

LOCAL WEATHER

HACKETT:

continued from page A1

bly would have, but a teacher made a huge difference in my life, and then I came to faith through a wonderful person, and those two things revolutionized my life.”

After high school, in 1967, he received a draft notice to serve in the Vietnam War, so he enlisted for four years in the Air Force to receive additional training. During his last two years, Hackett began an internship in ministry and spent most weekends speaking at church services and youth events. His career blossomed from there.

“In October 1971, when I got my honorable discharge from the Air Force, my wife (Wanda) and I — we had married by that time — we immediately started full-time Christian ministry, and we’ve been doing it ever since,” he said.

The couple traveled around the United States and Canada — starting four new churches and helping start others — before ending up in Hermiston.

“In 2007, the church here asked us to come interview,” he said. “We did some research on Hermiston and said, ‘Boy, that sounds like a really progressive community that wants to go forward,’ and we were excited to come.”

Hackett began meeting regularly with a group of other religious leaders, and when former Mayor Bob Severson attended one of the meetings

several years ago, he asked if the group would serve as an official city committee.

“None of us have ever heard of anything like that in a city,” Hackett said. “I don’t know of any other city that has something like that. My first response was, ‘That’s an amazing idea, Bob. Let me give some thought to that.’ It came together wonderfully, and I think it’s just been significant.”

Hackett said the committee serves as a point of contact between community and faith leaders and has established several programs to help the community.

Local churches have adopted all of the Hermiston schools, not to proselytize, but to provide treats for the staff and help as requested. The committee also works with the police department, he said, and assists with the Community Accountability Board for juveniles with criminal offenses and a mentoring offshoot, It’s Just Dinner.

“It’s been consistent that well over 90 percent of the students that go to the accountability board never re-offend, and that’s huge,” Hackett said. “In fact, one of the problems in the last few months is they’ve gone, ‘You know, we haven’t had enough customers.’ What a great problem.”

The Faith-Based Advisory Committee is currently developing a program to train mentors to help parents develop skills to reduce the number of at-risk families in

the community.

Hackett said he will miss working on the committee with the “great group of people” with whom he has had the privilege to work.

Although he is narrowing his focus, he will continue as pastor at Living Faith Church and plans to attend City Council meetings occasionally.

Hackett said he has focused on writing in recent years — publishing five books — and plans to continue ministering in print as well.

“I love doing the writing, and I’m hoping — I’m not thinking about retirement, it’s not on my radar, maybe it should be at 66, but it’s not — but, if I retire, I hope that I can do that, just continue writing and making a difference that way,” he said.

Councilman Rod Hardin, one of the council members on the Faith-Based Advisory Committee who is also the principal at Hermiston Christian School, said Hackett is an outstanding leader who was always willing to give of himself to make a difference in the community.

“He’s done a fantastic job, and we’re going to miss him, but we want him to be able to do what he needs to do, and I’m sure he won’t disappear into the sunset, because that’s not his nature,” Hardin said. “He’s one of those guys that’s a problem solver, and, if he thinks there’s something that needs to be changed, he’ll be right there.”

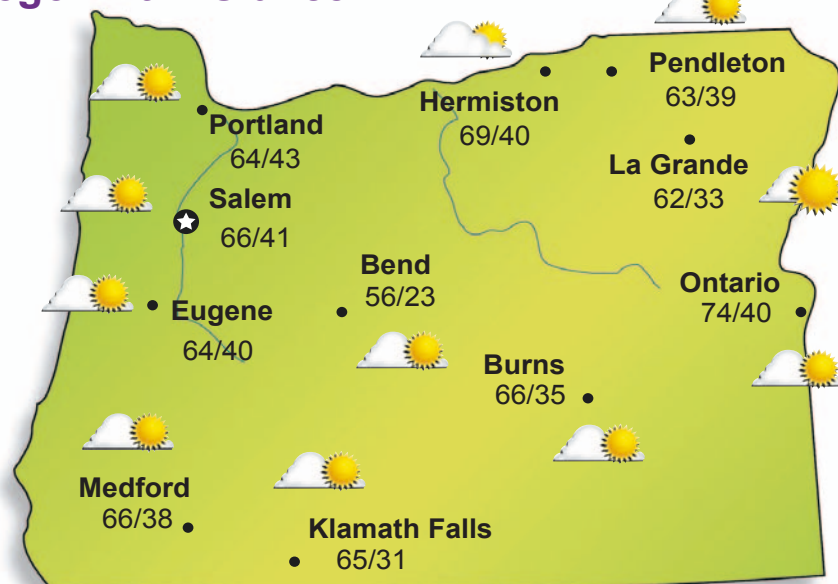
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 4/29	Thu 4/30	Fri 5/1	Sat 5/2	Sun 5/3
69/40	75/44	81/46	78/45	78/44
Partly cloudy skies during the morning hours will become overcast in the af.	Sunshine. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 40s.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise 5:47 AM Sunset 8:01 PM	Sunrise 5:46 AM Sunset 8:03 PM	Sunrise 5:44 AM Sunset 8:04 PM	Sunrise 5:42 AM Sunset 8:05 PM	Sunrise 5:41 AM Sunset 8:07 PM

