

# Oregon February SNAP benefits issued early

Blue Mountain Eagle

Oregonians participating in SNAP were issued February SNAP benefits Jan. 18, roughly two weeks earlier than normal.

Oregon was instructed to do this by USDA due to a quirk of the federal government shutdown, according to a press release from Oregon Food Bank.

Oregon SNAP participants should be aware that no additional benefits will

be issued in February. Just like normal, these SNAP benefits do not expire and will remain on the card until a household uses them.

New applicants can still apply for SNAP and receive benefits. These are being processed normally and will continue to be accepted in February.

For Oregonians who need to take action on their SNAP case in January (such as an Interim Change Report or Recertification), clients

should complete that as soon as possible. These are being processed as normal. SNAP households that turn in this paperwork will receive their February benefits as soon as the paperwork is processed.

The timing of March SNAP benefits is unknown due to the shutdown.

As of now, the government shutdown is not affecting the way people receive other nutrition assistance like school meals, WIC or

food pantries.

DHS offices are open with normal hours since they are state, not federal, offices.

For additional food resources, anyone may call 2-1-1 or find a food pantry at [oregonfoodbank.org/findfood](http://oregonfoodbank.org/findfood).

If someone has a problem with their SNAP case, they may call the Public Benefits Hotline of Legal Aid Services of Oregon, 1-800-520-5292.

## OBITUARIES

### Doug G. Bunch



Doug G. Bunch, 82, of Prairie City, passed away at Blue Mountain Hospital on Jan. 17. A celebration of life will be held at the B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge No. 1824 in John Day, Saturday, Jan. 26, at 2 p.m. with food provided. A private inurnment will be held at the Prairie City Cemetery on Friday, Jan. 25, at 3 p.m.

Doug was born to Lawrence and Harriett Bunch on Jan. 10, 1937, in Lime, Oregon.

He married Mary Hoff, and they had three children, Matt, Tom, and Michele. He later married his wife of 44 years, Fran Fairbanks. Together they raised her two sons, Mike and Jeff Fairbanks.

Doug worked for the Oregon State Patrol/Fish and Game Department. He retired from the Oregon Telephone Company in 2004. He was initiated into the John Day Elks Lodge in 1960 and was awarded the first "Elk of the Year" of the lodge in 1970. He became a lifetime member in 2003.

He is survived by his children; brothers, Ray, Mike and Lou; and by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews and in-laws whom he loved very much.

He was preceded in death by brothers, Tom and Duane; and his sister, Darleen.

Memorial donations may be made to the John Day Elks Lodge No. 1824 through Driskill Memorial Chapel at 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

To leave an online condolence for Doug's family, please visit [driskillmemorialchapel.com](http://driskillmemorialchapel.com).

# John Day colder than normal in December

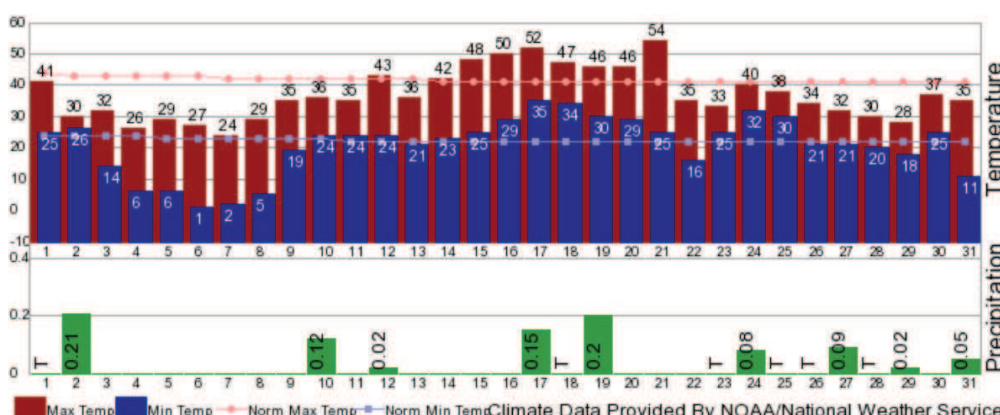
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Temperatures in John Day averaged colder than normal during the month of December, according to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The average temperature was 29 degrees, which was 3.1 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 37.1 degrees, which was 4.6 degrees below normal. The highest was 54 degrees on Dec. 21. Low temperatures averaged 20.8 degrees, which was 1.6 degrees below normal. The lowest was 1 degree on Dec. 6.

There were 28 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There were eight days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.94



December was colder than normal in John Day. Above-average temps are expected in January.

inches during December, which was 0.30 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation was received on nine days with the heaviest, 0.21 inches, reported on Dec. 2.

Precipitation in 2018 totaled 8.79 inches, which is 4.38 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at John Day has

been 3.07 inches, which is 0.51 inches below normal.

Snowfall totaled 11.5 inches with at least 1 inch of snow reported on five days. The heaviest snowfall was 3.0 inches reported on Dec. 27. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was 3 inches on Dec. 27.

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

Normal highs for John Day during January are 42.5 degrees, and normal lows are 23.5 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 0.98 inches.

# OTEC offering incentives for efficient heating options

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Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative has started a new incentive program for its members to upgrade their wood-burning devices to more efficient heating options.

The cooperative is offering two separate rebates — one for members wanting to retain their woodstoves and one for those wanting to remove their woodstove.

