

## Algae advisory lifted for Willow Creek Reservoir

The algae advisory for Willow Creek Reservoir has been lifted, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced.

Recent water sampling confirms reduced levels of a species of blue-green algae that can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals. The advisory was issued in June due to high levels of a toxic species of algae in the reservoir. State guidelines recommend waiting two weeks after algal cell counts fall below state-specified levels before lifting advisories related to algal blooms.

The Oregon Department of Human Services advises people who recreate in Oregon reservoirs to always be alert for signs of algal blooms. People and their pets should avoid water contact if there are visible clumps of algae in the water.

For local information, contact The Dalles, John Day, Willow Creek Project at (541) 506-7802. For health information, contact DHS environmental health specialists, Ken Kauffman at (971) 673-0435, or Deanna Conners at (971) 673-0444. Additional information on blue-green algae can be found on the DHS Web site at <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/envtox/maadvisories.shtml>.

## EQIP funds available for fire-damaged grazing lands; federal dollars to help private landowners affected by Oregon wildfires

In response to this summer's wildfires that have burned more than 350,000 acres in Oregon, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Bob Graham has announced a special grazing lands wildfire initiative to assist private landowners impacted by the blazes. The initiative allows affected landowners to sign up for financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Wildfire Special Initiative between August 7 and August 17, 2007.

"NRCS is taking immediate action to assist ranchers whose grazing lands were damaged by wildfires," said Graham. "The EQIP

Wildfire Special Initiative will help them maintain their operations while they take steps to speed range recovery, reduce erosion, and protect the health of the overall watershed."

The program provides a one-time \$16 per-acre incentive payment for landowners who agree to reseed the site where needed and defer grazing activities until the spring of 2010. Deferred grazing will minimize erosion and accelerate establishment of healthy and resilient plant communities. The payments are intended to offset costs associated with range reseeding and deferred grazing.

Privately owned and tribal grazing lands that

have grasses and shrubs as the dominant vegetation and that were damaged by wildfires in 2007 may be eligible. Individuals may enroll up to 2,500 acres of grazing land under this special initiative.

NRCS has directed \$150,000 for Oregon's EQIP Wildfire Special Initiative for the remainder of the 2007 fiscal year. Applications will be selected based on the following considerations until all fiscal year 2007 funds have been exhausted:

- percentage of grazing land damaged by fire,
- vulnerability to soil erosion,
- presence of critical habitat for threatened and endangered or aquatic

species, and -percentage of damaged acres that the landowner agrees to defer from grazing.

Those who do not meet the August 17 deadline or who are affected by additional wildfires later in the season may have the opportunity to apply for assistance under the 2008 fiscal year funding cycle that begins on October 1.

Application materials for the EQIP Wildfire Special Initiative and other NRCS conservation programs can be found online at [www.or.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov) or at the local USDA Service Center. Heppner Service Center telephone: (541) 676-5021.

## Grant funds available

The Umatilla-Walla Walla-Willow Creek OWEB Small Grant Team, consisting of members from the Morrow SWCD (541-676-5452), Umatilla Co. SWCD (541-676-8131), Umatilla Basin Watershed Council (541-276-2190), Walla Walla Watershed Council (541-938-2170), Tiicham SWCD and CTUIR (Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) (541-966-2325), announces the availability of up to \$10,000 small grants to private landowners, and others eligible for regular OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board) grants, for the purposes of enhancing watershed conditions to improve water quality and quantity while meeting the needs of all beneficial uses; flood plain and upland improvement and enhancement; and reducing erosion, sedimentation and nutrients. Projects will also be considered dealing with invasive plants and noxious weeds. Funding is provided through OWEB.

OWEB Small Grant information is available on their website at [www.oregon.gov/OWEB/index.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/index.shtml). Interested landowners can also contact a team member in their area. A two week sign-up for small grants will be held August 15-31 with funding decisions being made in September.

## St. Patrick's Senior Center menu

The St. Patrick's Senior Center menu for Wednesday, August 15, will be shepherd's pie, fresh vegetables, whole wheat rolls, green salad and watermelon. Members of the Christian Life Center will serve.

The menu for Wednesday, August 22, will be barbecued chicken, oven-baked potatoes, green beans, fruit, hot rolls and pudding. Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will serve.

The menu for Wednesday, August 29, will be baked ham, new potatoes with peas, green salad, hot rolls and mixed melons. Members of the Willow Creek Baptist Church will serve.

## BEO Bancorp declares two for one stock split

BEO Bancorp has announced that its board of directors declared a two-for-one stock split in the form of a 100 percent stock dividend. The shares will be distributed on August 20, 2007, to shareholders of record as of August 19, 2007. Shareholders will receive one additional share of common stock for every share currently owned.

BEO Bancorp has 440,329 shares outstanding and will have 880,658 shares outstanding after the stock split.

"We are intent on building shareholder value. This move will seek to improve the liquidity of the stock and increase our franchise value," said E. George Koffler, president and CEO of BEO Bancorp and its subsidiary, Bank of Eastern Oregon. "We continue to post good results and are pleased to share our good

fortune with the loyal group of shareholders we have," said Koffler.

Late in July, BEO Bancorp reported a net income increase of 73 percent year over year for the first half of 2007 to \$1,039,000 and the earning per share improved for the same period from \$.81 per share to \$1.32 per share. The loan portfolio grew 9.9 percent year over year and total assets grew 7.3 percent to \$196,252,000.

For further information on the company or to access Internet banking, please visit our website at <http://www.beobank.com>.

