

Oregon reports boom in camping, longer camping season

Associated Press

Oregon set a record for the number of campers at state parks last year, and the number of day-use visitors was the second-highest ever, according to a report by the state's Parks and Recreation Department.

The report said 2.9 million people camped at a state park in 2018 and 54 million people in total visited a park, the second-highest number ever after a blockbuster summer season in 2016 that attracted 54.5 million visitors, The Oregonian reported.

Coastal parks saw the biggest gain in campers. Fort Stevens, South Beach and Bullards Beach — all along the Pacific Ocean — together accounted for more than half of the growth in overnight visits. They collectively attracted 59,300



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Fort Stevens State Park is one of three state parks that collectively accounted for more than half of the increase in overnight camping stays at Oregon's parks.

campers last year, the newspaper said.

The camping season is also spreading beyond the traditional busy sum-

mer months. Crowds have begun to come to camp in the spring and well into the fall, filling yurts and cabins on rainy days, and tak-

ing advantage of months with unseasonably warm weather.

"The camping season is stretching itself," state parks

spokesman Chris Havel said. "The peak time is getting longer and longer."

Smaller state park campgrounds also saw big growth, from Viento in the Columbia River Gorge to Lake Owyhee in Eastern Oregon. Tiny Jackson F. Kimball State Recreation Site in southern Oregon saw the highest percent increase, with an additional 557 campers that added up to a 64 percent increase.

Those increases at smaller campgrounds are exactly what the parks department is looking for. Last year, the department launched an initiative to decrease camping fees at less-popular state parks, hoping to spread out the growing crowds.

Havel said it seems to have worked, so in 2019 the department will implement a one-month trial of increased

camping fees at a few of the more popular parks, which could offset the discounts if made permanent.

As more people move to Oregon, the agency is working hard to accommodate increased demand.

The department's budget is funded by fees it collects, as well as slices of state lottery earnings and RV registrations.

Ninety percent of state park sites are free of charge — but Havel told the newspaper that park officials aren't considering adding fees in those locations. Part of the ethos of Oregon state parks is ensuring that these natural public spaces are accessible for everybody.

"We like seeing a nice, broad equitable system like that, but how do you fund it?" Havel said. "I don't know. We haven't answered that question yet."

Pacific Power hosts smart meter open houses to answer questions

The Daily Astorian

Pacific Power is hosting two free customer workshops to share information about the new smart power meters it is rolling out across Clatsop County.

Installations are taking place now through May and are part of a statewide rollout of 590,000 new units that started last year.

"Pacific Power has a 100-year history of serving local communities by powering our customers' lives both at home and at work," Alisa Dunlap, Pacific Power's regional business manager for Clatsop County, said in a news release. "We are upholding that commitment by upgrading our metering technology to smart meters, and by supporting our communities through this technology upgrade."

"This upgrade will provide customers with greater insights into their energy usage while help-



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Tyler Olson, an installer with smart meter manufacturer Aclara, installs a unit on a house in Astoria for Pacific Power.

ing us deliver faster more responsive service, and we will provide additional information about these benefits at our upcoming community events."

The workshops will begin with a presentation by Pacific Power, followed by an opportunity for customers to talk one-on-one with staff and see demonstrations. Information on energy efficiency and

renewable energy options will also be available.

The workshops are from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on March 5 at Seaside Brewing Co., 851 Broadway St., and March 6 in the Lovell Showroom at Fort George Brewery, 1483 Duane St. in Astoria.

For more information, call 866-869-8520 or visit www.pacificpower.net/smartmeter

Regional group seeks input on health care

The Daily Astorian

The Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization will hold workshops Monday and Wednesday detailing the results of a recent community health assessment and seeking input to guide future health care investments.

The organization, which coordinates health care under the Oregon Health Plan in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties, spent September and November surveying and collecting stories from more than 1,250 members about their experiences.

Respondents relayed their struggle to access and afford medical, dental and mental

health care, along with products and services affecting their health, such as healthy food and day care.

The results of the stories will be included in Columbia Pacific's Community Health Improvement Plan for community health investments from 2020 through 2025.

