

Flurries in the valley possible as Oregon snowpack improves

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Salem Statesman Journal
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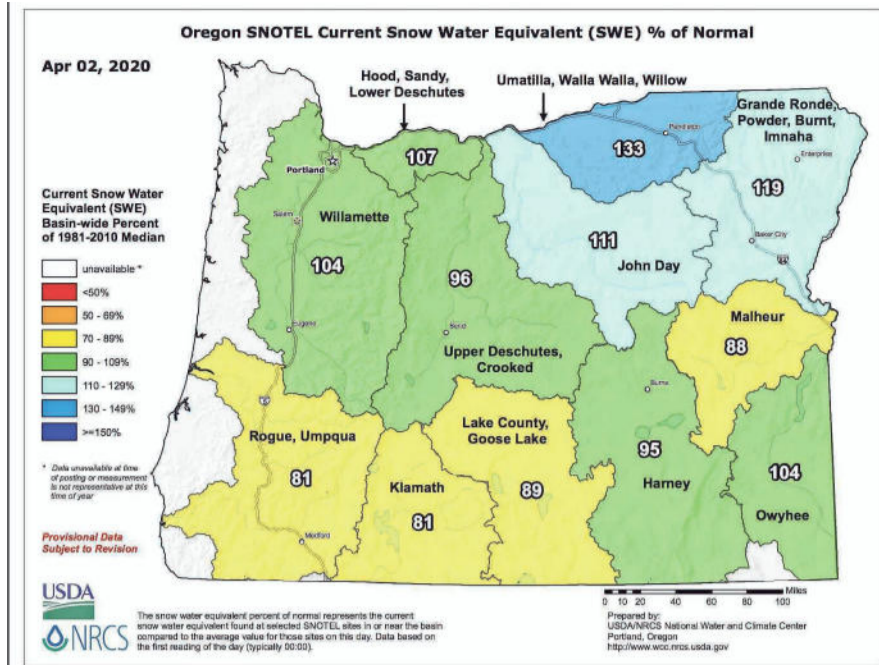
Winter isn't quite finished with Oregon.

A snowstorm that hit the state's mountains last weekend bumped Oregon's snowpack to above normal levels at the start of the spring season.

The chilly weather is expected to continue for a while, with the Willamette Valley possibly seeing snowflakes on Friday. An accumulation of snow is unlikely, however.

"Don't get excited," said Jon Bonk, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Portland. "Best chance is Friday morning, though amounts are negligible."

By Saturday, the Cascade Foothills around 1,500 feet could see an inch or two and by early next week, temperatures



Oregon snowpack has reached normal levels. NWS

are forecast to warm up. "It's fairly rare to get low elevation flurries the first week of April but it's

not unheard of in," Bonk said. Perhaps the bigger news is snowpack, an im-

portant measure for everything from wildfire danger to streamflows in Oregon rivers during the

spring and summer.

Currently, Oregon's statewide snowpack is 103 percent of normal, with the northern and eastern parts of the state in the best shape.

The Mount Hood to Mount Jefferson region is between 96 to 107 percent of normal.

That the snowpack is in such decent shape is somewhat surprising given Oregon has seen a dry water year. More than half the state is classified as being in a moderate drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

And the way Oregon's summer shapes up will largely be determined by what happens in the next month or so, said Scott Oviatt, snow survey supervisory hydrologist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"The remainder of the spring will still determine

our outcome in terms of water supply availability from both snowpack runoff and spring precipitation," he said. "If drier warmer conditions return, there may still be some concerns in the region for overall water supply."

Cool and wet spring weather that keeps snowpack intact could mean healthier streamflows for fish and wildlife, while reducing the chances of wildfires to some extent. On the other hand, a warm spring that melts the snowpack faster means the opposite.

The Willamette Valley reservoirs, although they have shown improvement, still lag behind. Detroit Lake remains about 35 feet lower than where it should be on a pace to reach its "full pool" for summer recreation.

