

Fire season terminated on private lands in Northeast Oregon

Fire season has been officially terminated for wildlands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry, Northeast Oregon District. This includes private, state, county, municipal and tribal lands in six counties: Union, Baker, Wallowa, Umatilla, Malheur and portions of Morrow. With the termination of fire season, landowners are no longer required to obtain a burning permit from Oregon Department of Forestry and forest operators are no longer required to provide fire-fighting equipment at logging sites. However, the act of terminating fire season does not relieve landowners or logging operators of any lawful responsibilities concerning the safe burning of any debris or slash. With daily changes in weather patterns during fall, wildfire is still possible. In the autumn months last year, more acres were burned in Northeast Oregon District due to escaped hunter fires and slash piles than was burned in lightning fires during the summer.

Even though rains have dampened Northeast Oregon, a drying trend has been predicted. "Although we have received significant rains in the past few days and fire season has ended, landowners and operators should use extreme caution in their burning operations. Due to the prolonged drought and the

extremely dry conditions of debris piles, there is a good chance of fire still spreading as well as possibly scorching and killing surrounding trees," explained Mark Jacques, Unit Forester for LaGrande Unit. When planning outdoor burning, it is important to always be aware of the current as well as the upcoming weather conditions that could carry fire.

In reviewing this past wildland fire season, Oregon Department of Forestry fire managers attribute about half of the fires to lightning, with human activity being attributed to the other half. Overall, fire resources for Oregon Department of Forestry in Northeast Oregon suppressed 84 fires; these fires burned 1,167 acres of forest and rangeland within the district. The ten-year average is 103 fires annually, burning 3,650 acres. Oregon Department of Forestry strives to protect private lands from wildfire, however, it is important to note that much is owed to the fire safety precautions of others and the help from cooperators, landowners, and other firefighting agencies.

For further information, contact Oregon Department of Forestry at these local offices: La Grande Unit, (541) 963-3168; Baker City Sub-Unit, (541) 523-5831; Wallowa unit, (541) 886-2881; and Pendleton Unit, (541) 276-3491.

Healy ranked third in Angus registrations

Kathryn M. Healy, Heppner, ranked as third largest in registering the most Angus beef cattle in Oregon having recorded 167 head of Angus with the American Angus Association during fiscal year 2003, which ended Sept. 30, according to John Crouch, executive vice president of the American Angus Association.

Angus breeders across the nation in 2003 registered 281,734 head of Angus cattle compared to

281,965 in fiscal 2002. "The year-end statistics indicate a constant demand for Angus genetics in commercial herds as producers continue to focus on end product quality and its effect on their bottom line," Crouch said.

The American Angus Association, headquartered in St. Joseph, MO, was founded in 1883. It is the largest beef registry association in the world in terms of both annual registrations and active members. For more information about the Angus breed go to www.angus.org.

Pool Calcutta benefit to be held

A Pool Calcutta benefit will be held for fire victims, Terry and Lyn and

Dale and Diane, Sunday, Oct. 26, at 1 p.m., at Bucknum's.

You can bid on your favorite team or sign up to shoot. Sign-up sheets are available at GD's and Bucknum's.

For more information call Pat at 676-9048.

First Christian plans Harvest Festival

The First Christian Church, located on 275 Gale St., would like to invite the public to a Harvest Festival. This event will be held on Oct. 31, at 6 p.m.

The evening will start with a potluck dinner, with games following. Board games for families to play and video games on the big screen will be available, along with carnival games with prizes for the younger children.

The Festival will be in Open House format and participants can come and go as they like.

For more information contact C.J. Johnson at 676-9202.

Local Elks announce "Youth Biggest Elk" contest

The Heppner Elk's Youth Activities Committee has announced a "Youth Biggest Elk" contest. The competition will be open to all school-aged youth (18 years and under) living in the Heppner-Lexington-Ione area, or any youth whose parents are members of the Heppner Elks Lodge regardless of where they reside.

The competition will consist of three categories: Longest main beam-branch bulls, longest antler-spike bulls (legal definition), and longest ear-cow elk. First, second and third place finishes will be awarded in each category. All measurements and decisions will be final.

All entrants must sign an entry form confirming: that the animal was legally taken by them, the county the animal was taken in, the caliber of firearm/weight of bow used and the date the animal was taken. The animal must have been tagged by the entrant in the current year.

A picture of each entrant with his or her animal will be taken and displayed at the local Elks Lodge. Winners will be announced after the last elk season.

For more information, and to have your animal measured, contact Burke O'Brien at 676-9861, Tom Wolff at 676-5114, Wade Smith at 676-5925, or Lindsay Kincaid at 422-7152.

Heppner Little League to hold meeting

The Heppner Little League is holding an important meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m., at the Neighborhood Center. This meeting is to elect new committee members for the 2004 baseball season.

If anyone is interested in being on the committee or volunteering in anyway, please attend this meeting. The kids are looking forward to a great baseball season and we need your help to make this happen.