More than half of the nearly 8,100 Oregon Health Plan members in Columbia Pacific's coverage area rated their health as good or better. But the 13 percent at risk of health issues comprised more than 50 percent of the costs.

Researchers also found a higher rate of health issues such as heart disease, stroke, unintentional injuries and

suicide in rural areas compared to cities.

"It's a rural conversation, and I hope we look at it that way in health improvement plans," Ari Wagner, the director of organizational development for Greater Oregon Behavioral Healthcare Inc., said during a recent presentation of the data in Seaside.

Columbia Pacific will hold identical presentations from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday in the Coho Room of Columbia Memorial Hospital's Duncan Law Building at 2021 Marine Drive in Astoria, and from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Education Center Room at Providence Seaside Hospital at 725 S. Wahanna Road.

Myrtle Ann Coffey

Astoria

March 11, 1937 — Feb. 15, 2019

Myrtle Ann Coffey was born to Alfred and Mildred (Olson) Johnson on March 11, 1937.

Myrtle Ann was a lifelong resident of Astoria. She graduated from Astoria High School in 1955.

On Nov. 18, 1957, she married the love of her life, David Coffey, in Vancouver, Washington. Together they celebrated 61 years of marriage.

Myrtle Ann enjoyed golf and trailering with her husband. She also loved her cats.

She was a life member of the Women

of the Moose Chapter No. 422 in Astoria, and a past senior regent, and star recorder.

She is survived by her husband, David Coffey; Bill and Dolly Coffey; and many nieces and nephews.

Myrtle Ann passed away Feb. 15, 2019, peacefully, in Astoria, Oregon. There will be no service, at her request. Her family would like to thank local hospitals for their wonderful care.

Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.



Myrtle Coffey

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.

Temperatures

High/low	48°/27°
Normal high/low	52°/37°
Record high	68° in 1973
Record low	24° in 1894

Precipitation

Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	6.69"
Normal month to date	5.43"
Year to date	11.62"
Normal year to date	15.63"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight	5:51 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday	7:06 a.m.
Moonrise today	10:02 p.m.
Moonset today	9:07 a.m.

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: The bright star Arcturus of Bootes, the Herdsman, emerging above the east-northeast after 8:30 p.m.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

