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Public-use restrictions on Umatilla National Forest

Restrictions on campfires and smoking took effect July 31

Public-use restrictions on campfires and smoking went into effect on Umatilla National Forest on Tuesday, July 31, announced Chris Johnson, Deputy Fire Staff Officer. Restrictions are being implemented due to increased fire danger, hot and dry weather conditions, and concern for public safety.

"Though we've had a fairly quiet fire season on the forest so far, the continued hot, dry weather conditions have cured fine fuels and increased the potential for wildfire," said Johnson. "Fires that do occur become more difficult to control as we head into August."

Public awareness of the increasing fire danger and cooperation are essential to a safe fire season. Under the current public-use restrictions, the following apply:

-Building and tending of open campfires, including charcoal briquettes, cooking fires and warming

fires are prohibited until further notice, except in fire pits at designated recreation sites. Permissible sources for cooking or heat include pressurized gas BBQs, stoves and space-heating devices.

-Smoking is only allowed within enclosed vehicles, buildings, developed recreation sites or when stopped in an area cleared of all flammable material.

At this time, firewood cutting is still allowed, though land managers are anticipating the need for additional restrictions in the near future. Woodcutters are reminded to check daily for a change in restrictions. All forest users should carry an axe, shovel and an 8 oz. or more capacity fire extinguisher when visiting the forest.

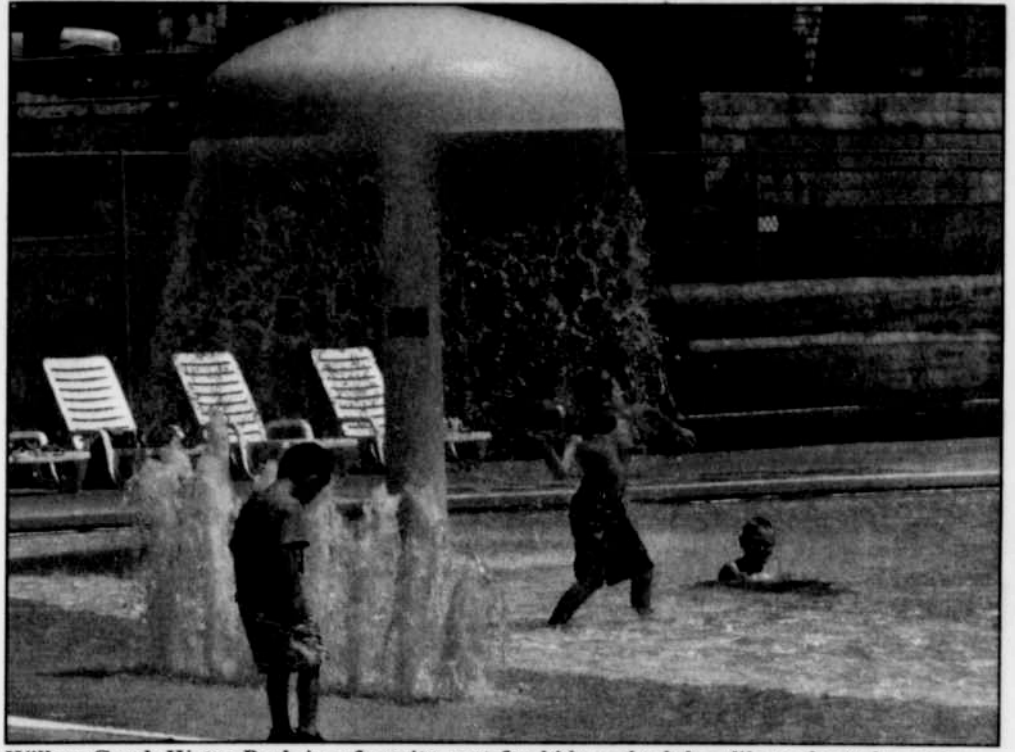
As a reminder, travel restrictions prohibit motor vehicles traveling off designated forest roads and trails,

except for the purposes of going to or from campsites located within 300 feet of an open road. Motorized travel on segments of road where access is blocked by gate, barricade, log, boulder or earthen berm is also prohibited. Vehicles must still abide by all laws and regulations pertaining to the area of travel.

"We're moving into our hottest and driest part of the summer. The fire danger will only increase. Please help us keep the forests safe this summer by being aware of fire danger and current restrictions in effect," said Johnson.

For more information, please contact the Umatilla National Forest Office at 541-278-3716. Public-use restrictions will be updated on the toll-free message line at 1-877-958-9663 and are also available online at www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla/.

Fun in full splash at Heppner water park



Willow Creek Water Park is a favorite spot for kids and adults alike to beat the midsummer heat. Pictured (L-R): Damien Ball, Hunter Nichols and Mikel Jaca. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

County Court hears district health report

The Morrow County Court met in Heppner on July 25 with Judge Tallman and Commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance.

The city and citizen comment period for Lone/Lexington was opened, with no one in attendance.

The court reviewed and approved the second quarter SUTA tax, payroll payables and account payables in the net total amount of \$61,563.69.

