HEPPNER
50¢
Gazette Times
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April weather was 'nearly' normal

May expected to be warmer than usual

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged near normal during the month of April.

The average temperature was 49.1 degrees, which was 0.1 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 61.9 degrees, which was one degree above normal. The highest was 76 degrees on the 29th. Low temperatures averaged 36.4 degrees, which was 0.8 degrees below normal. The lowest was 28 degrees, on the April 3.

There were five days with low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.72 inches during April, which was 0.79 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on eight days with the heaviest, 0.38 inches, reported on the April 6.

Precipitation this year has reached three inches, which is 2.62 inches below normal. Since October, the water-year precipitation at Heppner has been 7.04 inches, which is 2.64 inches below normal.

The highest wind gust was 42 mph, which occurred on the 13th.

The outlook for May from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner rise from 64 degrees at the start of May to 73 degrees at the end of May.

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Getting to know your exchange students

Enrico Macciotta
Age 17, Junior, Heppner, transferred from Irrigon
Where are you from? Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy
Host Parents: Brian & Amy Kollman
What do you think of Heppner and Morrow County?

"It's pretty different but I like it. It's pretty cool. In Italy there are not these long distances without towns in between. I like it."

Enrico Macciotta

How has the experience been for you?

"It's all right now. It's been pretty cool. I've travelled a little bit."

What was the most difficult thing about this experience?

"I have a girlfriend and I can't see her for eight months. We wanted to go to prom together but it's too expensive for her to come here. That was pretty much the hardest part."

What did you like best?

"People are really friendly. If you need help, people will really help you. They don't just say they'll help and then don't do it, they really will help.

"You can go up and talk to random people and they will talk to you. That's cool. You can learn so many new, interesting things. It's that way in Italy, but not in some other countries where I've been."

Did you have the chance to attend any special events? What did you think of that experience?

"I was in football and wrestling, and I go to Ione for tennis. I went to Irrigon Homecoming. That was strange. It was right after a football game, and I was really tired. I went to Ione prom. That was really fun because it was on a boat. We don't have these kinds of dances and events. We also took a limousine. It's something I'm not really used to. It was really, really fun."

Anything else?

"I think I would suggest this experience to everyone. It's pretty useful. You grow up a lot. The first period is harsh, and you can get homesick. The first weeks, I hardly understood a word that was said to me, and my vocabulary for a week at a time was just 'Yes,' and 'No.' But you learn. That's part of what the experience is about."

Heppner celebrates prom

Heppner High School celebrated bright lights and movie glitz at a Hollywood-themed prom last Saturday night. Pictured striking their best poses are the prom court members (front L-R) Maddie Lindsay, Cade Arbogast, Alex Victorio, (Back L-R) Ross Cutsforth, Makenzi Hughes, King John Propheter, Queen Kelly Wilson, Senior of the Year Jenny Marick, Jasmine Garcia and Paige Grieb. *–Photo by Sandra Putman*

Boardman adopts medical marijuana dispensaries code

At a special council meeting April 28, Boardman City Councilors unanimously adopted an ordinance changing language in the Boardman Development Code to accomplish the governance of medical marijuana facilities within the city.

Oregon Senate Bill 1531 was signed into law on March 19, 2014, giving local jurisdictions the ability to adopt regulations governing the operations of medical marijuana facilities. The city had no such regulations, leaving no clear guidance should such a business be proposed. In response to the bill, the councilors adopted an ordinance setting a moratorium on medical marijuana facilities until May 1, 2015.

The change to the Development Code provides required language for governance of medical marijuana dispensaries and medical marijuana grow facilities in two commercial sub-districts, Tourist Commercial and Service Center. Some of the language includes review of proposed facilities for compatibility with Minor Child Safety Areas in the Municipal Code, a requirement the facility be licensed by the Oregon Health Authority, sets the hours of operation, prohibits on-site consumption of products, and limits the size of signs for the businesses to 100 square feet per building face.

All of the language changes to the Boardman Development Code can be found at the city's website at www.cityofboardman.com.

