

Fire crews prepare for 2019 prescribed fire operations

Blue Mountain Eagle

Malheur National Forest fire officials are monitoring conditions on the forest and preparing to implement the fall prescribed fire program.

Prescribed fires, also known as controlled burns, refer to the planned and controlled use of fire by a team of highly skilled fire managers under specific conditions, according to a press release. During the late summer and early fall months, the forest has a number of planning units, ranging in size from 150 acres up to 4,000 acres, scheduled for prescribed fire operations.

Prescribed fires are conducted within specific parameters including temperature, relative humidity, fuel moisture and wind speed. Implementation is dependent upon these and other necessary conditions. Should conditions allow, crews may start operations on some smaller units as early as, Friday, Sept. 13.

Fall burning will build upon efforts in the spring when the forest safely and successfully accomplished



Contributed photo/U.S. Forest Service

Prescribed fire helps remove slash and debris fuel build-up on the Damon South Unit near Seneca in 2018. More prescribed burns are planned for fall 2019.

prescribed fire operations on approximately 2,600 acres. Spring operations reduced surface fuels, increased height of some canopy, reduced small tree densities and helped promote fire resilient trees, thereby improving our ability to protect communities from wildfire. Additionally, these prescribed fires improve wildlife habitat, promote long-term ecosystem integ-

ity and sustainability by reducing the risk of high-severity wildland fire.

To ensure public and firefighter safety, roads, trails and areas may need to close temporarily as firefighter operations are taking place. Smoky conditions may also reduce visibility to a level that would require additional temporary closures. During prescribed fire operations, there is potential for

impacts to camping and recreational activities. Visitors are advised to plan ahead, for their safety they should not camp in or near an area of prescribed fire activity.

As dates for individual units are scheduled and conditions are met, announcements will be released, updates will also be posted to Inciweb at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6299> and the Malheur National Forest Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MalheurNationalForest>. Additional information regarding prescribed burning on the Malheur National Forest is available by viewing the Prescribed Fire Activity interactive map at: <http://arcg.is/2wUZlil>.

With the potential for smoke to settle in certain areas during active operations, the public can monitor the smoke and air quality in our area and across the state by visiting, <http://oregon-smoke.blogspot.com>.

For further information on the Malheur National Forest, visit us at fs.usda.gov/malheur or call 541-575-3000.



Contributed photo
Reid Psaltis, artist in residence at the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, created this sculpture of Cynarctoides lemur, an extinct, fruit-eating dog, which is on display at the Thomas Condon Paleontology and Visitor Center.

Open house planned for new hands-on sculpture at Fossil Beds

Blue Mountain Eagle

The John Day Fossil Beds National Monument's newest exhibit is a hands-on experience.

Artist-in-residence Reid Psaltis focused on exhibit accessibility by creating a touchable sculpture of Cynarctoides lemur, an extinct, fruit-eating dog. An open house will take place from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15, at the Thomas Condon Paleontology and Visitor Center.

Psaltis is an illustrator, sculptor and natural history enthusiast from the Pacific Northwest and has made several trips to John Day Fossil Beds during his residency. Because his residency was almost two years long, it allowed time for project consultation with the park's chief paleontologist for scientific accuracy, and feedback from people in the disability communities, which added more diverse perspectives.

The dog sculpture on display during the open house will be temporary until it is permanently replaced with cast bronze

later this year.

"Visiting this park as a teenager played a big role in developing my interest in natural history," Psaltis said. "Now that prehistoric life has become a regular subject in my art practice, it's been really amazing to have that come full circle by contributing something to the visitor center. Using art to encourage interest in Oregon's natural history is a great goal, and the efforts we took to make it accessible can now bring that to a whole new audience."

Superintendent Patrick Gamman said, "Not only is the sculpture visually appealing, Reid took great efforts to provide palpable textures so that everyone can enjoy the exhibit. Come to the park and pet the extinct dog. I promise you, it won't bite!"

Discover Your Northwest provided support for this project.

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument has been participating in the artist-in-residence program for over a decade. For more information, visit nps.gov/joda/getinvolved/supportyourpark/artist-in-residence.htm.

Kerry Grombacher entertains in John Day

Kerry Grombacher performs Friday evening at 1188 Brewing Co. in John Day during downtown First Friday events.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter



Some Harney Basin residents will receive questionnaire about groundwater

Blue Mountain Eagle

Some southern Grant County residents in the Harney Basin will soon receive a questionnaire regarding groundwater.

The Harney Community-Based Water Planning Collaborative wants to know what residential well users are experiencing with water quantity and quality.

