navy, was part of the 2015 State Championship Ag Mechanics Team.



## Welcome BABY

A baby boy, **Hudson Ryan Charles Wilbur**, was born to Kyana Chaves and Jacob Wilbur on Aug. 16 at 1:13 a.m. at Saint Alphonsus Hospital in Baker City. Grandparents are Ryan and Kaylin Chaves and Charles and Irene Wilbur.

## North Powder News

Linda Dixon

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Everyday life here for the last couple of weeks have been focused on the surrounding fires.

It is all consuming for everyone as it involves our friends, family, and community. We all appreciate the efforts of the fire fighters, communities helping others, and I am sure we will never hear all the stories. The efforts have been tireless and exhausting. Thank you to everyone for everything they are doing. Thank you firefighters and pray all stay safe.

### Library news

This week is a busy one for the library. Friday night is free movie night for the community. It will be held the usual place on the lawn across from the post office. Concessions will be popcorn and drink for \$1. Bring your blanket, bug spray, lawn chair whatever and come enjoy the movie. It will of course start at dark.

Saturday is the last day of the summer reading program. It has been a fun summer and we had 39 kids signed up. The coloring contest was judged last week by our library board. Winners will be announced on Saturday.

Saturday from 11-2 p.m., there will be awards for the summer reading program, pizza, refreshments and some fun things going on. So if you signed up for the reading program and turned in your reading cards to Teresa come join us.

We have had lots of new books donated, new DVD's coming in and lots of interest in the pictures of North Powder and surrounding area. It is fun having folks come in and ask about the ice plant and we are able to hand the an album with pictures and stories. Lots of families coming through saying "oh my parents, or grandparents lived here." So they visit the cemetery and stop in the library. Glad we have the history items.

### Lots Happening at School

North Powder High School received a \$15,000 check from Ash Grove Cement Plant toward the proposed building of a new AG shop. Randy Newman has retired but spearheaded the idea for the shop. Seth Bingham is the new AG teacher.

More materials have arrived for the new play ground area. Football practice and camps all started this week. We see kids walking

up and down the streets throwing footballs and bouncing basketballs.

All in all it has been a quiet week in North Powder. Kinda of like the lull before the storm. I am sure when school starts it will be busy busy.

### CJ Country Store Doing Well

CJ Country store seems to be doing well. I know some say it is hard not calling it Evan's Corner but like any change it will take a little time to get used to it. Stop in and say hi and get one of the famous 50 cent ice cream cones.

### Birthdays, This and That

Jack Campbell and Suzie Michaels celebrated birthdays this week. Dusty and Nancy Simonis attended the wedding of their son. We have new neighbors on F street but haven't gotten their names yet. Several attended the Cherry Festival in Cove. Jill and Curtis Pedro are moving to their new home in La Grande. We will miss that little family. Blessings in your new home and career.

Carol Bouchard entertained guests Marshall and Cora from Mesa Ariz.

Debra Bailey's folks are here visiting and she spent the last week with her son hiking and having a fun time.

Watch the heat as we have had a couple collapse from heat exhaustion. Stay hydrated.

This week is food bank and Fresh Alliance is Thursday afternoon 2-4 Pm

Lunch Bunch is Friday at noon.

Red Hats will be going to the Oregon Trail Restaurant in Baker City Sept. 8 at 1pm.

If you or family are from North Powder and served in the military (any branch) I am collecting Names of any that have served, serving or home. Call me at library or email me.

Anyone who knows the Bingham family knows that Little Gage is having a really hard time. So don't forget to pray for the whole family. They need our prayers. Those of us with good health need to be really thankful and pray for those who need a healing touch.

You have a great week, stay safe, hug your kids and pray for all the firefighters, and victims of the fire.

## Ash Grove Cements Donates \$15,000 to North Powder Ag Shop Project

On Thursday, Aug. 13, Terry Kerby, plant manager of Ash Grove Cement presented a \$15,000 check to North Powder Charter School for their proposed new Ag Shop.

In addition to the \$15,000 donated by Ash Grove, another

## BAKER OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

August 22 - 23

Tee times Saturday starting at 9 a.m.  
Sunday 8 a.m. shotgun start

Dinner & Auction Saturday night  
at Quail Ridge Golf Course  
Dinner 6 p.m. • Auction to follow

36 Hole Stroke Play - Maximum handicap 36  
Sole Survivor : Sunday 1:30 p.m.

All cash payouts

Flighted Gross & Net

Visit us at  
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