

# Governor activates National Guard

Brown sends for troops during visit to Canyon Creek

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — A contingent of 125 Oregon National Guard members will arrive in John Day Wednesday, Aug. 26, to help fight the Canyon Creek Complex fire.

The soldiers underwent training at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem before heading to John Day.

They will assist first responders, initial attack contract crews and fire managers.

The soldiers come from units across the state, including: 224 Engineering Company, 1-186 Infantry Battalion, 1-82 Cavalry, 141 Brigade Support Battalion and 1249 Engineer Company.

They join soldiers from Charlie 7-158 Aviation,

and Army and Air National Guard Joint Staff, which have been participating in firefighting efforts in Oregon since Aug. 3.

Gov. Kate Brown, while in John Day visiting the Canyon Creek Complex fire camp Aug. 19, authorized the activation of 250 Oregon National Guard members to assist with ongoing firefighting efforts throughout the state.

The additional 250 volunteers are composed of Oregon Guard units from around the state. Half of the additional guard members are citizen-airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland and the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls.

The other half of the additional Guard members come from the Oregon Army Na-

tional Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

The additional personnel are scheduled to report to the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem to undergo firefighting training starting Wednesday and should complete their training by Sunday.

The Oregon National Guard has an ongoing agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry known as Operation Plan Smokey, which stipulates how Oregon National Guard members will be used to assist in annual firefighting.

During the governor's brief tour of the fire camp, she said, "We really appreciate the incredible work our first responders are doing."



The Eagle/George Plaven

Gov. Kate Brown visited the Incident Command Center of the Canyon Creek Complex fire Wednesday, Aug. 19, in John Day.

## DRESS

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"There's not a stick of wood left in the place, and the windows melted," Mike said.

Sherry pointed out the areas where her now grown children had their bedrooms. The boys stayed downstairs where their loud music could be at a distance, she said with a smile.

In what was the room where Sherry, who has delivered 2,900 babies in her career, stands a blackened, metal portion of a birthing chair. She also owns the Naturally Yours health food store in John Day.

A clinic, library and pharmacy, where she stored 5,000 homeopathic remedies, were also lost to the fire.

A new \$9,000 walk-in bathtub was purchased and placed in the basement the day before the fire, to help care for her elderly and cancer patients who would visit. It, too, was destroyed.

The day the fire broke out, Sherry was in La Grande to deliver a baby.

Mike, who was at home, said he saw a puff of smoke, across Highway 395 South from their house, on the ridge north of Berry Creek. It was the Berry Creek fire.

He climbed a hill to take

a picture that day, and by the time he descended and reached his house, he felt a hot wind blowing; it was the Mason Spring fire, and flames were coming down the hill above his home.

Mike said he'd known about the Mason Spring fire but thought it was only 10 acres and a safe distance away.

The day's forecast called for south to southwest winds, gusting to 35 mph.

"I remember thinking, 'I hope they get that out,'" he said.

He took his first picture at 11:32 a.m.

"The winds always pick up around 11 a.m.," he said.

He had a plan to start the sprinklers that were on the roof and run down to their large fish pond.

But while Mike was on the roof, Grant County Sheriff reserve deputy Ken Olson pulled up and yelled at him to leave.

Later, from the safety of the John Day home where Sherry's sons, Chad and Bret Lauer, live, Mike heard it was only five minutes from the time he left that his home became engulfed in flames.

Sherry said Chad, a wildland firefighter, was first to tell them the house was gone, and he was devastated. He wished he could have helped, but he

had been assigned to a different fire.

Besides their home, the Dresses lost many possessions in the fire, including collectors coins, vehicles and a couple of travel trailers.

However, Mike's metal shop building and the tools inside are intact, and red peppers are still growing in Sherry's garden.

All of their cats and dogs survived, but they are still searching for their older Persian cat, Fluffy.

Although they've lost so much, Sherry said they have family and friends to support them, and they were insured.

Sherry said they're less

concerned about themselves and more worried about others whose financial situation forced them to choose between health insurance and home insurance and who won't be able to rebuild.

Mike and Sherry found a rental on the west side of John Day for now.

"I don't want to go back," Sherry said. "The reason we lived up the canyon was because it was so beautiful."

They thought about moving out of the area but decided against it.

"We've been here for 30 to 35 years in this community," she said. "We're going to stay here."

