

EVAC

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Friday, Aug. 28

5:30 p.m.: During a community briefing in Prairie City, fire officials alert residents about the incoming high winds and the potential for the fire to change direction.

Saturday, Aug. 29

2:30 a.m.: Winds begin to pick up, fanning the Canyon Creek Complex fire.

Prairie City Fire Chief Marvin Rynearson is in bed when he hears the wind.

"The hair stood up on the back of my neck," he said.

He spends the next few hours on his porch, watching. Concerned residents and firefighters on the front line update him on the fire's movement.

4:42 a.m.: The operations section chief of the Great Basin Incident Management Team is notified by the night operations division supervisor that fire activity has increased significantly due to the high



An information board was set up to update residents and the media during the evacuation in Prairie City Saturday.

Eagle photos/Sean Ellis

winds. The message goes up the chain of command quickly.

Resources are re-assigned from other parts of the fire and begin shifting toward Prairie City.

That includes 11 dozers, two skidgers, multiple water tenders, supervisors and medics. Three hotshot crews and six hand crews from adjacent divisions are shifted to protect homes, allowing other resources to respond to the wildfire in the grassland.

4:45 a.m.: Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer scouts the fire.

"Visibility dropped from several hundred yards to about zero real quick," he said. "I've never seen fire behavior like this before."

5:12 a.m.: Rynearson receives notice from firefighters near the northern part of the blaze that embers are hitting grassland areas south of Prairie City. He decides to wake city residents and alert them to what's happening.

An ember storm has ignited grassland south of town,

and the fire is advancing quickly toward Prairie City.

5:20 a.m.: Rynearson calls dispatch from his home and orders the city's siren to begin ringing. The siren goes off immediately, and Rynearson orders the alarm to cycle several more times.

"I wanted everyone to be wide awake," he said.

Within five minutes, mutual aid sirens in nearby cities, including John Day and Canyon City, are also going off, alerting local volunteer firefighters to what's happening. They begin to rush toward Prairie City.

"We started waking up state, volunteer and our own resources to try to get them out there quickly," said Jeff Surber, a Great Basin Incident Management Team operations section chief.

Prairie City resident Tammy Winton heard the siren.



Smoke blanketed Prairie City Saturday as fire approached. Firefighters were able to stop it 1.5 miles from town.

"As soon as I heard the fire alarm, I jumped out of bed, shaking, and grabbed up the kids," she said. "I left my money, wallet and everything else in the house and just got the kids and ran."

"You could feel the heat of the fire and smell the smoke," said Pat Shull, whose home is at the very southern edge of Prairie City. "You could feel it closing in."

5:30 a.m.: Palmer has already begun ordering parts of Prairie City to be evacuated, and the rest of town is on a Level 2 "be ready to leave at a moment's notice" order.

Palmer said the evacuation was orderly.

"Neighbors helped neighbors. I think everyone knew what was coming."

5:45 a.m.: Local firefighters begin assisting Great Basin night shift resources that are battling the fire.

5:50 to 6 a.m.: The firefighters' morning shift-change briefing starts early, and additional crew members from base camp in John Day skip breakfast and head toward Prairie City.

A convoy of evacuated

Prairie City residents makes its way west, as firefighters stream east into the city.

7 a.m.: By this time, many resources, including volunteer firefighters from nearby cities, are on the front lines, battling hard to save the town.

Nervous residents on a Level 2 evacuation order prepare for the signal to leave immediately.

"I have one foot out the door. I'm ready to go if they tell me to," said local resident Steve Smith.

10 a.m.: Rynearson is confident firefighters have blunted the fire's advance on Prairie City. He pulls local resources in for lunch and a briefing at 11:30 a.m. and then sends four units back out to assist in creating a safety zone for the town.

4 p.m.: Rynearson and Palmer begin notifying residents they can return to their homes, and the entire city is placed on a Level 2 evacuation order.

Evacuation Level 2 is expected to remain in Prairie City until the fire is out, possibly until the first snow falls.

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Church Services In Grant County

GRACE CHAPEL
Evangelical Methodist
154 E. Williams St.,
Prairie City • 541-820-4437
gracechpl@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

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JOHN DAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
541-575-1326

JOHN DAY, 126 NW Canton
Sunday Worship 9 am

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

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church
Corner of S Canyon Blvd and SW 2nd

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

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Come Worship with us at
627 SE Hillcrest, John Day

1st & 3rd Sunday Worship
& Communion4:30 pm
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday Worship10 am
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....6 pm

For information: 541-575-2348

MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN Community Church

SUNDAY SERVICE.....9 am
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9 am

541-932-4800
EVERYONE WELCOME

St. Anne St. Katherine
Monument - Sunday at 12:30 pm

Dale
1st & 3rd Sundays at 2:30 pm

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 Noon

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

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

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

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

Strawberry Mountain CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Calvary Chapel Outreach Fellowship

Sunday Services10 am
Seneca Outreach.....2 pm
Midweek Services also available

170 SE Dayton, John Day
2nd & Ave. D, Seneca
541-575-2006

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
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VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

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"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

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: Sonshine Christian School

Pastor Ron Roberson
Associate Pastor Brad Williamson
521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895
www.johndaynazarene.com

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

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Morning Prayer.....10 am
(1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)
Eucharist & Sunday School.....10 am
(2nd & 4th Sundays)

139 S. Washington, Canyon City
541-620-1436

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 Studtmann at
541-421-3888