

Obituaries

Richard John "Big Fish" Fisher

Richard John "Big Fish" Fisher, 62, of Heppner passed away on February 7, 2021, of a catastrophic stroke at Providence-St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland, OR.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on June 5, 2021, at Heppner City Park on Main Street in Heppner. Associate Pastor Troy McGill of Christian Life Center will be officiating. A meal will be shared following the ceremony at the park. Due to multiple events occurring this day in Heppner, the family is requesting that attendees bring seating.

Richard was born in Eugene, OR on May 9, 1959, as Richard Joseph McColligan to Joseph Frederick McColligan and Elsie Mae Hurley. "Ricky Joe" was adopted and raised as Richard John Fisher by Har-

ry Joseph Fisher and Ruby Evangeline Gibbs Fisher on November 12, 1963 and he celebrated being able to know siblings from both his biological and adopted family.

From a young age he enjoyed all aspects of the outdoors. That enjoyment remained steadfast throughout his life to include mushroom hunting, rock hounding and countless hours in the mountains of Montana and the beaches of Oregon. Fishing always remained his greatest love.

He attended schools throughout the northwest as his father would follow logging work, including Catholic School in Eugene, Willow Creek in California, Lebanon High School in Oregon and graduating in 1978 from a Montana high school.

Upon graduation in

Montana, Richard returned and started his family with wife, Sharon. They have two children, Jesse Fisher and Nicole Fisher Whitbeck. They later divorced. He met his current wife in 2009 and married Samarra D. Van Doorn in Heppner on January 1, 2011.

Richard had many jobs throughout his life as a gas attendant, mechanic, and farm worker. He focused several years on lifting weights and working maintenance. Over the last few years, he was learning and working as an all-around builder doing remodeling work, property management and lawn maintenance.

He had enjoyed building log cabins as a young man and working with Arabian horses on a horse ranch. He had a great love

of upper Chase Street to Bruce Kelly Way by the city council. This was to commemorate the second man, in addition to Les Matlock, who obtained wire cutters from the hardware store to cut fences along the way and galloped on horses down Willow Creek to warn the residents of the oncoming flood on that fateful day in Heppner's history, June 14, 1903.

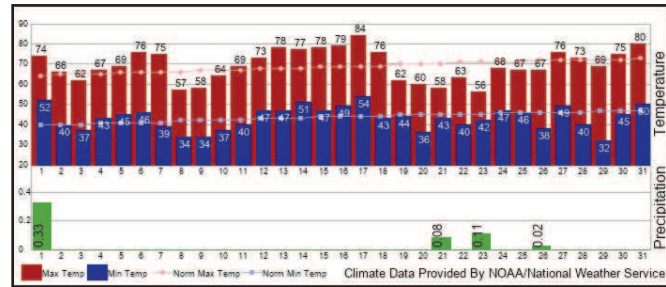
City sign updated

Years ago, the city of Heppner, under the leadership of Mayor Bob Jepsen and in collaboration with Cycle Oregon and the department of transportation, Mike Hann of the sign business and John Edmundson created a city map sign in the 1903 Flood Memorial Park. The sign was patterned, in part, af-

ter a similar sign in Fossil, OR. That sign features the community's businesses, whereas the Heppner sign features the community's public entities.

As new public organizations changed in Heppner, the city map sign has been updated by Mike Hann. The latest update to the sign is for the renaming

May temps near normal



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

The average temperature was 56.3 degrees which was 0.2 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 69.5 degrees, which was 0.8 degrees above normal. The highest was 84 degrees on the 17th. Low temperatures averaged 43.1 degrees, which was 0.5 degrees below normal. The lowest was 32 degrees, on the 29th.

Precipitation totaled 0.54 inches during May, which was 1.12 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation, at least .01

inch, was received on four days with the heaviest, 0.33 inches reported on the 1st.

Precipitation this year has reached 3.74 inches, which is 3.54 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 7.22 inches, which is 4.12 inches below normal.

The outlook for June from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner rise from 73.0 degrees at the start of June to 81.0 degrees at the end of June. Normal lows rise from 47.0 degrees to 51.0 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.38 inches.

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