

Weather forecasts improve, under the radar

High temps right 80 percent of the time

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Make fun of the weatherman if you want but modern forecasts have quietly, by degrees, become much better.

Meteorologists are now as good with their five-day forecasts as they were with their three-day forecasts in 2005. Both government and private weather forecasting companies are approaching the point where they get tomorrow's high temperature right nearly 80 percent of the time. It was 66 percent 11 years ago, according to ForecastWatch, a private firm that rates accuracy of weather forecasts.

That may not always be appreciated, especially if your livelihood depends on getting rain and snow amounts, and timing, just right, all the time. "They don't know what's going to happen," complained Washington taxi driver Antenne Lashitew. He makes more money when it rains or snows, so he wants them to be more precise.

He may yet be satisfied, though, because forecasts are continuing to improve. They are already good enough for

Major League Baseball, which is now able to move game times around based on forecasts so you have a much smaller chance of getting soaked in the stands.

Last week, the forecast for Washington was afternoon thunderstorms on Thursday so the Washington Nationals moved their game from 4:05 p.m. to 12:05 p.m. The game got in — the Nats won — and the storms arrived on schedule not too long after the regularly scheduled start time.

"That would have been unheard of 20 years ago," said retired Washington television meteorologist Bob Ryan, the first national on-air weatherman on NBC's "Today" show. "If we did in the 1500s what we do now, we would have been burned at the stake as witches and warlocks."

Ryan used to get people telling him he was never right, so he would challenge them to bets on how good his forecasts were. He'd offer to donate \$5 to someone's favorite charity for every blown forecast if they'd donate just \$1 for every one he got right. No one took him up on the offer.

More observations

Better forecasts are partly the result of more observations taken in the air and oceans and better understanding of how weather works. But it's mostly bigger and faster com-



AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta

Grounds crew puts sand on the field as mild rain dampens the field at the end of the fourth inning of a baseball game between the Washington Nationals and Seattle Mariners in Washington on May 23. The forecast for Washington was afternoon thunderstorms so the Washington Nationals moved their game from 4:05 p.m. to 12:05 p.m. The game got in, the Nats won, and the storms arrived on schedule not too long after the regularly scheduled start time.

puters that put it all together in complex computer models that simulate the weather that may be coming tomorrow, next week and even later in the month, meteorologists said.

The improvements are most noticeable during Atlantic hurricane season, which starts Thursday.

Hurricane forecasts were twice as good last year than they were in 2005, when the National Hurricane Center predicted the paths of 28 storms, including Hurricane Katrina. Then, predictions where a storm would be 36 hours out were accurate within

97 miles. Last year, they were about that accurate 72 hours before a storm hit.

In the 25 years since Hurricane Andrew "we've gained two days of predictability for track forecast," center forecast operations chief James Franklin said.

And while coastal residents

may want the hurricane center's so-called cone of uncertainty to shrink even more, former hurricane center director Rick Knabb said it's gotten so small it's a problem the other way. People look at just the forecast track of the eye of the storm and they trust it. But then they don't heed warnings about how dangerous conditions can extend for more than 100 miles beyond that line on the screen and they get in trouble, said Knabb, now an on-air analyst at The Weather Channel.

Other improvements

Last year, the National Weather Service five-day forecasts were within 4 degrees of the high temperature. That's as accurate as 2005's three-day forecasts and a full degree better than the 5-day forecasts of 11 years ago.

Forecasters can predict winter storms 22 hours ahead of time, up from 17 hours in 2005.

Forecasters have predicted some dangerous extreme events coming about a week ahead of time, including Superstorm Sandy in 2012,

20 inches of rain in South Carolina in 2015 and a 2016 East Coast blizzard, in ways they could never have done before.

When it comes to parsing where it's going to snow instead of just rain or sleet, things get trickier. And when that line between snow and rain moves by only a couple dozen miles it can make a huge difference. This came up after last winter's blizzard when New York and New Jersey officials blasted the weather service for not dialing back on forecasts of a giant snowfall that ended up hitting further west. Problems with that forecast were compounded by the way the storm's uncertainties were communicated to the public — or in this case not — meteorologists said.

Meteorologists mostly credit complex high-resolution computer models that take in giant amounts of real-world data from satellites and elsewhere and use physics formulas to crunch out countless simulations of what's going to happen next. As those are compared, cross-referenced and run again a clearer picture of future weather emerges.

OBITUARIES

Mary Rose Wiese Gearhart

May 12, 1924 — May 23, 2017

Mary passed away peacefully in her sleep Tuesday morning, May 23, 2017.

She was born May 12, 1924, in Portland to Anton and Nina Konzich. She was raised

in real estate with Tarbell in Seaside. In 1985, along with her son, Douglas, they opened

Dooger's Seafood and Grill.