## Church Services In Grant County

**GRACE CHAPEL**  
Evangelical Methodist  
154 E. Williams St.,  
Prairie City • 541-820-4437  
gracechl@ortelco.net  
Pastor Michael Harvey  
Early Worship ..... 8:45 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:30 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Prayer ..... 8 a.m.  
THURSDAY  
Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
SATURDAY SERVICES  
JOHN DAY  
110 Valley View Dr. - 541-575-1216  
Head Elder.....541-575-2914  
Bible Classes (all ages).....9:30 am  
Worship.....11 am  
LONG CREEK  
E. Main Street - 541-421-3033  
Head Elder.....421-3468  
Bible Classes (all ages).....2 pm  
Worship.....3 pm  
Tune into  
3 ANGELS BROADCASTING  
KSPL 98.1 FM  
Blue Mountain Cable, Channel 2  
Antenna; Digital Channel 15  
& UHF Channel 8

**Cornerstone Christian Fellowship**  
139 N.E. DAYTON STREET, JOHN DAY  
541-575-2180  
Sunday Bible School (for all ages)...8:45 am  
Sunday Worship Service.....10 am  
Pastor Levi Manitsas  
cornerstonejohnday@gmail.com

**John Day Valley Mennonite Church**  
Meeting every Sunday at Mt. Vernon Grange Hall  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship...10:50 a.m.  
Pastor Leland Smucker  
Everyone Welcome • 541-575-5507

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
Morning Prayer.....10 am  
(1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
Eucharist & Sunday School.....10 am  
(2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
139 S. Washington, Canyon City  
541-620-1436

**JOHN DAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
541-575-1326  
JOHN DAY, 126 NW Canton  
Sunday Worship 9 am

**MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN Community Church**  
SUNDAY SERVICE.....9 am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9 am  
541-932-4800  
EVERYONE WELCOME

**Prairie Baptist Church**  
238 N. McHaley St.  
Prairie City  
Pastor David Hoeffner  
541-820-3696  
www.prairie-baptist-church.com  
Sunday School for all ages ..... 9:00 am  
Sunday morning worship ..... 10:30 am  
Awana (Oct-Apr.) ..... 3:00 pm  
Youth Group ..... 5:30 pm

**VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
KJV Independent  
Fundamental • Premillennial  
Terence K. Crabb, Pastor  
A Bible-believing Church  
"He that hath the Son hath life..." 1 John 5:12  
Sunday School 9:45 am • Sunday Preaching 11:00 am  
Junior Church 11:00 am • Sunday Evenings 3:30 pm  
Wednesday Bible Study & Master Club 7:00 pm  
Saturday Men's Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm  
108 S. Washington Street, Canyon City  
541-575-2688 or 541-575-0844

**New Life Bible Church**  
Corinthians 5:17  
Every Sunday in the L.C.  
Community Center  
(Corner of Second & Allen)  
Begins at 4:10pm  
Contact Pastor Ed Stuttmann at  
541-421-3888

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church**  
Corner of S Canyon Blvd and SW 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Mon. - Fri. Mass - 12:05 pm  
Saturday Mass - 5:00 pm  
Sunday Mass - 9:00 am  
Confession: Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm  
Anytime by appointment 541-575-1459

**St. Anne St. Katherine**  
Dale  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 2:30 pm  
Office Hours  
Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 Noon

**Living Word Christian Center**  
Hwy 26 Mt. Vernon  
Celebration of Worship  
Sunday 5:30pm  
Kids Classes 0-6th grade  
Youth Connection  
Thursdays - resuming in Oct  
Kids K-6th Grade  
YOUTH GROUPS  
Fridays - resuming in Oct  
Jr Hi 7th-8th & Sr Hi 9th-12th  
PASTOR SHARON MILLER  
541-932-4910  
www.livingwordcc.com

**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
Sunday School.....9:30 am  
Sunday Worship Service.....10:45 am  
Sunday Evening Service.....6:00 pm  
Children & Teen Activities  
SMALL GROUPS CALL FOR MORE INFO  
Weekdays: Sunshine Christian School  
Pastor Ron Roberson  
Associate Pastor Brad Williamson  
521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895  
www.johndaynazarene.com

**Historic Remnant Church**  
Preparing for Jesus to come  
Meets Saturday at Mt. Vernon Grange Sabbath School.....9:30 am  
Church Services.....11:00 am  
541-620-0340

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
Come Worship with us at  
627 SE Hillcrest, John Day  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Worship  
& Communion .....4:30 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship .....10 am  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....6 pm  
For information: 541-575-2348

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School.....10 am  
Church.....11 am  
Afternoon Service.....1 pm  
No Mid-week Services  
Pastor Ray Isenberger  
300 W. Main, John Day  
541-575-1355

**Strawberry Mountain CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Calvary Chapel Outreach Fellowship  
Sunday Services .....10 am  
Seneca Outreach.....2 pm  
Midweek Services also available  
170 SE Dayton, John Day  
2nd & Ave. D, Seneca  
541-575-2006

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday School.....9:45 am  
Sunday Worship.....11 am  
Sunday Evening Bible talk.....6:30 pm  
Saturday Men's Study.....7 pm  
Full Gospel- Come Grow With Us  
541-575-1202 Church  
311 NE Dayton St, John Day  
Pastor Al Altnow  
www.fccjohnday.com