

LOCAL BRIEFING

ODFW opens stamp art contest

Blue Mountain Eagle

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is putting out a call to artists for its 2023 wildlife art contest.

Artists are invited to submit artwork to be used in producing collectible stamps and other promotional items that will be sold to benefit Oregon fish, wildlife and habitat.

There are three categories, and the winner in each one will receive a \$2,000 prize. Detailed information on contest rules is available online at [www.dfw.state.or.us/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/).

Entries for the habitat con-

servation stamp should depict an eligible species from the Oregon Conservation Strategy in its natural habitat.

Waterfowl stamp entries must feature the greater scaup in its natural habitat, and entries for the upland game bird stamp must feature the mountain quail in a natural setting.

ODFW will begin accepting entries for the 2023 stamp contest on Aug. 26, with the deadline to submit at 5 p.m. Sept. 30. Entries may be mailed or hand-delivered to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife headquarters, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive, Salem, OR 97302.

Deadline Feb. 4 for NRCS easements

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a U.S. Department of Agriculture program, is accepting applications for agricultural land easements.

The easements apply to cropland, rangeland, pasture, grassland and non-industrial private forest lands and are intended to preserve

productive agricultural lands from non-agricultural use.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, but to be considered for fiscal year 2022 funding, they should be submitted by Feb. 4.

For more information, see the NRCS Oregon website at [or.nrcs.usda.gov](http://or.nrcs.usda.gov) or visit the program's John Day office at 721 S. Canyon Blvd.

Student earns bachelor's degree

Blue Mountain Eagle

FREDERICK, Maryland — Destiny Fairless of John Day graduated from Hood College in

January with a bachelor's degree in history, the college announced.

Hood College is an independent liberal arts institution in Frederick, Maryland.

DEATH NOTICES

Thomas Lee Griffith

Thomas Lee Griffith died Jan. 21, 2022, at his home in The Dalles, with family by his side. Tom was born March 1, 1940, and was 81 years of age at the time of his passing. Arrangements are under the direction of Anderson's Tribute Center Celilo Chapel, 204 E. Fourth St., The Dalles, OR 97058. Visit [www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com](http://www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com) to leave a note of condolence for the family.

Thelma "Beth" Elizabeth Dunkelberger  
December 4, 1944 ~ January 10, 2022

Thelma "Beth" Elizabeth Dunkelberger, 77, of John Day, Oregon, passed away on January 10, 2022, at her residence in Valley View Assisted Living. A private family service will be held in the spring or summer of 2022 in Summerville, Oregon.



Beth was born in Prairie City, Oregon, on December 4, 1944, to George "Mick" and Lucille "Lucy" (Justice) Dougharity. She had three siblings, Keith "Mick" Dougharity, Sharon Dougharity, and Patty Dougharity-Bingaman. The family moved to Summerville, Oregon, and built the house they all lived in.

Beth was a rodeo princess and graduated high school in Imbler, Oregon, in 1964. After high school, she studied business in college. While in college, she met Ray Dunkelberger, and on July 10, 1965, they married. Beth and Ray had two children, Kelly and Ken Dunkelberger.

In 1990, Ray and Beth divorced, though they stayed friends. After the divorce, Beth went back to college and trained to become a paralegal. She had a few careers during her life; working at First Interstate Bank, Standard TV & Appliance, Bend Memorial Clinic, and as a paralegal. Beth's most interesting job was a private investigator; she got to wear disguises, and her sister-in-law, Charlotte Dougharity, got to go on a stakeout with her, and they had a blast!

When she wasn't taking care of her family or working, Beth liked to paint and make quilts. She also took pride in volunteering at Toy-n-Joy in Portland for 20 years.

Beth adored her grandchildren, Cody, born in 1992, and Katrina, born in 1997. They called her Gram or "G."

