

## Local hearing screenings next month

### IMESD to conduct hearing screenings in Eastern Oregon schools

The InterMountain Education Service District (IMESD) is providing free hearing screenings to public elementary school students through November.

Local hearing screenings will be conducted on Monday, Oct. 22 at 8:15 a.m. in Ione and approximately 10 a.m. in Heppner. Re-screenings will

be held Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 8:15 a.m. in Ione and approximately 10 a.m. in Heppner.

Hearing screenings are conducted annually by the IMESD's Audiology Department for public school students in Umatilla, Morrow and Union counties, and is cooperatively sponsored by local school

districts. Students to be screened include nearly 4,000 kindergarten, first- and third-grade students, new students to a county, and parent/teacher/principal referrals of students in other grades. Children who fail the initial screening will be re-screened within a three-week period.

Parents who do not want their child's hearing to be screened should notify their child's school as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding the hearing screening program, please contact your local school principal or the IMESD Audiology Department at 541-966-3140.

## Fall prescribed burning may impact hunting and camping activities

Fire management staff on the Umatilla National Forest are preparing for the fall prescribed burning, which may impact access and camping opportunities in several fall hunting units. Area, road and trail closures will go into effect just prior to and during burn operations, which typically take two to five days.

Forest officials advise hunters to plan ahead and avoid camping in the following designated prescribed burn areas during this 2012 hunting season:

-The Gulliford Burn (located in the Heppner Hunting Unit in Oregon) encompasses 4,000 acres on the North Fork John Day Ranger District west of State Highway 395 between forest road 5308 and forest road 5314.

Prescribed burning is

highly dependent on precise weather and fuel conditions, and fall weather provides some of the best conditions—dry material and cooler temperatures. Burning could occur anytime from late September through early November, which coincides with several big game hunting seasons.

Additional areas across the forest are also scheduled for fall prescribed burning but will not involve large area closures.

"It's important to note that not all proposed burns planned for this fall may be completed, since typical weather conditions provide limited burn windows," said Chris Johnson, Deputy Fire Staff Officer.

Firefighters will ignite the burn perimeter by hand using drip torches. The in-

terior of the burns will be aerially ignited, via helicopter, using a plastic sphere dispenser that drops ping-pong-like balls through the tree canopy that catch fire on the ground. For this reason, it is important that hunters avoid setting up camp within the designated burn perimeter.

"The safety of our firefighters and the public are top priority," said Johnson.

While closures may inconvenience hunters, the long-term reward is worth the short-term restrictions on forest use.

"Unfortunately, hunting season coincides with prescribed burning season. We understand this will impact hunters, but controlled burns are necessary to reintroduce fire to the landscape and encourage healthy veg-

etation that will ultimately improve landscapes and forage for big game," added Johnson.

Partnerships with the Blue Mountain Elk Initiative, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife provide funding and in-kind support for prescribed burning projects. Maps and additional information on these and other proposed prescribed burns are available on the Umatilla National Forest website [www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla/) or at any forest office.

For more information concerning the Umatilla National Forest Prescribed Burning program, contact Dale Boyd in the Heppner Ranger District at 541-676-9187.

## Wildfire danger extreme despite cooler weather

### Public assistance needed to minimize human caused fires

Cooler nights and moderate daytime temperatures may have people thinking more about fall and less about wildfire prevention. However, fuel conditions across the landscape are dangerously dry this time of year and will burn aggressively.

"In timbered areas, it takes many days of hot and dry conditions for fuels such as trees, brush and logs to cure. It also takes many days of cool and moist weather for these same fuels to absorb enough moisture to the extent they will no longer burn," said Brian Goff, Forest Fire Staff Officer.

"We need help from the public to minimize the chances of human-caused fires during this critical period," urged Goff. "There are a number of large fires burning in Oregon, as well

as in other western states. If we can avoid it, we don't want to add any more fires to the list," said Goff.

Hunters and other forest visitors are reminded that public-use restrictions pertaining to campfires, smoking, chainsaw use and the use of other internal combustion engines such as generators, remain in effect on the Umatilla National Forest.

Under 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.

-Firewood cutting is not allowed. Operating an internal combustion engine, such as a chainsaw, is prohibited. This restriction applies to internal combustion engines other than a motor vehicle.

-Generators will only be allowed in the center of an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material, or when fully contained within a pickup bed that is devoid of all flammable material, or when factory-installed in a recreational vehicle and the generator exhaust discharge is located in the center of an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

