FIGHTING FIRES WITH FIRE



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

United States Forestry Service firefighter Gene Gravely uses a drip torch during a routine controlled burn on Cassidy Bridge Road near Mountain Rest Tuesday. Controlled burns prevent forest and wildfires, according to forestry service representative Randy McCoy. "We perform routine controlled burns, and they are nothing to be alarmed about," McCoy said. "They're good for the ecosystem and they prevent wildfires." According to McCoy, the burns are scheduled fires that firemen know about in advance and are on-scene to watch over and take care of. "We perform these types of burns all over the county," McCoy said. "It's necessary."