

## Grange to host Wheat Walk/Run

On Saturday, May 14, the Lexington Grange will host a 5k Wheat Walk/Run. The walk/run will begin and end at the Grange building, 66296 Marquardt Rd., Lexington. The cost for the run is \$10, or \$16 with an event shirt.

Pre-registration can be done online or registration will start at 8:30 a.m. before the run. The run will start at 9 a.m. Prizes will be awarded and a portion of the proceeds from this event will go toward the Lexington Grange scholarship fund.

## Bingo at senior center next week

Bingo is returning to St. Patrick's Senior Center in Heppner next Thursday, May 12, from 7-9 p.m. It will be held in the senior center's multipurpose room (aka the dining room).

Cost will be 50 cents per card per game, and the black-out prize of \$150 will go to the winner. All proceeds will be for the benefit of the senior center and the St. Patrick's apartment complex.

## Chamber lunch meeting

The next lunch meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will be an all entities report on Thursday, May 5, at noon in Heppner City Hall conference room.

Cost of lunch is \$10; Gateway Café will cater. Chamber lunch attendees are asked to RSVP at 541-676-5536 no later than the Wednesday before to guarantee a lunch.

## Community lunch menu

Christian Life Center volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, May 11, at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will include pulled-pork sandwiches, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, sliced tomatoes and strawberry shortcake.

Milk is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

## Weather service offers free weather spotter training in Heppner

*Weather spotter network will help track storms*

Volunteers are being sought to participate in the latest weather spotter training on May 17 in Heppner. Weather spotters trained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) are key volunteers who assist the meteorologists by providing up-to-date information about storm activity.

The Skywarn Weather Spotter training is free and will be held at Heppner City Hall at 111 N Main St. in Heppner at 2 p.m. Even though the Doppler weather radar is scanning the skies and the NOAA Weather Radio is broadcasting forecasts, watches and warnings, forecasters depend upon getting good ground truth information from trained Skywarn weather spotters.

"Skywarn volunteers are not 'storm chasers,' although many Skywarn members, both local and nationwide, may chase storms on their own time," said Dennis Hull, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the forecast office in Pendleton. "The National Weather does not encourage storm chasing because it is very dangerous."

"The safety of all Skywarn spotters is a high priority," Hull added. "Skywarn members are volunteers trained in weather spotting and reporting those findings in a timely manner using the phone, amateur radio, or internet." Skywarn spotters attend a two-hour training session where they learn how to observe cloud formations and other weather in this area. The Weather Service teaches how to determine which storms are potentially severe. Spotters use a special toll free number, amateur radio frequency, or the internet address to let the forecasters at the National Weather Service office in Pendleton know what is happening in their area. Meteorologists use this data as they issue severe weather warnings or statements to the residents of Morrow County.

Hull said the Skywarn was a concept, developed in the early 1970s, that was intended to promote a cooperative effort between the National Weather Service and communities. The emphasis of the effort is often focused on the storm spotter, an individual who takes a position near their community and reports wind gusts, hail size, rainfall, and cloud formations that could signal a developing tornado.

In the winter, spotters report heavy snow, icing, high winds and blizzards. Skywarn also works to ensure National Weather Service forecasts, watches, and warnings are broadcast



Skywarn weather spotter training is being offered in Heppner May 17 to help train citizens to provide meteorologists up-to-date information about storm activity. -Photo courtesy of National Weather Service

and received in a timely manner.

The lead role in Skywarn may lie with the National Weather Service or with an emergency management agency within the community. This agency could be a police or fire department, or often is an emergency management/service group. This varies across the country, however, with local national weather service offices taking the lead in some locations, while emergency management takes the lead in other areas.

Interested residents who would like to learn more about local weather or those who are interested in helping their neighbors obtain good weather warnings are invited to attend the training. Volunteers

are asked to fill out pre-registration at [weather.gov/pendleton](http://weather.gov/pendleton) and bring information about their latitude, longitude, and elevation so their locations can be easily mapped. Door prizes will be given away.