Merkley to hold town hall in Morrow County

Portland, OR—Senator Jeff Merkley will hold a Morrow County town hall in Irrigon on Saturday, May 16, at 10 a.m. in the Irrigon Junior-Senior High School cafeteria, 315 W Wyoming Street,

Irrigon. He will also hold a Umatilla County town hall later that same day at 12:30 p.m. at Hermiston High School.

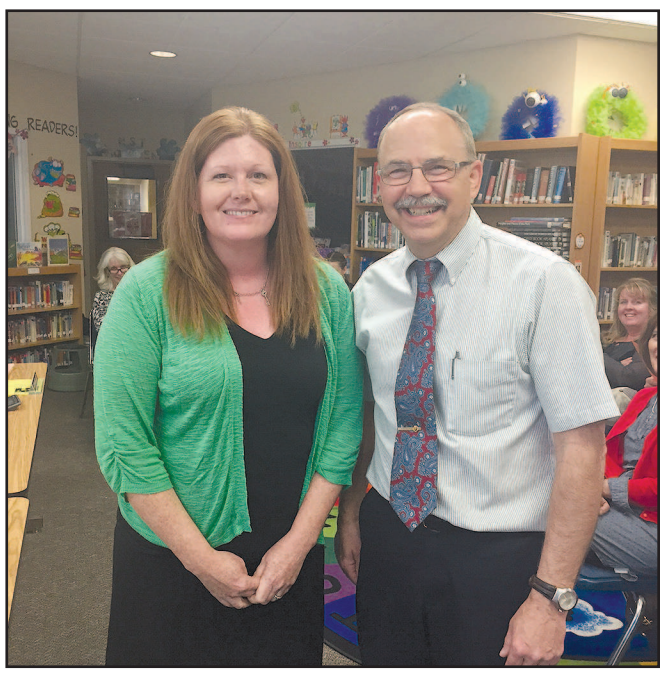
Senator Jeff Merkley

Merkley says he will use the town halls to update constituents on his work in Washington, DC and answer their questions and invite their suggestions about how to tackle the challenges facing Oregon and America.

"There are huge issues facing Oregonians, and the best way for me to effectively advocate for Oregon's families and businesses is by getting out on the road and holding a town hall in every county, every year to hear directly from Oregonians," said Merkley. "I invite all residents of Morrow and Umatilla Counties to come and discuss what we need to do to strengthen our state and nation."

Since joining the Senate in 2009, Merkley has held a town hall in each of Oregon's 36 counties every year. Morrow and Umatilla counties will be his 236th and 237th town halls as a U.S. Senator.

Rollins joins Ione school board


Tricia Rollins of Ione was sworn in by Ione Superintendent Phil Starkey as the newest member of the Ione Community School Board at the board's last meeting on Tuesday, April 28. Rollins manages the Heppner branch of the Bank of Eastern Oregon. *–Contributed photo*

Getting to know your exchange students

Amir Bayanayev
Age 16, Junior, Ione
Where are you from? Taldykorgan, Kazakhstan
Host Parents: Tori Rice
What do you think of Ione and Morrow County?

"When I realized I would go to America, we thought they would send me to a big city…. When I got here, I loved it. It doesn't matter if it's a big or small town. It's the people. If I had to choose between a house for $10,000 in L.A. and a house for $20,000 in Ione, I would choose Ione."

Amir Bayanayev

How has the experience been for you?

"Football season had started when I came here. I'd never played football. I came to football practice and fell in love. It's the greatest sport I ever tried."

What was the most difficult thing about this experience?

"When I first came here I had issues in some of my classes, literature and math, because there were some words I didn't understand. That lasted about two months, then my language got better.

"I did study English at home, but my teacher's accent wasn't very good. I used to get movies in my language and play them with English subtitles. Then I switched and watched movies in English with subtitles in my language to learn the meaning, the way words sounded, the way they were spelled."

What did you like best?

"How I met people here. When you have troubles here, just talk with the people here. I loved it. They're really nice to everybody. Everyone in Ione is nice. The people are great people, kind people."

Did you have the chance to attend any special events? What did you think of that experience?

"At home we have prom and graduation all at one time. Here we had prom separately, and it was on a boat. I think I was lucky that I came this year."

Anything else?

"I love this town. I love the people here. I'm really thankful to them. They made my year—I can't even say 'awesome.' Better than awesome."

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.