Heppner High School Students were entertained by some "new" cheerleaders at last week's pep rally.

Sunday marks end of Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time will end on Sunday, Oct. 26. This means that clocks will need to be turned back one hour by 2 a.m. Sunday morning.

Births

Jaymi Amelia Plisek - a daughter, Jaymi Amelia, was born Sept. 27, 2003, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, to Naomi Victoria Plisek of Irrigon.

Ashley Ayerim Esparza Chavez - a daughter, Ashley Ayerim, was born Sept. 27, 2003, at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, to Doba Mibeya Esparza Chavez of Irrigon.

Landon Graham Scott - a son, Landon Graham, was born Oct. 3, 2003, at St. Vincent's Hospital in Beaverton, to Kevin Graham and Jennifer Allison Scott, of Beaverton. Landon weighed 9 pounds 6 ounces and was 20-1/2 inches. Grandparents are Alan and Debbie Scott of Heppner and Dan and Marty Hunt of The Dalles. Great-grandparents are Charlotte Allison of The Dalles and the late Jack Allison, Phil and Margie Kellen of Pacific Grove, CA and B. Graham and Elaine Scott of Surprise, AZ.

Correction

Mike Armato and Bill Kuhn, Heppner, each told the Gazette that they were not proponents of consolidating Ione and Heppner schools, as stated in the Oct. 15 Gazette-Times story entitled "Morrow School Board reverses decision on Lexington attendance."

Armato said that he was "merely the moderator at the community meeting" held in Heppner where consolidation was suggested as a solution to the school funding crisis.

Kuhn said that he had met with representatives of the Ione community prior to Ione establishing their own school district, and told them that the Heppner group was "not interested in consolidation." "We made an effort to see what points of common interest we had with Ione," said Kuhn. "We told Ione we did not want to consolidate. Our program was not consolidation."

Legion and Auxiliary to meet

The Heppner Legion and Auxiliary will meet Monday, Oct. 27, at the Methodist Church basement with a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m.

Plans will be made for the Christmas Gift Shop located at the Oregon Veteran Home in The Dalles. Some of the articles needed are: children's toys, such as basketballs, dolls, also picture

frames up to 8x10, towel sets, candy dishes, jewelry boxes. Monday can be used for postage. Anyone interested can call 676-5086 for more information.

The Unit food sale was very successful. The proceeds will be used towards Legion and Auxiliary scholarships.

Members and family are welcome to attend the meeting.

Fall Carnival coming this week to HES

Heppner Elementary School is holding its Fall Carnival on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 6-8 p.m. It will be held in the new gymnasium and is being sponsored by the Parent Teacher Club.

Bingo, hoop shoot, duck scoop, junk food walk, face painting and a fish pond

are just a few of the games and activities planned for kids, and kids at heart, to enjoy.

Hot dogs and popcorn will be available for those who work up an appetite and the Adopt A Teacher Foundation will be selling pieces of pie for dessert.

CSEPP helps schools in emergency zone prepare

Schools are ready to keep kids safe.

That's the message that schools, students and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program will be sharing with parents in television, radio and newspaper ads in October.

There are 31 schools located in the emergency zone surrounding the Umatilla Chemical Depot. In a chemical emergency some schools will shelter students indoors using a special air filtration system called over-pressurization. Other schools will evacuate. Either way, the message is that schools are ready to keep kids safe.

A television ad that was filmed at Armand Larive Middle School in Hermiston, demonstrates an over-pressurization drill.

Newspaper ads remind parents which schools over-pressurize and which schools evacuate to a host school location.

Residents having questions about preparing for emergencies should contact the Umatilla, Morrow and

Benton county CSEPP public information officers Cheryl Humphrey, Cheryl.Humphrey@csepp.net, Maureen Roxbury, maureen@csepp.org and Steve Sautter, s.sautter@bc.es.wa at (541) 966-3703, (541) 481-3424 and (509) 628-2600, respectively.

Justice Court report

Cory James Baker, 19, Heppner, Driving while Suspended-violation, fine \$297.

Richard Harold Simpson, 33, Ione, Failure to Register Vehicle and Failure to Carry Proof of Insurance, fine \$177.

DA's report

Diana Hernandez admitted to violation of probation allegations for Possession of a Controlled Substance. Hernandez's probation was revoked, reinstated and extended for a period of six months from the original expiration date and she was sentenced to 10 days in jail.

IUCC to hold Halloween party

The United Church of Christ in Ione is planning a Halloween party for Sunday, Oct. 26 from 2-4 p.m. at the church.

There will be craft activities for children of all ages as well as treats, punch and a costume parade around the church. Everyone is invited to put on their costumes and join the fun.

The Ione Preschool will also have catalogs available for their Current and Constructive Playthings fundraisers. Anyone interested in seeing a catalog or ordering an item can do so at the party, or contact Kari Morgan at 422-7151.

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