

AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Rain at times	Clouds and sun with a shower	Some sun, then turning cloudy	Mostly cloudy with snow showers	Cloudy; ice at night
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
46°	35°	45°	31°	41°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
47°	34°	48°	30°	46°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	55°	45°
Normals	43°	28°
Records	67° (1931)	-14° (1957)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.

Month to date	0.31"
Normal month to date	1.28"
Year to date	1.44"
Last year to date	0.72"
Normal year to date	1.28"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	55°	31°
Normals	44°	29°
Records	61° (1984)	-21° (1957)

PRECIPITATION

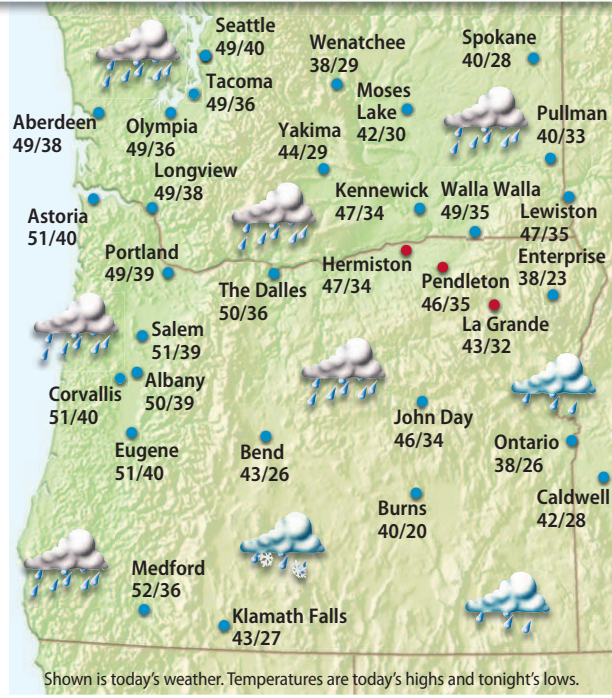
24 hours ending 3 p.m.

Month to date	0.12"
Normal month to date	0.99"
Year to date	1.16"
Last year to date	0.99"
Normal year to date	1.16"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:21 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:56 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:59 p.m.
Moonset today	9:58 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Jan 31	Feb 8	Feb 14	Feb 22



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Rain, heavy at times today. Showers tonight. Showers tomorrow. Sunday: a shower.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mainly cloudy, rain this morning, then a shower or two, mild in central parts.

Western Washington: Periods of rain today and tonight. A brief shower or two tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Rain today; snow, accumulating 1-3 inches in the north and mountains.

Cascades: Snow, rain mix early in the south today; periods of snow, 2-4 inches across the north. Rain, changing to snow, 1-2 inches in central parts.

Northern California: Rain, heavy at times today, but a little rain in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	51	40	r	48	36	sh
Baker City	38	22	sn	36	17	pc
Bend	43	26	r	38	20	sf
Brookings	52	41	r	48	35	sh
Burns	40	20	r	33	8	c
Enterprise	38	23	sn	34	18	pc
Eugene	51	40	r	47	35	sh
Heppner	44	31	r	42	26	pc
Hermiston	47	34	r	48	30	pc
John Day	46	34	r	41	27	c
Klamath Falls	43	27	sn	35	20	c
La Grande	43	32	r	40	27	sf
Meacham	40	28	r	36	23	sf
Medford	52	36	r	47	30	sh
Newport	51	40	r	47	38	sh
North Bend	53	42	r	49	38	sh
Ontario	38	26	r	40	19	pc
Pasco	51	35	r	50	30	pc
Pendleton	46	35	r	45	31	pc
Portland	49	39	r	47	37	sh
Redmond	48	29	r	41	22	sn
Salem	51	39	r	47	36	sh
Spokane	40	28	r	38	27	pc
Ukiah	41	29	r	37	27	sf
Vancouver	48	37	r	44	34	pc
Walla Walla	49	35	r	46	31	pc
Yakima	44	29	r	45	26	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	30	11	s	28	8	pc
Hong Kong	67	56	r	65	58	pc
Jerusalem	48	33	pc	52	35	pc
London	55	43	sh	48	39	sh
Mexico City	67	44	pc	69	45	pc
Moscow	35	30	sn	37	33	sn
Paris	51	47	c	51	45	r
Rome	59	45	pc	58	48	c
Seoul	42	27	pc	41	21	c
Sydney	85	69	t	84	69	t
Tokyo	48	38	r	44	37	r