Mary retired again in 1994. Finally having the time to pursue one of her true passions, Mary took her contract bridge playing skills to multiple masters levels.

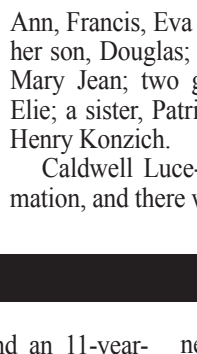
Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Larry; her son, Edward; and four step-siblings,

Ann, Francis, Eva and Tony. She is survived by her son, Douglas; her favorite daughter-in-law, Mary Jean; two grandchildren, Carnegie and Elie; a sister, Patricia Hanthorn; and a brother, Henry Konzich.

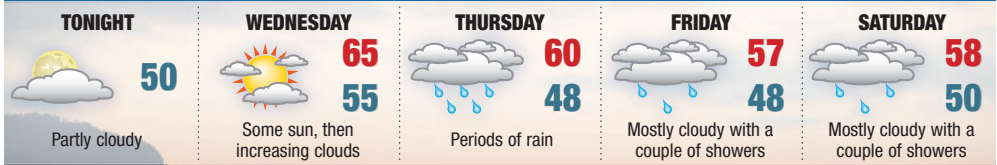
Caldwell Luce-Layton is handling the cremation, and there will not be a public service.



Mary Wiese



FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Monday.
Temperatures
 High/low 66°/41°
 Normal high/low 63°/49°
 Record high 88° in 1898
 Record low 40° in 1888
Precipitation
 Monday 0.00"
 Month to date 0.18"
 Normal month to date 0.51"
 Year to date 47.31"
 Normal year to date 33.87"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 9:04 p.m.
 Sunrise Wednesday 5:25 a.m.
 Moonrise today 6:21 p.m.
 Moonset today 4:14 a.m.

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Emerging in the eastern night sky are the three stars of the Summer Triangle: Vega of Lyra, Deneb of Cygnus and Altair of Aquila.

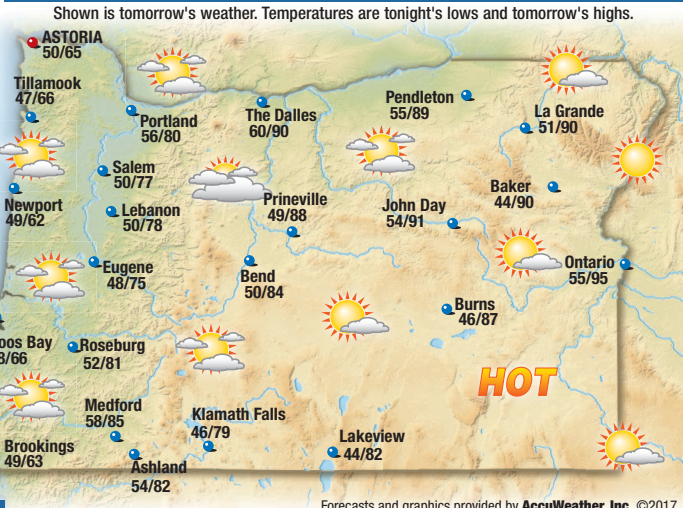
TOMORROW'S TIDES

Time	High	Time	Low
12:21 a.m.	8.8 ft.	7:14 a.m.	-0.3 ft.
1:28 p.m.	7.1 ft.	6:57 p.m.	2.3 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	78	66	sh	79	63	pc
Boston	51	48	r	63	54	c
Chicago	74	54	s	75	52	c
Denver	75	53	t	78	54	t
Des Moines	84	57	s	83	60	s
Detroit	70	53	pc	71	53	c
El Paso	90	71	t	95	72	c
Fairbanks	75	54	pc	77	58	pc
Honolulu	87	74	pc	86	74	pc
Indianapolis	77	54	s	70	52	c
Kansas City	82	56	s	80	57	s
Las Vegas	105	78	s	104	77	pc
Los Angeles	76	60	pc	75	59	pc
Memphis	86	64	pc	82	59	s
Miami	89	77	t	84	77	t
Nashville	83	59	pc	79	57	pc
New Orleans	81	72	t	86	69	pc
New York	59	53	sh	64	54	sh
Oklaoma City	90	61	s	82	57	s
Philadelphia	66	55	c	65	54	sh
St. Louis	83	59	s	82	59	s
Salt Lake City	94	67	s	97	69	s
San Francisco	66	53	pc	69	57	pc
Seattle	83	55	pc	77	57	pc
Washington, DC	79	60	pc	69	57	sh

