April saw warmer-than-normal weather

National Weather Service

REDMOND — Temperatures at the Redmond Airport averaged warmer than normal during the month of April, according to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The average temperature was 46.8 degrees which was 2.4 degrees above normal. High Temperatures averaged 65.5 degrees, which was 5.9 degrees above normal. The highest was 87 degrees on the 29th. Low temperatures averaged 28.1 degrees, which was 1.0 degree below normal. The lowest was 15 degrees, on the 12th.

There were 20 days with the low temperature below 32 de-

Precipitation totaled 0.22 inches during April, which was 0.51 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 3 days with the heaviest, 0.13 inches reported on the 25th.

Precipitation this year has reached 1.39 inches, which is 1.62 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at the Redmond airport

has been 3.43 inches, which is 2.35 inches below normal.

The highest wind gust was 40 mph which occurred on the

The outlook for May from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for the Redmond airport rise from 63.0 degrees at the start of May to 72.0 degrees at the end of May. Normal lows rise from 32.0 degrees to 39.0 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.02 inches.



PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Ruger, a 4-year-old Staffordshire Terrier mix available for adoption. He's a friendly and social dog that loves to explore and play. He would benefit from some basic training as he doesn't always have the best manners and can be overly excitable. Ruger has previously lived with other dogs and cats, according to his previous owner. He may do best as the only dog in his home or with a calm and tolerant female dog. For more info, call BrightSide Animal Center at 541-923-0882.

IN THE LEGISLATURE

After 100 days, time crush looms larger in the Capitol

SALEM — It's a new month, but Oregon's Legislature has the same headaches.

The 2021 session of the Legislature hit the 100-day mark Thursday. The Constitution gives the House and Senate 160 days in even-numbered years to initiate, bloviate and legislate before being forced to gavel the session closed.

When lawmakers returned to the Capitol on Monday, they had just 56 days left — no matter what. The Oregon Constitution requires the Legislature

to shut down by June 28.
In legislative parlance, the House and Senate must "sine die" — a Latin word twist that roughly translates to adjourn without a future date to meet

The clock was started on Jan. 19 and doesn't stop for nights, weekends, holidays, COVID-19 shutdowns, Senate

walkouts or House slowdowns. And when it is over, it's over. All bills left are dead. Ideas can come back the next session, but have to start over.

Third witching hour: The Legislature has its own automatic spring cleaning with four "witching hours" during the session that kill off bills stalled in committees. House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, estimated early in the session that up to 4,000 bills and resolutions were introduced. Hundreds of bills stuck in the maze of the Legislature's 43 committees were culled by earlier deadlines. The next witching hour is Friday, May 14 when bills must be scheduled for a final committee vote the second chamber (Hou bills in the Senate, and vice versa). There are a few "safe harbors" for legislation. Bills in Rules, Revenue and joint (House-Senate) committees are exempt from the deadlines.

Legislation resurrection: When legislative leaders reverse themselves and want one of the dead bills to move forward after all, the job is done with a "gut and stuff" move. A bill that has moved forward can be sent to the Rules or another deadline-exempt committee where its entire contents are removed (gut) and an amendment becomes the entire text of the bill. Look for the move as the Legislature scrambles when the end of the session gets close.

Encore, encore!: Sept. 20 is the start date for the special session of the Legislature to deal with overdue redistricting maps. Lawmakers received an letter (Invitation? Summons?) from leadership last week.

Feeling for an economic pulse: On Friday, the preliminary June state revenue forecast was sent to key government planners. The report won't be made public until May 19. But an early version was sent to the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors and the state Department of Administrative Services. The quarterly reports measure how much money the state is taking

lation of which Republicans might get into join what recent history has shown as a quixotic run for governor has started early. Bud Pierce, the GOP nominee in the 2016 special election for governor won by Kate Brown, has announced he plans to run. Oregon Catalyst, a popular conservative website, recently posted an online poll asking readers to pick from among five names getting

some early buzz as possible GOP standard-bearers. Sandy Mayor Stan Pulliam came out on top. Others included Pierce, Sen. Dallas Heard, R-Roseburg (who is also the Oregon Republican Party chairman), Rep. Bill Post, R-Keizer and Clackamas County Commissioner Tootie Smith. Candidates can't officially file for office until Sept. 9, but expect more straw polls across the political spectrum over the summer.

House OKs gun storage combined with partial ban

The Oregon House, on a largely party-line vote, approved a bill that combines storage requirements for firearms with a narrower ban on guns in some public places.

The 34-24 vote on Thursday sends the revamped Senate Bill 554 back to the Senate, which can vote to accept the changes and send it to Gov. Kate Brown — or reject it and force a joint panel to negotiate the differences.

Support came exclusively from Democrats. Three of the 37 Democrats voted no: Paul Evans of Monmouth, David Gomberg of Otis and Mark Meek of Oregon City.

Opposition came largely from Republicans, mostly from rural areas. Exceptions were from Clackamas County, where both Democratic Rep. Meek and Republican Leader Christine Drazan of Canby spoke against it. No Republicans voted for it.

Two Republicans were ex-

The vote took place after close to three hours of debate.

The bill does not have an emergency clause, which means that if it becomes law, opponents have 90 days from the close of the 2021 session to obtain 74,680 voter signatures to force a statewide election. The number is set by the Oregon Constitution.





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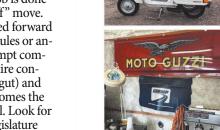
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