

# Prairie City welcomes new district ranger

## Guzman continues 31-year Forest Service career

Blue Mountain Eagle



Ed Guzman

the fire management officer for the Klamath National Forest.

Guzman's first summer job with the Forest Service

was in Paisley, on the Fremont National Forest, where he worked as a tree planting inspector, among other silviculture-related duties. His 31-year career since then has included working in fire and fuels management on the Siskiyou and Umatilla national forests in Oregon and Washington, as well as the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado. He also spent a season with the Redmond

Hotshot crew in central Oregon. In 2007, Guzman was named the interagency deputy forest fire management officer on the Fremont-Winema National Forest out of Lakeview, and he was there until his move to the Klamath. Guzman has also completed details as the district ranger in Cascade, Idaho, and the deputy forest supervisor on the Klamath National Forest.

One of the defining moments in Guzman's career was his deployment with the Pacific Northwest Incident Management team to New York City in 2001 in the days following the attack on the World Trade Center. He was there for over three weeks, staffing a supply cache at

Ground Zero, which was responsible for equipping the rescue personnel working at the site.

Guzman holds a forestry degree from Central Oregon Community College in Bend, and he completed a natural resources management certificate in an accelerated-curriculum program through Colorado State University. However, he said a big part of his education has been in being "boots on the ground" throughout his career.

Since starting his new position in Prairie City, Guzman has been working on getting to know the employees and the projects that the district is currently involved in. He

has been impressed with the enthusiasm and motivation of the employees at the district.

"We have some very knowledgeable and hard-working people here, and I look forward to continuing the work they have started," Guzman said.

He has been enjoying his transition to the area, including getting settled in his new office, which he said "has one of the best views of the Strawberry Mountains."

Guzman will be joined by his wife of 22 years, Rose, and their black Lab, Rose grew up on her family's century wheat and cattle ranch in southeast Washington. She fought fire with the Forest Service in the summer to finance her college

degree at the University of Idaho, and that is how she and Guzman met. She now enjoys her career in the social work field.

The couple enjoys anything outdoors—camping, hiking, rock hounding, discovering historical sites — and they look forward to exploring the backroads of Grant County and meeting the locals.

"We have driven through Grant County many times and have done some recreating in the area and have always wanted to spend more time here," Guzman said.

The Guzmans look forward to getting involved with the local community and becoming part of it.

# Music in the air at Grant Union

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A March 14 concert had the audience tapping their feet as the Grant Union middle school band, concert choir and high school band presented their latest repertoire.

The crowd was intrigued by the middle school band's performance of "Bugs" by David Shaffer, as director Lori Hart led the music with a bright green fly swatter.

The choir entertained with a bright rendition of "Nelly Bly" by Stephen Foster.

Among the high school band's selections was "Carnaval in Sao Paulo" by James Barnes, to remind that warmer days are ahead.

Hart, who is from Michigan and is a recent graduate of Brigham Young University — Idaho, has led the Grant Union music department since the start of the new year. She also leads music for Humboldt Elementary School.

In other music news, bass clarinet player Carle Wright, a sophomore, won first place in her division at the March 4 OMEA District 6 contest in La Grande. She will compete at the April 29 State Solo Music Championship.

The Grant Union senior band will perform at the April 12 Tri-County High School Band Festival in Stanfield, and the middle school band will perform at the April 21 Tri-County Middle School Band Festival at Riverside Junior-Senior High School in Boardman.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Members of the Grant Union senior band perform in concert on Tuesday, March 14, at the school, including, front from left, Athena Tipton, Annie Wall and Raya Mead.

Grant Union music director  
Lori Hart

The Grant Union concert choir performs at their March 14 concert.



Carleanne Wright



The Grant Union senior band performs at their Tuesday, March 14 concert.

## BRIEFLY

### Forest Service seeks trail input

The Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region is inviting the public to help identify trails that will be part of a Forest Service effort with partners and volunteers to increase the pace of trail maintenance.

Nationwide, the Forest Service will select nine to 15 priority areas among its nine regions where a backlog in trail maintenance contributed to reduced access, potential harm to natural resources or trail users or has the potential for increased future deferred maintenance costs.

To provide ideas and suggestions on potential priority areas and approaches for incorporating increased trail maintenance assistance from partners and volunteers, contact your local Forest Service office or Regional Trail Program Manager Dennis Benson at [dennisbenenson@fs.fed.us](mailto:dennisbenenson@fs.fed.us) by March 31.

The Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region manages more than 24,000 miles of trails enjoyed by many users each year. In 2016, approximately 5,000 volunteers contributed more than 230,000 hours of service to trails work across Oregon and Washington. These volunteer contributions helped the Forest Service accomplish nearly half of the Region's trail accomplishments in 2016.

### Baker City to host fire refresher class

Eastern Oregon Training Group of Baker City will be offering a 2017 Wildland Fire Safety Refresher Class April 22. The class RT-130 will be

held at the Baker City School District Building at 2090 Fourth St. Class will start at 8 a.m.

This is a required class for all firefighters and contractors that are planning to work for any state or federal agency during the upcoming fire season.

Certification will be from the National Wildfire Suppression Association. Training will meet or exceed the standards set by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. The cost is \$100.

Registration and payment may be done at [oregonfiretraining.com](http://oregonfiretraining.com). Contact Laurel Godrich at 541-403-0907 or Jeff Sherman at 541-519-6213 for more information.

### Training funds available for manufacturing and health care companies

The Eastern Oregon Workforce Board has dedicated \$40,000 to help manufacturing and health care companies in Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties retrain workers. This could include training in new or advanced skills that enable an employee to multi-task or be more productive. Priority for funding is given to applicants who demonstrate the funding could assist the business in avoiding a layoff, downsizing or closure, or would provide retention opportunities by upgrading employee skills as a result of the training. For more information, contact Eric Labonte, 541-963-7942.



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