

Fire Season Officially Starts

Oregon Department of Forestry

SALEM, Ore — Fire season is now officially in effect on all Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) protected lands. The announcement comes after the ODF Northwest Oregon and North Cascade protection districts declared fire season July 1, 2019. ODF's Southwest Oregon District was the first to declare fire season June 1.

ODF protects over 16 million acres of private, county, state and federal land. Fire season is declared at the local district level, with restrictions intended to help prevent human-caused wildfires. Declarations are based on the National Fire Danger Rating System as well as other local factors, such as weather and conditions on the ground. Fire season generally runs through October and ends based on local conditions.

For residents within ODF's 12 fire protection districts, the arrival of fire season means the end of unregulated outdoor debris burning, a leading cause of wildfire. While permits to burn may be issued in some areas, debris burning is generally prohibited throughout the summer due to increased wildfire risk. Violators burning without a permit will be cited

and held liable for fire suppression costs.

Other public use fire restrictions are also in effect in several areas. The use of fireworks, tracer ammunition and exploding targets are illegal within ODF protection boundaries, as well as other state and federal lands. Campfires, the mowing of dry, cured grass, cutting and welding, power saw use and other spark-emitting activities are regulated at the local level, depending upon the conditions and fire danger. For example, during low fire danger, mowing may be allowed all day. However, during moderate, high and extreme fire danger mowing may be restricted to early morning or prohibited until conditions improve.

ODF encourages the public to stay informed of current fire restrictions by visiting the agency's Fire Restrictions & Closures website or calling their local ODF or protective association office.

Forest operators are required to follow fire season requirements, including providing a water supply, fire tools, spark arresters on equipment, and fire watch. Similar to fire danger restrictions for the public, operators must follow rules under the four-tiered Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) system.

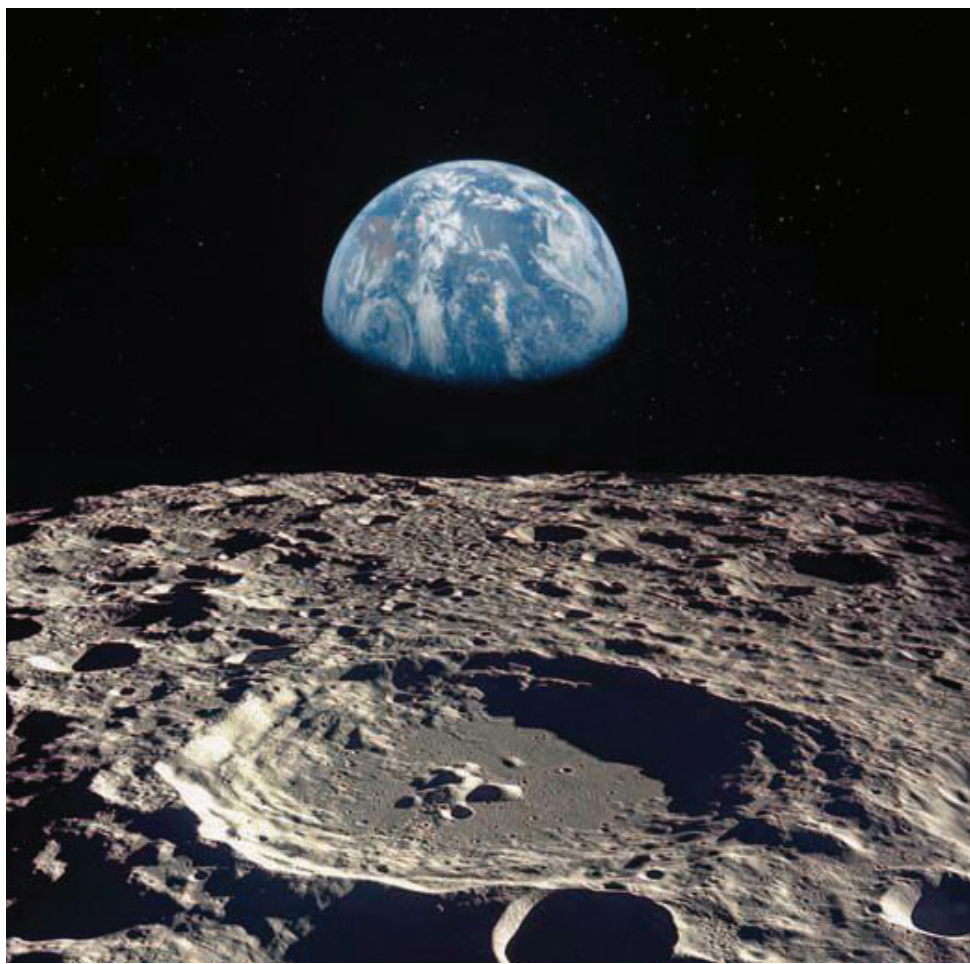
Remembering one giant leap to the moon this month

By JENNIFER COLTON
For EO Media Group

This month marks 50 years since Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin took a giant leap for mankind after landing on the moon on July 20, 1969. Millions of families huddled around black-and-white TVs, watching the Saturn V rocket launch and staring wide-eyed as Armstrong took his one small step onto the surface of the moon. Fifty years later, our children are several generations removed from those who watched the lunar landing in real time, so commemorating the event is not only about fun – it's about learning how important the space race was in its time.

