

Umatilla National Forest further reduces area closure

Blue Mountain Eagle

Umatilla National Forest officials further reduced the area closure on Friday, Aug. 13, reopening access to most of the Umatilla National Forest lands in Oregon. National Forest lands within proximity to active large wildfires (the Lick Creek, Green Ridge and Elbow Creek fires) will remain closed to public entry. The modified closure prohibits access to all Umatilla National Forest lands in Washington state (on both the Pomeroy and Walla Walla Ranger Districts) and closes lands surrounding the Elbow Creek Fire on the Walla Walla Ranger District in Oregon, which encompasses lands south and east

of where Alder Creek intersects with Forest Road 62 to the forest boundary, as displayed on the enclosed map. Public entry is prohibited in the areas identified in the closure, which includes lands, roads, trails and recreational facilities. Visitors planning a trip to areas within the closure should cancel any plans for the next several weeks. These areas remain closed to protect public and firefighter safety as the Forest continues to actively suppress wildfires, while also responding to new smoke reports. A detailed map describing the updated closure area is available at the end of this news release, on the forest website and at any forest office. Closure barriers and signs will

be posted on the ground. Fire danger on the Umatilla National Forest is still extreme. For areas that will re-open to the public, Phase C Public Use Restrictions will be in effect. Under these restrictions:

- Campfires are prohibited on the Forest. Use liquid and bottle (propane) gas stoves only.
- No internal combustion engine operation (including chainsaws), except for motorized vehicles.
- Electrical generators operated under the following conditions are allowed: in the center of an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material, or; when fully contained within

a pickup truck bed that is empty of all flammable material, or; when factory installed in a recreational vehicle and the generator exhaust discharge is located in the center of an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

- No off-road/off-trail vehicle travel or travel on roads not cleared of standing grass or other flammable material. Vehicle travel is never permitted on currently closed forest service roads where access has been impeded or blocked by earthen berms, logs, boulders, barriers, barricades or gates, or as otherwise identified in a closure order.
- Smoking is allowed only in enclosed vehicles and buildings, devel-

oped recreation sites, or in cleared areas. Violating closures and fire restrictions is a violation that carries a mandatory appearance in federal court, punishable as a Class B misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or up to six months in prison, or both. For more information regarding restrictions, contact the Information Hotline at 877-958-9663. The latest fire information will be posted on the Blue Mountains Fire Information Blog, <http://bluemountainfireinfo.blogspot.com>. More information about the Umatilla National Forest is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla>.

OBITUARIES

Gary Dwain Groen

April 8, 1944 – July 4, 2021

Gary Dwain Groen, 77, of Lakeside, Oregon, passed away on July 4, 2021. Gary was born in Houston, Texas, to Lu Verne and Oma Groen. After the death of his mother while he was still very young, Gary was blessed to have Mary Ellen become his mother, and the two shared a close bond until her passing in 2019. Gary graduated from Grant Union High School in 1962 and joined the Army. After being discharged, Gary graduated from the Oregon Institute of Technology with a degree in electrical engineering and worked as an engineer in Beaverton, Oregon, and Pocatello, Idaho. Gary was a diligent investor, which allowed him to retire at the age of 50 and spend time focusing on his two lifelong passions of fishing and rafting, which he pursued throughout the Northwest.

After being a lifelong bachelor, Gary married his high school sweetheart, Sue (Gohlinghorst) Kincaid, in 2004. The couple enjoyed having adventures in their motor home as they traveled all across the U.S. Even though Gary never had children of his own, he became well-loved by his six grandchildren, who affectionately called him "Gramps." Even after the death of Sue in 2015, Gary continued to spend as much time with his grandkids as he could.

Besides his expertise with finances, rafting and fishing, Gary was known for his kind heart, infectious laugh and patient demeanor. Above all his hobbies, Gary loved and cared for his family and friends. Gary looked forward to opportunities to visit, being a part of family gatherings and spending time on the river making memories with lifelong friends. His presence at these events will be greatly missed.

A celebration of life will be held from 3-6 p.m. on Aug. 28 at Cook Park Picnic Shelter 1, 17005 SW 92nd Ave., Tigard, Oregon.



Rick David Runninghawk

Dec. 10, 1961 – July 8, 2021

Rick David Runninghawk, of Prairie City, Oregon, succumbed to a long-term illness Thursday, July 8, 2021, at the age of 59.

Rick was born Dec. 10, 1961, in Baker City, Oregon, to Melvin Ernest Newton and the late Delores Ann (nee Trujillo) Goddard.

Rick enlisted in the Army in 1988 and was subsequently qualified as an AH-64 "Apache" pilot. He deployed in support of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. Rick would eventually earn two Air Medals, one with "V" device, and a Bronze Star. He retired from active service in 2012.

Rick returned to Oregon, eventually moving to Prairie City, where he worked as the manager at Prairie Hardware and Gifts and as a volunteer firefighter.

He displayed wondrous generosity to those with whom he was close. He also loved the outdoors, excelling at fishing and hunting, and was musically gifted. At the very end, he was provided daily companionship by his beloved dog, Breezy the Doberman.

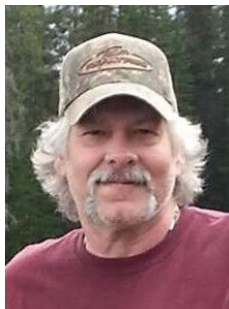
He leaves behind four children and their families: his eldest son, Ricky Logan Newton, of Bend, Oregon; his eldest daughter, Mallory Alexandra (nee Newton) Corcoran, of Sisters, Oregon; his youngest daughter, Jesse S. Newton, of Redmond, Oregon; and his adopted daughter, Ryann R. Runninghawk, of Lebanon, Oregon.