She is survived by her children Kelly (Dereck) Dunkelberger Ivey of Bend, Oregon and Ken Dunkelberger of Portland, Oregon; grandchildren Katrina Ivey and Cody Ivey of Bend, Oregon; sister Patty (Russel) Dougharity Bingaman; sister-in-law Charlotte Dougharity. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews, Mick Dougharity, Keith Dougharity, Cindy Dougharity-Spencer, Shaun Bingaman, Cheryl Bingaman, and Austin Bingaman.

Beth was preceded in death by her parents, George "Mick" and Lucille "Lucy" Dougharity, and two of her siblings, Mick Dougharity and Sharon Dougharity Stace.

To leave an online condolence for the family of Beth, please visit: [www.driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://www.driskillmemorialchapel.com). Paid for by the family of Thelma Dunkelberger.

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County modifies tracing policy

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant County Health Department is modifying its contact tracing procedures for COVID-19 exposure.

In the face of soaring positive test results from the omicron surge, the state recently changed its guidelines. Instead of tasking contact tracers with notifying everyone who may have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, they are now being asked to reach out only to close contacts who are educators, frontline workers, workers in congregate care centers and health care staff.

While acknowledging the reason for those changes, Grant County has chosen to continue reaching out to other close contacts as time permits, according to County Judge Scott Myers.

The goal of contact tracing is to limit the spread of COVID-19 by identifying people who may have been exposed to the disease and advising them on the need to get tested and possibly self-quarantine.

Kimberly Lindsay, the county's public health administrator, told the Eagle part of the reason why the county is choosing to go in a different direction is that most people



Jessica Winegar, Grant County Health Department's clinic manager, works on her computer in this 2020 photo.

would want to know if they were a close contact of someone who tested positive for the virus before visiting their 99-year-old grandmother.

Myers said if the increase in positive cases continues, it would only make sense to focus limited contact tracing resources on frontline workers, educators, health care staff, and congregate care workers and then — as time allows — reach out to others.

In the meantime, Lindsay

said, the abuse, uncooperative behavior and open hostility the county's contact tracers experienced back in November had largely died down.

While Lindsay was not sure what to attribute the shift in tone to, Myers said he believes people in the community are likely becoming more aware that the virus is real and that they could become infected or exposed and want to hear what the Health Department has to say.

Maybe the abusers felt that

they spoke their minds and did not need to repeat themselves, Myers added. Or perhaps the contact tracers stopped calling the homes of the abusers.

"Maybe they made note that (calling an abusive person) was not a pleasant experience, and they probably won't call them back," he said. "I don't know how (Health Department workers) figure out who they're going to call again. Some people appreciate it, and some people don't."

MNF makes firewood for personal use free

Blue Mountain Eagle

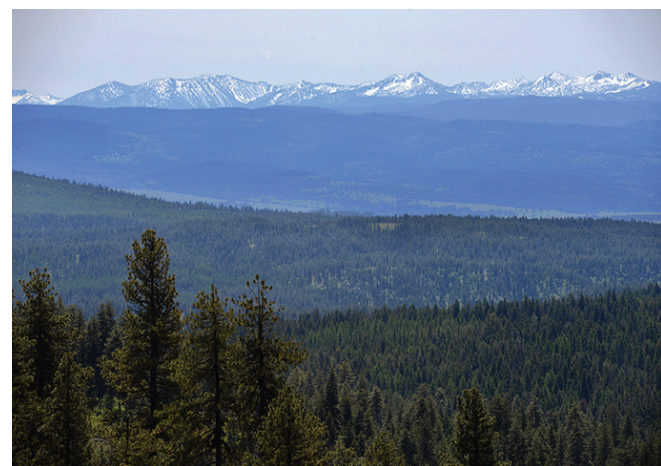
JOHN DAY — Cutting firewood for personal use is now free on the Malheur National Forest.

Under new rules that took effect Jan. 18, area residents can now obtain free permits to cut up to eight cords of firewood per household as long as it's not for resale, Malheur officials announced in a news release.