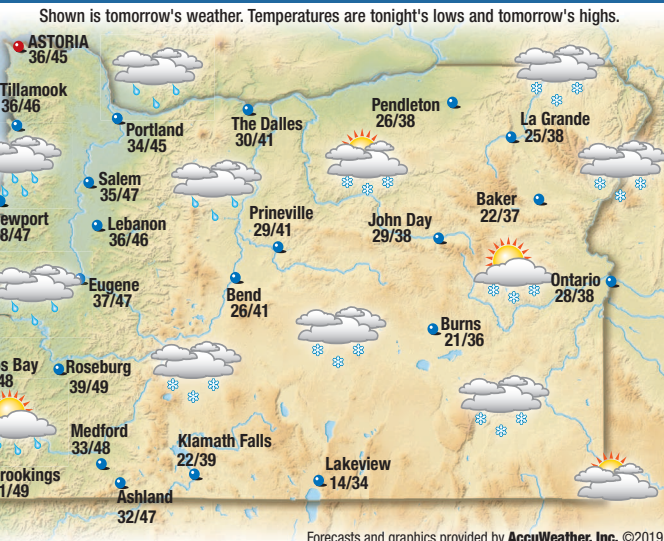
TOMORROW'S TIDES

Time	High	Time	Low
4:00 a.m.	9.4 ft.	10:19 a.m.	0.7 ft.
4:18 p.m.	8.3 ft.	10:24 p.m.	0.7 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	68 50 r	61 56 c
Boston	43 28 pc	43 33 pc
Chicago	38 29 s	42 34 r
Denver	35 17 sn	37 16 c
Des Moines	32 28 pc	37 20 sh
Detroit	38 26 pc	43 39 r
El Paso	64 36 pc	56 29 s
Fairbanks	8 -6 c	16 4 pc
Honolulu	81 64 s	81 63 pc
Indianapolis	46 34 c	54 39 r
Kansas City	38 33 pc	43 23 r
Las Vegas	50 33 s	51 35 s
Los Angeles	60 41 s	61 44 s
Memphis	53 51 r	72 40 t
Miami	85 75 pc	84 73 sh
Nashville	50 49 r	68 48 t
New Orleans	80 68 t	79 58 t
New York	46 33 pc	44 39 c
Oklahoma City	47 43 sh	55 28 pc
Philadelphia	45 33 pc	45 40 r
St. Louis	47 39 c	59 33 t
Salt Lake City	32 18 c	38 27 pc
Salt Lake City	57 41 s	56 45 pc
Seattle	44 36 r	44 35 r
Washington, DC	49 37 c	44 42 r

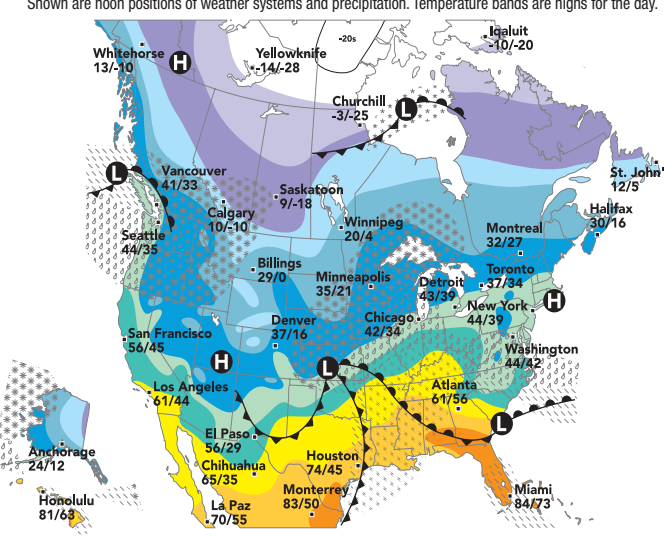
REGIONAL WEATHER



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sat.
Baker City	33 22 pc	37 28 sn
Bend	41 26 c	41 32 sf
Brookings	50 41 c	49 44 r
Eugene	47 37 r	47 38 r
Ilwaco	46 39 r	45 36 r
Klamath Falls	35 22 pc	39 29 sn
Medford	47 33 c	48 39 r
Newberg	44 32 r	45 35 r
Newport	47 38 r	47 37 r
North Bend	50 41 r	49 43 r
Olympia	43 31 r	43 31 r
Pendleton	39 26 c	38 27 c
Portland	43 34 r	45 35 r
Roseburg	48 39 c	49 42 r
Salem	45 35 r	47 37 r
Seaside	46 38 r	46 35 r
Spokane	28 17 sn	30 18 c
Springfield	47 38 c	46 40 r
Vancouver	43 33 r	45 36 r
Yakima	35 20 c	33 25 sf

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



CORRECTION

Last name misspelled — Erin Carlsen works with Filling Empty Bellies, a group that helps the homeless. Her last name was misspelled as Clausen in a A1 story on Thursday.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- MONDAY**
- Astoria City Council**, 8 a.m., work session on goal setting, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
 - Knappa School Board**, 5:15 p.m., Knappa High School library, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.
 - Jewell School Board**, 6 p.m., Jewell School library, 83874 Oregon Highway 103.
 - Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway

LOTTERIES

- OREGON**
- Thursday's Pick 4:** 1 p.m.: 3-8-5-1; 4 p.m.: 6-6-6-0; 7 p.m.: 9-3-8-4; 10 p.m.: 4-7-8-6
 - Thursday's Lucky Lines:** 01-08-09-16-FREE-20-23-27-30; Estimated jackpot: \$54,000
 - Thursday's Keno:** 01-05-13-17-19-24-28-29-31-32-37-45-48-49-56-57-59-61-70-73
 - Washington**
 - Thursday's Daily Game:** 9-8-4
 - Thursday's Match 4:** 04-13-21-24

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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