

# The Blue Mountain EAGLE

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Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City cheerleaders and cheer camp participants perform a routine at the Independence Day parade on Monday, July 4, 2022, in Prairie City.

## FOURTH OF JULY ON THE PRAIRIE



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle  
The Prairie City football team throws candy to kids and waves to onlookers at the Fourth of July Parade Monday, July 4, 2022, in Prairie City.

By JUSTIN DAVIS  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Crowds of cheerful Americans were on hand on Independence Day to celebrate “America the Beautiful” in Prairie City. The annual tradition featured an early 5K run and pancake breakfast, parade, pulled pork sandwiches and yard games at the city park.

A patriotic drama performance by local Prairie City youth and music by Red Headed Step Child were also planned for the day.

Events started with the firing of a cannon in the middle of Highway 26 as parade participants lined up in the street. Members of Prairie City American Legion Post 106 conducted a flag folding ceremony in which the meaning of each of the 13 folds was described.



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle  
2022 Grant County Fair and Rodeo Princesses Macy Carter and Roney Anderson wave to crowds during the Fourth of July Parade in Prairie City on Monday, July 4, 2022.

Also taking part in the parade were members of Kim’s Tae Kwon Do in John Day. Students and their instructor, Laurel Coombs, demonstrated differing levels of

tae kwon do forms that varied in complexity and difficulty based on the belt level of the demonstrator.

Also on hand was the newly re-formed Prairie City cheer squad, who performed a cheer routine with members of a youth cheer camp the squad put on in the three days prior to the parade. The squad also ran the community kids fun zone at the park.

Prairie City head cheerleading coach Sabrina Howard is in her first year coaching the team following a six-year stint as the head swim coach at Gleason Pool.

Howard said the idea to do the camp, run the community kids zone and perform a routine at the Fourth of July parade began with Sharron Fritsch, who runs the community center in Prairie City.

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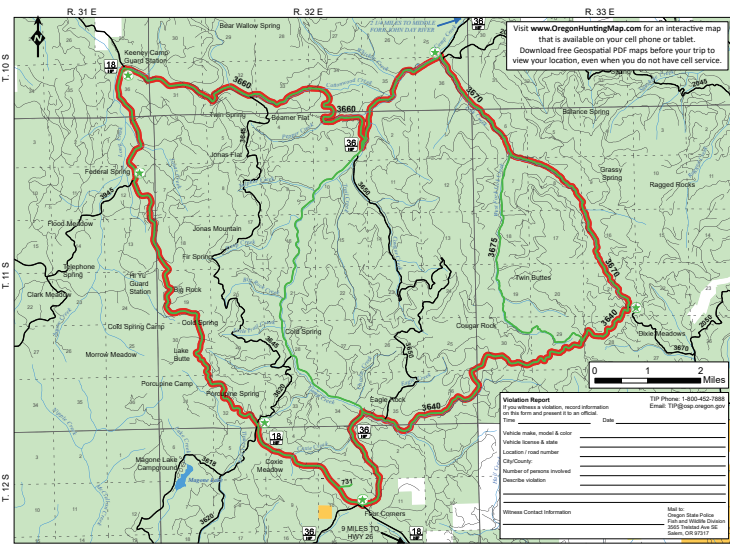
## ODFW and Forest Service to propose road closures in 2023 archery season

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will hold a public meeting to discuss road closures during next year’s archery season to promote elk security on Tuesday, July 12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Oregon Department of Forestry Office, 415 Patterson Bridge Road in John Day.

The U.S. Forest Service and ODFW are proposing to close some roads under the Camp Creek Travel Management Area Cooperative Agreement to motorized vehicles during archery season for deer and elk in 2023.

The idea is to protect elk that are susceptible to human disturbance — especially during hunting season, when



**Camp Creek 2022**

Cooperative Travel Management Area

Malheur National Forest  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Period of Restriction:  
July 28 through Oct. 12  
Oct. 23 through Nov. 13, 2022

**Map Location**

- Travel Management Area
- Open Roads
- USFS Land
- BLM Land
- Private Land

Only those roads shown in green and within 500 feet adjacent to those roads for the purpose of camping are open to motorized vehicles during the period of restrictions. Motorized vehicle travel within the Travel Management Area boundary on all other roads and trails, and cross-country is prohibited except by permit from the Malheur National Forest.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Protect soils and wildlife habitat
2. Minimize harassment of wildlife
3. Maintain adequate truck and bull equipment
4. Promote quality hunting

ODFW

elk often retreat to private land, ODFW wildlife biologist Ryan Torland said. The Forest Service and ODFW, Torland noted, want to minimize

the disturbances to keep the animals in the forest and on public land, given the growing body of research they have been reviewing.

Torland said the Forest Service and ODFW have been discussing the cooperative agreement for many years. Better enforcement from the

Oregon State Police coupled with increased staffing has allowed ODFW to enforce the plan and keep up with it administratively. Torland said the two agencies want to get the proposal out to the public and get feedback.

Torland said he would share deer and elk population numbers from the March 2022 census. Generally, he noted, elk populations are somewhat steady. However, he said, the calf-to-bull ratio — 11 calves for every 100 bulls — was abnormally low due to the severe drought conditions last year. He said deer fared better last year, but overall the numbers are going down.

The 2022 archery hunting season is changing from a general hunt — meaning there would be an unlimited number

of number of tags sold — to a controlled hunt, with a limited number of tags. Now, archery hunters must apply for a tag through the state’s computer lottery system.

Other than that, Torland said, there are no other changes, and wildlife managers are waiting to see the effects on population counts for deer and elk as the state moves to a controlled archery hunting season.

Archery season for both deer and elk goes for one month, starting in late August. Torland said with this being the first season of controlled hunts, ODFW would not be proposing many changes. However, he said, ODFW would be increasing the East Northside Hunting Unit’s tag numbers to 25 due to a slight increase in bull elk.

## Benefit set for local man with cancer

By STEVEN MITCHELL  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The family and friends of a local man battling a rare and aggressive form of cancer will hold a benefit dinner and live auction on Friday, July 8, at 6 p.m. in the Trowbridge Pavilion at the Grant County Fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St. in John Day.

In March, Adrian Wheeler, 30, was diagnosed with Stage 4 colorectal cancer, according to Laci Wheeler, Adrian’s wife. Doctors told Adrian the aggressive type of cancer — called signet ring-cell colon cancer — could not be cured with chemotherapy.

However, Laci said, a specialist in Ohio studying colorectal cancer has developed a new treatment that might help. She also said they have reached out to a cancer doctor in San Diego to see if Adrian could be a candidate for a specialized heated chemotherapy treatment that also involves significant surgery to remove tumors.

Unfortunately, both specialists are out-of-network providers not covered by the young family’s insurance.

Meanwhile, Adrian has received two chemotherapy treatment cycles at St. Charles Cancer Care Center in Bend to keep the cancer at bay. Additionally, she said, Adrian is receiving medications.

Born and raised in Grant County, Laci said she is grateful to have support from so many people in the community. She and Adrian, a Prairie City High School graduate, moved back to Grant County a couple of years ago because they wanted to have a community around them as they raised their son, Owen, now 2.

“We needed the community,” she said. “We just didn’t know how bad we needed it.”

Those interested in sending a donation to the family can go to [gofundme.com/f/support-for-adrian-wheeler](http://gofundme.com/f/support-for-adrian-wheeler).

Additionally, an account has been set up at Old West Credit Union in John Day under the name “Wheeler family.”



Tanni Wenger Photography Studio/Contributed Photo  
Adrian and Laci Wheeler with their 2-year-old son, Owen.



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