

Golf ball hail, winter storm and dry summer fires

National Weather Service ranks region's top weather events

By National Weather Service staff, Pendleton office

Staff members of the National Weather Service in Pendleton voted on what they considered the region's top weather events in 2016. Here are the results:

1. June supercell

On June 8, a thunderstorm over southern Wheeler County rapidly developed into a supercell with golf ball-sized hail, damaging winds to 70 mph, and a brief tornado as it tracked northeast to near Monument and Ukiah.

2. December snow and cold

Widespread heavy snow was followed by arctic air during mid-December. Snowfall averaged between 5 and 10 inches across the Columbia Basin and eastern mountains, but ranged up to between 15 and 20 inches in central Oregon. The arctic air following the snow dropped temperatures below zero in many areas. By the end of December, mountain snowpack had surged to 115 to 130 percent of normal.

3. Fire outbreak

Triple digit temperatures and humidity in the 5 to 10 percent range helped to spread an outbreak of fires at the end of July. The Weigh Station fire occurred east of Pendleton and shut down Interstate 84. The Rail Fire near Unity burned nearly 42,000 acres in rugged terrain before being contained in early September. The Range 12 fire started on the Yakima Training Center and burned for a week on 176,000 acres of mostly grass and sage on BLM, state and private lands.

4. Wet October

Rainfall was 1 to 3 inches above normal and ranked in the top 5 wettest Octobers across the region. It was the



EO file photo
Firefighters monitor a burnout fire off of the Old Emigrant Highway in July while battling a fast-moving wildfire sparked by lightning east of Pendleton.

wettest October on record in Washington at Bickleton, Prosser, Selah, Mill Creek, and Whitman Mission. Trout Lake, Wash., at 14.58 inches, beat their previous record by 3.62 inches.

5. TIE — Strong El Niño to weak La Niña

One of the strongest El Niño patterns on record last winter was reversed in a matter of months to a weak La Niña by mid-summer.

5. TIE — Launch of GOES R

The next generation of weather satellites began with the launch of GOES R on Nov. 19. GOES R reached geostationary orbit and was re-named GOES 16 at the end of the month. After sensor deployment, calibration and checkout, it promises to revolutionize satellite imagery and data collection. It has four times the image resolution and can take an image every minute. It also has the capability to track thunderstorm lightning.

7. Tri-Cities tornado

An intense but short-lived thunderstorm brought a brief EF0 tornado to Kennewick

on the late evening of May 21. The thunderstorm also produced hail up to three-quarters of an inch, damaging winds that downed trees and localized flash flooding.

8. Warm, dry April

It was the warmest April on record in Washington at Walla Walla, Ellensburg, Yakima, Cle Elum, Kennewick, Moxee City and Richland. In Oregon, it was the warmest April on record at The Dalles, Hermiston, La Grande and Pelton Dam. Ellensburg beat their previous record warm April by near 5 degrees. Couple the unseasonable warmth with a drier-than-normal month and the mountain snowpack virtually disappeared.

9. Tie — Snowless January and February

Many stations in the southern Columbia Basin went through the entire months of January and February without measurable snowfall. In Washington, this included Dayton, Ice Harbor Dam, Walla Walla and Whitman Mission. In Oregon, a snowless end of winter was observed at

Heppner, Hermiston, Madras, Milton-Freewater, Pendleton and Pilot Rock. Snowpack in the mountains also suffered decreases.

9 Tie — Drought eased

Moderate to severe drought was diminished in March, made a comeback in June, and finally eased to just abnormally dry in December. The mid-December rating was the least drought coverage for the area since November 2013.

11. November warmth

Indian Summer continued into November across eastern Washington and Eastern Oregon. In Washington, it was the warmest November on record statewide and second warmest on record in Oregon. Individual stations in Washington that set records for warmest November include Walla Walla, Ellensburg, Pasco, Yakima, Easton and Moxee City. In Oregon, record warmth was set at The Dalles, Hermiston, Pendleton, Antelope, Grizzly, La Grande and Monument. Precipitation was below normal and mountain snowpack well behind normal.

