

# Cool May yields to warm June in John Day

Blue Mountain Eagle

PENDLETON – Temperatures at John Day averaged slightly colder than normal during the month of May, according to preliminary data from NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The average temperature was 53.5 degrees, 0.8 degrees below normal.

High temperatures averaged 67.1 degrees, 1.7 degrees below normal. The highest was 83 degrees on May 30. Low temperatures averaged 39.8

degrees, 0.1 degrees above normal. The lowest was 30 degrees on May 1.

There were four days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 2.83 inches during May, 0.93 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation – at least .01 inch – was recorded on 14 days. The heaviest, 0.77 inches, was reported on May 13.

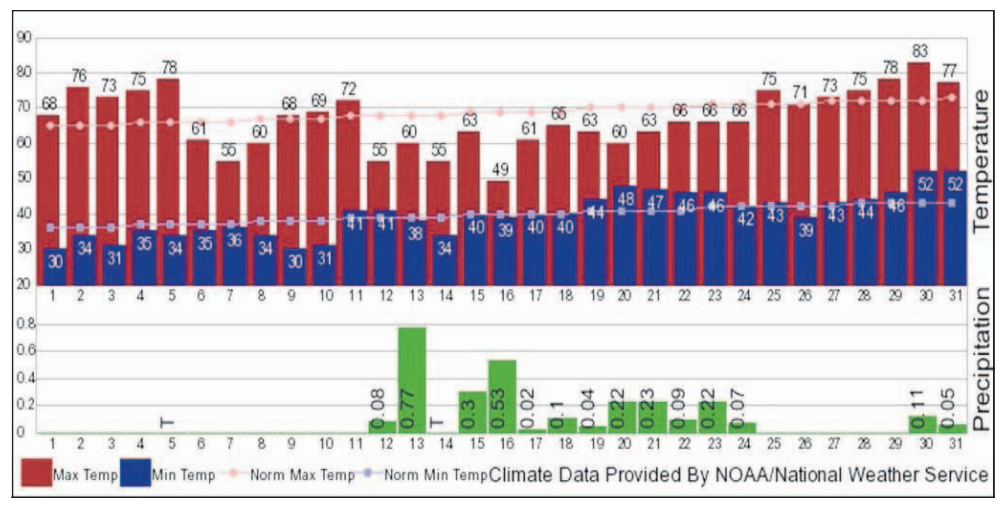
Precipitation this year has reached 6.04 inches, which is 0.25 inches below normal. Since October, the water-year

precipitation at John Day has measured 10.78 inches, 0.91 inches above normal.

The highest wind gust was 52 mph on May 4.

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

Normal highs for John Day rise from 73 degrees at the start of June to 83 degrees at the end of June. Normal lows rise from 43 degrees to 48 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.43 inches.



## Elks award scholarships

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JOHN DAY – The John Day Elks Lodge has awarded 2015 scholarships to two local graduates.



Amy Black

Sage Flower, from Dayville High School, will receive \$2,000 over the next two years.



Sage Flower

Amy Black, from Prairie City High School, will receive \$1,000 during the next two years.

The Elks scholarship program, which has been honoring Grant County graduates for many years, is solely supported by donations from local Elks members.

## Outlook: water shortages, low streams in region

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PORTLAND – Oregon's record low snowpack will mean significantly low streamflows this summer – along with the likelihood of water shortages.

That's the prediction from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in its June water supply report, issued last week.

"Water users that depend on streamflow for their water resources will most notably feel the impacts of limited water supplies this summer," said Scott Oviatt, NRCS snow survey supervisor.

As of June 1, only one out of 81 snow telemetry (SNOTEL) sites had any measurable snow; normally at least 10 will have snow on that date.

This year has seen near-normal rainfall, but that's not enough to counter the impact of a snowless winter.

Across the state, 60 percent of the snow measuring sites had their lowest snowpack on record or were snow-free for the first time in mid-winter.

The snowpack in the eastern part of the state peaked at 30 to 80 percent below normal.

NRCS noted that the snowmelt occurred at the wrong time for irrigators – the peak melt happening in February.

"Snowmelt in February is months too early to synchronize crop planting and irrigating; and too early for many of Oregon's reservoirs to take advantage of the surge of moisture, as they are designed for both

flood control and late season irrigation," Oviatt said.

He said to expect water shortages due to the faltering streamflow.

In Oregon, NRCS has made available up to \$2.5 million for farmers, ranchers and woodland owners in drought-declared counties to help mitigate drought effects on their operations. That funding is available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Producers are encouraged to submit applications for funding by June 26 by contacting a local USDA Service Center. Funding will be prioritized based on the most drought-stricken areas in the state.

For more information about the Drought EQIP funding, visit the NRCS Oregon drought webpage.

## Fire hall project gets a boost

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JOHN DAY – The new John Day Fire Hall is yet to be built, but meeting rooms at the facility have already received a financial boost.

The Shelk fund and Glen and Jean McKenzie fund of the Oregon Community Foundation donated \$20,000 toward the project.

John Day received another \$1,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation's advised funds.

Mary Weaver, who is a volunteer for OCF and a member of the Eastern Oregon Leadership Council, made the presentation to John Day Fire Chief Ron Smith last week.

Weaver said the Leadership Council provides guidance to the Foundation on community needs and helps increase



Oregon Community Foundation volunteer Mary Weaver shakes hands with John Day Fire Chief Ron Smith, as she presents a certificate for \$20,000 to the City of John Day, for meeting rooms at the new fire hall.

giving around the state. She is also the Grant County Fairgrounds manager.

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