

Pendleton students settle into classes



Teacher Jacey Wilson, right, leads her fourth grade class Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021 during the first day of school at Sherwood Heights Elementary School in Pendleton. Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Temperatures above normal during August

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton area experienced slightly warmer than normal temperatures during the month of August, according to preliminary data received by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service Office in Pendleton.

The average temperature during the month was 73.1 degrees, 1.3 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 87.5 degrees, 0.7 degrees above normal, according to the monthly climate summary.

The highest temperature was 105 degrees recorded on Aug. 3. On 13 days during the month temperatures exceeded 90 degrees, and it was over 100 degrees on six days in August, according to the monthly climate summary.

Low temperatures averaged 58.7 degrees, 1.9 degrees above normal. The lowest temperature for the month was 42 degrees, recorded on Aug. 24.

Precipitation for the month totaled 0.01 inches, which was 0.37 inches below normal, the report said. Measurable precipitation — at least 0.01 inch — was received on one day, according to the monthly climate summary.

Precipitation for the year is 4.36 inches, which is 3.73 inches below normal. Since October 2020, the water year precipitation at the Pendleton airport has been 8.81 inches, 3.28 inches below normal, according to the monthly climate summary.

The highest wind gust was 45 mph on Aug. 17, the report said.

The outlook for September from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Normal highs for the Pendleton airport fall from 83 degrees at the start of September to 72 degrees at the end of the month. Normal lows fall from 54 degrees to 45 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 0.57 inches.

Next Chapter opens in Hermiston

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Angela Pursel and Alexis McCarthy, owners of a new Hermiston bookstore, are surprised by their success.

The mother-and-daughter team started The Next Chapter Bookstore at 1000 S. Highway 395, Suite C, in Hermiston. They are now open six days a week, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., but this was not their original plan. Neither was it their expectation they would average 40 customers per day.

"It was just this crazy idea," Pursel said.

Pursel wanted another family project, something to fill her days. With her daughters grown and out of her house, she needed something in addition to the radio station and the dance studio she owns. This

additional business would be part of the "next chapter" of her life, hence the shop's name.

This idea, which came to her on a driving trip through the Columbia Gorge, appealed to daughter McCarthy. It also attracted McCarthy's younger sister, Melani, who created the shop's logo, works in the store and plans to display her artwork there soon.

Pursel and McCarthy's plan was to build a bookstore in the spacious lobby of their dance studio, Dance Unlimited, where they serve around 200 students with lessons in jazz, hip hop, contemporary, tap and other dance styles.

Their five dance teachers and their students, who had all come to accept the studio as their own special place, liked the idea of the bookstore.

They didn't mind that the books

would occupy their studio. After all, the bookshelves would be out of the way. Many of the shelves would be attached to the wall. A few other shelves would be on wheels, moved out for the few days when there were no dance classes and then returned to storage for most of the week.

This is how The Next Chapter opened — at the end of April — with a Saturday-to-Monday schedule, mobile shelves, and low expectations.

"That lasted for two weeks," Pursel said.

Business started hot. They were busy during their limited hours, and their customers were requesting longer store hours and more of them.

Even their dance students were wanting the store open during weekdays, so they could shop

before and after classes. And the parents wanted the store open, so they could have something to do while their children were in class. Pursel and McCarthy decided to increase the hours.

"We hoped people loved books as much as we did," Pursel said.

So far, it seems she was right.

Pursel and McCarthy said locals prefer the community and feel of a bookstore. They also like getting their books without having to pay shipping costs. The Next Chapter obtains customer orders without charging for shipping. They enjoy making recommendations and sharing some of their favorite books.

Pursel said she and her daughter are grateful for the community support.

"We love to chat with them and see them come in," she said.

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