

# It's unpredictable weather you like it or not

**Kathy Hedberg/Lewiston Tribune**

I've heard a number of people comment recently on the unseasonably warm weather we've been having, then they add: "But, boy, we're going to have to pay for it come April and May."

I'm not sure that's how weather works. It's not like the weather is forcing school to shut down and we will have to make up for it later on in the year.

I don't think we get so many allotted winter days a year and if the season is a bust the weather gods balance it out by stealing from our summer days.

At least that's what I think. But I don't know for sure.

It would be kind of hard to prove that notion here on the Camas Prairie where unbalanced seasons are the norm. Winters here often last until mid-June and start back up again mid-August.

I remember covering a Border Days rodeo one year over the Fourth of July when it snowed in the arena.

People just shrugged. "That's the prairie for you," they said.

So developing a weather theory based on the rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul axiom doesn't work in a climate that's predictably unpredictable.

But if the mild winter continues and lulls us into a confident expectation of a normal spring and then come June we get dumped on by 7 feet of snow I would say it's time to take a sober look at reality.

Some people seem to have such a hard time accepting cause-and-effect relationships when it comes to weather and other environmental issues.

Take climate change, for example. Those who dismiss it as a myth point out that the world has been undergoing dramatic climate shifts ever since the time of the dinosaurs.

That may be true but it's not a comforting thought, especially when you consider what happened to the dinosaurs.

Not to worry, the global warming debunkers point out. Dinosaurs weren't destroyed by weather; they were obliterated by a giant meteor that smashed into the Earth and killed all living things.

That's a load off my mind.

I wonder why nobody has considered whether the methane gas produced from all that dinosaur manure heated up the planet and finally did those big lizards in.

It may seem a stretch to believe they pooped themselves to death but just drive by one of those dry lot dairy cattle operations in southern Idaho and you could almost see it.

I, for one, keep a close eye on the weather and am open to the idea that we could be on the precipice of a serious environmental hiccup. I don't know what that means to the future of the globe or how it will change life as we know it.

All I know is, I'm planting my radishes early this year.

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