RESTAURANT INSPECTIONS

Continued from Page 2B

of inspection. **Point deduction: 3.**

Sonic

Location: 3775 River Road N, Keizer
Date: Jan. 31 (reinspected Feb. 12)
Score: 90

Jan. 31: Priority violations

■ Potentially hazardous food is not maintained at proper hot or cold holding temperatures, specifically: Long hot dogs 43-44°F, ham 43°F, small hot dogs 43°F on the bottom shelves of the upright refrigerator; rubber gasket damaged on top door. **Point deduction: 5.**

■ The quaternary ammonium sanitizer concentration, pH, or temperature is not adequate, specifically: Quat sanitizer dispensing at about 100 PPM at the three-compartment sink. **Point deduction: 5.**

Feb. 12: No priority violations

Taco Del Mar

Location: 6379 Ulali Drive, Keizer

Date: Jan. 29 (reinspected Feb. 5 and Feb. 18)

Score: 95
Jan. 29: Priority violations

■ Potentially hazardous food is not maintained at proper hot or cold holding temperatures, specifically: Shredded cabbage 46°F, shredded cheese 48°F, shredded lettuce 50°F inside the right section of the make-line refrigerator. Salsas 43-48°F and shredded lettuce 45-46°F at the top right section of the make-line refrigerator. **Point deduction: 5.**

Feb. 5: Priority violations

■ Potentially hazardous food is not maintained at proper hot or cold holding temperatures, specifically: Shredded cheese 45°F and shredded lettuce 49°F inside the make-line refrigerator on the right edge (all other areas reaching 41°F or lower). **Point deduction: 5.**

Feb. 18: No priority violations

Thai Woodburn Cuisine

Location: 1600 Industrial Ave., Woodburn (mobile unit)

Date: Feb. 21

Score: 100

No priority violations

Tucky's

Location: 273 SW River Drive, Monmouth (mobile unit)

Date: Feb. 19

Score: 100

No priority violations

Valley Bistro

Location: 955 Center St. NE, Salem

Date: Jan. 29 (reinspected Feb. 12)

Score: 95

Jan. 29: Priority violations

■ Food-contact surfaces of equipment and utensils are not properly sanitized after cleaning, specifically: Sanitizing agent is out at the dishwasher. **Point deduction: 5.**

Feb. 12: No priority violations

Victorico's Mexican Food

Location: 710 Wallace Road NW, Salem

Date: Feb. 13

Score: 95

Priority violations

■ Potentially hazardous food is not maintained at proper hot or cold holding temperatures, specifically: Four hot hold containers of refried beans, steak, and rice are on the bottom shelf below the hot hold unit - sitting out at room temperature. Steak is at 114°F and the refried beans are at 91°F - both less than 135°F minimum. **Point deduction: 5.**

Whole Latte Love

Location: 725 Summer St. NE, Salem

Date: Feb. 12

Score: 100

No priority violations

Wolfgang's Thirst Parlor Tap House

Location: 134 W Washington St., Stayton

Date: Feb. 13

Score: 100

No priority violations

The Yard Food Park

Location: 4106 State St., Salem

Date: Feb. 11 (reinspected Feb. 21)

Score: 88

Feb. 11: Priority violations

■ (REPEAT) A test kit is not provided or is not accurate enough to measure the concentration of sanitizing solutions, specifically: Unable to find test strips. **Point deduction: 6.**

■ Food-contact surfaces are not clean, specifically: Significant dried on debris on vegetable

peeler stored in container on bar. **Point deduction: 3.**

■ A handwashing sink is not accessible for employee use at all times, is used for purposes other than handwashing or is not operated properly, specifically: At start of inspection, front handwash sink had food/drink debris and ice in it, back handwash sink had a large metal container in it and was blocked by a keg and mats on the floor in front of sink. **Point deduction: 3.**

Feb. 21: No priority violations

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