

# Hannah Palmer receives fifth trophy



Hannah Palmer stands next to her piano with her trophy.

Hannah Palmer, Heppner, recently received her fifth trophy from the Oregon Music Teachers Association. Hannah, the daughter of Jason and Jennifer Palmer, is a 4.0 student at Heppner High School and is active in many extracurricular activities.

Students participate in several musical events during the year and have

to memorize a piece to perform at a recital. After every 10 events, a trophy is received, with the trophy getting larger each time. Hannah played the piano in her 50<sup>th</sup> event on Sunday, May 3 earning her trophy. Normally the recitals are held in Hermiston but due to social distancing rules, a home recital was held.

# Allison Blair chosen as ODF's John Day Unit Forester



Allison Blair

Allison Blair has been selected as the John Day Unit Forester for Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Central Oregon District. Blair has been serving as the interim unit forester since June of 2019 and officially began her new role on May 1. The John Day Unit Forester is responsible for managing fire protection on nearly 1.5 million acres of forest and rangeland, in addition to managing staff responsible for administering Oregon's Forest Practices Act and forestry technical assistance for landowners in Grant, Gilliam, Wheeler, Morrow and Harney counties.

In Blair's more than twenty-year career with ODF she has served as a seasonal firefighter, dispatcher, wildland fire supervisor and most recently as the Community Wildfire Forester for ODF's West Oregon District prior to her interim role as the John Day Unit Forester. Her experiences on the fire line, managing fire crews, and working with landowners and the public provide her a strong foundation as she fills this role permanently. Throughout her career Blair has participated in the statewide wildfire response effort and currently has qualifications as a Strike

Team Leader, Task Force Supervisor and is a Division Supervisor trainee.

"I am honored to have been selected to continue as the John Day Unit Forester and become a permanent part of ODF's Central Oregon District," says Allison, expressing her enthusiasm for beginning this new role. "I have always respected the fire program in eastern Oregon, so I was excited for the opportunity to temporarily fill the position last summer. I enjoyed the challenges and successes and building relationships with landowners and the community."

Previous John Day Unit Forester, Ryan Miller is now Central Oregon District's Federal Forests Restoration Coordinator working with federal land managers to increase pace, scale and quality of restoration work on federal forest lands in central Oregon.

ODF's Central Oregon District continues to serve landowners and the public as an essential service for Oregonians. Please call or email to talk with our staff or schedule an appointment. For additional information on ODF's Central Oregon District, including contact information and unit offices, please visit [www.ODF-centraloregon.com](http://www.ODF-centraloregon.com).

# Mushroom picking free on Blue Mountains National Forests

No commercial permits available this year due to coronavirus

For avid mushroom pickers, spring truly begins when friendly fungi return to the forest. Personal-use mushroom picking is free and does not require a permit or payment under the legal limits, which authorizes an individual to harvest, possess or transport less than a gallon in Oregon and less than five gallons in Washington. These free mushrooms are only available for personal consumption and cannot be sold, bartered or given away.

Those seeking to pick more than the free personal-use limit are considered commercial gatherers. To help slow the spread of COVID-19, forest supervisors on the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests have postponed the issuance of commercial mushroom permits until 2021. Many commercial operations involve large crews that travel and camp together, which presents a social distancing challenge during the pandemic.

National Forest officials urge visitors to understand and follow state health orders for Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. At this time, all National

Forest developed recreation sites – including campgrounds, trailhead facilities, picnic areas, rental cabins, Sno-Parks, and boat ramps – are temporarily closed to slow the spread of COVID-19. While many forest roads, trails and areas remain open to the public, visitors are strongly urged to practice social distancing. Mushroom picking is not permitted in any botanical area, research area or in other areas closed by the Forest Service, including developed recreation sites.

To help care for the land while picking mushrooms:

- Carry your mushrooms in a net bag, allowing mushrooms to spread their spores for future production.

- Give wild animals plenty of space and leave newborns alone.

- Practice "leave no trace" ethics and take your trash home with you.

- Report any violations promptly to the Forest Service.

Many forest roads are still not accessible due to mud and snow. Traveling on wet mountain roads and terrain can be dangerous and cause illegal resource damage. Further, tempo-

rary road and area closures may still be in effect in last year's wildfire areas where unsafe conditions, such as hazard trees, are still being mitigated. Contact your local Ranger District office for up-to-date information on road conditions and current closures.

Here are a few tips to enhance your personal safety in the woods: Plan ahead, pack the "ten essentials," and travel with others (at a safe social distance). Also be sure to tell a friend or family member where you are going and when you expect to return.

Keep in mind that many wild mushroom varieties are poisonous. When in

doubt, just throw it out. It is the responsibility of the picker to properly identify a mushroom and determine whether it is edible. There are many guide books available to assist with identification. The local library, county agricultural extension office and local mycological society are good sources of information.

Mushroom pickers and hunters often contact National Forest offices to learn where prescribed burning occurred last year. For everyone's convenience, those locations are now identified in an online prescribed fire map for the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.

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## County Commissioner, Morrow County, Position 1



**Jim Doherty**

Nonpartisan

**Occupation:** Commissioner, Cattle Rancher

**Occupational Background:** Ranch Manager, Crops Manager, Ranch Owner

**Educational Background:** Associates Degree in Production Agriculture, Bachelor of Arts in Business and History

**Prior Governmental Experience:** President of the Association of Oregon Counties; Morrow County Commissioner; Governors Alcohol & Drug Policy Commission; Jefferson County SWCD chair; Morrow County SWCD; NACo Representative

### Re Elect: Jim Doherty - A voice for today, A vision for tomorrow

I have a deep love and appreciation for the people of Morrow County. I don't want to be the candidate that professes, "I will work for the people," I want to be known for working with the people. I urge you to engage in your communities. I invite you to become part of the process. People are only voiceless when no one listens. I hear you! I have carried your message at home, in Salem and all the way to Washington D.C.

A quote I admire from Theodore Roosevelt, "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

**Family:** I am a fourth-generation Irish immigrant. My great grandfather saw shades of Ireland in the rolling Morrow County hills. My mother raised along the banks of the Columbia River, in Boardman. I celebrate 34 years of marriage with my wife Kelly. My son and daughter-in-law have also made Morrow County their home.

**County:** I built my cattle operation from the ground up, with sweat, blisters, honesty and personal relationships. I do the business of the County in the same fashion. I chair the N.E. Area Commission on Transportation, ensuring Morrow County receives funding for road and bridge infrastructure. I strive to make communities whole and craft healthy individuals by securing dollars to provide Arts and Culture to our youth. The Loop program, Wolf committee, Federal forest, Farm, Fair and Health continue as my priorities.

**Endorsement:** "Commissioner Doherty has been great to work with. I am happy to lend him my support!" - Senator Bill Hansell

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