

# Public use restrictions implemented on part of Malheur National Forest

Blue Mountain Eagle

The southern zone of the Malheur National Forest has implemented public use restrictions, limiting campfires and chainsaw use.

On Friday, the southern Emigrant Creek Ranger District listed fire danger as high and moved to an Industrial Fire Precaution Level of II, according to a press release. The north zone, Blue Mountain and Prairie City ranger districts, listed fire danger as moderate.

High fire danger means fires can start easily from most causes and small fuels will ignite readily.

Under IFPL II, power saws (except at loading sites), cable yarding and welding or cutting of metal are only allowed between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. It does not regulate any recreational or firewood cutting activities.

On Saturday, the south zone will implement Phase B of public use restrictions, prohibiting:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal briquette or stove fire, except within a developed recreation site, listed on the Malheur National Forest website.

2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

3. Operating a chainsaw between the hours of 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saw operators are required to have a shovel (8 inches wide, 26 inches in length), and fire extinguisher (minimum ABC 8 oz.) in their possession. A one-hour fire watch is required after saw operations cease. Generators are allowed when located in a location cleared of flammable material in an area at least 10 feet in diameter and with an approved spark arrestor.

4. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed,



Contributed photo/Todd McKinley

**Lightning the evening of June 12 caused four fires on the Malheur National Forest. The forest has implemented public use restrictions.**

maintained and in effective working order.

5. Possessing or using a vehicle off National Forest System roads, except when parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway.

On the north zone of the forest, the IFPL is I. Moderate fire danger means fires can start from most accidental causes, but the number of fire starts is usually pretty low.

Campfires are allowed only in fire pits surrounded by

dirt, rock or commercial rings and in areas not conducive to rapid fire spread, at a minimum clear of all flammable material within a radius of 3 feet from the edge of the pit and free of overhanging material. Use existing pits wherever possible.

Campfires must be attended at all times, and completely extinguished prior to leaving. Persons with campfires are required to have a tool that can serve as a shovel and one gallon of water in their possession. On the north zone of the

forest, wood cutting is still permitted all day with a one-hour fire watch after cutting.

For more information, call 541-575-3000.

## Oregon Department of Forestry

This year on Oregon Department of Forestry's Central Oregon District, 43 fire have burned 67 acres — 31 of those fires caused by humans.

Regulated-use closure for lands protected by the Central Oregon District went into effect July 1, according to a press release.

These restrictions are intended to limit activities that have an increased potential of starting fires. Current fuel conditions in the district are likely to result in a rapidly spreading fire from activities such as a spark from a lawnmower blade on rock.

All open burning, including campfires, is prohibited on ODF protected lands in the Central Oregon District, as well as use of tracer ammunition and exploding targets. The

full proclamation describing the restrictions is available at [odfcentraloregon.com](http://odfcentraloregon.com).

Those traveling in forested areas need to have a fire extinguisher and shovel in case they come upon a fire, and they should report all fires to 911 or a local dispatch center even if they believe they have contained the fire.

While traveling and recreating in the woods, do not leave gravel roadways and never park in grassy areas where hot vehicle parts can come in contact with vegetation.

Prevention measures can vary among agencies, but it is the responsibility of the user to know the rules and restrictions.

ODF's Central Oregon District continues to serve landowners and the public as an essential service for Oregonians. Call or email to talk with staff or schedule an appointment. For additional information on ODF's Central Oregon District, including contact information and unit offices, visit [odfcentraloregon.com](http://odfcentraloregon.com).

# Residents urged to enroll in statewide COVID-19 study

Participants in OHSU-led study will help protect their communities

Blue Mountain Eagle

About 10 Grant County residents have signed up to report their temperature and other COVID-19 symptoms for up to one year to provide state and local officials information that will help them make decisions about how to keep Oregon open and safe.

Since it was announced in May, the Oregon Health & Science University-led Key to Oregon study has been measuring COVID-19 prevalence throughout the state, according to a press release. So far, nearly 9,000 Oregonians have enrolled statewide.

The study aims to enroll up to 100,000 randomly selected Oregonians, who will spend less than 10 minutes a day to report their temperature and other symptoms on a secure website. Up to 10,000 of those



Contributed photo/Kristyna Wentz-Graff

**Kevin Ystad collects addressed Key to Oregon research study cards and packages them for mailing, at Stevens Integrated Solutions in Portland, May 11.**

enrolled will also be selected for asymptomatic testing, or testing those who do not have symptoms, to better measure an often-invisible source of COVID-19's spread.

Those who take part are

helping protect their families and communities. OHSU will share study findings with state and local decision makers, who can use the data to make decisions to meet the state's economic and social

needs — including reopening or closing local businesses and schools — while also protecting human health and lives.

