



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

## Lifting holiday spirit

Skiers and snowboarders ride a lift up a mountain on Tuesday at Snoqualmie Pass, Wash. A weather pattern that could be associated with El Niño has turned winter upside-down across the U.S. during a week of heavy holiday travel, bringing spring-like warmth to the Northeast, a risk of tornadoes in the South and so much snow in parts of the West that there are concerns about avalanches.

## Oregon farmers say paid leave law is unclear

SALEM (AP) — Many farmers in Oregon still have questions about new rules that will require them to provide employees with paid sick leave starting Jan. 1.

Lawmakers passed a bill earlier this year requiring employers with 10 or more workers to offer the paid sick leave, reported The Capital Press. But farmers aren't sure how that will work with piece-rate workers, like fruit pickers, who are compensated based on the amount they harvest, according to the Oregon Farm Bureau.

The state's Bureau of Labor and Industries said piece-rate workers should be compensated at "the regular rate of pay" or, if no such rate was set, at minimum wage. The problem is that the regulations don't explain how to calculate the "regular rate of pay," according to OFB public policy director Jenny Dresler.

"We needed a clarification and we didn't get it," Dresler said. "We just don't know."

Would the number be based on the weekly average of the employee's piece-rate earnings? Or the rate earned by other workers who are harvesting crops while the

employee is sick?

The labor bureau says it won't penalize employers while they are still learning the new rules, but Dresler pointed out that that doesn't stop individual workers from suing the employers.

Labor bureau spokesman Charlie Burr said the agency will offer a series of low-cost seminars about paid sick leave.

Tim Bernasek, an attorney specializing in agricultural and labor issues, says he doesn't "have a very good answer about how to practically implement this rule." But Bernasek said he expects the labor bureau to help farmers figure it out.

He said legal aid organizations with attorneys devoted to farmworker protection will probably also be able to help.

"I would encourage ag employers to roll up their sleeves and make their best effort to make this work," said Bernasek.

There is also some confusion about the labor bureau's decision to consider farmers and labor contractors "joint employers" under the law.

Burr said the joint liability provisions are guided by federal labor law.

## Study: Devastating Oso landslide wasn't an outlier

SEATTLE (AP) — Last year's devastating landslide in Oso was no outlier, according to a new study from the University of Washington.

The landslide wiped out a neighborhood north of Seattle and left 43 people dead when it roared down a hillside above the north fork of the Stillaguamish River. It was the deadliest landslide in U.S. history.

In a novel method, university geologists used radiocarbon dating of trees and branches buried in earlier slides as well as a review of erosion characteristics to map the history of landslides in the area. They found that slopes in the area have collapsed every 500 years on average, and with even greater frequency in the past millennium: every 140 years or so.

The authors say the study disproves the notion that the previous slides in the area all occurred thousands of years ago after the ice sheets retreated.

"This was well known as an area of hillslope instability, but the question was: 'Were the larger slides thousands of years old, or hundreds of years old?'" co-author Alison Duvall, an assistant professor of earth and space sciences, said in a news release. "Now we can say that many of them are hundreds of years old."

Wading along the river's

banks, the team unearthed samples of wood buried in the Rowan landslide, just downstream of the Oso site, and the Headache Creek landslide, just upriver from Oso. The Rowan slide, which was about five times the size of the Oso slide, occurred 300 to 694 years ago, the researchers determined. The Headache Creek landslide was about 6,000 years ago.

The study's results, published Tuesday in the journal *Geology*, could have implications for future land-use decisions in the region, including for logging, which can increase slope instability.

Duvall and another co-author, doctoral student Sean LaHusen, are reviewing the dangers of magnitude-9 earthquakes along the Cascadia subduction zone. They hope to learn whether landslides across Washington state coincided with past quakes, and use simulations of future shaking to determine what parts of the state may be most vulnerable to quake-triggered slides.

Other co-authors of the study included the University of Washington's David Montgomery and Portland State University's Adam Booth. The National Science Foundation, the Geological Society of America, and the University of Washington's Quaternary Research Center provided funding for the study.

## BRIEFLY

### 3 people dead in 3 crashes

PORTLAND (AP) — Just two days before Christmas, three people have died in three separate vehicle crashes in the state.

Oregon State Police says a Warrenton man was killed Wednesday on Highway 30 near Clatskanie when a car crossed the center line and struck a semi-trailer. The car's 55-year-old passenger Zai G. Yang died at the scene.

