

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

## Eastern Oregon is denied a voice in forest plan

To the editor,  
The USFS states they wish the public's involvement with the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision, yet why are they stonewalling the people's request to participate.

As we have grown to see over the last several months, the USFS does not seem to truly want to engage with the people of Eastern Oregon on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision (BMFPR), as proved through their lack of desire to hold formal comment meetings for those unable to submit written comments, or their unwillingness to address requests for notifications of meetings with public officials in regards to the BMFPR.

I, as a member of Forest Access For All (FAFA), have been appalled to find out through our group that our request for formal notice of all meetings with public officials in regards to the BMFPR has been stonewalled by Forest Service leadership now since Aug. 17. I want to make sure everyone knows the unwillingness of USFS employees to answer a simple request and let the people of Eastern Oregon attend meetings they hold with elected county and state officials attending.

The people of Eastern Oregon deserve to know what conversations are taking place and how it will affect their motorized access to our public lands. It is unconscionable that such a simple request as, "...requesting notice of all meetings with county, state or federal representatives or staff 3 days prior to meetings taking place. Furthermore, notification should include date, time and list of invited attendees," would be such a difficult task to answer, especially when made to an agency that states they want to have a fully transparent system as they claim.

I would challenge each and every Eastern Oregonian concerned about their motorized access to public lands in our region to contact the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Team through Ms. Jodi Kramer at jodikramer@fs.fed.us and request the same as FAFA has requested above.

We deserve better than we are getting and it's about time we start standing up for ourselves and demanding it. We were advised when attending the USFS meetings, our voices would be heard and there would be "additional meetings to voice our concerns."

Terri & Dave Denton, Heppner

## Eastern Oregon Word Round-Up set for Oct. 3-5

The third annual Eastern Oregon Word Round-Up, celebrating a love of reading, writing and book, is set for Oct. 3-5 this year. The event is open to the public and features writers of all genres.

The festival will be held at Tamastlikt Cultural Institute on the Umatilla Indian Reservation and at the Pendleton Center for the Arts (PCA).

Tamastlikt will offer free admission to its museum on Oct. 3 and 4. Admission to the Word Round-Up and all one-hour programs are free. Two-hour workshops cost \$25 each but are free to junior and high school students.

The event is sponsored by the nonprofit Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO) with funding assistance from The Wildhorse Foundation. Proceeds are used to bring community programs to rural public libraries in the region.

Keynote speakers are Lidia Yuknavitch, nationally-acclaimed author of the best-selling *The Chronology of Water*, and Lance Olsen, creative writing instructor and author of *Architectures of Possibility*.

Yuknavitch will present "The Worth of Risk" at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 3 at Pendleton Center for the Arts. All ages are welcome to attend this inspirational presentation on using one's imagination to brave many fronts. Yuknavitch will discuss her own works and creative process. Yuknavitch publishes fiction, nonfiction, and genre-bending

writing online and in print. She is the recipient of numerous awards and teaches in the Masters of Fine Arts program at Eastern Oregon University.

In his keynote presentation set for 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4 at Tamastlikt Olsen will discuss spiral theory and the materiality of the page as depicted in his novel *Theories of Forgetting*. Olsen has taught experimental writing and practice internationally and currently is a professor of writing at the University of Utah. He is board chairman at Fiction Collective Two, one of America's best-known ongoing literary experiments and progressive art communities.

Daytime events planned for Friday, Oct. 3 will be held at Tamastlikt and include Native American storytelling; the making of serial poems, a reading and discussion with author Pamela (Steele) Reese; poetry by Shaindel Beers, who teaches at Blue Mt. Community College; and other readings.

Award-winning Hermiton author Karen Zacharias will present a two-hour workshop to explore the twists and turns of character development and dive into story structure for both fiction and non-fiction writers.

On Saturday, Oct. 4 from 8-9 a.m., a free book-making workshop will be held at the Pendleton Center for the Arts, presented by Roberta Lavador, PCA executive director.

All other programs and workshops scheduled for

Friday and Saturday during the day will be held at Tamastlikt.

Oregon poet laureate Peter Sears will read from his works along with Klickitat poet Kolin Craig, who lives on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Summerville poet Amelia Ettinger, who writes often about the immigrant experience, and essayist Justin Quaempt, a member of the Board of Trustees of CTUIR.

Area editors and journalists will fill a panel to discuss the impact of the internet on the community newspaper and the future of print journalism.

Other one-hour programs include Isabel Suppe, author of *Starry Nights*, who will share her survival experience of falling 1,100-ft. in the Bolivian Andes, then crawling for days over a high-mountain glacier with a broken leg. Her compelling story of life and death and the redeeming power of beauty has been compared as the true female version of *Touching the Void*.

Well-known author Molly Gloss will read from her forthcoming book, *Falling from Horses*. Other programs include meditative prompt writing, creative writing workshops for children, place-based writing, and several readings.

Two-hour workshops include one on writing for TV and movies, presented by noted Portland screenwriter Micki Selvitella. David Axelrod, co-director of the MFA program at EOU,

will lead a workshop on writing the prose poem, and Nate Liederbach, author of several stories collections will present a workshop on *Describing the Indescribable*.

