

## Get ready for Walk MS

Heppner is getting ready for its 17<sup>th</sup> year of sponsoring the Eastern Oregon MS Walk, planned for Saturday, April 25, at 10 a.m.

The registration/check-in will begin at 9 a.m. at All Saint's Episcopal Church, 460 N Gale Street, Heppner. The walk will start at 10 a.m. with brunch and door prizes to follow after the walk. The well-marked 5K route is wheelchair accessible. This year's event will also feature a 5K run, and a marked 10K walk is also available. There will be 5K and 10K route maps available the day of the walk.

Pre-registration is appreciated, and there is still time to pre-register at [www.walkMSoregon.com](http://www.walkMSoregon.com) or by phone at 503-445-8342. However, walk-ons are also welcome.

There is no registration fee for the MS Walk. Event coordinators say donations of any amount are welcome, as those funds will help support the continuing fight against MS. Participants raising \$100 per person or more can earn prizes for outstanding fundraising, starting with a T-shirt prize at the \$100 level, while supplies last.

Anyone who is unable to attend the day of the scheduled walk can still help the cause by registering as a virtual walker and walking on a lunch break, walking to and from work, or walking with a group of walkers on another day to raise funds.

All Eastern Oregon residents are invited to join the walk, the goal of which is to "create a world free of MS (multiple sclerosis)."



2013 MS Walk participants Vicki Rayburn (left) and Beth Dickenson (pushing children Kameron and Kody) keep it light while walking for a good cause. This year's event is planned for April 25 at 10 a.m. -File photo

MS Walk posters, with registration information, will be located in local businesses. Contact Heppner

## March 2015 tied for warmest on record

If March seemed warm, it was; March 2015 tied with March 1934 for the warmest March on record at 49.4 degrees, according to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton.

In fact, temperatures at Heppner averaged much warmer than normal during the month of March. The average temperature was 49.4 degrees, which was 5.2 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 61.4 degrees, which was 6.5 degrees above normal. The highest was 75 degrees on

the 11<sup>th</sup>. Low temperatures averaged 37.5 degrees, which was 4 degrees above normal. The lowest was 24 degrees, on the first.

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

Precipitation totaled one inch during March, which was 0.52 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on eight days with the heaviest, 0.27 inches, reported on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Precipitation this year has reached 2.28 inches, which is 1.83 inches below normal. Since October, the

water year precipitation at Heppner has been 6.32 inches, which is 1.85 inches below normal.

The highest wind gust was 48 mph, which occurred on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The outlook for April from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner rise from 59 degrees at the start of April to 64 degrees at the end of April. Normal lows rise from 36 degrees to 40 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.51 inches.

## Rep. Smith brings state budget committee to District 57

SALEM—State Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) is bringing the Joint Ways and Means Committee to District 57 this Saturday, April 11.

The committee will be holding a public hearing at the SAGE Center located at the Port of Morrow in Boardman at noon.

This event provides the public with an opportunity to submit testimony and input to the committee members regarding budget priorities.

For more information on the public hearing, contact the office of Rep. Smith at 503-986-1457 or [regsmith@state.or.us](mailto:gregsmith@state.or.us).

Membership of the Joint Ways and Means Com-

mittee includes: Rep. Peter Buckley, Co-Chair; Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Co-Vice Chair; Rep. Greg Smith, Co-Vice Chair; Rep. David Gomberg; Rep. John Huffman; Rep. Betty Komp; Rep. Mike McLane, House Republican Leader; Rep. Dan Rayfield; Rep. Tobias Read; Rep. Gene Whisnant; Rep. Gail Whitsett; Rep. Jennifer Williamson; Sen. Richard Devlin, Co-Chair; Sen. Betsy Johnson, Co-Vice Chair; Sen. Jackie Winters, Co-Vice Chair; Sen. Fred Girod; Sen. Bill Hansell; Sen. Rod Monroe; Sen. Arnie Roblan; Sen. Chip Shields; Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward; Sen. Chuck Thomsen; and Sen. Doug Whitsett.

## Bunny sightings...



Unlike most superheroes, it seems the Easter Bunny can appear in two places at once. Upper left: The Easter Bunny stops for a photo op with Brian Lindsay, 10, and Catherine Lindsay, 4, at the egg hunt in Heppner last Saturday. Meanwhile, a bunny sighting also occurred in Ione (upper right) at the same time that day. -Contributed photos



## 'Dryland' screens in inaugural Pendleton Real West Festival

Those who missed the SAGE Center screening of "Dryland" will have another shot at watching the documentary in Pendleton next week.

"Dryland" has been billed as "an intimate portrait of rural America in transition, through the eyes of a young man pursuing his dream and a town fighting to survive."

The 62-minute film will screen in Pendleton on Saturday, April 18, at 3 p.m. at the Pendleton Elks Lodge 288, 14 SE 3rd St. as part of the inaugural Pendleton Real West Festival.

The festival is intended to highlight Northwest filmmakers and musicians, classic Western cinema, and Western culture.

Tickets are now available.

## Anti-bullying expert visits Morrow County



Stan Davis of "Stop Bullying Now" (pictured above at the SAGE Center in Boardman) spent the week in Morrow County with school professionals and community members. He capped off the week with a full-day presentation at the SAGE Center. Funding from Morrow County LCAC (local community advisory council), Ione School District and Morrow County School District made Davis's visit possible. -Contributed photo

Have a news story or photo for the Gazette?  
Email to: [editor@rapidsolve.net](mailto:editor@rapidsolve.net)

## BMCC plans meetings to inform public of bond details

PENDLETON, Ore.—Blue Mountain Community College will host a series of community meetings this month to inform the public of the projects included in bond measure 30-106, which will appear on the May 19 election ballot. The approximately \$23 million bond would cost taxpayers around 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The meetings are open to the public and will last approximately one hour.

A Morrow County meeting is scheduled for Boardman on Friday, April 24, at noon at the BMCC Boardman Center, 300 NE Front Street. The meeting will include a light lunch.

Each meeting will include the viewing of an in-

formational video, followed by a short presentation. The public will also have an opportunity to ask questions.

Since BMCC failed to pass a bond in November 2013, officials have gathered community feedback, reevaluated projects, and decreased costs in an effort to put together a bond package based on community, and regional industry and economic needs. Since early March, BMCC administrators have presented bond information to numerous city councils, school boards, civic clubs and service organizations throughout Umatilla and Morrow counties in an ef-

fort to inform the community about the bond.

If approved by voters, the bond would fund the renovation of the agriculture facility in Pendleton, construct a precision irrigated agriculture program in Hermiston in partnership with the OSU Experiment Station, and build a workforce training and early learning center in Boardman in partnership with the Port of Morrow. In addition, the bond would address heating, cooling and electrical inefficiencies in BMCC facilities, make safety and security upgrades, and fund the purchase of instructional equipment for programs

including nursing, dental assisting, diesel technologies and EMS.

For anyone who cannot attend one of the meetings, information regarding the bond—including the video—is available on the BMCC website, [www.bluecc.edu](http://www.bluecc.edu). Questions can be sent to [bondinfo@bluecc.edu](mailto:bondinfo@bluecc.edu).

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