

# Local McDonald's restaurant closes Oct. 31

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – The Golden Arches in John Day will be coming down, and 18 people will lose their jobs.

Oct. 31 will be McDonald's of John Day restaurant's last day open.

"I've spent two months going back and forth with McDonald's (corporate office) trying to talk them out of their decision," said owner Jorge Ribeiro of Burns.

Hundreds of McDonald's restaurants have been up for closure nationwide, and Ribeiro said the decision to close was based on the "low economics of the situation," and because they are reaching the end of a 20-year lease on the property owned by the DR Johnson family.

He said the building will be torn down in November.

"It was 100 percent a corporate decision," Ribeiro said.

"Emotionally, I've gone through a lot of feelings," he added.

He said he's been in business for 30 years, with 15 years owning McDonald's in John Day.

"Over the years, I've had to fire people, but usually people fire themselves," he said. "Here are 18 people I care about – it was the hardest day of my life. I will miss all my people and working in John Day."

John Day's McDonald's has been open since 1996, and Ribeiro bought it in July of 2000. Ribeiro also owned a McDonald's restaurant in Burns which he sold

one year ago.

He said that of the 18 employees he has in John Day, four of them have worked for him for at least 10 years.

"I appreciate all they've done and their hard work and great service to the community of John Day the last 15 years," he said of all his employees. "I want to personally thank the community of John Day for their patronage and their support of my family and myself over the past 15 years."



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

**McDonald's of John Day restaurant is set to close at the end of October and will be torn down in November.**

## Q&A

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projects in the forest.

The collaborative says that since its start there has been no litigation involving the forest, while timber harvest and restoration projects on the Malheur have increased dramatically. The group was behind an accelerated restoration program including the 10-year stewardship contract granted by the Forest Service, securing a sustainable supply of logs to keep the local infrastructure operating into the future.

The Blue Mountain Eagle asked Mark Webb, its executive director, to shed light on the group and the work it's doing.

**Q. BMFP has emerged as a key player in getting some timber harvest going again on**



Mark Webb

**the Malheur National Forest. Give us a little history as to how the BMFP got started.**

BMFP formed in 2006 to help address natural resource challenges in Grant County.

Active management on the Malheur was virtually non-existent at the time. Mills were running short of timber, loggers were going out of business, forest health was declining, and area communities were suffering.

Loggers and environmentalists, along with elected officials and community members, decided something had to change. We decided to try working together rather than fighting in court. Surprisingly, we found we shared a lot of common ground. We agreed we wanted healthy forests and strong communities. So we focused on these things and started working together with the Forest Service to make good things happen.

**Q. Who's involved today?**

Our partners include local loggers, ranchers, Grant County government, the State of Oregon, local saw mills, environmental groups, private citizens, contractors, the Forest Service, and others.

**Q. How do the partners and the Malheur National Forest interact?**

We work with the Malheur to identify and prioritize areas that need treatment. This involves developing treatments that reduce the chance of destructive wildfire, increase forest health, and provide timber and wood products for the mills and local communities. We don't always agree among ourselves or with the Malheur about what treatments should look like, so we rely heavily on science to inform our work. We also monitor proj-

ects over time to learn how to do things better in the future. The Forest Service has been very receptive to this kind of help as it develops its projects.

**Q. Recently some folks have criticized the group as sort of a front for either the FS or the environmental movement. Has that come as a surprise to the members, and how do you respond to that?**

It has come as a surprise. We do work closely with the Malheur and some members of the environmental community. We also work closely with mill owners, loggers, ranchers, and others from the local community. We are all about improving forest and community health, not doing business as normal for any particular group. Our approach has required members and partners to change in important ways. That's one reason timber harvest and restoration work on the Malheur has increased three-fold since we began in 2006.

**Q. What are the goals of the group as a whole, and with such diverse membership, how do you reach agreement on them?**

We want to reduce the risk of destructive wildfires, create healthier forests, and help build stronger communities. We acknowledge and respect differ-

ences among our members. But we focus on the shared goals and accommodate our personal interests and preferences to meeting them. This can be challenging. We rely heavily on science and outside experts to provide BMFP with a common understanding of what makes forests and landscapes healthy. Respecting differences, focusing on our goals, utilizing science—these things have helped BMFP develop trust among members and with the Malheur, move past our differences, and make significant progress in treating the landscape.

**Q. Give us an example of an accomplishment to date that's a source of pride, and why.**

Timber harvest and restoration projects on the Malheur have increased three fold since we began in 2006. No other National Forest has experienced anything like that. Our role in this is two fold. First, we successfully collaborated with Harney County Restoration Collaborative and the Forest Service to secure the millions of additional dollars needed to increase the pace and scale of work on the Malheur. Second, we've developed a collaborative approach to public land management that helps ensure work on this scale gets implemented. This has resulted in more jobs for our communities, sustained manufacturing capacity, and healthier forests.

**Q. What are the challenges - issues or projects - on your plate right now?**

We are focused on dealing with the aftermath of the Canyon Creek Complex. The Forest Service is aggressively pursuing a roadside salvage that will address safety issues and harvest substantial volumes of burned timber. BMFP plans to compliment this effort with another salvage effort that treats burned areas outside road corridors. This is a contentious issue for some of our members. But we plan to develop an approach that is informed by science, easy on the land, provides timber harvest and economic recovery, and most importantly, puts the treated areas that were destroyed by wildfire back on the path to becoming healthy productive forests.

**Q. What can the public expect to see as the result of the Partners' work?**

The public can expect to see more of a working National Forest. One where informed timber harvest and restoration treatments continue, the Malheur becomes healthier and more resilient, and local communities benefit.

**Q. Why should people get involved, and how can they?**

I would encourage people to get involved because BMFP is the most effective way to ensure our local voice gets heard in the public process of managing the Malheur National Forest. People can watch the paper for our meeting times or contact me, 541-620-2546 or bmf06@gmail.com.

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If you or someone you know is the victim of domestic violence, the Heart of Grant County at 541-575-4335 or the 24 Hot Line at 541-620-1342. Services are free and confidential.

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**ZOMBIE CIRCUS FUN RUN**

October 24th, 2015 at 5:00

**THE RULES:**

- Participants must be 8 or older. Ages 8-12 must be accompanied by an adult on the course at all times.
- You may get dirty!!
- No strollers allowed on course.
- Pre-registration for circus patrons (runners) is recommended.
- Pre-registration for performers (zombies) is required.
- Register online with Parks and Rec at jdccparksandrec.weebly.com. Or pick up a form at Families First or Station 62.
- Pre-registration fees: \$10 each or \$35 for a family.
- Registration fees the day of the circus: \$15 each or \$45 for a family.

The Zombie Run is an untimed fun run beginning at the 7th Street Sports Complex. Run from Zombies, navigate obstacles, and escape with your brains intact.

There will be an after party directly following the run. Admission is included with registration fees for circus patrons and performers (runners and zombies) and will be \$5 or \$2 and 2 cans of food for non-participants.

Call 541-575-1799 ex 29 with any questions.

Jeff Meyerholz with MewWow Photography will be present taking pictures that will be available for purchase.

JDCC Parks & Rec

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For more information CALL 541-575-1006

Blue Mountain Hospital  
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Families First PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

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