

# Warm March yields to near normal April

Blue Mountain Eagle

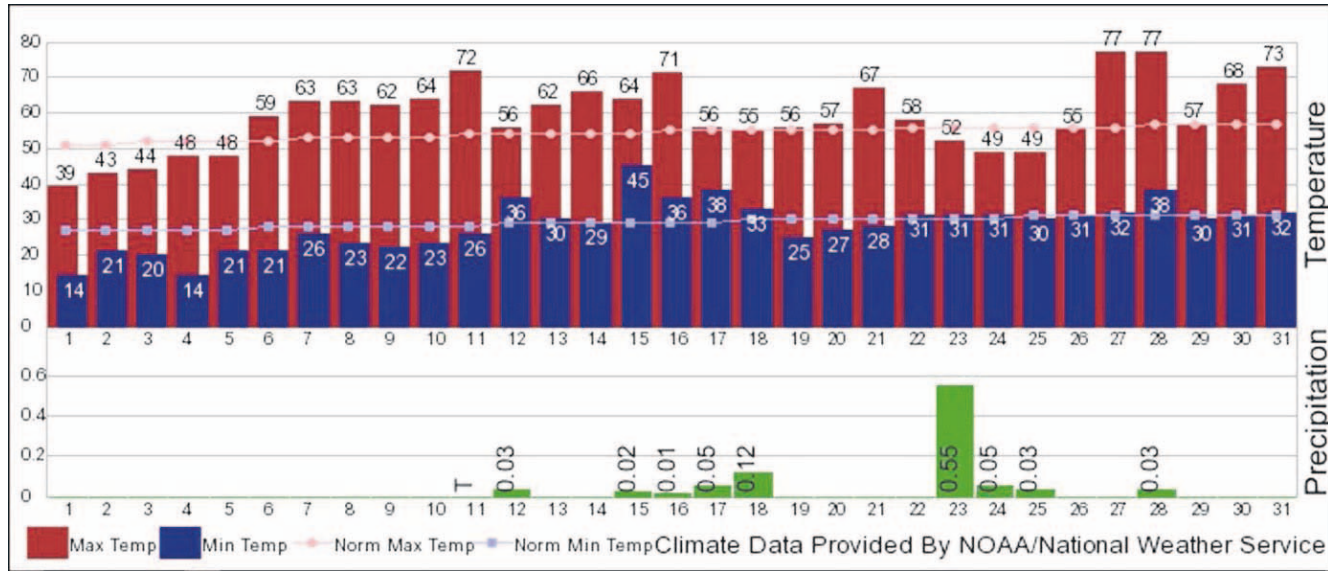
This should come as no surprise to local residents, but it was warmer than normal in March in John Day, according to NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The average temperature was 43.6 degrees, 1.9 degrees above normal.

High temperatures averaged 59.0 degrees, 4.7 degrees above normal. The highest was 77 degrees on March 27.

Low temperatures averaged 28.2 degrees, 0.9 degrees below normal. The lowest was 14 degrees, on March 1.

There were 23 days with



the low temperature below 32 degrees. Precipitation totaled

0.89 inches during March, 0.38 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation –

at least .01 inch – was recorded on nine days. The heaviest, 0.55 inches, was

reported on March 23. Precipitation this year is at 2.26 inches, which

is 0.74 inches below normal. Since October, the water-year precipitation at John Day has been 7 inches, 0.42 inches above normal.

The highest wind gust was 47 mph, which occurred on March 15.

The outlook for April from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation.

Normal highs for John Day rise from 57 degrees at the start of April to 64 degrees at the end of April. Normal lows rise from 31 degrees to 36 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.39 inches.

## COPS & COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

### Circuit Court

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Circuit Court reported the following fines and judgments:

- Harvey Dale Askew, 56, pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants. He was sentenced to bench probation for 18 months and 80 hours community service, and fined \$1,400. His driver's license was suspended for one year. He pleaded guilty to recklessly endangering another person, was sentenced to bench probation for 18 months and 80 hours community service, and fined \$200. The court dismissed one count of endangering the welfare of a minor.
- Travis James Freniere, 28, was found guilty based on an Alford plea of unlawful entry into a motor vehicle. He was sentenced to jail

for 30 days, bench probation for 18 months and 40 hours community service. He was fined \$400, plus \$375 in restitution, and ordered to have no contact with the victim. He was found guilty based on an Alford plea of second-degree theft. He was sentenced to jail for 30 days, bench probation for 18 months and 40 hours community service. He was fined \$100 and ordered to have no contact with the victim. The sentence is to be consecutive to the previous one. The court dismissed counts for first-degree burglary and second-degree theft.

• Ren Matthew Kirkpatrick Sr., 39, was found guilty by jury verdict of unauthorized use of a vehicle. He was sentenced to prison for 22 months and post-prison supervision for 24 months, and ordered to have no contact with the victim or their family. He was fined \$750, plus \$2,266.84 in restitution. He pleaded guilty to second-degree custodial interference, and was sentenced to jail for 20 days, supervised probation for 24 months and

80 hours community service, and ordered to have no contact with the victim. He pleaded guilty to third-degree criminal mischief, and was sentenced to supervised probation for 24 months, ordered to have no contact with the victim, and to pay \$400 in restitution to the victim. The court dismissed counts for second-degree disorderly conduct, second-degree criminal trespass and unlawful possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

### Grant County Sheriff

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of March 27-April 2:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 29
- Average inmates: 13.5
- Bookings: 10
- Releases: 7
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 3
- Fingerprints: 16
- Civil papers processed: 19
- Warrants processed: 5
- Assistance/welfare check: 7

• Krista Harper, 24, Canyon City, cited for harassment.

