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Forest restrictions eased

Recent cooler temperatures, increased humidity and precipitation within Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Central Oregon District has reduced fuel hazards and the risk of rapid-fire spread. Lands protected by the Central Oregon District are at a high fire danger. While the current fall weather trend, combined with shorter days has not eliminated the risk of wildfire the reduced risk allows fire managers to ease restrictions.

The Regulated-Use Closure in effect for public activities within the District will return to a 1 p.m. - 8 p.m. restriction for high risk

activities such as mowing dry grass and chainsaw use. While traveling in forested areas a fire extinguisher/gallon of water and a shovel are required. Details for the Regulated-Use Closure are available at www.odfcentraloregon.com. All open burning is prohibited.

"We ask the public to be patient and continue to follow the restrictions to reduce the risk of fires at this point," says Gordon Foster, Prineville Unit Forester.

Additional Industrial Precautions in the John Day and Prineville units are terminated as of September 25, 2020. Fire season requirements remain in place,

including the need for a fire watch following industrial activities. This applies to lands in Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook, Wheeler, Morrow, Umatilla, Grant, Lake, and Malheur counties protected by the Central Oregon District. Beginning September 28, 2020 lands in MH-1 (Wasco County) will move to Industrial Fire Precaution Level 2 and MH-4 (Hood River County) will move to Industrial Fire Precaution Level 1.

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.

Chamber lunch meeting

The Heppner Chamber will hold an all entities chamber luncheon on October 1 at noon at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building.

With the most recent COVID-19 restrictions lifted and entering Phase Two, the chamber will be allowed to gather inside with social distancing rules

in place. At this time the luncheon is limited to 30 attendees. Those wishing to attend should RSVP to the chamber office as soon as possible.

Lunch will be provided by Alvin Liu of the Gateway Café for \$10 per person.

Birthright to hold sale

The new Birthright of Morrow County will hold a furniture sale on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 8 a.m. to noon at their new location at 128 W Willow St. in Heppner. The location is the former optometrist office.

Donations for the furniture, shelves, chairs and

other items will be accepted as well as cash donations. Checks should be made payable to Birthright of Morrow County and can be mailed to PO Box 923, Heppner, OR 97836.

For additional information contact Julia Finch at 252-382-4450.

Bag sale planned

The Neighborhood Center will be having a bag sale on Wednesday, October 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (closed 12:30 - 1:30 for lunch). Stop in to purchase a brown bag for \$15 and fill it up with clothing, shoes, books, games, music and movies for the whole family. Second bag purchased will be at a discounted rate of \$5. Household items will be 50 percent off this day only. Proceeds from the sale help

purchase food for the pantry for the upcoming holidays.

Donations of paper/plastic bags and new unopened toiletries such as deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, soap, razors, etc. are very much needed and appreciated. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday at 441 N Main Street, Heppner. For any questions about emergency services contact Executive Director Lisa Patton at 541-676-5024.

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Heppner adopts Mill City

By Lori Roach

An opportunity has been created so that the citizens of Heppner can help support the citizens of Mill City, which was recently affected by the Beachie Creek Fire. A 'Mill City Wildfire Relief' fund account is now open at the Heppner Branch of the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

September 8, 2020, fire from the Beachie Creek Fire threatened to surround the city of Mill City. It was consuming just about everything in its path that night as the citizens of Mill City were told to evacuate immediately.

"It could have been so much worse," said Mayor Tim Kirsch, who also said if it was not for volunteer firefighters holding back the fire near Kimmel Park it was very likely the city could have been completely destroyed.

Unfortunately, 20 structures were lost, including the Welcome to Mill City sign. Thankfully everyone in Mill City survived.

Oregonians are known for helping each other out in a time of need. A new sign for our fellow Oregonians would give the citizens of Mill City one less thing to worry about as they begin calming their nerves, repairing their emotions and rebuilding their city.

It is our hope to raise enough funds to replace their 'Welcome to Mill City' sign which was destroyed in the fire. We'd love to have your support in our quest to Adopt Mill City, even a small amount will make a huge difference on this. More to come very soon.

If you have a personal experience with the fire in Mill City, please feel free to reach out to Lori Roach at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce as this is a story in progress.

Please know you do not have to live in Heppner to contribute to this fund. It is our hope that other cities will adopt other cities that have been affected by the fires of 2020, many of which continue to rage on.

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