

SEEDING THE GREENWAY



A helicopter seeds burned portions of Bear Creek near Costco on Monday.

JAMIE LUSCH / MAIL TRIBUNE

New growth will help stabilize areas burned by Almeda fire

By Vickie Aldous
Mail Tribune

A helicopter passing back and forth along the Interstate 5 corridor is dropping seeds to replant areas of the Bear Creek Greenway charred by the Almeda fire.

The flights started Monday morning and will continue through Tuesday and possibly Wednesday, said Steve Lambert, parks program manager and Emergency Operations Center operational group leader for Jackson County.

"This is an important step to continue the effort

to restore the Bear Creek Greenway," he said.

The seed being dropped is a blend recommended by local botanists. The seeds were chosen for quick germination and growth to stabilize denuded soils — while not introducing invasive weeds or contributing to large amounts of new fuel growth for next summer, county officials said.

The work started Monday in Central Point in an area burned by a smaller fire that broke out while crews were still fighting the Almeda fire that started Sept. 8 in north Ashland. The wind-whipped Almeda fire tore through Talent and

Phoenix to the southern outskirts of Medford.

The helicopter is working from its starting point in Central Point south along the swath of land burned by the Almeda fire.

With help from search-and-rescue volunteers, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office is clearing people ahead of the reseeding to keep everyone safe, Lambert said.

The Bear Creek Greenway walking, biking and jogging path will be temporarily closed in sections to the public.

SEE SEEDING, A4



Mail Tribune

A rosebud
NEWSPAPER

TUESDAY

October 20, 2020

\$1.50

NEWS 10

FIRST ALERT
FIRE

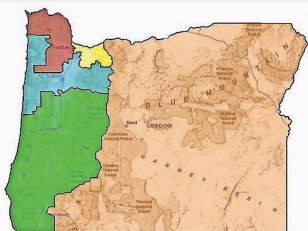
Fire danger:
MODERATE

The Mail Tribune is partnering with KTVL News 10 to keep you up-to-date on wildfires. Check MailTribune.com and KTVL.com for breaking news.

Air quality: 43
GOOD

Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.

LOCAL



A rare GOP bastion in Oregon

Congressional District 2 is a big splash of Republican red in the otherwise solid blue Democratic map of Oregon's House districts. **A2**

WEST



Missing hiker found alive after 2 weeks

A California woman who was missing for about two weeks in Zion National Park in Utah was found alive by search and rescue crews Sunday after receiving a tip about her in the park. **A3**

HEALTH



Vaccine doubters could hamper effort

Governments and drug-makers, used to skepticism and hostility from anti-vaccination campaigns, could be in an uphill battle to get people to take a COVID-19 vaccination. **A6**

LOCAL / UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

OREGON AND THE WEST / PAGE A3

Jobless claim deadline looms in fire aftermath

People who lost their jobs due to Almeda fire can get disaster benefits

By Vickie Aldous
Mail Tribune

Time is running out for people to file for special unemployment benefits if they lost their jobs or had their work hours significantly cut due to the Almeda or South Obenchain fires.

The deadline for filing a Disaster

Unemployment Assistance claim is Friday.

People are eligible under the following conditions:

- You no longer have a job as a direct result of the disaster.
- You are unable to reach your place of employment as a direct result of the disaster.
- You were going to start work

and you don't have a job or you are unable to reach the job as a direct result of the disaster.

■ You are the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of the disaster.

■ You can't work because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster.

Disaster-related benefits will be available until March 20, 2021, as long as a person's unemployment is a direct result of the disaster.

To be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance, people must not be eligible for regular state unemployment insurance or COVID-19 pandemic unemployment assistance. The disaster program is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

People should apply through the Oregon Employment Department, which will first check whether applicants qualify for state unemployment benefits.

SEE ASSISTANCE, A4

THE LIGHTER SIDE



SEWER PLANT NAMED FOR COMEDIAN

While attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Danbury, Connecticut, sewage treatment plant that now bears his name, comedian John Oliver said he said inspiration and meaning in the plant's work. **A8**

OPINION / PAGE A7

YOU SAID / THEY SAID

■ **JOHN MARCIANO, TALENT:** "There's always plenty of funds when the rich and powerful merchants of death need a stimulus for killing and maiming — but not so for our friends and neighbors who have been 'slipped' or are being 'shed.'"

■ **THE WASHINGTON POST:** "All sides involved in the negotiations over much-needed new funds should act with the urgency this situation requires."

SPORTS / PAGES B1-5



NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- **TRACK AND FIELD:** Scandal, pandemic may change business ways at Nike. **B1**
- **NFL:** San Francisco 49ers used familiar formula to defeat the Los Angeles Rams. **B3**
- **SOCCER:** Teenage soccer player scores first Major League Soccer goal. **B4**

WEATHER / PAGE A8

TODAY	WED	THU
77°/50°	65°/34°	62°/34°

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