More information about the training is available by contacting the National Weather Service at 541-969-7136. You can also email Hull at [dennis.hull@noaa.gov](mailto:dennis.hull@noaa.gov). Additional information is also available at the National Weather Service website at [weather.gov/pendleton](http://weather.gov/pendleton).

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts to Morrow County from a transmitter near Heppner on a frequency of 162.425 MHz. Find additional information about Skywarn at <http://www.skywarn.org>.

## Firewood permits available now for Umatilla National Forest

Pendleton—Personal-use firewood permits for the Umatilla National Forest went on sale this week at local vendors and Forest Service offices. Locally, permits are available at Heppner Shell or the Heppner Ranger District office. Firewood permits can be purchased for \$5 per cord with a minimum purchase of four cords for \$20. The maximum limit for per-

sonal-use firewood on the Umatilla National Forest is 12 cords per household per year.

Local vendors will sell firewood permits in four-cord packets. An additional vendor fee, up to \$2, will be charged for each four-cord, \$20 firewood permit you purchase at a local vendor.

"Our vendors provide a great service to the wood-cutter by selling firewood

permits at times more convenient to the public," said Genevieve Masters, Forest Supervisor.

Most vendors are open early mornings, late evenings and on the weekends. An additional fee is not charged if you purchase a permit at a Forest Service office.

Firewood cutters are required to carry an axe, a shovel, an eight-ounce

capacity or larger fire extinguisher, and have their chainsaw equipped with an approved spark arrester when cutting wood.

As we move into the hot, dry summer months, Public Use Restrictions (PURs) may be implemented. Restrictions will be announced by 6 p.m. on the day prior to the restriction(s) going into effect. Weekend restrictions

will be announced by 6 p.m. on Friday. An updated recording at 1-877-958-9663 will let you know if firewood cutting is: allowed all day; restricted to specific hours (i.e. 1 p.m. chainsaw shutdown); restricted to specific areas of the Forest; or closed completely due to wildfire danger. Restrictions will also be posted on the forest's website at:

[www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla](http://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla). It is the public's responsibility to check if firewood cutting is allowed.

For more information on firewood cutting, contact the Supervisor's office at 541-278-3716 or the Heppner Ranger District at 541-676-9187.

Firewood season will end November 30 on the Umatilla National Forest.

## CITY OF IRRIGON

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able to be leveraged with assistance from the Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) through the lowering of the interest rate on

an existing loan. The plan is one of many that cities must have current in order to request and move projects forward. The city's engineers, J-U-B, will

be performing the work on the plan development and writing. Infrastructure Finance Authority will assist the city on behalf of Business Oregon.

The City of Irrigon also is in the process of developing an incentive program to eliminate nuisance properties. The policy is two-fold to assist in nuisance compliance and property improvement.

Applications should be available in early summer, with further details to be provided once the program policy is established. Initial funds of \$50,000 have been provided by the Columbia River Enterprise Zone board.

The city council says it wants to see properties cleaned up and improved, whether businesses or private residences.

## WARM WEATHER

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temperatures for this April averaged 67.7 degrees, which was 6.8 degrees above normal.

The highest was 81 degrees on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Low temperatures averaged 41.2 degrees, which was four degrees above normal. The lowest was 33 degrees, on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Precipitation totaled 0.53 inches during April, which was 0.98 inches below normal.

Measurable precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on seven days with the heaviest, 0.23 inches, reported on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Precipitation this year has reached 3.71 inches, which is 1.91 inches below normal. Since October, the

water-year precipitation at Heppner has been 7.55 inches, which is 2.13 inches below normal.

The highest wind gust was 39 mph, which occurred on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The outlook for May 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. Normal lows rise from 40 degrees to 47 degrees.

The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.66 inches. The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

### Wedding Tables

*Derek Gunderson & Meghan McCabe*  
May 21, 2016

*Emma Osmin & Jordan Wright*  
May 7, 2016

*Rick Worden & Kelsie Fox*  
May 28, 2016

*Lane Bailey & Jessica Hughes*  
June 25, 2016

*Bridal Gift Registry*

**Murray's Drug**<sup>INC</sup>

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