

WINTER STORM: More than a foot-and-a-half of snow fell

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By Monday evening, December 12, forecasters decided that enough of the various computer models were showing a more northerly trajectory for the storm. So, at 6:57 p.m. they issued a winter storm watch. A watch means that there is a potential for heavy snow or significant ice accumulations. Part of the forecast that was issued during this time read, "...a strong and wet Pacific system is still on track to spread precipitation south to north across the region (Pendleton forecasting region) Wednesday and Wednesday night. Thus significant snow accumulations look to be possible over a good portion of the area."

As more of the models converged on the same



PHOTO BY PAUL LIPSCOMB

The aftermath of a major winter storm: unparalleled beauty.

solution, the watch was upgraded to a warning at 2:50 p.m. on December 13. A portion of the forecast issued at this time stated, "Precipitation amounts will be highest over Central Oregon where northeast to east low-level flow will result in upslope effects that will enhance precipitation

development. Thus this area should see significant snows between 10 and 20 inches before precipitation decreases late Wednesday evening."

When residents awoke Thursday morning (December 15), they discovered that the NWS had pretty much delivered on its promise of copious amounts of snow. While official snowfall depths in many communities remain unavailable at this writing, several unofficial measurements were truly impressive.

Some parts of Bend registered up to 17 inches of

snow, shattering a one-day record in December of 13 inches set in 1924. Redmond picked up at least a foot of the white stuff which, if it holds up, would break their previous one-day total of nine inches set on New Year's Eve 1992.

Here in Sisters residents in the Crossroad and Tollgate developments reported depths of about two feet. It's likely, however, that measurement included approximately four to five inches of snow that was on the ground previous to the December 14 storm.

Reports of 17 inches were common in town. Sisters' one-day snowfall record of 16.5 inches occurred in December 1983.

The Climate Prediction Center is calling for an equal chance of above-normal and below-normal values for both temperature and precipitation during the month of January 2017 for Central Oregon.



PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

Road crews had to work furiously to stay ahead of the heavy snowfall.

*Wishing everyone
a blessed holiday
season.*



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THIS WEEK'S FEATURED PROPERTY



17147 Caddis Court, Sisters ~ \$999,000

Live your dreams on Aspen Lakes Golf Course with an 18th hole and water view. This Northwest-style single-level home is custom-built with exquisite detail. Expansive greatroom with a stone fireplace, hardwood floors, designer kitchen. Beautiful patio with views. Master suite and 2 guest suites. 3,543 sq. ft.

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