Participants in the free use program must have a valid permit, firewood tags, a map and a copy of forest regulations on hand when collecting or transporting firewood on the forest.

Commercial permits will still be available for individuals who wish to resell firewood. The regional minimum rate for commercial use permits remains unchanged at \$5 per cord, with a four-cord minimum and an eight-cord household maximum.

Permits and tags for both the free and commercial firewood programs can be obtained by calling any Malheur National Forest office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The number is (541)-575-3000 for the John Day office, (541)-820-3800 for Prairie City or (541)-573-4300 for Hines.



The Malheur National Forest's proposed Cliff Knox Project aims to make 40,000 acres of forest in Grant and Harney counties more resistant to catastrophic wildfires.

Eastern Oregon workers commuting more

By ALEX WITWTER  
EO Media Group

EASTERN OREGON — Over a third of Eastern Oregon's workforce commuted

across county lines for their jobs in 2019, according to federal census data.

In some areas, that percentage is even higher.

"It's a product of the econ-

omy," said Christopher Rich, regional economist with the Oregon Employment Department, "and places people are and the jobs that are available, and the housing market that's available."

Roughly 38.5% of Union County residents commute for work in a different county, while 41% of Grant County residents commute for work. In Umatilla County, 35.8% of residents commute across county lines for work, while 24.4% of Wallowa residents commute to other counties for work.

A staggering 58.7% of Morrow County residents work in other counties, according to the data.

According to Rich, the data does not distinguish between commuters who travel between counties on a daily basis and those who might travel for seasonal work such as nurses or

wildland firefighters.

"There's likely to be some more long-term commuters that come in for maybe a season," Rich said. "The data doesn't specifically say that."

Most of the workers who cross county lines commute to neighboring counties, though a fair few will skip more than one county, such as living in Baker and working in Pendleton, but that could be due to imperfect data, according to Rich, who has been updating articles on Oregon's economic data website, [qualityinfo.org](http://qualityinfo.org), with data from 2019.

"I think in general, people are looking for jobs that fit with the skill sets and their lifestyle," Rich said. "They're also looking for homes that fit the same thing, so in some cases, you end up having to commute a little longer."

Michael Frank Harer  
May 24, 1949 ~ January 14, 2022

Michael Frank Harer was born May 24, 1949, up the North Fork of the John Day River near Ukiah, Oregon to Frank Stephen Harer and Edith Rose Harer. He joined an older sister, Stephanie Rose. The family lived on the river many years prior to moving to Dale, Oregon.



Mike graduated from Ukiah High School in 1967. In July of 1968 he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served until 1974. Mike loved his county, he served 3 tours in Vietnam. Mike attained the rank of Sp-5. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal.

Mike was a cowboy all his life, even competing in area rodeos riding bareback horses. He loved horses and mastered many. He always had a pitch stump burning in the woods whether he was hunting, camping or fishing.

Mike worked cattle for many years on ranches in Oregon and Nevada. He also spent many years working in the woods, cutting logs and driving log truck.

In 1980, he married Holly Jo Beers and adopted her two small sons, Kelly and Jaime. They also had one son together, Christopher. They later divorced.

Survivors include sons, Kelly Harer (Sherry) of Oklahoma, Jaime Harer (Valerie) of Oregon, and Christopher Harer (Bekky) of Texas. Six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ukiah Rodeo or a local VFW.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Paid for by the family of Michael Harer.

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Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Wednesday	42/35
Thursday	46/34
Friday	41/28
Saturday	46/28
Sunday	48/30
Monday	48/31
Tuesday	46/31

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 JAN. 26-FEB. 1

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
44	45	43	45	44	39	37
24	23	24	28	32	29	27

DGDriscoll's BOOKS!

Cats, Cats, Cats.

Books about cats,  
Books of cat stories,  
Books of cat pictures

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat; 10 til 6  
248-719-2122

In Canyon City just across from the post office