

SOFTBALL TEAM WINS DISTRICT

IN SPORTS,
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The Blue Mountain EAGLE

Grant County's newspaper since 1868



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017

• No. 26

• 20 PAGES

• \$1.00

www.MyEagleNews.com



UNDER THE RAINBOW

A pile of garbage prepared for pickup at the Rainbow Gathering on Monday, June 26.

The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Local crews contain nine wildfires

Blue Mountain Eagle

Nine lightning fires Monday serve as a reminder fire season is here.

After a severe thunderstorm passed over the area on Monday afternoon, Malheur National Forest fire crews responded to seven confirmed lightning-start fires on the forest, according to a Forest Service press release. Quick response and initial attack efforts allowed crews to contain all of the fires at about 1/10 of an acre. Crews will continue to staff the incidents and continue with mop-up efforts, as well as respond to new reports of smoke.

Crews continue to staff and monitor three prescribed fires on the forest. No further ignitions will take place on the prescribed fires, and all active burning is taking place well within the established perimeters.

Oregon Department of Forestry crews, also dispatched out of the John Day Inter-agency Dispatch Center, responded to several reports as well. ODF crews staffed and contained two fires on state protected lands.

Impacts of gathering are 'detrimental' to natural ecosystem

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Rainbow Gathering attendees have vowed to leave the land better than they found it, but Forest Service officials said such a large group in such a small space will negatively impact the ecosystem.

Up to 20,000 attendees are expected at the loosely organized, unauthorized gathering July 1-7 in Flagtail Meadow off of Forest Road 24 south of John Day. By Monday, more than 2,500 were at the site.

Also at the site are a variety of sensitive resources — heritage, wildlife, botanical, range, aquatic — that will suffer from the influx, Forest Service Agency Administrator Ryan Nehl said.

"Despite best intentions, the amount of impact from that many people in that small of space is going to be detrimental," he said. "There will be impact, and that's what's been expressed to these individuals who profess their concern for the environment: It's a large forest, disperse."

Forest Service resource specialists have flagged off certain areas to try to protect resources. Blue Mountain District Ranger Dave Halemeier and National Environmental Policy Act Planner Sasha Fertig spent days trying to protect the site but said in a statement in response to questions from the Eagle many concerns remain.

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Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Jay Norris chats with two attendees at the Rainbow Gathering on Monday.



Rainbow Gathering attendees relax at their camp on Monday, June 26.

MORE on the Rainbow Gathering inside | See Page A6



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Sean Claughton, right, plays ping-pong during the Grub & Grog at the Seventh Street Complex Friday, June 23.

Grub & Grog delights an adult crowd

Parks and Recreation
considering future events

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grub & Grog at the Seventh Street Complex was a hit with local adults.

The 18 and older event provided live music from 14NI, food from the Little Canyon Food Cart and Veraci Pizza and beer from 1188 and Suds Pub.

The event was put on by the John Day and Canyon City Parks and Recreation District. Proceeds benefit the district.

Local resident Rob Raschio said he was thoroughly enjoying the music, food and beer and would go to similar future events, if offered.

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New medical responders trained in Monument



Contributed photo

Thirteen students graduated from an emergency medical responder class held in Monument. Back row, from left, Jeff Schafer, Earl Pettit, Quade Day, Peter Case, Jennifer Garinger, Ed Studdtman and Jeremy Boyer; front row, from left, Melody Holmes, Kristi Emerson, Tara Holmes, Brittani Hays and Nittaya Pettit. Not pictured are Shawnah Schafer and instructors Rose Howe and Rebekah Rand.

Firefighters, residents certified to respond in emergencies

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Northern Grant County has seen a resurgence in emergency medical responders.

Thirteen people graduated from an EMR class in May, greatly boosting the numbers of people who can respond for medical emergencies. The class came only months after the Monument-based ambulance was placed back in service after being shut down in 2016 because of a lack of first responders.

Monument Fire Chief Earl Pettit requested the class to provide med-

ical training for his firefighters, Blue Mountain Hospital District ambulance director Rebekah Rand said. A large number of interested attendees allowed the class to be offered in the small community, she said.

"We think it's a great opportunity for people out there to be more involved in their community," Rand said. "And the more medically trained people there are, that's just going to help our community members because they're going to have that knowledge."

Rose Howe, an intermediate emergency medical technician and certified instructor, and Rand taught the class. Howe said the new EMRs will hopefully facilitate a faster response time, and she was excited so many people were interested in the class.

"The new administration at BMHD

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