

April

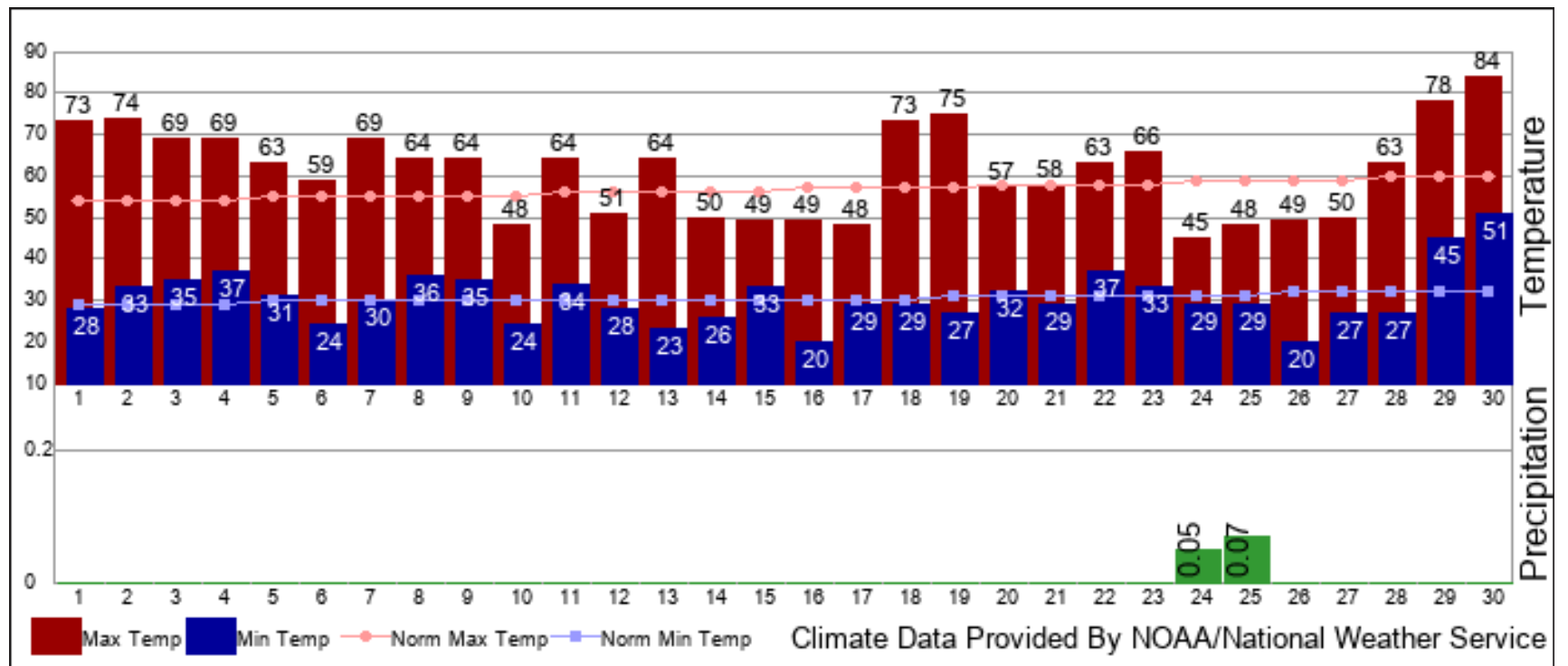
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Marc Austin, a weather service meteorologist in Pendleton, said it is not unusual to have such a dry April, because some years no rainfall is recorded during the month. But the lack of precipitation does add to the drought conditions in Central Oregon. So far this year, precipitation in Bend has reached 2.45 inches, which is 1.68 inches below normal, according to the weather service.

"You get into March and April and days are getting longer and warmer and you start to dry out the vegetation," Austin said. "You start to worry about what implications that has for fire season."

The average temperature for April in Bend was 46 degrees, which was 2.4 degrees above normal. High temperatures last month averaged 61.2 degrees, which was 4.5 degrees above normal.

The highest temperature recorded last month in Bend was 84 degrees on April 30. The record high temperature for April in Bend was 93 degrees



degrees on April 13, 1904, according to weather service data.

Low temperatures last month in Bend averaged 30.7 degrees, which was 0.3 of a degree above normal. A total of 18 days last month had a low

temperature below 32 degrees.

The coldest temperature recorded last month was 20 degrees on April 16. The record low temperature for April in Bend was 8 degrees on April 10, 1903, according to the data.

The outlook for May calls for near normal temperatures and near normal precipitation.

The month of May is starting out with rain in the forecast, but the precipitation is not expected to last, Austin said.

"It's not looking like anything that is going to erase what we are dealing with in terms of the drought," Austin said.

Normal high temperatures for May in Bend rise from 61 degrees at the start of the month to 68 degrees at the

end of the month. Normal low temperatures rise from 33 degrees to 40 degrees throughout the month.

Normal precipitation for May in Bend is 0.89 of an inch.
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Keychain

Continued from A1

The "molon labe" item and its letters appear to be larger than Spano's nametag on his vest.

