

GET READY FOR ECLIPSE VIEWING



Courtesy photos

The staff at Wallowology! Natural History Discovery Center in Joseph conduct a test of the new eclipse glasses available free to the public while supplies last. The glasses (shown at left) or something similar, are a requirement for safely viewing the total solar eclipse Aug. 17. Staffers include, from left, Judy Goodman, Joan Gilbert, James Monteith, David Mildrexler, DJ Lincoln and Kathy Bowman.

Marr Pond fish limits removed

Fish away at Marr Pond before an equipment malfunction requires it be drained. Fishery managers have lifted the bag limit due to a malfunction of the pond's standpipe last week. Size and harvest method restrictions are also lifted so anglers can take any size fish with a rod, a net or by hand. The standpipe maintains the water level and the pond may drain entirely due to the malfunction. Repair of the standpipe would also require it to be drained. "We'd appreciate anglers salvaging any fish before the pond drains," said Jeff Yanke, ODFW District Fish Biologist. "Marr Pond was just stocked

News in BRIEF

last week with 500 rainbow trout, so fishing should be good." Normally, the bag limit for trout at Marr Pond is five per day with an eight-inch minimum length and only one trout longer than 20 inches can be taken per day. Fishery managers will be assessing how to fix the standpipe and restore the water level at Marr Pond.

Clean-up day set at fairgrounds

With the Wallowa County Fair quickly approaching,

organizers of the event have scheduled a clean-up at the fairgrounds in Enterprise 5 p.m. Aug. 3. People who are volunteering are reminded to wear old clothes and bring friends. The fair opens Aug. 5. **Wallowa floats charter idea** Wallowa School Board will host an informational session on the idea of formation of a charter school 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4 in the Beth Johnson Room. Steve Kelly from the Oregon School Boards Association will be on hand to answer questions and provide information. The district has been gathering details on the plan, which

would be similar to a move the Joseph School District completed in 2011. Generally, charter schools are subject to less stringent state regulations. They are oriented toward more parent and community involvement in education, an opportunity for more flexibility and innovation in small learning environments and more professional development for teachers. There are 123 charter schools in Oregon, according to the Oregon League of Charter Schools, a number of which encompass an entire school district, including Cove and Joseph. According to the meeting agenda, a time will be set aside to receive input on the topic from the community.

Dry conditions prompt more fire warnings

Most of Wallowa County has not had significant moisture in July. With hot and dry conditions, the danger of wildfires increases. U.S. Forest Service officials have stepped up anti-fire measure n the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests due to the potential for human-caused fires and concern for public safety. The increased restrictions pertain to the use of campfires, smoking, chainsaws, internal combustion engines and generators. Campfires will only be allowed in designated campgrounds and recreation sites. Liquefied or bottled gas stoves and heaters are allowed for cooking and heating. A list of designated recreation sites is available on the agency's websites. Operating an internal combustion engine, such as a chainsaw, is prohibited. Generators will only be allowed in the center of an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is cleared of all flammable material or when fully contained within a pickup truck bed that is devoid of all flammable material. Generators factory installed in a recreational vehicle where the generator exhaust discharge is located in the center of an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is cleared of all flammable material are permitted. Smoking is only allowed within enclosed vehicles, buildings and developed recreation sites or when stopped in an area cleared of all flammable material. Travel restrictions prohibit motor vehicles traveling off designated Forest roads and trails, except for the purposes of going to or from campsites located within 300 feet of an open road. Motorized travel on segments of road where access is blocked by gate, barricade, log, boulder or earthen berm is also prohibited.

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In May 2017, photographers Boyd Norton, Jason Yale, Amy Gulick, Terry Donnelly, Rick McEwan, Kendrick Moholt and poet Cameron Scott rafted the flood waters of the Snake River though Hells Canyon.

The art collected is in celebration of preserving this wild place.

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