

BIFZ to offer Annual Refresher Training for Emergency Equipment Operators

The Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ) has scheduled the annual Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration/Act (OSHA) Fire Training, Annual Fire Refresher, and Fire Shelter Deployment Refresher courses for emergency equipment operators.

The training will be offered one day only, on Saturday, May 13 at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office at 28910 Hwy 20 West in Hines.

Those interested in attending should call the Burns Interagency Communication Center (BICC) at (541) 573-4545 as soon as possible to sign up. Participation is limited to the first 60 people. The Fire Refresher and Fire Shelter training will be from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, while the Oregon OSHA training, which is required for any individual who plans on working in the woods, will follow afterward from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. If you have proof that you have taken the Oregon OSHA Fire Training, it is not necessary to repeat it at this time. All classes are provided at no cost.

Annual Fire Shelter Deployment and Fire Refresher courses are mandatory for all people who might go to the fire line, regardless if they have previously completed the course. Any individual who plans on providing services under an emergency equipment rental agreement, such as dozers or water tenders, or who may be hired on an emergency basis, such as fallers or truck drivers, must attend the May 13 session to meet the requirements for the 2006 fire season. Completion of the course provides certification for a 1-year period.

If you are planning to be an emergency hire, you will need to bring State issued picture identification and your social security card to the training in order to fill out an Employment Eligibility Verification, or Form I-9. If a company providing equipment such as dozers employs you, you will not need to fill out an I-9.

The annual refresher training is not intended for contractor employees or those employed by businesses engaged in the Region 6 Engine and Tender Contract, Oregon Department of Forestry Crew Contract or National Engine and Crew Contracts.

Individuals interested in signing up equipment for emergency use are encouraged to do so pre-season. For information on the 2006 Emergency Equipment Rental agreements, contact the Malheur National Forest Supervisor's Office at (541) 575-3107.

For more on the BIFZ annual training, or to sign-up, contact the BICC at (541) 573-4545.

For more information visit ODFW's Web site at, www.dfw.state.or.us or contact Bailey at ODFW's Pendleton office at 541-276-2344.

Fisheries in the Umatilla River are co-managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Umatilla River open for spring chinook

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reminds anglers that the Umatilla River opened April 16 for spring chinook angling.

Harvest management guidelines for the Umatilla River are based on actual returns of adults to Three Mile Dam. The estimated return of spring chinook to the river this year is much lower than in recent years, according to ODFW District Fish Biologist Tim Bailey.

Anglers are encouraged to check the agency website and local media to keep updated on the status of the fishery. Rules and regulations for this fishery and for statewide angling are listed in ODFW's Oregon Sport Fishing 2006 Regulations.

Managers will closely monitor fish returns and harvest to maximize angling opportunities and ensure that season changes are made at the appropriate time.

Anglers also should be aware of fishing regulation changes for 2006. Only adipose fin-clipped chinook may be kept. The bag limit is now two adult and five jack spring chinook per day and 10 adults per year.

"This regulation change will allow naturally

produced fish to return to the upper Umatilla River to spawn," Bailey said. "Over 90 percent of the spring chinook return is expected to be adipose fin-clipped fish."

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Engagement Baker-Ramsey

Sarah Baker and Randy Ramsey, both of Klamath Falls, wish to announce their engagement.

The bride-elect is the daughter of William and Vickie Baker of Cloverdale and Steven and Glorene Lesperance of Heppner. She graduated from Heppner High School in 1998. She is currently employed by Klamath County 911.

The groom-elect is currently employed by Brandon Kauffman Construction.

The couple plans a May 6, 2006 wedding in Lake Tahoe.

ELECT



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Easter Bunny comes to town



Easter Bunny with Bridget Doherty



Mahaley, Kyle and Jared Huddleston hang out with the bunny at the Elk's Easter egg hunt Saturday in Heppner.

DA's Report

The Morrow County DA's office reports handling the following business:

Clinton Eugene Springer admitted to violation of probation allegations for Possession of a Controlled Substance. His probation was revoked and reinstated.

Justice Court Report

The Morrow County Justice Court reports handling the following business:

Nancy I. Ward, 63, Heppner, Driving Uninsured and No Operator's License, fine \$185.

Roy M. Proctor, 18, Heppner, Failure to Use Seatbelt, fine \$99.

Timothy Lee Adams, 49, Heppner, Failure to Use Seatbelt, fine \$76.

Joleen Diane Pruett-Mitchell, 37, Hermiston, Violation of the Basic Rule, 69 mph in a 45 mph zone, fine \$185.

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