"We are deeply grateful to those willing to volunteer their time to this important work," said the study's lead researcher, Jackie Shannon, Ph.D. "Each person who spends less than 10 minutes a day on this study will help us better understand how the virus is affecting Oregonians. If you were randomly selected, please consider taking part to help your community stay open."

A total of 500 Grant County households have been invited to participate in the study, and should have received mail notices in May. Those mailings included instructions about how to enroll online. If you lost your invite but are interested in enrolling, send an email to [keystudy@ohsu.edu](mailto:keystudy@ohsu.edu).

Those interested in following the study's progress can learn more at [ohsu.edu/key-to-oregon](http://ohsu.edu/key-to-oregon).

# Eagle office will close at 4:30 p.m. starting next week

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Blue Mountain Eagle office will be closing at 4:30 p.m. starting July 27.

Business hours will be from

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. All deadlines will remain the same.

For more information, contact the Eagle at 541-575-0710 or [office@bmeagle.com](mailto:office@bmeagle.com).

# Alcoholics Anonymous meetings

Blue Mountain Eagle

Alcoholics Anonymous groups are currently meeting in compliance with social distancing rules.

At 7:30 p.m. Mondays, the Outlaw Group meets at Presbyterian Church in Mt. Vernon.

At 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, the Let Go Group meets at

St. Elizabeth Catholic Parish Hall in John Day.

At noon Fridays, the John Day Miracles Group meets at the Church of the Nazarene. Attendees should use the ramp on the side of the church.

Attendees need not be alcoholics to attend.

For more information about addiction or recovery, join a group or call 509-551-8402.

# Eddy graduates from OIT in Klamath Falls

Blue Mountain Eagle

Kevin Michael Eddy, son of Greg and Debbie Eddy of Canyon City, recently graduated

from Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls. He earned a Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude, in respiratory therapy.

# Down payment assistance available for first-time homebuyers

Blue Mountain Eagle

Oregon Housing and Community Services has awarded Community Connection of Northeast Oregon's Housing Resource Center a \$300,000 grant to provide down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers.

Applicants can receive up to \$15,000 in down payment and closing costs toward the purchase of their home, according to a press release. Eligible applicants must

have gross annual income less than the area median income, be first-time homebuyers, have net worth limitations and be lender-ready within one year. See [www.ccono.org](http://www.ccono.org) for details.

Grant County's median income is \$60,800.

Community Connection provides pre-purchase counseling to persons interested in purchasing a home. A HUD-certified housing counselor helps position folks for lender approval by address-

ing budget, credit and debt, and educates prospective homeowners of available loan products. Community Connection also offers individual development accounts for first-time homebuyers, allowing prospective buyers to save up to \$12,000 toward a down payment.

Community Connection's certified foreclosure intervention and default counselor counsels homeowners at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure by reviewing options

and strategies to retain ownership of their homes. This includes available programs for loan reinstatement and loan modification. Also included is financial capability counseling, which involves budgeting and creating a sustainable projected budget.

In 2019, Community Connection's efforts in foreclosure avoidance counseling saved homeowners a total of \$791,216 and saved 36 homes from foreclosure.

## OBITUARIES

### Ruth (Stussi) Rodarme

Nov. 27, 1943 — July 20, 2020

Ruth (Stussi) Rodarme, 76, died July 20, 2020, in Texas. Ruth was born Nov. 27, 1943, in Long Creek, Oregon. Her parents were John and Reta Stussi.

Ruth died sitting outside her R.V. with two Bibles in her hand and a wonderful hand-written message by her chair. The EMT that came to help Ruth was so touched by her message that he said his life will forever be changed for the good.

Ruth loved to travel. So 18 years ago God put Dan Rodarme in her life who also loves to travel and loves the Lord as much as Ruth did. They R.V., across the U.S.A. Ruth was the happiest she had ever been.

Ruth had two children, Monica and Darrin; three grandchildren, Austin, Elliot and McKenna; and one great-grandson, Reed.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her two sisters, Lola Chapman and Donna Amos.

Services will be in La Grande at a later date.

# No Matter

## how big or small your trophy was

or if you just want to share a hunting adventure,

### SEND OR DROP OFF YOUR BEST

# HUNTING PHOTOS OR STORIES to

195 N Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845 • [kim@bmeagle.com](mailto:kim@bmeagle.com)

Your photos could be published in this year's EAGLE HUNTING JOURNAL

Please have them to the Eagle by August 8.

## Last Week's Temps

Day	HI/LO
John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday	85/46
Wednesday	89/49
Thursday	93/55
Friday	87/59
Saturday	89/50
Sunday	91/54
Monday	94/59

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 JULY 22 - 28

Day	Forecast	High	Low
Wednesday	Sunny	93	60
Thursday	Mostly sunny	83	52
Friday	Sunny	87	52
Saturday	Sunny	86	52
Sunday	Sunny	91	55
Monday	Sunny	94	51
Tuesday	Mostly sunny	100	56