To celebrate at home, start that discussion. If an older family member remembers the landing, ask them to describe the experience. Maybe you can't pinpoint the Apollo landing sites, but use a telescope to study the moon close-up. Experiment with making impact craters and compare those to the ones on the lunar surface.

On NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab web site you'll find a history of the space program, as well as space-themed activities you can do with your kids. There's everything from making a cardboard, rubber-band-powered lunar rover to tracking the phases of the moon (www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu). For older children and teens, experiment with photography and capturing the best image of the moon or go on a research



Elen11/East Oregonian

Earth rises above lunar horizon. Elements of this image furnished by NASA.

scavenger hunt to discover just how much of our modern technology got a jump start during the space race.

However you choose to commemorate the anniversary, the most important part is making sure you have the conversation. Those interviewed for this story consistently said youngsters today don't understand how important it was.

"It was huge," says Ann Madigan, a former teacher and librarian. "I was thrilled at the time. I

thought it was wonderful, and I think people need to talk to kids about it. It was important and it only happened because there was a lot of effort made. We did it because it was hard and it was worth doing."

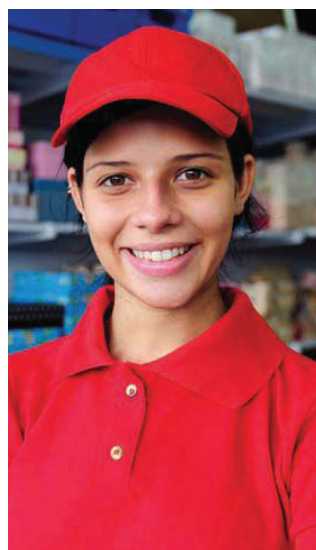
Many who remember watching the moon landing in 1969 worry that advances in technology – some of which grew out of the space race – have made the event seem less real. But that technology also enables your family to re-live the event. An online

search for "Apollo 11 anniversary" will lead you to many video compilations, from interviews with the astronauts to aerial photos of the landing site on the moon.

At 1 p.m. on Friday, July 19, NASA will present "Giant Leaps: Past and Future," an opportunity to learn about space exploration with interviews, videos, and tours – including plans to return to the moon by 2024. You can find details and the live stream at www.nasa.gov/nasa-live.

Tips on prepping your teenagers for their first job in the workplace

By Suzanne Kennedy
For EO Media Group



mangostock/East Oregonian

Do you remember your first job? I don't mean babysitting or lawn mowing; I mean the first one with a real paycheck and a W-9 form and everything. I remember mine. I was really nervous, but so proud to bring home my first real paycheck. I was in heaven.

The legal age to start working in Oregon is 14. That seems young to me, but it didn't stop my daughter from getting her first summer job.

Preparing a person to enter the workforce starts when they are young. Parents who give their children age-appropriate responsibilities and chores are giving them a head start on future job success. The other thing to consider is not to tie privileges to age, but to maturity and dependability. For example, instead of telling them they can stay home alone when they are ten, you say that they can stay home alone when they are responsible and make safe choices. Finally, help them

understand that work comes before play. Homework and chores must be done before playing with friends, just like working at a job will take priority over hanging out with friends.

You can tell that your teen is ready for a job when they can listen and follow directions, and then stay on task until the job is completed. Do they complete jobs in a timely manner? Does your teen perform quality work or just go fast to get the job done? This last item can be taught with chores. I have one friend who has her kids do the same chore for weeks until they do it thoroughly and correctly each time, like dishes or laundry. In my house, we switch out every week, but they are called back to complete or redo chores not done correctly the first time.

When your teen is old enough and ready to get a job, the next step is to decide where to apply. You might think about logistics. Is there someplace close enough for your child to walk to or ride her bike? Perhaps it is appropriate for them to start where Mom or Dad works. Is there a business nearby whose focus interests them? If your daughter wants to be a vet when she grows up, look at getting a job at a vet's office or with a groomer. If they are athletic and love the outdoors, have them check with the parks and recreation department to see if something might be available. Ask your son to think about his personality. Jobs that are active and involve

lots of personal interaction are great for extroverts. An office job might be perfect for someone who is a bit on the shy side. If they end up not finding what they think is the best job ever, don't worry. It'll make them stretch and build character. Remind them that it could always be worse.

Finally, it's time to think about putting together a beginner's resume. Education will be listed first, with extracurriculars and GPA, then clubs and sports. Paid work comes next. Have your teen include anything they've been paid for: bucking hay bales, babysitting, mowing lawns, dog walking, etc. The third section is for volunteer work. Have they volunteered at a church camp or helped a neighbor pull weeds? All of these items show your teen's work ethic and character. Don't forget to include references. Ask two of the people for

whom they've worked if they would be willing to have their name and number listed as a reference on the resume.

There you have it. All that's left is to hit the pavement and let your teen work his or charm on some unsuspecting employer. And that means fewer times you'll have to hear the dreaded "I'm bored" this summer!

Suzanne Kennedy is a former middle school teacher who lives in Pendleton with her husband and four children.