In Benton County, a man driving a minivan crossed the center line and collided with an SUV. The SUV driver, 54-year-old Arthur Earl Fuller, Jr. of Eugene, died in the crash. The minivan driver was critically injured.

And in Deschutes County, 74-year-old Karen I. Langeliers of Bend died after a head-on collision on Highway 20 just east of Sisters. Authorities say she lost control of her car on the icy road, veered into the eastbound lane and was struck by another car.

### Klamath County creating non-lethal wolf deterrent boxes

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — An Oregon county is looking for non-lethal ways to deter wolves after experiencing its first livestock kills in October.

The *Herald and News* reports that Klamath County will put together toolboxes of deterrents for landowners with a \$6,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The county will also contribute \$600 to the project.

The county will work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to create the boxes.

Officials believe a wolf called OR-25 killed on calf and injured two more in the Fort Klamath area in late October and early November.

Klamath County commission chairman Tom Mallams says the \$6,000 won't be used to compensate the livestock owners. That money will come from the wolf depredation compensation fund.

### Portland worker cut from job gets \$12,000 gift from stranger

PORTLAND (AP) — A \$12,000 gift from an anonymous donor has made the holidays easier for a Portland family whose father lost a job after a news article described his challenges as a low-wage worker.

The *Oregonian* reports it confirmed the donation; it was made via an online fund set up for Keith Fons, his fiancée and three children.

Fons' struggles were featured on the newspaper's front page in November. The 35-year-old father worked up to 80 hours a week at two Subway shops. His fiancée, who has multiple sclerosis, doesn't work.

But as a result of the article, Fons was fired from one of his jobs. That meant losing \$1,400 to \$2,000 a month in income.

Hundreds of people have since sent money and gifts to help the family.

## Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

# EAST OREGONIAN

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## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Times of clouds and sun	Partly sunny and chilly	Chilly with clouds and sun	Cloudy and chilly	Mostly cloudy and cold

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
40°	24°	34°	18°	32°
24°	34°	18°	32°	19°
31°	24°	35°	19°	

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
43°	25°	37°	21°	33°
25°	37°	21°	33°	23°
32°	24°	36°	23°	

## ALMANAC

### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 40°	34°
Normals 39°	25°
Records 64° (1950)	-19° (1983)

### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.23"
Month to date	2.26"
Normal month to date	1.16"
Year to date	10.07"
Last year to date	12.33"
Normal year to date	12.63"

### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 44°	35°
Normals 38°	27°
Records 62° (1936)	-17° (1983)

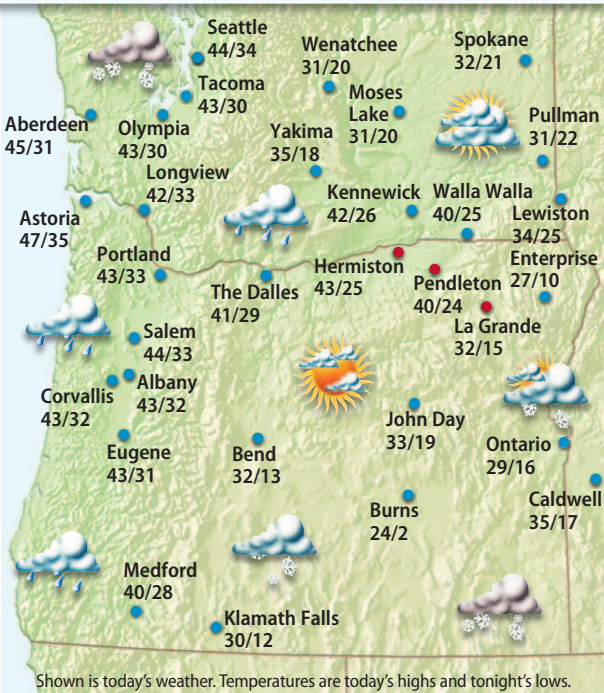
### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.26"
Month to date	1.77"
Normal month to date	1.11"
Year to date	7.16"
Last year to date	7.00"
Normal year to date	9.58"

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:34 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:15 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:10 p.m.
Moonset today	6:25 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Dec 25	Jan 1	Jan 9	Jan 16



