



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Julie Mansfield Smith and her husband, Brad, stand for a photo at their ranch outside Kimberly Tuesday, July 18.

Local real estate broker named one of best in country

Long hours pay off for woman

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

Julie Mansfield Smith runs a one-woman operation.

Her real estate brokerage, Copper Creek Land Company, was just named one of America's best by the Land Report.

"Being named a best brokerage by the Land Report is an incredible honor," Mossy Oak Properties Inc., CEO Chris Hawley said. "It is an honor based not only on the success a company has, but also their reputation in the land brokerage industry."

Though she doesn't deal in the same volume as other brokerages that won the award, she said she makes up for it in sheer work ethic.

Smith will wake up as early as 3 a.m. and put in 80 hour weeks. The long days are necessary to cover the amount of ground she does. She works in Grant, Wheeler, Umatilla and Morrow counties, but can sell anywhere in the state.

"I can go anywhere in Oregon, but there is only one of me," she said.

She tries to work within a two- to three-hour radius

of her home and office near Kimberly.

"I get pulled in a lot of directions, and I'm not complaining, but I don't know how my workload could get any easier unless I hired people," she said.

Her husband, Brad, is getting his real estate license to join her team and help her show properties.

"He's a chick magnet, so I'm sure those little old ladies are going to be liking him," she said.

The couple spent decades managing ranches before going into real estate. This experience has become invaluable in selling rural properties.

"All that experience I went through, and never got paid, it's coming back to me now because when I got my license I was already familiar with a lot of what I needed to know," Julie said.

She deals strictly with rural properties.

There is a huge market for land, she said, because it is limited, and people are wanting to get out of the city and invest in property.

"Everybody wants to be out on a boat, out in the country, to be quiet and walk in the timber," Julie said. "And if they can buy that, they get so excited."

Old trees brought down to preserve buildings

Locust trees thought to be 150 years old

Blue Mountain Eagle

Two locust trees were felled to protect the Grant County Genealogy Society and Advent Christian Church last week.

The trees, thought to be as old 150 years, were taken down by Raymond Fields of Fields Tree Service.

Fields said the trees were rotten and posed a threat to the genealogy building and the church.

Some of the wood will be

used for firewood, and the John Day Public Works Department will take care of the rest, Fields said.

The tree removal was paid for by a \$3,000 grant through the Grant County Chamber of Commerce, funded by the transient room tax, according to Karin Bartish, the secretary/treasurer at Advent Christian Church.

The church was finished in 1900, and limbs from the tree falling onto the building were a concern, Bartish said.

Once the trees are fully removed, the church will focus on landscaping the property. Those interested in donating can contact Bartish at 541-575-2721.



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Raymond Fields cleans up after felling a locust tree that was a safety hazard to the Grant County Genealogy Society July 18.

BRIEFLY

Blue Dollar Complex Grazing Allotments Project open for comments

The 30-day comment period for the Preliminary Environmental Assessment for the Blue Dollar Complex Grazing Allotments Project on the Prairie City Ranger District began July 19 with publication of a legal notice in the Blue Mountain Eagle.

The Malheur National Forest is proposing to implement decisions regarding livestock grazing permits and rangeland management actions on the Bluebucket, Dollar Basin and Star Glade grazing allotments. The project planning area is located about 25 miles south of Prairie City, in Grant and Harney counties, and encompasses just over 40,000 acres of National Forest System lands. Approximately 2,200 acres of additional private and state lands are also within the overall project planning area boundary. The Prairie City Ranger District proposes modifications to grazing practices, changes to pasture and allotment boundaries and additions of structures and improvements to meet the purpose and need to reflect current

management direction, policies, other applicable laws and regulations and to address resource concerns to achieve desired conditions.

The project documents can be accessed on the Forest Service website at fs.usda.gov/project/?project=48798, or copies can be requested from Marion Mahaffey, range NEPA coordinator, at 541-575-3302 or by emailing comments-pacificnorthwest-malheur-prairiecity@fs.fed.us.

Kelsay Creek culvert work will close 1011 road periodically through August

Construction work is underway on a portion of Forest Service Road 1011 at Kelsay Creek.

The construction project is a continuation of ongoing aquatic restoration work in the Desolation Creek area and the result of planning completed through the recent Granite-Desolation Aquatic Restoration Project Decision Memo, according to a Forest Service press release. Kelsay Creek is a perennial cold-water stream that is designated

critical habitat for threatened Mid-Columbia River steelhead.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife screens shop out of John Day will replace the stream crossing culvert at this location with a new 18-foot wide bottomless arch culvert that will allow for improved fish and aquatic organism passage and allow for larger stream flow events to pass under the road without causing infrastructure damage. The construction work will require that the full length of FSR 1011 will be periodically closed through Aug. 15 and will reopen once work is completed. Closure signs will be posted on FSR 1011 at the junction with FSR 1010.

This project is being conducted under the Good Neighbor Authority, a state-federal partnership that allows for pooling of funds and more efficient forest, rangeland and aquatic restoration to occur.

Forest Service partners have already begun hauling heavy equipment and supplies in to FSR 1011, and construction activities will be ongoing for several weeks.

For more information on this project, contact the North Fork John Day Ranger District at 541-427-3231. For more information on the Umatilla National Forest, visit fs.usda.gov/umatilla.

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★ August 5th ★

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Membership in the Cinnabar Mountain Playdays is required. Playdays are open to all children up to the age of 18 as of January first of the current year. **MEMBERSHIP DUES MUST BE PAID IN FULL IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Daily entry fees must be paid at time of entry. Proof of age is required to compete and must be presented to a Director no later than the second playday attended by the membership holder. Forms of identification that will be accepted to prove date of birth are birth certificate, driver's license or immunization record.

Contestants must compete in at least four (4) Playdays to be eligible for year-end awards.

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Didgette McCracken 541.575.3520
Janet Plocharsky 541.792.0077
Emma Winkelman 541.620.1199
Kristal Hansen 541.910.7732
Terri Hamilton 541.934.2133
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