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BUILDING SKILLS

Monument SkillsUSA members, volunteers construct park sidewalk



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Monument teacher Michele Engle and parent and city council volunteer Heather Bowlus help with the edging of the park sidewalk.

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Members of Monument School's SkillsUSA chapter put their knowledge to the test, completing a sidewalk project at J. Dempsey Boyer Park.

Eleven student and nine adult volunteers filled the city park on May 15, rolling up their sleeves to smooth things out

on "pour day." The sidewalk, which covers the length of the park, will give easier access to the park and picnic area.

"It will help a lot of elderly and disabled and kids to help them be safer, so they don't trip over the old overgrown path that used to be here," said junior Miranda Cook.

Many of the students in the SkillsUSA

chapter, led by adviser Michele Engle, were also taking Engle's agriculture construction class, a career technical education course.

SkillsUSA is a career and technical student organization chapter, similar to FFA.

Spearheading the sidewalk project were senior Kyla Emerson, the chapter

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SEE 15 MORE STORIES ABOUT LOCAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN NEXT WEEK'S PROGRESS SPECIAL SECTION



FIRE SEASON

Lightning the evening of June 12 caused four fires on the Malheur National Forest.

Contributed photo Todd McKinley

BEGINS IN A FLASH

Lightning strikes cause four forest fires

Blue Mountain Eagle

Fire season is here.

The Malheur National Forest received multiple lightning strikes across the forest June 12.

On Thursday, three fires were reported on the Prairie City Ranger Dis-

trict and one on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District, according to a press release.

All the fires were contained at one-tenth of an acre or less.

The Grant County Fire Defense District announced regulated closures for fire season take effect June 15. Check with local jurisdictions for burning restrictions.

The Oregon Department of Forestry implemented fire season June 10 with restrictions.

Forest officials remind visitors to use campfire safety. Fires must be surrounded by dirt, rock or a commercial fire ring in an area that is cleared of flammable material with a radius of 3 feet.

Make sure fires are completely cold and out before leaving the area. When using a generator, make sure it is in an area with a 10-foot cleared radius of any flammable material. Always carry a shovel and 1 gallon of water.

To report a wildfire, call 911 or John Day Interagency Dispatch at 541-575-1321.

Air horns of protest can't stall action on climate bill

Oregon House passes cap and trade bill, sending it to Senate

By Aubrey Wieber
Oregon Capital Bureau

Democrats gained enough support in the House to move forward on a massive environmental plan to price carbon after a week of turmoil and uncertainty.

House Bill 2020, which would implement a cap and trade program, passed out of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means June 12 and passed on the House floor Monday. It could be voted on in the Senate as early as Thursday. It's the most significant piece of legislation still in the works, with the legislative session ending in two weeks.

The legislation — and the 116th amendment proposed on it — passed out of committee on a 13-8



Oregon Capital Bureau/Claire Withycombe

Log truck drivers rallied at the Capitol on June 12 to protest House Bill 2020, which would implement a cap and trade program. Despite their presence, the bill passed out of its final committee 13-8. It passed out of the House 36-24 and could be voted on in the Senate this week.

party vote with Sen. Peter Courtney, D-Salem, temporarily sitting in for Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose. Johnson, the most conservative of

the Senate Democrats, has been a vocal opponent of the bill, saying it would destroy the state's economy.

At about 20 minutes, it was eas-

ily the shortest of the 20 hearings the bill has endured.

Business trade groups have long opposed the bill, but individuals working in industry have also made themselves seen in hearings for months. June 12 was no different, as log truckers rallied in front of the Capitol in the morning before filling the hearing room and overflow room, dressed in their well-worn pants, boots and suspenders. They apparently didn't feel heard in the brief, 20-minute hearing, so they took to their trucks. For an hour and a half after the hearing they performed an auditory assault on lawmakers, driving around the building blowing their loud air horns to make sure they were literally heard.

Under the cap and trade program, a 52 million metric ton cap will be placed over 80 percent of the state's emissions.

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