

HEPPNER

50¢ Gazette Times

VOL. 133 NO. 27 8 Pages Wednesday, August 6, 2014 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

August to continue July heat, predicts weather service

July was a hot one in Heppner, with the weather in August predicted to continue the above-normal trend, reports the National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The average temperature in July was 73.8 degrees, which was four degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 90.7 degrees, which was 5 degrees above normal. The highest recorded was 101 degrees on the 17th. Low temperatures averaged 57 degrees, which was 3.1 degrees above normal. The lowest was 32 degrees on

the 27th. On 17 days, the temperature exceeded 90 degrees. It was at least 100 degrees on three days.

Precipitation totaled 0.13 inches during July, which was 0.20 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on three days with the heaviest, 0.08 inches, reported on the 24th.

Precipitation this year has reached 7.59 inches, which is 1.40 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 9.96 inches, which is 3.09 inches

below normal.

The outlook for August from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during August are 85.5 degrees and normal lows are 53.5 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 0.39 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

Fair cleanup takes some heavy lifting



Barry Munkers of Lexington backs through the empty parking lot at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner as he clears away downed tree branches in preparation for the 101st Morrow County Fair. The fair and rodeo will take place next week, Aug. 13-17. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

DEQ to hold Morrow Pacific public hearings

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is coming to Eastern Oregon to hear local thoughts on the Morrow Pacific project.

This Oregon DEQ hearing is to receive comments about the draft 401 water quality certification for the proposed Coyote Island Coal Terminal Project in Boardman.

The DEQ will hold a public hearing on the project Tuesday, Aug. 12, from 6-9 p.m. in the Port of Morrow River Front Conference Room, 2 Marine Drive in Boardman.

The DEQ will give a brief presentation and answer questions from 6-7 p.m. and will begin taking comments at 7 p.m.

Each person will have a maximum of two minutes to comment on the draft 401 certification.

The hearing will be divided into four half-hour sessions that will accommodate 15 registered speakers.

Pre-registration is currently sold out, but DEQ also will receive comments on a walk in, first-come, first-served basis in the Port of Morrow Well Springs Room from 7-9 p.m.

Additional information regarding the proposed project is available at <http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/Pages/CoalExport.aspx>.

Questions about the hearing, contact Marcia Danab at danab.marcia@deq.state.or.us.

MoCo Rodeo expands entries to include former residents

The Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Committee has announced that it has opened up Morrow County Rodeo entries to include Morrow County alumni and their immediate families. The committee has also changed Morrow County residency requirements from one year to six months.

Amateur Calf Roping is still only for Morrow County residents or alumni.

Mutton Bustin' entries need not be residents.

Entry deadline for the Morrow County Rodeo is Aug. 15 at 8 p.m. Entry forms are available at www.morrowcountyoregon.com/fair/rodeo. Any questions, contact mocorodeo@hotmail.com.

The rodeo office will be open Thursday, Aug. 14, thru Sunday, Aug. 17; office number is 541-676-9451.

Special fair section in this week's paper

A special 28-page Fair and Rodeo section is included in this week's Heppner Gazette-Times. The section contains articles, interviews, photos and other information about the upcoming Morrow County Fair and Rodeo.



Fair-goers browse through entries at a past Morrow County Fair. -File Photo

Umatilla Forest reports small lightning fires

Pendleton—A total of nine fires were reported over the weekend on the Umatilla National Forest as a result of recent lightning activity, forest agents reported Monday.

Seven fires were located on the North Fork John Day

Ranger District. The largest was the Bone Canyon Fire, four miles west of Dale, OR near Bone Point. Firefighters worked late into the evening and were successful in containing

-See FOREST LIGHTNING FIRES/PAGE FIVE

Pioneer Memorial named recipient of Critical Access Hospital grant

Portland, Ore.—Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner is the recipient of a Critical Access Hospital grant, the Oregon Office of Rural Health at Oregon Health & Science University announced Monday. Pioneer Memorial received \$19,500 out of \$78,000 in grants that the Oregon Office of Rural Health has awarded to four Critical Access Hospital communities.

Critical Access Hospital grants, awarded under the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program, aim to improve health-care outcomes for Medicare patients and enable hospitals and their surrounding communities to implement sustainable programs in response to challenges identified through community needs assessments.

According to the Oregon Office of Rural Health, Pioneer Memorial Hospital will use funds "to improve care transitions and reduce Emergency Department admissions for high-risk patients. A home health nurse/care coordinator will identify individuals from Irrigon Medical Clinic and Pioneer Memorial Clinic with high-risk diabetes, coronary artery disease or multiple chronic conditions. Individualized care plans will be developed for each patient to help coordinate and integrate patient care. The care coordinator will be part of the Morrow County Inter-disciplinary Care Team and will collaborate with them on identifying needs and matching patients with appropriate resources."

Morrow County health District CEO and Administrator Dan Grigg says the grant is exciting, as it will allow PMH to look

into a new model of health care. Morrow County Local Community Advisory Council (LCAC) also recently received a grant to set up a medical wrap-around program in which people in the community come together to identify local needs and resources.

"This grant helps us feed into that program," says Grigg.

Grigg says the health district plans to use home health nurses as care

coordinators to work with patients, doctors and LCAC to identify community needs and resources and create strategies for better healthcare in the community.

"Most insurance companies don't pay for a home health visit unless the patient is homebound. This grant allows us funding for nurses to visit patients who may not be homebound but may need some help to keep them healthy and

out of the clinic and out of the hospital. It's pretty innovative," Grigg says.

"Right now when a patient comes into the clinic, there's only so much time they have with a doctor, and there might be so much more they need, like with a chronic condition, for instance. There might be some education involved. If a person has to go to the ER a lot, there might be

-See PMH GRANT/PAGE THREE

Talking rocks silent for now

Rocks promise plenty of info, some high-tech surprises



Basalt rocks from the Osmin Ranch quarry were recently placed around Heppner for the Talking Rock project. Wilkinson Ranch will also donate large rocks later. Plaques are in the process of being ordered and will each have a QR barcode for smart-phone scanning, leading to extensive information about each subject and links about the Heppner area. There is also a Facebook page, "Talking Rocks, Heppner, Oregon USA," and a brochure with a map of the rocks' locations. Some of the historical topics include the railroad, 1903 Flood survivors, Jackson Morrow and the county courthouse. Donors are still being sought for the hospital, Chinese, and the Willow Creek Dam plaques. Contact Heppner City Hall for more details.

-Photo by David Sykes

FAIR & RODEO SPECIAL!

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