PENDLETON

Second pot shop looks to get start

East Oregonian

A second business has started the process of establishing itself in Pendleton's newly legalized marijuana market.

According to the Jan. 5 Pendleton Planning Commission agenda, the owners of Pendleton Cannabis will ask the commission for conditional use to start a recreational pot shop at 816 Southgate, formerly Premium Lube.

Pendleton Cannabis' conditional use application states that Shawn Pace and Roalynn Pace of Pendleton will be the business owners.

In a letter to the commission, Shawn Pace wrote that the store would be 1,600 square feet with 1,400 square feet accessible to customers. The rest of the space would be used for office space, a server room and storage.

Pace wrote that any marijuana shipments to the store would be in air-tight containers and

no consumption would be allowed on the premises, minimizing the odor.

The owners of Kind Leaf Pendleton, who announced that they would open a recreational marijuana store at 1733 S.W. Court Ave. a couple weeks ago, will also request conditional use from the planning commission at the same meeting.

The commission will determine whether Pendleton Cannabis and Kind Leaf Pendleton meet the city's land use laws for marijuana businesses, which is part of a larger application process.

Both businesses will have to receive approval from the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, pay a \$1,550 licensing fee to the city and pass two separate background checks with the state and the city before they can open for operation.

The commission will meet Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. at the council chambers in city hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave.

BRIEFLY

Local historian to discuss Middle East

PENDLETON — Brigit Farley, associate professor at Washington State University-Tri Cities, is the featured guest speaker during the Jan. 6 meeting of AAUW.

A no-host luncheon at 11 a.m. at Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., will be followed by Farley's presentation on the Middle East. A short business meeting will follow the presentation.

AAUW is dedicated to advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. For more information, contact Karen Allen at karenallen1965@gmail.com

First Friday features student art

BAKER CITY — Art created by students of Baker County High School, as well as art class students, will be featured during the Jan. 6 First Friday event at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave., Baker City.

An opening reception from 5:30-8 p.m. includes an informal talk by Baker High School art instructor Kirsten Anderson, who will present the work of her students and that of students of Laurie Hueckman of Burnt River School. In addition, artwork created by students of all ages attending art classes and workshops at the center will be on display. Light refreshments will be served, courtesy of Friends of Crossroads.

The exhibition will be on display through Saturday, Jan. 28. For more information, contact Cynthia Newman at 541-523-5369 or cynthia@crossroads-arts.org, or visit www.crossroads-arts.org

Foster care classes starting soon

HERMISTON — The Department of Human Services Child Welfare Program will be holding Foundations classes for individuals wishing to become foster or adoptive providers for children in foster care. These classes are free and are required as part of the homestudy process.

January Foundations classes will be held at the Hermiston DHS office, 950 S.E. Columbia Drive, for four Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Umatilla and Morrow counties need foster providers for children ages newborn to 18. Providers care for children for a few days to several years at times depending on the circumstances. Foster providers with a variety of lifestyles are needed to meet the variety of children in DHS care. Singles, working couples and retirees all have something to offer these young children.

Future Foundations classes will be held in Pendleton (March and October), Hermiston (June), and Boardman (August). For more information, contact Marvin Hamilton at 451-564-4484.

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, DEC. 30
ADULT OPEN GYM, 6-7 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Half-court basketball. Adults only. (541-276-8100)

WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-8100)

STORY TIME, 10:15 a.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 2 p.m., Echo Public Library, 20 S. Bonanza, Echo. (541-376-8411)

VFW BINGO, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-567-6219)

SATURDAY, DEC. 31
IMAC BREAKFAST, 7:30-10:30 a.m., Stokes Landing Senior Center, Irrigon. Fundraiser to create the Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center. (Peggy Price 541-567-3806)

LIL BUCKS OPEN GYM, 8:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For students in first-third grades.

FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free art classes for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (Roberta Lavador 541-278-9201)

FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS, 10 a.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 850 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Workshops, photo scanning and more. (Stephanie Blackburn 541-567-6251)

HERMISTON RESOLUTION RUN, 10-11 a.m., Riverfront Park, Southwest 23rd Street, Hermiston. Free run/walk through Riverfront Park and the Oxbox Trail. Families, kids, strollers and pets welcome to proceed at your own pace and choose a distance that challenges you. (Tim Beal 509-954-8778)

HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta Lavador 541-278-9201)

SUNDAY, JAN. 1
FIRST DAY HIKE, 11 a.m., Emigrant Springs State Heritage Park, 65068 Old Oregon Trail Highway, Meacham. Moderate two-mile snowshoe hike begins at the Oregon Trail kiosk west of the park entrance. Wear appropriate clothing and bring water, a camera or binoculars and your own snowshoeing gear; limited gear may be available, register to reserve a pair at 541-983-2277. Park should be contacted in case of cancellation due to inclement weather. Free and suitable for ages 8 and up. (Chris Havel 503-986-0722)

MONDAY, JAN. 2
ADULT OPEN GYM, 6-7 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Half-court basketball. Adults only. (541-276-8100)

WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Rec-



EO file photo
Diane Melton, left, volunteer and seasonal assistant at Emigrant Springs State Park, chats with visitors during the 2014 First Day Hike at Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area, located near Meacham. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is offering free Jan. 1 hikes at more than two dozen sites across the state.

reation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-8100)

TOT TIME, 10-11 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For children ages 0-5. Costs \$1 per child per session. (541-276-8100)

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30 a.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St., Athena. For ages birth to 6. (541-566-2470)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

ART STUDIO, 4-5:30 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free class for ages 7-12 to develop skills and encourage art exploration. (Roberta Lavador 541-278-9201)

TUESDAY, JAN. 3
ADULT OPEN GYM, 6-7 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Half-court basketball. Adults only. (541-276-8100)

WALKING FOR WELLNESS, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (541-276-8100)

TERRIFICALLY FREE TUESDAY, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. Free admission all day. (541-276-1066)

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30-11 a.m., Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield. (541-449-1254)

SENSORY EXPLORATION, 11 a.m., Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. For ages 0-3. Sensory Bins provide endless ways for little ones to experience new things with all of their senses and boost essential skills. (541-276-1066)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Hermiston Senior Center, 435 W. Orchard Ave.,

Hermiston. Costs \$3.50 for seniors over 50, \$4 for adults under 50, \$1 for children 10 and over, \$3 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Transportation arranged by donation. Thrift Store open 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (541-567-3582)

BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Cost is \$4 for seniors 55 and over or \$5 for adults. (541-481-3257)

CRAFTERNOONS, 4:15 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Drop in for a group or individual craft project. All ages. (541-966-0380)

BINGO, 5 p.m., Hermiston Senior Center, 435 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Doors open at 5 p.m., games begin at 6:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-567-3582)

PENDLETON EAGLES TACOS AND BINGO, 6 p.m., Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St., Pendleton. Regular packet \$10, special packet \$5. Proceeds donated to local charities. Public welcome. (541-278-2828)

2016 DEMO IN THE BLUES

SATURDAY, DEC. 31 • NOON-4:00PM
KELLY PRAIRIE, USFS RD. 53

Join MCGG Polaris and 4 Corner's Snowmobile Club for their annual Play Day and get your part of \$3,000 in Polaris PG&A.

MCGG will have the 2017 AXYS RMK PRO 600 and 800 for rider demonstration. All riders that register and demo will receive a chance to win a piece of \$1,500 worth of Polaris PG&A.

POKER RUN WILL BEGIN AT NOON

MCGG will have \$1,500 in Polaris PG&A as an added bonus to Poker Run participants.

Contact/Questions: Cliff Dougherty 541-676-5491 or Jason Hanna 541-989-8221 Ext. 204

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Large Party Dinner Reservations Available - Call 541-278-1100

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nor gloom of night,"
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US Postal Service carriers
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delivering our mail even through the
recent bad weather.
Your service is truly appreciated!
Merry Christmas! - Ramona Draper