Health Dept. quarterly update: Health Dept. Director Sherrie Smith reviewed the Civil Rights Self-Assessment for Morrow County and the designation of Karen Wolff as the Section 504 Coordinator with the court. The court also reviewed the Public Health Division report for food servers, tourist accommodation facilities and school food service. Smith reported that the remodeling of the Boardman office began on July 16. Smith also reviewed the triennial review exit interview that was held in May of 2012 and informed the court that all deficiencies in the report have been addressed and resolved. Shelley Wight informed the court that another "Biggest Winner" program will be starting

the later part of August. Wight also informed the court that cases of the STD Chlamydia are continuing to increase in the county, with 19 cases reported in 2009 and 16 cases reported in the first half of 2012.

Contracts: Reviewed and approved an amendment to Grant Agreement #136242 with the State of Oregon for the My Future My Choice program for an increase of funding in the amount of \$1,350.00. The court approved a Personal/Professional Service Contract with Mike and Terry Todd for services at the OHV Park. The court approved a Personal/Professional Service Contract with JLC Contracting, Inc. for fence construction as needed through April 15, 2015. The court reviewed and approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) for the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA).

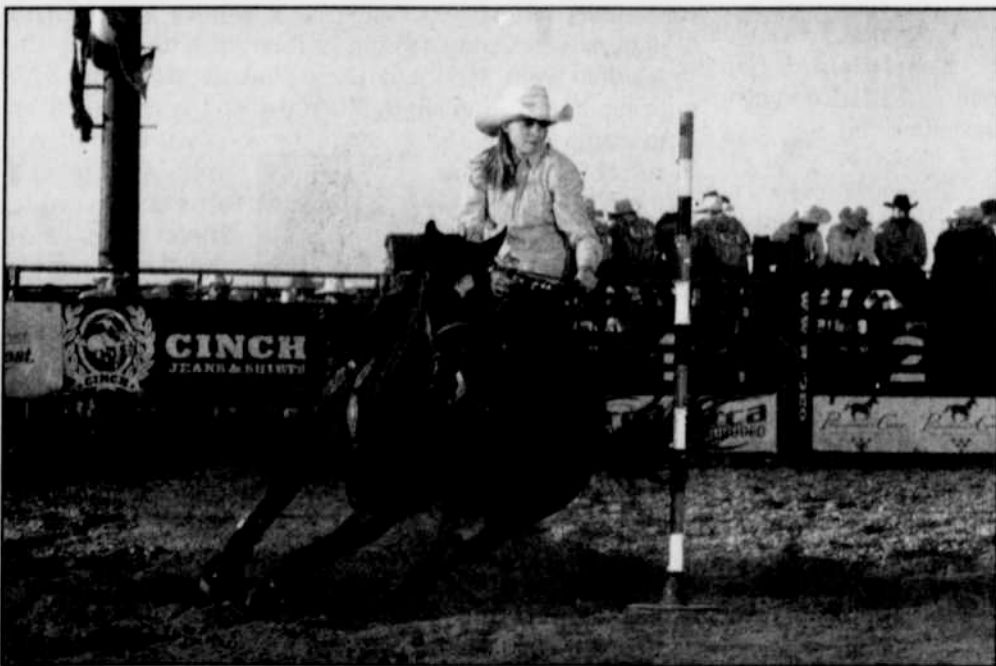
The court conducted the following business: Authorized Karen Wolff, Executive Secretary, to sign off on the title for the car that has already been delivered to State Surplus, as well as the vehicle that

will be taken down in a couple of weeks. Approved the following purchasing pre-authorizations for the Computer Dept.: A new GIS905 replacement server for \$9,749.98, Backup software for the new server for \$1,891.70 and a warranty extension for the Irrigon server for \$1,549.96. The court approved an Order designating the Heppner Gazette-Times for the publication of the 2012 Morrow County foreclosure list. The court reviewed and approved by consensus to accept the \$300,262 for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. The distribution of these funds will be determined later. The court approved a Resolution transferring \$7,500 from Contingency to Capital Outlay to pay for an air condition unit used to cool the telephone system and computer server room at the 911 Emergency Center.

Various correspondences and upcoming meeting notices were reviewed and discussed.

Anyone who would like to be placed on the list to receive county minutes, contact Karen Wolff at 541-676-5620.

Local cowgirl makes showing at nationals



Blake Greenup rounds a pole during the pole-bending competition at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Rock Springs, WY recently. Greenup, a sophomore at Heppner High School, ended 24th out of 200 in the nation in the national pole-bending competition, as well as winning her 11th performance with a time of 20.704. -Contributed photo

Boardman city hall welcomes two new faces

Boardman City Hall has two new employees. Toni Connell was recently hired as the city's building clerk and Keri Jarmer was hired as the city's code compliance officer.

Connell was hired in April, and works full-time as the city's building clerk. Her responsibilities include selling building permits, record keeping of all building plans and reviews, and preparing state and local monthly reports. She is cross-trained in the utility department to assist the utility clerk with her duties. She resides in Boardman with her husband Mike.

Jarmer was hired in July, and works full-time as the city's code compliance officer. Her responsibilities



Boardman City hall welcomes new employees Toni Connell (L), Building Clerk, and Keri Jarmer (R), Code Compliance Officer. -Contributed photo

include maintaining the city's dog licensing program, impounding stray dogs and sending out reminders to residents on code issues on their properties. Jarmer currently resides in Lone, but plans

to move to Boardman in the coming months.

Both ladies say they are excited about joining the city team and welcome citizens of Boardman to come by and introduce themselves.

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