



Contributed photo

When it comes to firewood, it's better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

Woodpile lessons

I was 8 or 9 years old when my father bequeathed me the chore of getting the family firewood from the stack to the porch each night. Dad had been a timber feller for a long time until an accident nearly left him crippled. After almost two years of crutches, casts, braces, surgeries and physical therapy he was practically the six million dollar man. All joking aside, he found other employ to support our family, and I was given the chore of firewood.



Dale Valade

doesn't hold a fire for very long compared to the others.

Each night I would load up a toboggan and drag a few loads of wood to the front porch of our home in Spray. I would stack the firewood about chest high there, and that would typically last the night. One time I got lazy and didn't stack as much as normal. Dad inquired if I was going to put more wood on the porch, to which I replied that we had sufficient. Around 1:30 or 2 that morning, the old man came and got me out of bed as we had ran out of firewood on the porch. Sleepy-eyed and all, I was persuaded to drag my toboggan out to the stack and wrangle more to the porch. From then on I always stacked it a little taller — better to have too much than too little.

Wood heat always works. You aren't reliant upon solar panels, power grids, stove oil or gas to stay warm. It's something to keep in mind even as an auxiliary heat source for your homes. While not the case everywhere, here in Grant County there is practically an endless supply of dead trees to be cut up and used. Start early getting your wood in. Winter might be over, but the next one is always just down the road. It's better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it.

Have a wood stove? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.

Controlled hunt application deadline is Saturday, May 15

Blue Mountain Eagle

The May 15 deadline to apply for a controlled or premium hunt falls on a Saturday this year.

The online licensing system will process applications until 11:59 p.m. on May 15, and license vendors will also be selling applications. But Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife licensing staff will not be available to help hunters who wait until Saturday and encounter problems accessing their account.

"We are urging hunters to not wait until the last minute this year," said Michael Hawkins, ODFW Licensing Services manager. "The majority of applications come in during the last few days before the deadline and our hold and email response times peak. But because the deadline falls on a weekend, ODFW customer service staff will not be able to help you if you wait

until Saturday to apply."

It's easy to apply online at MyODFW.com (click the green "Buy a License" button at top right corner). People without an account can use the "Verify/ Look Up" feature to find their account.

Once logged in, go to "Purchase from the Catalog/Big Game Hunting" to find the application for each series. An annual hunting license is required to apply and can be purchased at the same time as controlled hunt applications.

Directions on how to apply online are available at <https://myodfw.com/articles/how-apply-controlled-hunt>, and more tips on using ODFW's electronic licensing system are available at <https://myodfw.com/ELS>.

For problems, call Licensing at 503-947-6101 or email odfw.websales@odfw.oregon.gov.

People can also apply at a license sale agent.

Forest opening solicitation for blanket purchase agreement

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Malheur National Forest announced it will be opening the Eastern Blues Solicitation for a blanket purchase agreement.

The BPA will be open for all interested contractors the week of May 15 for one month and then not again until next year. The solicitation will be posted on <https://beta.sam.gov/> and is open to viewing by the public.

In order to receive a BPA award, contractors must be registered on <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/> in order to do business with the government

The solicitation for the BPA will be for the following service activities: commercial timber harvest, pre-commercial thinning, grapple piling, hand thinning, hand piling, road maintenance and mastication.

For those who fill out the solicitation, contact Nikki Layton at nikki.layton@usda.gov when the process is completed. Name and contact information will need to be provided. Register immediately in SAM to begin this process. Any questions regarding this process can be directed to Layton 360-891-5080 or Ingrid Anderson 541-549-7731.



Blue Mountain Hospital District



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Full-spectrum Dermatology for both adult and pediatric patients is now available in Grant County.

Blue Mountain Hospital District has partnered with Dermatology Health Specialists in Bend, and they will be seeing patients monthly in John Day at BMH.

Meet the Dermo-Health team:



Oliver Wisco, DO, FAAD, FACMS
Dermatologist
MOHS Micrographic Surgeon
Melanoma Specialist



Jill Conway, PA-C
Adult & Pediatric Dermatology



Matthew Clark, MD, FAAD
Dermatologist
MOHS Micrographic Surgeon



Samuel Christensen, PA-C
Adult & Pediatric Dermatology



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Lindsey Clark, PA-C
Adult & Pediatric Dermatology

To make an appointment, contact your primary care provider for a referral or call 541-575-2060.

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541-575-2060

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
WWW.BLUEMOUNTAINHOSPITAL.ORG/DERMATOLOGY