John Carr Walker's workshop "From Short Story to Novel" will encourage writers to try their hand at novel writing, as will Robert Stubblefield's workshop to establish conflict, character and setting. Stubblefield has been published widely and has won numerous awards.

Rob Whitbeck will give a workshop on poetry in historical and regional context and will address issues facing the working poet. He is the author of *Writing Home*, a survey of the history and literature of the Northern West.

On Sunday morning at PCA, Pendleton poet Bette Husted, internationally-acclaimed author Ursula Le Guin, Barbara Drake, and several others will read from their works. Following their reading, Sears will give an informal presentation on what it means to be Oregon's poet laureate and his vision for the position.

The Word Round-Up also includes a trade show and authors' tables. Trade show spaces are \$25 to businesses and free to eastern Oregon nonprofits.

For a complete schedule, see [www.easternoregonwordroundup.org](http://www.easternoregonwordroundup.org). For more information, contact Lyn Craig Hancock, LEO executive director at [leolibraries@gmail.com](mailto:leolibraries@gmail.com).

## CAPECO considering local classes to help fall prevention in elderly

Pendleton, Ore.—Oregon is one of 48 states that supports the National Council on Aging (NCOA) Falls Free Initiative declaring Sept. 23 Falls Prevention Awareness Day.

Falls are the leading cause of both fatal and non-fatal injuries for those 65 years of age and over. Every 14 seconds, an older adult is seen in an emergency department for a fall-related injury. The chances of falling and of being seriously injured in a fall increase with age.

"Nationally, over 2.4 million older adults were treated in emergency departments for falls and 30 percent were hospitalized. As a result, the medical costs from falls are significant. In addition, the death rate from falls is increasing," said Marci McMurphy, Area Agency on Aging Director at Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO).

"We can change this by bringing greater attention to the many preventive measures that can be easily employed to keep our seniors safe."

This year's theme, Strong Today - Falls Free Tomorrow, highlights the important roles professionals, older adults, caregivers and family members play in raising awareness and preventing falls in the older adult population.

"Falls are not a normal part of aging and the resulting injuries can steal

quality life from seniors and their families," said Albert Terrillion, NCOA Senior Director, Clinical Community Partnerships. "This awareness day is an opportunity for older adults and their support communities to learn how to reduce falls risks so our seniors can stay independent for as long as possible."

At senior centers and other community-based organizations across the United States, programs like A Matter of Balance, Tai Chi, and Stepping On help older adults gain strength, improve balance, and build confidence to help them live healthier lives and preserve their independence.

Locally, CAPECO's Area Agency on Aging has

received grant funding to offer Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance classes throughout Umatilla and Morrow Counties. According to McMurphy, "Several staff are now certified to lead this program. They will be working with area senior centers to offer this evidence-based falls prevention program to older adults."

For more information on the availability of classes in your area, contact Helena Wolfe at [hwolfe@capeco-works.org](mailto:hwolfe@capeco-works.org) or 541-564-2560. Wolfe has stated that CAPECO would like to hold classes in Heppner but that "a solid base of participants who are interested" is necessary for classes to be scheduled locally.

management in Eugene. It was a week-long training. The classes were very rigorous and informative. The floodplain through Heppner impacts us all and this training will help the city to better manage it and to take informed actions for the residents that live or own properties in the floodplain, Cutsforth said.

**Fire Department August Report**  
Rural wild land fires - 3  
False alarms - 1  
Secure landing zone for helicopter - 5  
Motor vehicle accidents - 3  
Structure fire - 1  
Lift assist - 1  
Mutual aide Hermiston - 1  
Mutual aide Gilliam Co. - 1  
Task force called for a wildland fire to Gilliam Co.  
Wildland fire in town - 1  
Illegal burn barrel - 1  
Smoke alarm investigations - 2  
Smell of gas - 1

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available and that help is FREE of charge.

If YOU have a family member who suffers from gambling addiction, YOU can also receive FREE treatment even if the gambler is not receiving treatment.

If you are a resident of Morrow County and you wish to take advantage of the services above or desire more information, Please call any of the following numbers to set up a LOCAL appointment or just to talk:

Bobby Harris @ 541-676-9925 or 541-256-0175  
Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) @ 541-676-9161

### VA Health Care for Veterans

Extended care - also known as long term care - is a program for Veterans of all ages who need the daily support & assistance of another individual. Veterans can receive geriatric & long term care programs at home, at VA medical centers, or in the community.



Your eligibility is based on clinical need, service or setting availability. For more information call Veterans Services 541-922-6420

### Community lunch menu CITY COUNCIL

Heppner United Methodist Church members will serve lunch on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at St. Patrick's Senior Center. The meal will include parmesan-crusted baked fish, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, Waldorf salad, hot rolls, Boston cream pie, milk, coffee and tea. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

-Continued from PAGE ONE  
continual long term multi-infraction properties.

-Cutsforth said she has been attending a FEMA training for flood plain

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