• Casey Mortimore, 28, Chelsea, Okla., cited for exhibition of speed and failure to change driver's license information.

• Stephen Cross, 53, Canyon City, cited for dog as a nuisance.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 115 calls during the week of March 30-April 5. Along with the various traffic warnings, trespassing, injured animals, noise complaints and juvenile complaints, these calls included:

• **John Day Police:** April 4: Arrested a John Day woman for DUII.

April 5: Responded to reported fight at Juniper Ridge.

• **Grant County Sheriff:** March 31: Report of criminal mischief and trespassing in the Bear Creek area.

April 1: Cited a Monument man for criminal mischief and interfering with making a report.

April 4: Theft reported in Mt. Vernon.

• **Long Creek ambulance:** April 2: Responded for an 86-year-old woman.

• **John Day ambulance:** March 30: Responded for a 95-year-old woman with chest pain.

March 31: Responded for a woman having an asthma attack.

April 2: Report of a 4-wheeler accident in the Dixie Creek area; 36-year-old woman having an asthma attack.

April 3: Arrested a Payette, Idaho, man for menacing and harassment.

April 5: Responded for a 62-year-old man with difficulty breathing; report of a 4-wheeler accident in Dayville.

### Justice Court

CANYON CITY – The Grant County Justice Court reported the following

fines and judgments:

• Violation of the basic rule: Stanley Lee Metz, 71, Long Creek, 83/55 zone, fined \$260; Tommy Steven Zumwalt, 35, Hermiston, 72/55 zone, fined \$260.

• No operator's license: Devon S. Perryman, 28, Boise, Idaho, fined \$260.

• Driving uninsured: Devon S. Perryman, 28, Boise, Idaho, fined \$260; Jeremiah Obadiah Gwaltney, 37, Prairie City, fined \$260; Anthony M. Athinson, 28, Prineville, fined \$260.

• Exceeding maximum weight limit: Curtis D. Rogers, 73, John Day, fined \$75; Alan S. Jacobs, 67, Prairie City, fined \$100.

• Driving while suspended-violation: Anthony M. Athinson, 28, Prineville, fined \$435.

## COMMUNITY VOICES

# Forest panel reports on activities

To the Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Public Forest Commission, in its regular session March 18, reviewed recent projects and discussed future projects.

The Commission actively works with state and federal agencies to insure that there will be long-term supplies of raw materials that will supply local industry and insure socio-economic wellbeing for the citizens of Grant County. The Commission did an intensive review of the Draft Blue Mountains Forest Management Plan. Our comments were widely used by other re-

sponders in Eastern Oregon.

The Forest Service has indicated that they will prepare a new draft plan based on public comments. The Commission will participate in the preparation of that draft.

The Commission also has been working with and encouraging state and federal agencies to salvage as much burned timber from the South Fork fire as possible. Meetings and field trips with the Forest Service and BLM have hopefully achieved some positive results.

The Commission works closely with the County Court to present a united front on forest management issues, and members of

the Commission have actively worked with the Grant County Access Advisory Board to help resolve national forest road management issues. Some progress is being made as communication with the agency improves.

In response to a new Snowmobile Policy Rule issued Jan. 28, which requires the agency to develop a snowmobile plan as amended in the Travel Management Rule sub part C: Use Over Snow, members of the snowmobile community raised issues of over snow access to the forest. The Commission has contacted the Forest Service with these concerns, and in response Malheur Forest Supervisor Steve Bever-

lin stated he was reviewing the older plan and was coordinating with the snowmobile community members.

Commission members participate in the planning of Forest Service restoration projects. We have responded to several projects and regard this as a high priority issue, essential for the maintenance of a viable timber supply for Grant County's forest products industry.

– Submitted by Larry Blasing and Brooks Smith, members of the Grant County Public Forest Commission.

## Classes focus on motorcycle safety

Blue Mountain Eagle

BAKER CITY – Starting this month, motorcycle safety courses will be offered in Baker City for riders throughout the region.

The courses are sponsored by Team Oregon, the state's approved motorcycle safety program. The classroom sessions will be at the Baker County Library, with practice riding at the Baker City Airport.

A state law that went into

effect Jan. 1 requires all new motorcycle riders to take an approved safety course. Anyone younger than 21 must complete a basic riding training to earn a motorcycle endorsement. Riders 21 or older can take the basic class or an intermediate rider training to meet state requirements.

The 15-hour basic course that combines classroom learning with on-cycle instruction and practice on a closed course. Training motorcycles and hel-

ments are provided. The intermediate course is eight hours and is designed for riders who are self-taught or who haven't ridden in some time.

Successful completion of trainings means riders can have certain tests waived by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

The courses will be offered April to August in Baker City. For more information or to register, visit <http://team-oregon.org> or call 800-545-9944.

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