A sample of residential well owners in the Harney Basin will be mailed a simple questionnaire from Oregon State University's Survey Research Center Sept. 13.

Little information is known about these wells,

and the confidential questionnaire that shares no identifiable information is an opportunity to help the collaborative understand the consequences of groundwater-level declines. Groundwater levels are declining in some areas of the basin because more water is being taken out of the ground than is replenished each year through rainfall.

"I can't overemphasize how important it is for basin residents to fill out and send the questionnaire back," said Diane Rapaport, vice-chair of the Harney County Watershed Council. "There is no other

way to find out just what is happening out there in the basin and the difficulties many people are enduring."

The collaborative is a group of water-users, organizations and agencies currently developing a local, integrated water resources management plan for the Harney Basin.

Funding for the survey was made possible from a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

To learn more about the Harney Community-Based Water Planning Collaborative, visit hewatershed-council.com/community-based-water-planning.

Wayne Stewart Scholarship awards \$535,000

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Wayne Stewart Scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year is awarding \$535,600 to 103 students.

Each is receiving a scholarship of \$5,200.

Recipients who have consented to having their names published include: Erika Adams, Jennie Adams Vertz Purcell, Beau Bigo, Amy Black, Kade Blood, Levi Burke, Erin Cantrell, Ely Carniglia, Shyannah Carr, Hailey Carter, Jessica Carter, George Clark, Jeremiah Clark, Victoria Coalwell, Caroline Colson, Cody Combs, Andrea Comer, Amy Cook, Brett Copenhaver, McKinzie Dawson, Kiley Derrick,

Kevin Eddy, Tanner Elliott, Kyla Emerson, Bud Farmer, Hannah Flower, Virginia Frazier, Donald Gabbard, Nathan Gehley, Stephanie Gilbert, Sandra Gladish, Cameron Hallgarth, James Hercher, Cassandra Hire, Trinity Hutchison, Declan Jensen, James Johnson, Nicole Jones, Maggie Justice, Teela Kilby, Roen Langum, Avery Lenz, Grant LeQueu, Kelsey Long, Colton Madden, Daven Mauseth, Jennifer McCloskey, Taylor McCluskey, Ty McDaniel, Madison McKrola, Mariah Meyerholz, McKeely Miller, Alcie Moore, Elisa Moore, Alondra Moreno, Avaley Mortimore, Heather Mosley, Mariah Moulton, Railey Namitz, Katharine Nico-

lato, Shanna Northway, Jeffrey Parolini, Jay Patel, Haley Pfefferkorn, Skylar Powell, Dawson Quinton, Katrina Randleas, Savanna Randleas, Lindsay Rausch, Jozie Rude, Megan Russell, Diana Sandersfeld, Faythe Schafer, Reagan Shelley, Marissa Smith, Nicholas Springer, Duane Stokes, Macy Strong, Maya Thomas, Preslie Thompson, Sydney Thompson, Jandy Torland, Carmen Vaughan, Cauy Weaver, Fallon Weaver, Wyatt Weaver, Jessica Winegar, Brennon Witty, Mackenzie Woodcock, Carleanne Wright, Hailee Wright, Mariah Wright, Nathan Wunz, Reitta Wyllie, Amaya Zweygardt and Brianna Zweygardt.



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Painted Sky to offer Arts After School

Blue Mountain Eagle

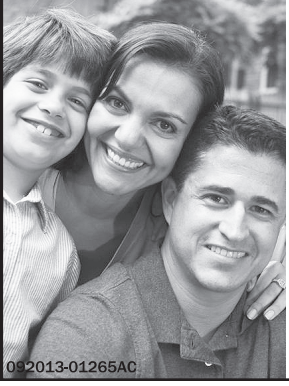
Painted Sky Center for the Arts is offering Arts After School for kindergarten through fourth-grade students starting

Sept. 16.

Activities are offered from school until 5:45 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Fridays at 118 S. Washington St., Canyon City.

The program costs \$175 per month, and only 15 spots are available.

For more information, visit paintedskycenter.com or email paintedskycenter@gmail.com.



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Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday	91/55
Wednesday	92/56
Thursday.....	91/58
Friday.....	80/61
Saturday	86/55
Sunday.....	69/53
Monday.....	69/50

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHZ

WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 11-17

Wednesday



Partly cloudy

71

47

Thursday



Partly cloudy

81

51

Friday



Mostly cloudy

79

49

Saturday



Mostly cloudy

79

51

Sunday



Mostly cloudy

68

43

Monday



Partly cloudy

66

36

Tuesday



Mostly cloudy

72

35