"I'm aware of the allegations posted around social media regarding one of our employees displaying an item that was inconsistent with our uniform, an item believed to be supportive of extremist ideologies," Krantz told The Bulletin.

Spano, 35, told The Bulletin the item in question is a keychain he has used while on duty throughout his 13-year career. He said he wears it to honor the oath of enlistment

he took when he joined the military, and his fellow soldiers. He said before the recent uproar, no one had ever said anything about it.

He denied being part of the Three Percenters or any other anti-government group. "I support none of it," he said. "And if it wasn't for people defending against that we'd have a whole lot more disorder right now than we already do."

Spano said if the internal investigation determines his keychain is inappropriate to wear on duty, he will switch to using it for the keyring for his personal vehicle.

Spano was hired by the Medford Police Department

"We stress there is no place in policing for extremism or violent ideologies. Those beliefs are incompatible with law enforcement. ... Again, I don't know if that's what was going on in this case."

— Bend Police Chief Mike Krantz

in 2008, according to Oregon police records. In 2015, he transferred to the Bend Police Department and was promoted to corporal in 2019.

He is a former Army medic who served in combat in Iraq. The Ancient Greek phrase "molon labe," meaning "come and take them," is often attributed to the Spartan King Leonidas when the Persian

King called on the Spartan soldiers to lay down their arms. It has more recently been co-opted by pro-gun and extremist anti-government groups.

It's also favored among some in law enforcement. Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin drew attention to it in 2015 when he set the phrase as his Facebook profile picture.

According to the Bend Police policy handbook, Bend officers are forbidden from wearing unauthorized items on their uniforms, as well as openly supporting political and social causes while on duty.

The officer uniform is meant to identify the wearer as a law enforcement officer and also a source of assistance in an emergency, the handbook states.

Krantz said ideologies that advocate for the violent overthrow of the U.S. government do not fall within the range of acceptable political beliefs an officer may hold.

violent ideologies," Krantz said. "Those beliefs are incompatible with law enforcement. ... Again, I don't know if that's what was going on in this case."

Mayor Sally Russell said she's aware of the matter and is glad human resources is looking into it.

"We should be cautious and not too quick to judge," she said.

Spano recently applied to work at the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. He requested a meeting with Sheriff Shane Nelson and met with him in late 2020, the office confirmed.

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Sisters

Continued from A1

"I think the students have had a lot more say and they have had a stronger voice in the last year," Cogdill said.

"There have been a lot of surveys and getting feedback from the kids. I would like to see that continue. It's so important to have that connection with their viewpoints."

Rodney Cooper

Cooper, a 66-year-old retired grade school teacher, works as a substitute teacher for the Sisters School District.

Cooper said he wanted to take his 32-year teaching experience in Lane County, plus 11 years of substitute teaching, and bring that to the school board.

He spent his entire career teaching kindergarten through eighth grade in the small town of Crow, west of Eugene. He moved to Sisters in 2019 and has been substitute teaching in kindergarten through 12th grade.

"Education has been my life," Cooper said. "Just the fact that I have all that experience about education from the inside. And most school board members I've ever met were always people from the outside."

During his teaching career, Cooper also owned a trophy, T-shirt and hat business and grew and sold Christmas trees. The mix of teaching and owning small businesses is good experience for being on the school board because members have to balance the district budget and hire staff, Cooper said.

"I think I have a unique skill set in that manner," he said.

Working directly inside the classrooms at the Sisters School District gives Cooper a direct perspective to what the students need, he said.

"If something comes up that is just wrong, I'll know it," Cooper said. "I think we have good schools here. The teachers are great and all dedicated. I'm not in this race because I think there's a problem in our schools. I just want to make sure we don't have problems."

Position 5

Kevin Eckert
Eckert, 48, an architect and builder who owns Build LLC, based in Seattle and Sisters,



Cogdill



Cooper



Eckert



Jones

"I think the balance of having a couple board members who don't have an educational background just helps fill out a board," he said. "Let voters have a choice and see what composition they want for the board."

Edie Jones

Jones, 82, was appointed to the school board in February 2020.

The 30-year resident of Sisters said she was called to public service last year after a long career in early childhood education. She served as the executive director of Together for Children, a nonprofit organization in Sisters that serves children and their families. She is the current board chair for the organization.

"My entire adult life has been in education," Jones said. "I understand the importance of real quality preschools and kindergartens."

Jones felt her expertise in early childhood education was especially important last year when the school district received funding for a preschool inside the elementary school.

"I'm really so excited that Sisters School District can offer that to kids, especially in the lower income groups that cannot afford the cost of preschool," Jones said. "That's what really drove me to run again and be a part of it again."

Prior to joining the school board, Jones served on several boards and committees for the Girl Scouts and Bend International School.

"That gives me a unique position of understanding the role of the board and the relationship with the superintendent and staff, which I think is a really important piece to know," Jones said.

In addition to supporting early childhood education, Jones hopes to guide more civic education in the school district to teach children about local elections and how governments function.

"I think that is one of the things that has been missing from education," Jones said. "It needs to be something all kids learn about. That's another piece I would really be encouraging."

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