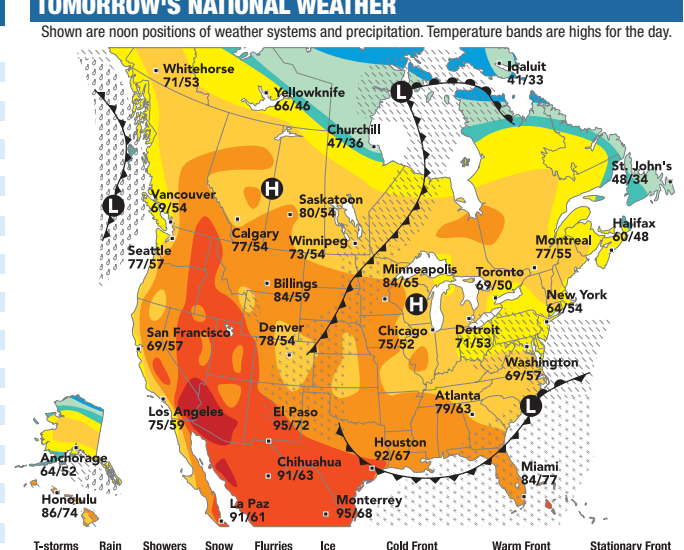
REGIONAL WEATHER



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Wed.	Lo	W
Baker City	82	44	s	90	51	s	
Bend	83	50	s	84	56	pc	
Brookings	61	50	s	61	53	r	
Eugene	78	48	s	75	56	pc	
Ilwaco	62	51	pc	61	54	pc	
Klamath Falls	84	46	s	79	51	pc	
Medford	90	58	s	85	59	pc	
Newberg	82	51	pc	77	56	pc	
Newport	59	49	s	62	54	pc	
North Bend	63	50	s	66	56	r	
Olympia	83	50	pc	77	54	pc	
Pendleton	84	55	pc	89	60	s	
Portland	85	56	pc	80	59	pc	
Roseburg	82	52	s	81	59	pc	
Salem	81	50	s	77	56	pc	
Seaside	64	50	pc	64	55	pc	
Spokane	81	58	pc	90	63	pc	
Springfield	80	49	s	77	57	pc	
Vancouver	85	53	pc	78	59	pc	
Yakima	88	57	pc	92	63	pc	

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



ON THE RECORD

DUII

At 12:20 a.m. Saturday, Jeffrey Dale Wells, 54, of Newberg, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department for driving under the influence of intoxicants. He was examined by a drug recognition expert.

At 9:04 p.m. Saturday, Eric Thor Nyman, 53, of Astoria, was arrested by the Astoria Police Department on Third Street near Lexington Avenue for DUII and recklessly endangering another person. His blood alcohol content was

0.17 percent and an 11-year-old child was also traveling in the car.

At 5:54 p.m. Saturday, Jeffrey Bray, 63, of Seattle, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department on Second Avenue near North Prom for DUII. The person reporting the incident allegedly saw him drinking beer and blocking a fire hydrant before driving away. He was later examined by a drug recognition expert and allegedly had beer and marijuana in the car.

At 1:20 a.m. Sunday, Whitney Justine Westerholm, 19, of Gearhart, was arrested by the Warrenton Police Department on Northwest Warrenton Drive near Northwest 17th Place for DUII. Her blood alcohol content was 0.17 percent.

At 5:32 p.m. Saturday, Deganawidah Goemen, 39, of Portland, was arrested by the Astoria Police Department on 16th Street near Duane Street for fourth-degree assault. He allegedly struck a man in the face.

DEATHS

June 5, 2017
WEBB, Joanne R., 85, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 3, 2017
LOGAN, Althea Merle, 103, of Astoria, died in Astoria.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.
SECRETIST, Barbara Ann, 74, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
Monday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 7-7-3-0
4 p.m.: 5-5-8-7
7 p.m.: 1-0-3-3
10 p.m.: 7-8-8-7
Monday's Megabucks: 13-18-23-27-28-46
 Estimated jackpot: \$6.9 million

WASHINGTON

Monday's Daily Game: 0-6-6
Monday's Hit 5: 09-13-17-21-35
 Estimated jackpot: \$170,000
Monday's Keno: 01-04-07-20-24-27-29-33-36-42-44-49-51-54-61-63-64-65-66-79
Monday's Lotto: 03-14-22-27-45-49
 Estimated jackpot: \$7.8 million
Monday's Match 4: 04-11-19-23

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY
Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.
Port of Astoria Commission, 5 p.m., Port offices, 10 Pier 1 Suite 209.
Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Cannon Beach City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.
WEDNESDAY
Port of Astoria Budget Committee, noon, Port offices, 10 Pier 1 Suite 209.
Seaside Improvement Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

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