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Oregon At A Glance



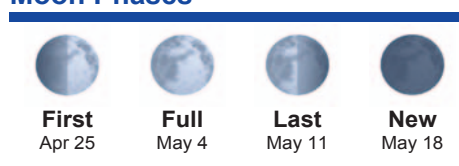
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Albany	65	41	pt sunny	Florence	60	41	pt sunny	Newport	56	42	pt sunny
Ashland	64	38	pt sunny	Grants Pass	68	39	mst sunny	Pendleton	63	39	pt sunny
Astoria	56	44	pt sunny	Hermiston	69	40	cloudy	Portland	64	43	pt sunny
Baker City	62	30	windy	John Day	61	32	pt sunny	Redmond	62	27	pt sunny
Bend	56	23	pt sunny	Klamath Falls	65	31	pt sunny	Roseburg	67	41	pt sunny
Brookings	64	47	pt sunny	La Grande	62	33	mst sunny	Salem	66	41	pt sunny
Burns	66	35	pt sunny	Lakeview	67	31	pt sunny	Springfield	63	38	pt sunny
Coos Bay	57	44	pt sunny	Lincoln City	58	44	pt sunny	The Dalles	67	43	pt sunny
Corvallis	65	40	pt sunny	McMinnville	64	40	pt sunny	Tillamook	59	40	pt sunny
Eugene	64	40	pt sunny	Medford	66	38	pt sunny	Vale	74	42	mst sunny

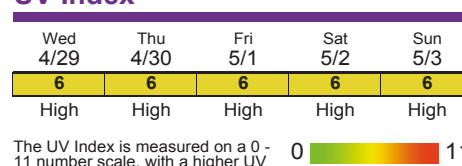
National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	58	47	rain	Houston	77	56	mst sunny	Phoenix	89	64	sunny
Boston	57	45	cloudy	Los Angeles	87	64	mst sunny	San Francisco	68	51	pt sunny
Chicago	59	39	pt sunny	Miami	89	73	t-storm	Seattle	62	47	pt sunny
Dallas	76	53	sunny	Minneapolis	70	41	mst sunny	St. Louis	72	49	mst sunny
Denver	77	49	sunny	New York	71	51	mst sunny	Washington, DC	75	57	mst sunny

Moon Phases



UV Index



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hermiston FFA plant sale coming up

The Hermiston High School FFA annual plant sale fundraiser is coming up. The Hermiston FFA Plant Sale will be from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. May 8 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 9 or until all the plants are sold.

Plants may be purchased in the HHS greenhouse, 600 S. First St., on the north side of the high school.

The plants for sale include hanging baskets, flowers and vegetables, each cultivated by the plant propagation and horticulture class at Hermiston High School, in which students learn everything from how to create the best

fertilizer to how to raise plants from cuttings of other plants. The money raised from the plant sale will benefit the high school FFA program.

Lions Club hosting murder mystery

The Umatilla Irrigon Lions Club is presenting a murder mystery and potato bar at 7 p.m. May 15 at the Umatilla Senior Center and 7 p.m. May 16 at the Family Worship Center in Irrigon. The cost is \$5 per person and includes a baked potato bar and dessert, as well as coffee and/or water. This is a fundraiser for the Lions Club. For more information on how to become a member of the cast, please call Cathy Putnam at 541-922-3281.

Attention Current and Former Hanford Workers

- SEC petition recently submitted for approval to cover DOE contractors and subcontractors who worked at the facility from 1984 to 1990 (with some exclusions)
- Many workers will now be eligible for monetary and medical benefits that were previously denied under dose reconstruction
- Eligibility is based on work history and type of work-related illness

Join us for an Important Meeting on the Recently Extended Special Exposure Cohort (SEC)!

Tue. May 5 10am & 3pm Hilton Garden Inn 401 E. Yakima Ave. Yakima, WA 98901	Wed. & Thur. May 6-7 10am & 6pm Red Lion Hanford House Hotel 802 George Washington Way Richland, WA 99352
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- Learn if you qualify for benefits up to \$400,000 through the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA)
- Learn about no-cost medical benefit options
- Learn how to apply for consequential medical conditions and impairment re-valuations

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