Susie Snyder, OTEC's supervisor of energy programs, said the incentive program is a win for members, the local community and the cooperative.

"We know there are areas

on our system that are struggling to meet EPA's air quality standards, and this new program gives a little more reason to invest in a new heating system," she said.

Snyder said members will receive \$650 if they add an electric heat pump and retain their woodstove and \$800 if the woodstove is replaced with an electric heat pump. If the heat pump is purchased from a local vendor, there's an additional \$50 rebate on top of that.

"Mini-split heat pumps are a very efficient form of electric heat for our members that can help keep costs down while improving the air quality particularly on

the low air quality days," Snyder said.

Members interested in more information can contact their local OTEC office for more information.

"This rebate won't last forever," Snyder said. "So, this is a good time for members who have been thinking about upgrading their heating systems to give us a call and let us see how we can help them."

Snyder said there is an added incentive for members in Harney County. Members in that county can receive additional rebates from the county by upgrading their woodstove to a new certified woodstove, pellet

stove or other Harney County-approved heating device.

"Harney County recently received a grant from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to combat wood smoke and help improve the county's air quality," Snyder said. "We are partnering with Harney County to get the word out about these different rebates by using bill stuffers."

Harney County is offering 20 rebates with a maximum rebate of \$750 offered per replacement device. Members in Harney County interested in more information can contact Howard Weathers at 541-573-6024.

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## Free yoga class Saturday

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Ashley Stevick will teach a free yoga class from 10-11 a.m. the last Saturday of each month beginning Jan. 26. Classes will be held at the Canyon Moun-

tain Center, 767 E. Main St., John Day. Mats will be available for use. All are welcome. For more information, call Stevick at 406-431-2802, email [ashley.stevick@gmail.com](mailto:ashley.stevick@gmail.com) or visit [ashleysteviskyoga.com](http://ashleysteviskyoga.com).

# Three students make OSU honor roll

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Three students were named to the Oregon State University fall term honor roll.

Jessica Carter of Seneca, a sophomore studying animal sciences, earned a straight-A average.

Michel Sprouffske of

Prairie City, a senior studying hospitality management, earned a 3.5 grade point average or better.

Jennifer McCloskey of John Day, a senior studying applied visual arts, earned a 3.5 GPA or better.

Students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work to qualify.

## CORRECTION

In a Jan. 16 article, the Eagle reported dispatch manager Valerie Maynard received an award. The John Day City Council recognized all the dispatchers from the John Day 911 Emergency Communication Center for 30 years of service. Maynard, who worked for the center for 15 years, accepted the plaque on behalf of all the dispatchers.

The Eagle regrets the error.

Junior Wayne Lissman was born in Nelson, Nebraska on Jan. 7, 1925. He died in Burns, Oregon on Jan. 12, surrounded by loving family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Della Webb and Henry Lissman; his sisters Evelyn Lovell and Kathleen (Babe) Dennis; his brother, Raymond Lissman; and his son-in-law Mike Violette. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Mae Lissman; his brother, James (Betty); his daughter Elaine; his son Larry (Lydia); and by his son Henry (Roxie Ann). He is also survived by four grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and six great great grandchildren.

Wayne married his high-school sweetheart, Phyllis Mae Smith, on Oct. 5, 1943 at the Episcopal Church in Lander, Wyoming; they had been married 75 years at the time of his death. In 1944, Wayne "shipped" to the Pacific where he fought in World War II as part of the 503rd Parachute Infantry that spearheaded the liberation of the Philippine Islands. He was part of the force that captured the "Rock Fortress" on Corregidor Island, a military action noted for its fierce battles and strategic importance in opening Manila Bay for maneuvering by Allied Forces. He distinguished himself as a paratrooper, earning many medals and a Presidential Citation for bravery as he and his comrades in arms won control of the Philippine Islands; an important step leading to the end of the war.

Upon returning to civilian life, Wayne lived in Denver, Colorado and in Nyssa, Burns, Seneca and Hines, Oregon. He worked as a mechanic, farmer, heavy equipment operator and truck driver in the construction and logging industries. He also managed a construction crew that weatherized homes in Harney County, Oregon.

Wayne spent his leisure hours working and playing with his children and grandchildren and was as proud of them as they are of him. Wayne's home was a "bit of a community center" as his children's friends frequently congregated there to enjoy his warmth, humor and attention.

Wayne will be remembered for his work ethic, wisdom, patience, positive outlook on life and for his dry-wit; but mostly for his caring and kindness for everyone with whom he had contact. He loved many, and was loved by all who knew him. There will be public notice for Celebration of Life services to be held at a later date in Burns. Wayne will be interred in the family burial spot at the Hilltop Memorial Cemetery in Nyssa, Oregon. Wayne's family has asked that in lieu of flowers friends and acquaintances make donations to local organizations providing support and or services to military veterans.

*Paid for by the family of Junior Wayne Lissman*

### Last Week's Temps

John Day.....	HI/LO
Tuesday .....	46/31
Wednesday .....	46/32
Thursday.....	48/36
Friday.....	44/32
Saturday.....	49/34
Sunday.....	47/33
Monday.....	37/28

**24/7 FORECAST**  
AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122  
ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM  
NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY  
162.500 MHZ

### WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 23-29

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Afternoon rain	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy	Clouds and sun	Mostly cloudy	Plenty of sunshine
<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>