

# Region has yet to hit 90 degrees year after oppressive heat wave

By **JEFF BUDLONG**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

PENDLETON — Last year's scorching hot temperatures and lack of precipitation took a heavy toll on the area, but thankfully spring and the beginning of summer have been much more normal.

Eastern Oregon has yet to reach 90 degrees this year with the last triple-digit day coming Aug. 15, 2021 when it hit 101 in Wallowa County and Aug. 3, 2021 in Union County, according to National Weather Service Assistant Forecaster Ann Adams out of Pendleton. Weather that warm is not expected in the area in the near future.

Adams did not see 90 degree temperatures for the region in the next several days, and it may not happen until a further warm-up

is expected to begin next month.

Last year's extreme temperatures had an impact on seemingly everything, even baby hawks were falling up to 60 feet from their nests to either death or injury to try to escape the oppressive heat.

Currently, temperatures in the region are ranging from high 70s to mid 80s, which is close to normal for this time of year. The biggest difference between this year and last is avoiding the significant high pressure system that dominated much of summer 2021.

"Last year was a bump away from the normal patterns," Adams said. "We had a larger, stronger, dry-air mass over the Northwest and it stayed put last year. It persisted over our area and heated up the entire West. We just happened to be under the

deepest part of that ridge."

Cloud cover and above-average precipitation has kept things cooler in the region. The northern section of Union county is not under drought conditions while Wallowa County and the remainder of Union ranges from abnormally dry to severe drought. The increased precipitation is not expected to last the rest of the summer.

"Northeast Oregon has a 40% chance of being above normal in temperature over the next three months," Adams said. "Precipitation will be below normal rainfall over that same time period."

Temperatures over the next few days in Wallowa and Union counties are expected to be in the low-to mid-80s. That is not the same for much of the rest of Oregon as 100-degree temperatures are likely.



Jack Parry/Wallowa County Chieftain

Customers look around at the various market tents at the Wallowa County Farmers Market in Joseph on June 18, 2022.

# Wallowa County Farmers Market is back without restrictions

By **JACK PARRY**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The clouds stretched over Main Street on Saturday afternoon with a darkish hue, but the tents at the Wallowa County Farmers Market were prepared for yet another day of precipitation.

"It has rained every single Saturday, which has been wonderful," Jessica Bogard, the manager of the market, mockingly replied after it rained at each of the first four days of the market since its return May 28.

Despite the rain, customers were floating in and out of various tents. Local artist and vendor Koshiah Sword of Happy Day Paintings attributed this to the outdoorsy nature of the locals.

"We are Oregonians, so people show up regardless," she said.

While the customers may still be showing up, the past few years of the COVID-19 pandemic have been tough for the event, especially with



Jack Parry/Wallowa County Chieftain

Local customers chat during the Wallowa County Farmers Market in Joseph on Saturday, June 18, 2022.

previous distancing rules.

"We had roped-off perimeters, we had distance between us, hand-washing stations," Bogard said. "We had a lot more expense just to keep up with the restrictions."

The pandemic also caused a few businesses to not return this year, and it forced other vendors like Sword to step in for a full season, something she's never done before.

"For artists like me, having a lot of the events canceled has had a really big impact on sales," she said.

Finally free from the restrictions of the pandemic after a hard two years, it seems business has been good for the market, even without the sun.

"It's been great, people have been really supportive," Andrea Rodriguez of True Mountain Coffee said.

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