Staff photo

It isn't so easy being leader of the pack, especially when the ducks behind you are more interested in taking a quick bath than traveling at any great speed. These feathered friends were taking a cruise down the Sandy River.

BLM ups state funds

The Bureau of Land Management has sent the state a $268,628 check for mineral leasing activities on public land.

The check covers a six-month leasing period which began March 31.

Overall, BLM distributed $168 million to 23 states, an increase of $17 million over last year.

The payments to Oregon may increase with the growing activity in oil, gas and geothermal exploration in the northwest, according to BLM sources.

Nakunz enlists in Air Force

A Sandy woman has joined the U.S. Air Force Delayed Enlistment Program.

Zoe M. Nakunz enlisted in the DEP June 15. She is scheduled for enlistment into the regular Air Force April 6, 1982.

She is the daughter of Robert and Murlean Nakunz of Sandy.

Nakunz is a 1979 graduate of Sandy Union High School. After completing her six-week Air Force basic training course, she will receive further training in the field of electronics.

Dodsons welcome first child

Dirk and Tammy Dodson of Boring welcomed the birth of their first child.

Mandy Marie was born June 18. She weighed 7 pounds, 4½ ounces at birth.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Dodson of Sandy and Mr. and Mrs. James Moore of Gresham.

Forest Service eyes plant management

The U.S. Forest Service has established guidelines for future methods of managing competing vegetation.

There were seven alternatives under study and regional forester R.E. Worthington chose one that calls for the use of a variety of methods, but with an expected reduction in use of chemicals.

"Where chemicals are considered for use, they will be critically examined for possible effects on adjacent land, streams and water systems, and nearness to people and communities," Worthington said.

All methods of vegetation management are analyzed in such a manner, he added, noting that herbicides are just one tool used to accomplish resource management objectives. Other methods discussed in the final environmental impact statement were manual, mechanical, biological, thermal and chemical.

The statement does not go into specifics on what methods will be used in the future, however. National forest supervisors will be responsible for making an environmental analysis for each individual case and selecting an appropriate method.

Analyses of most vegetation management projects are a continuation of those already prepared for other work, such as preparation of a timber sale or a range allotment management plan.

Purposes of vegetation management are to re-establish trees on harvested, burned or brush-covered lands; maintain desirable stocking levels for optimum production; re-establish forage resources on range or forest range lands; shift species composition of plant communities to maintain or improve habitat for designated wildlife species; promote public safety by removing hazards on rights-of-way, roads and trails by eliminating noxious weeds; increase efficiency by controlling wildfire; and maintain facilities and capital improvements.

Worthington said that the alternative selected best meets all the evaluation criteria, with due consideration to public comment, public health and safety, environmental protection, cost effectiveness, employment opportunities and accomplishment of Forest Service goals.

Copies of the final statement are available at Forest Service offices.

Smoke detectors vital in protecting homes

Protecting a home against fire can be simple, with the elimination of hazards, the installation and maintenance of smoke detectors and the implementation of a family escape plan.

Fire breaks out every 45 seconds in homes across the United States, according to Bill Tadlock of the Insurance Information Institute. Property damage runs in the billions and close to 7,500 lives are lost each year.

Prevention is the first step in safety. Trash should be kept in covered containers and disposed regularly. Paints, paint thinners and other flammable material should be stored in their original containers and away from fire sources. Cleanup should follow all do-it-yourself projects.

Don't overload circuits or used frayed electrical extension cords. Wiring should be checked by a good electrician periodically to make sure it isn't faulty.

Use only fuses and circuit breakers bearing the named of a recognized testing laboratory.

Smoke detector batteries should be checked often to make sure the unit is operational. Every home should have at least one smoke detector in the hallway leading to the bedrooms.

Additional smoke detectors should be considered, especially if the home has more than one level. The alarms may give families precious extra minutes to escape, especially if the fire is at night.

A family escape plan should sketch the layout of each floor, including windows, doors and stairs. Every family member should be familiar with the layout. There should be two escape routes from each room and they should be clearly marked on the sketch.

Frequent fire drills, including some at night, should be held so that everyone will know what to do in an emergency. A family member should be assigned to help the elderly or very young escape.

A meeting place outside the home should be designated so that everyone can meet there at once in case of fire. Count heads, stay together and don't return to the house.

MHCC plans tours around Northwest

The college center staff at Mt. Hood Community College has planned a series of summer tours as part of its yearly group of activities for students and residents in the MHCC area.

Several of the trips have limited space because of transportation. Most require a deposit.

The trips are: June 27-28, Lower Deschutes River Rafting, $125; July 10, Fort Vancouver, Wash., $2.50; July 11, Larch Mountain hike, $3; July 15-19, Ashland Shakespearean Festival, cost varies; July 17-19, Upper Deschutes River Rafting, $140; July 25, Cannon Beach and Coaster Theater, $20; July 30 to Aug. 2, Victoria, B.C., $125; Aug. 8, Portland tour, $4; Aug. 13-16, Vancouver, B.C., $100; and Aug. 22, Cottage Grove and Steam Engine train trip, $20.

For more information about the summer tours, contact the college center at 667-7260.

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