WINDS

	Today	Saturday
(in mph)	WNW 7-14	WSW 7-14
Boardman	WNW 7-14	WSW 7-14
Pendleton	S 8-16	WSW 7-14

UV INDEX TODAY

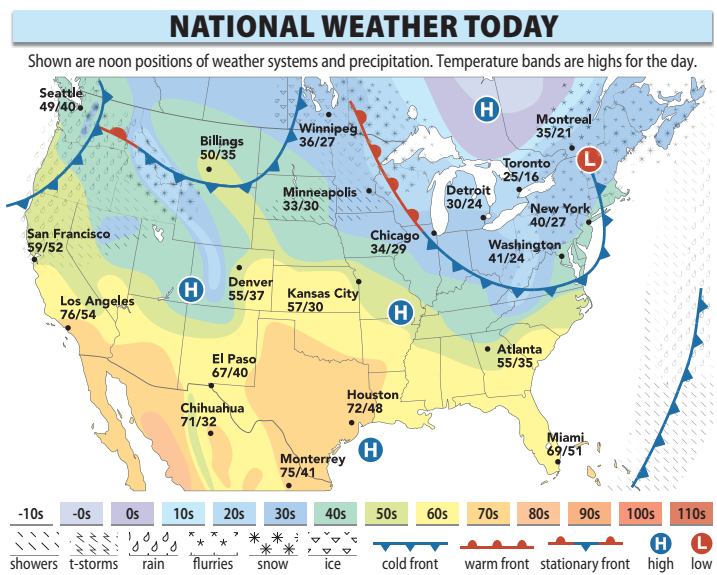
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

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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Legend for weather symbols: showers, t-storms, rain, flurries, snow, ice, cold front, warm front, stationary front, high, low.

Temperature bands: -10s, -0s, 0s, 10s, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 100s, 110s.

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NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	58	34	s	62	39	s
Atlanta	55	35	s	63	44	s
Atlantic City	41	26	c	42	34	pc
Baltimore	39	17	pc	40	28	pc
Billings	50	35	c	44	27	pc
Birmingham	55	37	s	65	48	s
Boise	45	29	r	42	24	c
Boston	41	30	sn	42	33	c
Charleston, SC	61	36	s	64	41	s
Charleston, WV	34	22	sf	53	37	pc
Chicago	34	29	pc	46	36	pc
Cleveland	27	22	sf	42	34	c
Dallas	75	48	s	74	56	s
Denver	55	37	pc	57	29	pc
Detroit	30	24	pc	43	33	c
El Paso	67	40	s	73	46	s
Fairbanks	16	2	pc	10	-3	pc
Fargo	38	27	i	38	24	c
Honolulu	81	69	s	81	69	s
Houston	72	48	s	73	59	s
Indianapolis	36	29	pc	49	38	pc
Jacksonville	64	37	s	67	41	pc
Kansas City	57	30	pc	56	36	pc
Las Vegas	67	47	pc	71	52	c
Little Rock	63	44	s	70	54	s
Los Angeles	76	54	pc	68	55	pc
Louisville	42	31	pc	42	31	pc
Memphis	57	44	s	67	55	s
Miami	69	51	pc	71	63	pc
Milwaukee	30	28	c	41	34	pc
Minneapolis	33	30	i	38	29	c
Nashville	45	34	pc	63	47	s
New Orleans	66	47	s	71	57	pc
New York City	40	27	sf	39	34	pc
Oklahoma City	69	37	s	68	48	pc
Omaha	46	29	pc	49	32	pc
Philadelphia	41	23	sf	40	30	pc
Phoenix	75	48	s	77	50	s
Portland, ME	37	25	sf	38	29	sf
Providence	42	29	sn	42	31	c
Raleigh	51	28	s	54	37	s
Rapid City	47	25	pc	43	25	sn
Reno	59	40	sh	48	27	r
Sacramento	62	50	r	58	40	c
St. Louis	47	39	pc	56	47	pc
Salt Lake City	46	38	c	38	25	sn
San Diego	70	55	pc	65	58	pc
San Francisco	59	52	r	56	46	c
Seattle	49	40	r	48	38	sh
Teacoon	76	42	s	78	47	c
Washington, DC	41	24	pc	43	33	pc
Wichita	68	32	s	64	39	pc

