

HEPPNER

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Gazette
Times

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Despite May rain, moisture still down for year

Despite higher-than-normal rainfall for the month of May, precipitation is still down by nearly four inches for the water year, according to NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton OR.

Precipitation totaled 1.93 inches during May, which was 0.27 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on nine days with the heaviest, 0.53 inches, reported on May 28.

Precipitation this year has reached 3.61 inches,

which is 3.67 inches below normal. Since October, the water-year precipitation at Heppner has been 7.68 inches, which is 3.66 inches below normal.

Temperatures in Heppner averaged slightly warmer than normal during the month of May.

The average temperature was 56.8 degrees, 0.6 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 70 degrees, which was 1.3 degrees above normal. The highest was 90 degrees on the 11th. Low temperatures averaged 43.5 degrees, 0.1

degree below normal. The lowest was 28 degrees, on May 1. There was one day with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

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

Normal highs for Heppner rise from 73 degrees at the start of June to 81 degrees at the end of June. Normal lows rise from 47 degrees to 51 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.38 inches.

Oregon wolf case settled

In the fall of 2011, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) authority to take (lethally remove) wolves under the State Endangered Species Act was challenged by a temporary restraining order filed in the Oregon Court of Appeals by Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild and the Center for Biological Diversity.

Over the past year, these three organizations, ODFW and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association have been in talks to try to

settle the case outside of court. The Center for Biological Diversity withdrew from these negotiations this past winter.

Last week, according to a statement by the ODFW, the remaining parties agreed in principle to a combination of rule changes and legislation that, once enacted, will moot the court case.

The key changes to the current rules regarding lethal control of wolves are:

-Before ODFW can use lethal control against wolves, it must confirm four

qualifying incidents within a six-month time frame (previously, it was two depredation incidents and no specific timeframe).

-Requires the development and public disclosure of wolf-livestock conflict deterrence plans that identify non-lethal measures for implementation by landowners.

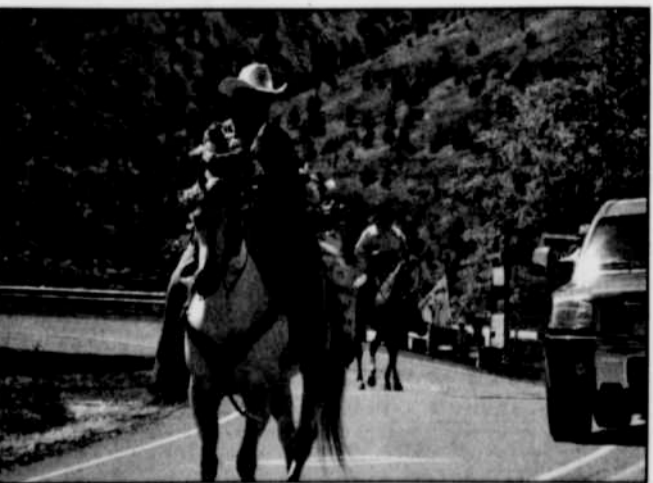
-Requires that these non-lethal measures be implemented prior to a depredation incident to count towards lethal control.

-Puts in rule that any ODFW lethal control decision is valid for 45-days (previously the timeframe for an ODFW lethal control decision was not standardized in rule; 45 days is consistent with what other western states have implemented).

The new temporary rules are online at <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/OARs/110.pdf>. The Fish and Wildlife Commission will be asked to make these rules permanent at their June 7 meeting in Tigard, OR.

"We are pleased the parties were able to come to an agreement," said Ron Anglin, ODFW wildlife division administrator. "We look forward to finalizing both the rules and the legislation so the case can be fully settled and we can move forward on wolf conservation and management."

Queen Krysten on the road for Morrow County



Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Queen Krysten Powell represents Morrow County at the Spray Rodeo parade over Memorial Day weekend. She also participated in the rodeo's Grand Entry that Saturday. Powell is busy staying out and about, representing the county at regional events; she attended the Arlington parade and Jackpot Rodeo on May 11, as well as the Adams Days' parade in April. -Contributed photo

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Heppner celebrates grads



Above: The Heppner High School Class of 2013 gathers for one last photo before the big event last Saturday. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

Right: Proud new graduates Austin Gutierrez and Maggie Collins recess after the Heppner High School commencement ceremony at the high school on June 1, 2013. -Photo by David Sykes



Sage Center opens with ribbon cutting



Ribbon cutting at the new Sage Center at Boardman. (Left to right): Port of Morrow Manager Gary Neal; commissioners Jerry Healy, Joe Taylor, Don Russell and Marv Padberg; long-time commissioner Larry Lindsay, cutting the ribbon with the big pair of scissors; State Rep. Greg Smith; and Oregon State Sen. Bill Hansell. -Photos by David Sykes

The new Sage Center and Sustainable Agriculture and Energy center at Boardman held its grand opening Friday night, when more than 400 guests ate dinner and tried out the new interactive displays and exhibits.

The Sage Center is an interactive visitor center that highlights sustainable agriculture and energy. Developed by the Port of Morrow, the center gives visitors a unique opportunity to learn about the technology that takes place locally within the Port of Morrow and the region without visiting each industry.

At 23,000 square feet, the center hosts a 13,000-square-foot, two-level exhibit space; 204-seat theatre; large catering kitchen; and store.

In addition to serving as an interactive visitor center,



Neil and Tina Livingston try out the interactive tractor driving at the Sage Center grand opening Friday. Neil is a member of the Boardman City Council. -Photos by David Sykes

the Sage Center is available to be rented for fundraisers, winemaker dinners, civic and social gatherings, as well as school-related functions.

Friday was the grand opening, and visitors dined on barbecue and sipped

beverages while various Port of Morrow members and politicians addressed the crowd.

On the first open days of Saturday and Sunday, it was reported that the center averaged more than 600 visitors per day.

Irrigon city manager named

Aaron Palmquist has been named the new Irrigon City Manager. He will begin his new position June 17.

Palmquist, who currently lives in Bend, OR,

holds a bachelor's degree in management and communication, and a master's degree in business and public administration; he has held previous positions as chief executive officer,

chief financial officer, and city manager and recorder, among others.

Palmquist replaces current city manager Gerald Breazeale, who retires this month.

Premium book now online

The Morrow County Fair premium book is now available online for those who want to get a jump on

planning for the centennial fair Aug. 14-17. The book can be viewed online at <http://morrowcountyoregon.com/county-fair/2013-morrow-county-fair-premium-book/>.

Celebrate Heppner June 14

This year's Celebrate Heppner event will take place next Friday, June 14.

The schedule has something for everyone at this year's Celebrate Heppner

event. There will be the annual -See CELEBRATE HEPPNER/PAGE FOUR

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