

HEPPNER

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Oregon snowpack looks promising after wet, snowy March

PORTLAND, Ore.— Cold and snowy weather in the first half of March bolstered Oregon's mountain snowpack and delayed melting in most areas, according to the April Water Supply Outlook Report released at the beginning of the month by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Thanks to March snow storms, many monitoring sites across the state have reached or surpassed normal peak snowpack levels for this time of year—a much improved outlook compared to last year, when more than half of these sites were snow-free on April 1.

Today's data shows snowpack levels ranging from slightly below normal to slightly above normal across all basins in the state. In western Oregon,

snowpack is the lowest in the Willamette Basin at 80 percent of normal; while in eastern Oregon, the lowest snowpack is in the Malheur Basin, at 69 percent of normal. Today's cumulative statewide average snowpack is 92 percent of normal.

Despite the cold weather in the first two weeks of March, the last two weeks were warm and dry throughout Oregon—which led to the onset of spring snowmelt in most locations across the state. NRCS hydrologists are still predicting near-normal or above-normal streamflows this summer, but they caution that those predictions hinge on air temperature.

"Air temperatures are critical right now—if we have a sunny and warm spring, the snowpack will

melt faster and irrigation demands will start sooner," said Scott Oviatt, NRCS Oregon snow survey supervisor. "However, if we have cooler mountain temperatures and another wet month, we could preserve the snowpack for a few more weeks, delay irrigation demand, and boost reservoir levels in the regions of the state that are still recovering from the 2015 drought."

According to the April report, streamflow forecasts call for near-normal to above-normal volumes for the summer water supply season. The highest forecasts are for the Rogue and Umpqua river basins. If extended warm and dry conditions occur, summer projections could decrease due to early snowmelt run-

Morrow County welcomes new 4-H agent

Morrow County Extension and 4-H has announced that Damion Turner will join the Morrow County Extension Office as the new 4-H Outreach Coordinator on May 2.

As the 4-H agent, Turner's responsibilities will include 4-H program management, serving as a liaison between Extension and local associations, and providing oversight and leader-

ship to the Morrow County 4-H youth development program, as well as being involved with many other aspects of the 4-H, youth programs and community service activities involving Morrow County Extension.

Turner comes to Morrow County with more than 15 years of experience in agriculture and 4-H.

He also has work experience in 4-H and Exten-

sion as a County Extension Agent in Texas. He received a bachelor's degree in agriculture from West Texas A&M University and a master's degree in agriculture science, adult education from Texas A&M University Kingsville.

Turner can be reached at the Morrow County Extension Office, 54173 Hwy. 74 (PO Box 497), Heppner, or at 541-676-9642.

As of May 2, he may also be emailed at damion.turner@oregonstate.edu.



Damion Turner

Heppner chamber changes location



Heppner Chamber of Commerce has a new look and a new location. The chamber office moved last weekend from its spot in Heppner City Hall to 133 N. Main, the former location of Willow Creek Realty. The chamber's phone number and email will remain the same, 541-676-5536 and heppnerchamber@centurytel.net.

Heppner Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sheryll Bates, pictured above in the newly-opened office, says the chamber made the move because city hall needed the space for necessary renovations. However, she believes the move will be good for everyone. "It's a hard transition but I'll be more accessible. It will be better for us in the long run," says Bates. "Hopefully this will be better for the whole community." -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

BCDA starts business incentive program

Funding available to support business expansion, relocation

Bringing new business and growing existing ones are the goals of the business incentive program recently launched by the Boardman Community Development Association.

The non-profit association received funding from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone committee and has awarded three grants since the program launched March 1. BCDA may contribute up to \$25,000 or 50 percent of the improvement, whichever is less,

to new business relocation and existing business expansion. The amount is also subject to available funding.

"This program is intended to help existing local businesses and new businesses that want to locate in our city limits," said Jill Parker, BCDA past president.

The business incentive program will fund façade improvements, interior leasehold/building improvements, inventory

purchases, rental assistance, landscaping and parking improvements, and relocation assistance within Boardman city limits.

"The Boardman Community Development Association is excited about new business investment in the community," said Lisa Mittelsdorf, BCDA President. "This Business Incentive Fund is the missing link that is needed to incentivize home-based business owners to take the next step to creating a store-

front presence or current business owners to expand or locate in the Boardman community."

Robert Bose, owner of Predator's Den, a sporting goods retailer, is one of the recipients of the grant. He is moving his formerly home-based business into a storefront in Boardman. Bose currently focuses on gun sales and archery supplies. With his nearly two-year-old business, he plans to add fishing and camping gear. In the future Bose plans to add apparel and other sports equipment to his inventory.

Half of his funding will go toward part of his first year's lease and the other half will go toward inventory, shelving and other relocation expenses. Parker said two other grants have also been awarded; one helping an existing Boardman business expand and the other to help a salon in Stanfield add a Boardman branch.

"I think Boardman really needs this," Bose said. "This program is really good for Boardman and... is what is helping me get started."

Funding is still available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information contact Jill Parker at 541-481-3445.

Lexington celebrates 35 years of risk management



The town of Lexington recently received a plaque commemorating 35 years of continuous membership, from 1981-2016, to the CIS Property and Casualty Trust. This award was presented by Citycounty Insurance Services. There to receive the award, L-R, were Lexington Maintenance Manager Rick Smith, Lexington Councilor Deona Siex, Lexington Councilor Sheila Miller, Lexington Town Recorder Janette Eldrige. -David Sykes

Primary ballots go out next week

Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers says ballots for the May 17 primary election will go out next Wednesday, April 27. Remember, ballots are not forwarded. Those who don't receive ballots but believe they should have should contact the Morrow County Clerk's office at 541-676-5604.

All ballots are due by 8 p.m. Election Day, Tuesday, May 17. Ballots must be received, not simply postmarked, on that day. For voter convenience, 24-hour drop boxes are located throughout the county. Locations are as follows:

Heppner: Courthouse parking lot (24 hours) or the Morrow County Clerk's Office, Room 102 inside the courthouse. Open 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m., M-F and Election Day (Nov. 5) from



Ballot drop boxes like this one in the Morrow County Courthouse parking lot are available 24 hours a day for voter convenience. -File photo

7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Lexington: 365 West Hwy 74 (Public Works Parking lot). Turn off Hwy. 74 onto Tom Street and left into the public works parking lot. Open 24 hours.

Ione: Spring St. (in

front of the turn to 3rd Street). Open 24 hours.

Boardman: NW Boardman Ave. (24 hours).

Irrigon: 205 NE 3rd St. (Irrigon Annex). Open 24 hours.

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

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Morrow County Grain Growers

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