

RAIN: Downpour could delay local wheat harvest

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July and August also tend to be the hottest months on average, with daytime high temperatures hovering around 90 degrees. But temperatures over the weekend dipped down to the mid-70s at the Pendleton Airport, and Hull expects it will remain cooler through the week.

That's a welcome relief from heat stress and fire danger, though the sudden downpour of rain could delay or interrupt the local wheat harvest. Don Wysocki, with Oregon State University Extension Service in Umatilla County, said it all depends on how much moisture fell in a given area and how quickly it dries out.

If a crop has more than 15 percent moisture, Wysocki said it can't be stored due to the risk of

growing mold. In rare circumstances, prolonged rain can also cause pre-harvest sprouting of wheat, which vastly decreases the quality of the grain.

However, Wysocki doesn't see that happening this year. He figures growers might be delayed by a few days.

"It just depends on how damp the grain is," he said.

Hull said the area is seeing more of a westerly flow of cooler air coming in from the Pacific, as opposed to last year when a ridge of high pressure settled in and pushed storms away.

Overall, the U.S. Drought Monitor still lists almost all of Umatilla and Morrow counties in a moderate drought.

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REMARKS: Will add value to the urban renewal district

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two separate properties at 201 and 203 E Main Street, so Spencer said Simmons Insurance Group is interested in eventually applying for another facade grant to put in windows on the western side too.

Assistant city manager Mark Morgan said putting windows in the upper floor will make it more attractive office space and add value to the urban renewal district by improving one of its only second-story properties.

"We're making sure all of the downtown buildings are utilized to their fullest extent," he said.

Simmons Insurance Group purchased the RoeMarks buildings in May after it sat empty for four years. They plan to move their offices into the eastern portion once renovations are finished and are looking to lease out the western side on the corner of Main Street and Second Street to a cafe, winery or other business.

During their regular city council meeting earlier in the night, the Hermiston city council approved a refinance of the bond that formed Hermiston Energy Services in 2005.

The refinance will save the city \$2.66 million in

interest payments. The city also saved an additional \$1.136 million after the council voted to change the bonds' backing from an insurance model to the full faith and credit of the city.

HES Superintendent Nate Rivera told the council that he had worked with legal council to determine that the move would not have any effect on the city's credit rating or its ability to borrow in the future.

He said the turbulent effect of Great Britain's exit from the European Union on the markets was working in the city's favor because people were rushing to buy relatively safe municipal bonds.

As part of the refinance Hermiston Energy Services will build \$4.5 million in additional construction funds into the bond issuance. That money will go to upgrades including a new substation and smart meters that will automatically notify crews when the power goes out in a portion of town.

Rivera said the new 20-year bond issuance will be about \$14.25 million total.

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YOGA: Event rebranded to Wellness Wave

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leton Convention Center. When Wildbill booked the Convention Center last July for the 2016 dates, staff there didn't communicate with the Round-Up until after the Round-Up booked the Pendleton Whisky Festival, Thomas said. Pendleton Whisky Festival organizers Doug Corey and Andy McNally reserved both the July 15-16 and 22-23 weekends last October to ensure a workable date with headliner Zac Brown Band.

Representatives from the Pendleton Convention Center and city of Pendleton declined to comment on the booking process.

Wildbill still wants to continue the event in Pendleton, but not until there's a policy that ensures event planners don't encounter the same situation she did.

However, this year's cancellation has allowed her to expand the annual retreat beyond Pendleton. In fact, the event was initially called the "Pendleton Yoga Round-Up" before Wildbill dropped the city's name, because she didn't want to limit its location.

In June, she decided to rebrand Yoga Round-Up to Wellness Wave and opened two studio locations under the new name: one in downtown Pendleton at 33 S.E. Court Ave. and the other on the Umatilla Indian Reservation at 46440 Kusi Rd.

Wellness Wave is rooted in yoga but Wildbill said the studio incorporates other fitness programs including P90X, PiYo and Zumba.

Wildbill is nearing an agreement to host a yoga

SCHOOL: Will take field trip to John Day Fossil Beds

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The district is able to provide summer learning through no cost to the district thanks to Federal Migrant Funds, summer library funding from the state of Oregon and money from a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant. The 21st CCLC program supports the creation of community learning centers with the purpose of providing academically enriching opportunities for children outside of regular school hours.

This year, Umatilla Summer School has 13 teachers in 13 classes from preschool to middle school. There are also nine assistants and one secretary that work during the six-week-long program.

"I'm lucky to have teachers willing to teach in the summer, to give up their summers," Coyle said, "It's great having quality educators who already know the kids."

Valerie May is one of those educators. During the regular school year she's a third grade teacher at McNary Elementary School. This is her second year in a row teaching summer school and she said her main reason is to help the kids and to know they're getting what they need to be successful the following school year. She likes the flexibility of summer school instruction, too. "There's a little more art, a little more science, more curriculum," May said.

