

Through the eyes of wildland firefighters

Photograph exhibit provides rare views

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PENDLETON — The members of the Grande Ronde Rappellers get dropped into some of the most remote and beautiful areas of the Northwest and beyond, and in October their unique viewpoint will be on exhibit in the East Oregonian Gallery at the Pendleton Center for the Arts.

The exhibit, "Initial Attack: Photographs by Wildland Firefighters," opens Thursday, Oct. 7, with a Zoom reception with the photographers, and the show will be available for viewing in the gallery through Oct. 31. To receive a link to the Oct. 7 Zoom session, sign up at [\[tonarts.org\]\(http://tonarts.org\) or email a request to \[director4@pendletonarts.org\]\(mailto:director4@pendletonarts.org\).](http://www.pendle-</p>
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All activities are free and open to the public, thanks to the support of Hines Meat Co.

The Grande Ronde Rappellers is a 40-person crew of highly trained aerially delivered firefighters sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service's Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and based in La Grande. Members are trained at the National Rappel Academy, a performance-based program that demands a high level of physical and mental toughness of candidates.

These men and women see landscapes that are often inaccessible, providing them with views rarely experienced. The



Gabby Casper/Contributed photo

A new exhibit titled "Initial Attack: Photographs by Wildland Firefighters" opens Thursday, Oct. 7, at Pendleton Center for the Arts. The photographs will be on display through Oct. 31.

26 large-scale photographs featured in the exhibit were captured by Tully Bloom, Gabby Casper, Guy Hakanson, Micah Olivera, Jordin Schramm and Adam Wunsch.

Roberta Lavadour, executive director of the Pendleton Center for the Arts, said most of the firefighters wouldn't identify themselves as artists, and the images benefit from a lack of self-consciousness.

"When someone is taking a photograph simply because they're struck by the beauty of what they see, it really translates to the viewer," she said. "We're happy to also be able to use this opportunity to celebrate the amazing work that initial attack crews do."

The exhibit will also be available online beginning Oct. 1 so that those attending the virtual reception may view the photo-

graphs before the event.

Learn more at www.pendletonarts.org or call 541-310-7413.



Gabby Casper/Contributed photo

"Initial Attack: Photographs by Wildland Firefighters" can be viewed at the Pendleton Center for the Arts and also at www.pendletonarts.org.

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