

Fire season has ended but regulations for burning still exist

Fire Season officially ended in October. Now burning is regulated on a day-to-day basis by local fire districts and the Oregon Department of Forestry. Permits are required for any open burning within Columbia County. The burning of domestic waste and yard debris requires a valid permit from your local fire district. If outside a rural fire district, the Department

of Forestry issues this permit. The burning of logging slash related to forest management activities, whether in large or small quantities, is permitted only through the Oregon Department of Forestry. When obtaining a permit, clearly describe the type of burning you'll be conducting to ensure obtaining the correct information and proper permit. Those conduct-

ing burning of land clearing debris or logging slash require special permits, this is not covered under the typical household "backyard debris burning" permit.

In addition, the cities of St. Helens and Columbia City have designated periods during the fall and spring when domestic-backyard open burning is allowed. (Note: Contact CRF&R

for more information)

It's important to apply all the necessary precautions when introducing fire into the environment, even outside the typical summer fire season. "Citizens often underestimate drying conditions outside of fire season," says Mike Simek, Unit Forester with the Department of Forestry. "Be aware of the adjoining fine fuels and their ability to dry and become flammable within a short time," stresses Simek. Fire permits have basic and reasonable precautions that must be followed when conducting any burn. Always check to see if burning is allowed, establish an adequate firebreak around the perimeter of the burn, have appropriate tools and water supply, and attend to the fire at all times until completely extinguished. While local fire districts and the Oregon Department of Forestry set conditions for back-yard domestic burning and burning on forest lands, residents and commercial operators should be aware of the following Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) prohibitions:

- DEQ regulations prohibit any open burning that creates a nuisance or a hazard to public safety.

- DEQ regulations prohibit open burning of the following materials at any time, any-

Local artist has show in gallery

Works by Vernonia artist Kris Hargis will be shown November 4-29, at the Froelick Gallery in Portland.

According to Hargis, moving to Vernonia has allowed him to focus more on his work. "Days once disrupted by distractions became dominated by silence, or the occasional stellar jay cawing outside my studio windows," said Hargis.

In Hargis' works, light and shadow take on prominent roles, and painting seems more like a natural extension of drawing.

There will be an opening reception on Thursday, November 6 from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. The gallery is located at 817 SW Second Avenue in Portland.

where in Oregon; rubber products, tires (including use to start a fire), plastic, wet garbage, petroleum and petroleum-treated materials, asbestos, wire insulation, automobile parts, animal or vegetable food waste, animal remains, asphalt or industrial waste, or any other material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors.

- DEQ regulations prohibit burning materials that have been removed from the property of origin unless that person receives a DEQ permit (permits will generally only be issued for emergency situations). In other words, residents cannot bring construction or demolition debris, cardboard, paper or any other materials that are legal to burn onto their property from a neighbor's property, a work site or any other property and burn them.

- DEQ regulates construction and demolition debris (C&D) and commercial burning. In most cases, such burning is prohibited.

For more information on burning regulations, contact your local fire district or the Oregon Department of Forestry at 503-397-2636. Contact DEQ at 503-229-5545 if you have questions about commercial or C&D burning.

Arts & Crafts Society meets

Members of the Vernonia Society of Arts and Crafts started working on Christmas ornaments during their October meeting, with instructor Louise Hamnett showing them how to make beaded royal guardsmen, as well as Christmas bell earrings. Hamnett will continue in November, giving instruction on making small beaded angels.

The group also elected Irene Christensen president for the coming year, with Barbara Sturdevant as secretary-treasurer. Additional offices have not been filled.

The Society of Arts and Crafts is open to all interested persons. If you have an art or craft project, bring it along and come join activities on the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m., at the Vernonia Library.

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