These sentiments were shared by Trista Witherspoon, an educational assistant for summer school working one-on-one with a student needing extra attention. "Summer school is more relaxed," Witherspoon said. "Teachers can teach different content, use different activities and do more group work."

Why is summer school more flexible? Coyle explains, "People (educators) just don't have time to do the extended activities

"It's great having quality educators who already know the kids."

— Nicole Coyle, Umatilla summer school program administrator

during the regular school year."

The Girl Scouts program is providing some of the varied activities. Kimberly Macias is a Girl Scout outreach leader and focuses on hands-on instruction involving science, technology, engineering and math. Any girl, K-5, attending Umatilla summer school can attend the STEM classes twice a week.

Activities also include field trips. David Lougee, the Umatilla School District ELL director and a summer school teacher this year, will be taking the middle school-aged kids to the John Day Fossil Beds this week.

Summer school runs

Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Students are fed breakfast and lunch. But the learning doesn't end with lunch. Umatilla also offers the "After Summer School" program, which is an extended day opportunity focused on STEM-based learning. There is a cost of \$10 per day for a student to attend this program, but it includes a snack and dinner.

When asked if the students like summer school, Coyle said, "They must, because they don't have to be here." She says students enjoy getting to see their friends, and the safety and security that comes from having a routine and structure.

For more information on Umatilla's summer school program, contact the Umatilla School District at 541-922-6500.

Contact Alexa Lougee at alougee@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4534. She is the daughter-in-law of David Lougee, who is mentioned in this story.

DOGS: No funds allocated specifically toward animal control

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the animals for 10 days. Quarantining the animals was the responsibility of the pet owner.

Sergeant Joshua Roberts with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office said his department handles, on average, seven to 10 calls a week involving dogs. Sgt. Roberts noted there are currently no county ordinances addressing dogs and so the county follows Oregon Revised Statutes.

Most commonly dog issues fall under the citation of "Dog as a Nuisance." If a loose dog has identification, deputies usually track down the animal's owner. If the dog has attacked a person or destroyed property, the caller has the option of filing a complaint which then gets sent off to the county court.

So what about dogs with no tags running loose around the county? Sgt. Roberts said unfortunately the sheriff's office does not have a contract with any of the local shelters and if they aren't breaking any state statutes — like chasing livestock — they are often left to roam.

"Many of the incidents we've handled this year involved reporters that just wanted the dog owners spoken to. Others were

reported, but when the deputy responded, the dog had left the area and was nowhere to be found," Sgt. Roberts explained. He said of the incidents reported this year, 15 required a case report.

A review of the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office budget shows there are no funds allocated specifically toward animal control, and Sgt. Roberts said there is no deputy or officer designated for animal cases.

In neighboring Union County, Animal Control is a division of the Union County Sheriff's Office and provides services to rural Union County and the outlying cities. The city of La Grande contracts 50 percent of the time of the Union County Animal Control Officer and pays into the budget.

The Hermiston Police Department does not have a specific animal

control officer or division. According to the city website, on-duty officers "handle dog complaints, whether it is loose dogs or barking dogs." In the first six months of 2016 the Hermiston Police Department received 200 calls involving dogs, averaging more than one call every day. The city contracts with Pet Rescue to take in dogs the city police department picks up. Beau Putnam, executive director of the non-profit animal shelter, said in 2015 the city brought in 226 stray or loose dogs to the facility. While that number may seem high, Putnam said he has done research and toured other facilities and Hermiston's numbers are "right there with other cities."

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said his department has one full-time code enforcement officer who handles most

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retreat in Hawaii later this year, which she plans to name "Wellness Wave Festival." In September during Pendleton Round-Up week, she will travel to Kalani Retreat Center, in Pahoa, Hawaii, with the hope of reserving the space for a yoga retreat in Pendleton later this fall. The Hawaiian retreat will cost \$500 plus airfare, room and board for five days, according to Wildbill.

This would be a significant increase from the \$50 cost of previous Yoga Round-Ups. Wildbill expects the event to be smaller than the usual 200-300 people who attended Yoga Round-Up in past years, but is excited about a change of scenery. Still,

she is open to returning the event to its original location, where participants get the opportunity to practice yoga outdoors at the Round-Up Grounds in addition to the Convention Center.

"What made our event so special was having access to the Round-Up Grounds,"

Wildbill said. "Being able to do yoga on a rodeo ground was this beautiful merging of East meets West. I absolutely want to stay positive that we can bring the event back."

Local organizers would also like the event to return. Although the Yoga Round-Up's impact on tourism is relatively small, Travel Pendleton's Pat Beard believes it provides a rich Pendleton cultural experience for those who do attend.

"I love the event and hope it comes back," he said. "I will work with (Wildbill) next year to bring it back."

Corey and McNally offered Wildbill and her husband, Cedric, tickets to the Pendleton Whisky Festival Saturday, which they plan to use. Wildbill said it will be bittersweet without the event, but looks forward to finding a compromise for future Pendleton events.

"When that policy is clear, let's get a date," Wildbill said. "Let's get the party going back in Pendleton."



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