Additionally, he leaves behind his father, Melvin Ernest, and stepmother, Norma Viree (nee Green) Newton, of Albany, Oregon.

Also still living are his siblings: brother, Randall Dean Newton, and sister-in-law, Annamarie LaPorte, of Whispering Pines, North Carolina; and sister, Crystal Ann (nee Newton) Knuths, and brother-in-law, Dennis L. Knuths, of Shedd, Oregon.

He also has numerous cherished grandchildren and other relatives who mourn his sudden and unexpected passing.

A celebration of life service will be planned at a future date. To offer online condolences to Rick's family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.



The Neighbor Wildfire Resilience project scoping and comment period to begin

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Emigrant Creek Ranger District on the Malheur National Forest is proposing to reduce and remove hazardous fuels in the Neighbor Wildfire Resilience project area.

The Forest Service is preparing the categorical exclusion project under the guidelines contained in Section 605 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, according to a Thursday press release.

The press release noted that the project will entail thinning to produce commercial or pre-commercial products for wildfire prevention within a 400-foot wide border along the Emigrant Creek Ranger District boundary portions. Up to 3,000 acres would be treated utilizing ground-based systems.

Currently, the Forest Service said, it anticipates the project would be excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact

Statement or Environmental Analysis under the following laws 40 CFR 1508.4 and FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30.

During the scoping phase of the National Environmental Policy Act process, the press release noted the agency is seeking both verbal and written comments and any questions.

The agency is interested in any issues, concerns or opportunities that people in the community feel the agency should consider before starting the project, according to the press release.

The Forest Service noted that additional information can be found at the project's website at fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57290.

The press release noted that this would be the only opportunity to submit comments. The deadline is Aug. 25.

Get more information by reaching out to Lori Bailey or Melissa Ward by at 265 Highway 20 South, Hines OR 97738, or 541-573-4300.

Mtn. View Mini-Mart 211 Front St., Prairie City 541-820-4477
Weekly Specials
Sunday - Family Style Joy's Choice | Thursday - Asian | Saturday - Sushi

TOM CHRISTENSEN CONSTRUCTION
(541) 410-0557 • (541) 575-0192
CCB# 106077
REMODELS • NEW CONSTRUCTION • POLE BUILDINGS
CONCRETE EXCAVATION • SHEET ROCK • SIDING
ROOFING • FENCES • DECKS • TELESCOPING FORKLIFT SERVICES

Murray's Drug
Serving Eastern Oregon since 1959!
Pharmacy • Hallmark Cards • Gifts • Liquor Store

Heppner (541) 676-9158
Condon (541) 256-1200
Boardman (541) 481-9474
www.MurraysDrug.com

Michael B. DesJardin Dentistry, PC
Preventive, Restorative & Endodontics
New Patients Welcome!
208 NW Canton
John Day
541-575-2725
mbddental@live.com
michaelbdesjardinmd.com

CITY OF JOHN DAY
Street Fair
Farmer's Market
Burgers grilled up by
John Day Volunteer Fire Dept.
JDFD will be accepting donations
for The Tree of Giving
WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!
Friday, August 20th
5:00 - 8:00 pm
S. CANYON BLVD & SE 1ST AVE

PAINTED SKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS
GREATER THINGS PAINT PARTY Thursday, August 19
We'll paint SUNFLOWER FIELD with acrylics on a 16x20 canvas
8:00 - 8:30 PM
MOVIE & CRAFTS CARNIVAL NIGHT Friday, August 20
'CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY'
7:00 PM
ARTS AFTER SCHOOL Mon, August 23 - Tue November 23
Mon - Thu 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Fri 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
FALL YOUTH THEATER GROUP Auditions: August 31 & September 7
8:00 PM and 7:00 PM
Email us: paintedskycenter@gmail.com Follow us on Facebook:
Call us: 541-575-1335 Painted Sky Center for the Arts
Visit us: www.paintedskycenter.com
110 S Washington Street, Canyon City, OR 97820

A MAN WAKES UP in the morning after sleeping on... an advertised bed, in advertised pajamas.
He will bathe in an ADVERTISED TUB, shave with an ADVERTISED RAZOR, have a breakfast of ADVERTISED JUICE, cereal and toast, toasted in an ADVERTISED TOASTER, put on ADVERTISED CLOTHES and glance at his ADVERTISED WATCH. He'll ride to work in his ADVERTISED CAR, sit at an ADVERTISED DESK and write with an ADVERTISED PEN. Yet this person hesitates to advertise, saying that advertising doesn't pay. Finally, when his non-advertised business is going under, HE'LL ADVERTISE IT FOR SALE.
Then it's too late.
AND THEY SAY ADVERTISING DOESN'T WORK? DON'T MAKE THIS SAME MISTAKE
Advertising is an investment, not an expense. Think about it!
Blue Mountain Eagle MyEagleNews.com
Don't get left behind, call today! Kim Kell 541-575-0710

Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday	93/50
Wednesday	100/61
Thursday	100/65
Friday	97/62
Saturday	97/63
Sunday	102/67
Monday	96/64

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 AUG. 18-24

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Chance of showers	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
73 49	83 52	85 49	80 48	83 46	79 38	92 49