BEO Bancorp is the holding company for Bank of Eastern Oregon, which operates 11 branches and three loan production offices in nine eastern Oregon counties. Branches are located in Arlington, Lone, Heppner, Condon, Irrigon,

Boardman, Bums, John Day, Prairie City, Fossil and Moro; loan production offices are located in Hermiston, Ontario, and Enterprise. Bank of Eastern Oregon also operates a mortgage division and offers brokerage services through BEO Financial Services. Bank of Eastern Oregon's website is [www.beobank.com](http://www.beobank.com).

According to the news release, "The statements contained in this release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements based upon management's current expectations and beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effect on BEO Bancorp. There can be no assurances that future developments affecting BEO Bancorp will be the same as those anticipated by management."

"Actual results may differ from those projected

in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to: competitive pressures in the banking and financial industries; changes in interest rate environment; general economic conditions, nationally, regionally, and in operating markets; changes in regulatory environment; changes in business conditions and inflation; changes in securities markets; and future credit loss experience."

## Sheep Rock auto tour offered

A John Day Fossil Beds National Monument park ranger will lead a fossil beds auto tour on Saturday, August 11. This two-hour tour will travel along some of the back roads of the national monument and feature the geologic landscape and fossil history of the area.

The tour will begin at 10 a.m. at the Sheep Rock Unit's Thomas Condon visitor center, located near Dayville, Oregon. Participants will need to bring their own vehicle, and good tires are recommended. Reservations are not needed and there is no fee.

For further information, contact the monument at 541-9872333.

## Observe reserved signs at senior center

Kathy Turner, manager of the St. Patrick's Senior Center Apartments, asks that people observe the reserved parking signs behind the center. She says that there has been a problem with people parking in reserved spots.

-MCSO, Boardman Fire Department received report of a big fire in the field on the Canal Lane side of Paul Smith Board in Boardman. The pile was just smoking when a deputy arrived. The property owner was told to put out the fires.

-MCSO received report of chickens missing from a Heppner residence.

-MCSO cited Steve Paul Humphrey for Violation of the Basic Rule, 78 mph in a 55 mph zone.

-MCSO received report of dogs chained up and crying at a Heppner residence. The owner came

home and unchained them.

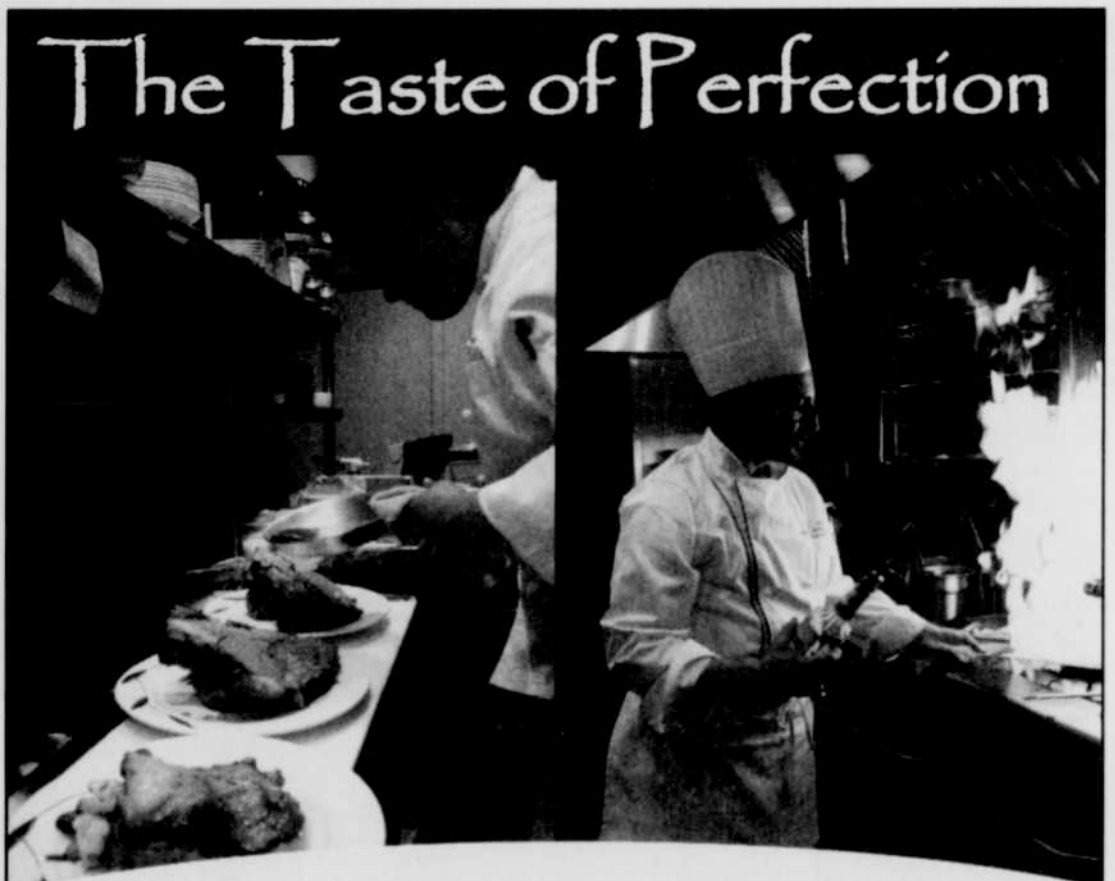
-MCSO arrested Dobie Doran Wilbur, 45, on a Umatilla County Sheriff's Office warrant for Failure to Appear.

-Boardman Police Department officer reported that when checking the Greenfield Grange, the lights were on and one of the deadbolts not secure.

-BPD officer reported an open door on the south end of the old Boardman City Hall.

-BPD received report from a male subject that another male was upset with

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