## REGIONAL FORECAST

**Coastal Oregon:** Cloudy today with a couple of showers; chilly in the south. A shower tonight.

**Eastern and Central Oregon:** Cloudy today. A bit of snow, 1-3 inches south and up to an inch upper Treasure Valley.

**Western Washington:** A rain shower around today, perhaps a snow shower in some places early.

**Eastern Washington:** Cloudy today; a couple of snow showers in the north and also in the mountains.

**Cascades:** Chilly with a bit of snow with little or no accumulation today. Snow showers tonight.

**Northern California:** A little rain today; snow, some heavy, 3-6 inches in the interior mountains.

## REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	47	35	sh	47	32	pc
Baker City	26	8	sf	27	6	pc
Bend	32	13	c	31	5	pc
Brookings	44	36	sh	46	32	pc
Burns	24	2	pc	23	1	pc
Enterprise	27	10	sf	27	5	pc
Eugene	43	31	sh	43	24	pc
Heppner	36	20	pc	33	15	sn
Hermiston	43	25	pc	37	21	pc
John Day	33	19	pc	30	17	pc
Klamath Falls	30	12	sn	29	5	pc
La Grande	32	15	sf	32	13	pc
Meacham	32	15	c	29	9	pc
Medford	40	28	sn	40	20	pc
Newport	45	36	sh	46	33	pc
North Bend	48	37	sh	49	33	pc
Ontario	29	16	sn	27	11	pc
Pasco	40	25	pc	34	20	pc
Pendleton	40	24	pc	34	18	pc
Portland	43	33	c	43	28	pc
Redmond	34	15	pc	34	9	pc
Salem	44	33	sh	45	26	pc
Spokane	32	21	c	28	15	pc
Ukiah	32	15	pc	28	8	sf
Vancouver	42	33	sn	41	28	pc
Walla Walla	40	25	pc	34	17	pc
Yakima	35	18	c	33	12	pc

## WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	41	16	s	41	23	s
Hong Kong	74	60	c	64	60	c
Jerusalem	54	37	s	55	39	s
London	53	41	r	56	52	sh
Mexico City	74	42	pc	73	46	pc
Moscow	42	31	c	36	33	c
Paris	55	46	c	55	46	c
Rome	58	40	s	59	38	pc
Seoul	41	22	pc	36	29	s
Sydney	75	65	sh	77	65	sh
Tokyo	60	49	c	58	42	c

## WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
<b>Boardman</b>	SW 6-12	W 3-6
<b>Pendleton</b>	SW 6-12	WSW 4-8

## UV INDEX TODAY

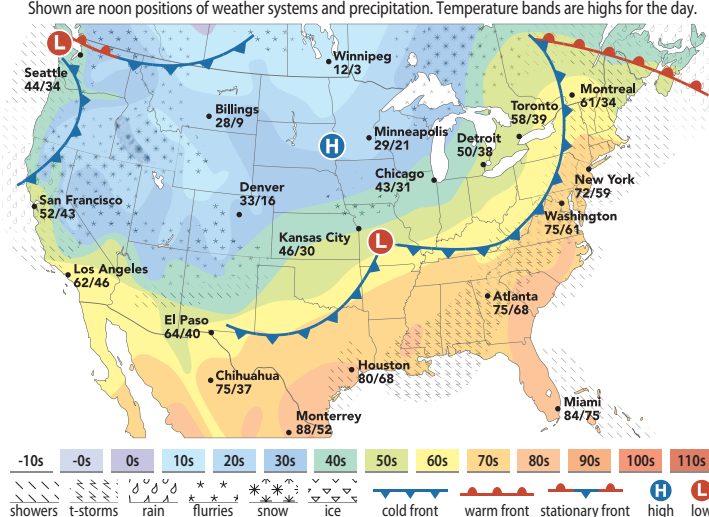


8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.  
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme  
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



**National Summary:** Showers and storms will accompany record warmth from the Deep South to New England today. Heavy snow will fall from the Sierra Nevada to part of the Great Basin. Drenching rain is in store for the Pacific coast.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
**High 91°** in McAllen, Texas **Low -12°** in West Yellowstone, Mont.

## NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.			Today			Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	47	32	sn	50	24	c	Louisville	65	53	pc	63	60	r
Atlanta	75	68	c	76	65	pc	Memphis	75	57	pc	72	66	t
Baltimore	69	59	pc	65	53	r	Miami	84	75	pc	83	75	pc
Birmingham	76	57	t	70	55	sh	Millwaukee	41	30	pc	42	36	pc
Boise	28	9	pc	15	0	sn	Minneapolis	29	21	c	35	29	c
Boston	78	68	c	77	67	c	Nashville	75	57	pc	70	65	t
Bozeman	33												