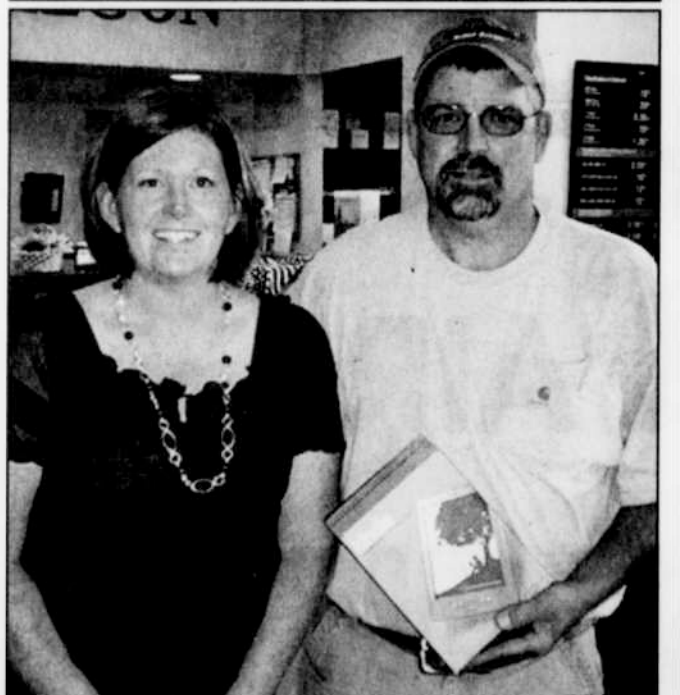
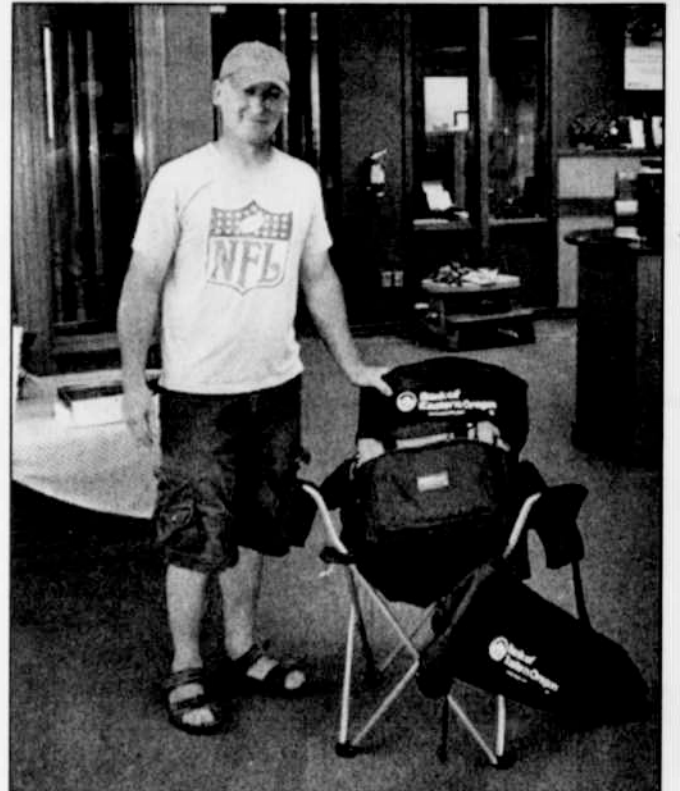
As a reminder, travel restrictions prohibit motor vehicles traveling off design-

ated 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.

Regulated closures are in effect on state and private lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in northeast and central Oregon. Specific information on ODF's restrictions is available on the web at <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/>.

If unsure which restrictions apply, 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/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla/).

## BEO announces winners of fair giveaways



Top: Jessica Lentz won the BEO carving knife set from the bank's Morrow County fair booth giveaway. Middle: Ray Cecil, winner of the camp chair and cooler. Bottom: Branch manager Tricia Rollins (L) with Darrin Padberg, winner of the Kindle from BEO's Morrow County fair booth giveaway. —Contributed photos

Tricia Rollins, Branch Manager at the Heppner Bank of Eastern Oregon branch, drew the names of three persons who won the prizes displayed at BEO's Morrow County fair booth.

Jessica Lentz won the

BEO carving knife set; Ray Cecil won the camp chair and cooler; and Darrin Padberg won the Kindle.

BEO's branches with fair booths in Harney, Grant, Gilliam and Wheeler counties had or will have similar drawings.

## County Court news

The Morrow County Court met in Heppner on Aug. 29 with Judge Tallman and Commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance.

The court reviewed and approved the account payables in the net total

amount of \$51,451.09. The court discussed the additional funds requested for the evaluation of the bell tower. The court approved spending up to \$2,500 for the additional engineering review of the bell tower.

The court meeting was adjourned and the Department Head meeting begun.

This information is provided by Commissioner Leann Rea; anyone who would like to receive County Court minutes, please contact Karen Wolff at 541-676-5620.

**WEBSITES**  
Heppner Gazette-Times  
541-676-9228

4th Annual  
**Rollin' on the River!**  
Saturday, September 22nd  
Boardman Marina Park  
3:00pm—9:00pm  
Live Music featuring  
**C. C. King Band  
& THE SHADES**

Classic Car Display  
Wine & Beer Tasting  
Tickets: \$20.  
To Purchase call:  
541-481-3014 [www.rotfestival.com](http://www.rotfestival.com)  
\$25 at the door, Must be 21 to Attend  
Catered by:  
Judy Scott's Chuck Wagon

Sponsored by:  
**Kiwanis**  
Boardman, OR

## Chamber lunch meeting

This Thursday's Heppner Chamber of Commerce lunch meeting will be all entities report from 12-1 p.m. in the St. Patrick's Senior Center dining room. We will also have a brief introduction of "District Energy for Heppner" by Andrew Haden of Wisewood, Inc.

Cost of lunch is \$9; Alvin Liu of Cornerstone Gallery will cater. Attendees are asked to RSVP no later than Wednesday the Wednesday before.

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