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Oregon heads for ballot brawl over tax increase

By NICK BUDNICK
 Capital Bureau

SALEM — When a proposed statewide \$15-an-hour minimum wage measure gave businesses heartburn, Gov. Kate Brown intervened to float a compromise plan earlier this month.

In contrast, Brown has stayed squarely on the sidelines when it comes to an initiative aimed for the November ballot that is arousing just as much opposition: A \$2.6 billion annual tax increase on many large corporations.

Aside from some Democratic senators, nobody is proposing an alternative — including the business community that would be affected.

That might seem surprising in light of Oregon's long history of compromise and alternative measures to defuse impending ballot warfare.

So why is Oregon headed for a serious political rumble?

Some say there's scant incentive for supporters to consider common ground, thanks in part to an expected federal court ruling that could drastically reduce the clout of public employee unions in future election cycles. The sponsors of the measure say they're done compromising on tax measures as they did under former Gov. John Kitzhaber.

"I think the coalition that's behind the measure is saying we don't want to just have peace, we want to make people's lives better," says Ben Unger, the former lawmaker who leads the group spearheading the initiative, Our Oregon. "I would rather help people than avoid disagreeing."

Huge budget boost

Initiative Petition 28 focuses new taxes on a swath of corporations with \$25 million or more in Oregon sales. The tax is not on profits, but on gross receipts. It would generate \$5.2 billion in Oregon's next two-year budget period. That money, which is supposed to boost education and health spending, will increase the state's \$18 billion general fund by nearly a third.

The money raised would be seven times the amount raised by the corporate tax measures that spawned a bruising labor-business fight in 2010. Observers are predicting the opposition campaign alone will spend \$15 million to \$20 million — a staggering, record-shattering sum.

Supporters already are airing out their arguments that Oregon schools and other services desperately need funding, and that out-of-state companies will bear the brunt of the hike. Opponents, however, say the increase will result in higher prices for consumers and local companies, too.

Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, has called for a compromise, predicting the initiative will spark a political bloodbath with lasting negative effects on the state. And Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, has sought to build momentum behind the idea of an alternative measure.

However, so far there's little evidence that other political players have been persuaded.

And past compromise revenue efforts have not panned out.

Kitzhaber effort failed

The initiative has its roots in a Kitzhaber-led push to tackle the belief, widespread in Salem, that the money flowing into state government has not kept up with demands for government services. After his return to office in 2011, he sought to forge a compromise between business and labor, involving talks, polling and focus groups in Eugene and Bend. Those efforts were put on hold when all sides concluded the hoped-for sales tax measure wasn't the answer.

"We really worked hard to find something that everyone could agree to," recalls former Kitzhaber chief of staff Curtis Robinhold. "In the end we didn't find new revenue options that everyone could agree to or that we thought would pass muster with the voters."

Kitzhaber always planned to seek out other alternatives in his final term, participants and former aides agree. That never happened, thanks to escalating controversy over the appearance that his fiancée, Sylvia Hayes, profited personally from her role in his office.

In January 2015, as Kitzhaber struggled to cope with the situation, the union-backed Our Oregon group filed its petition for the tax increase. The measure likely wouldn't have had the governor's support because of his belief in avoiding large-scale ballot warfare, participants in the talks say.

Weeks later, that became less of an issue for the public employee unions backing the measure, when Kitzhaber resigned.

New urgency

Meanwhile, a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that is expected this summer could hamper those unions' ability to raise political funds in the future, potentially adding to the urgency behind the measure, several Democrats say privately.

Heather Conroy, executive director of Service Employees International Union Local 503, says the urgency is primarily because years of talks have gone nowhere. "We really just cannot wait any longer to put forward a solution. ... We need to see change."

Brown, who's running for re-election and is expected to receive strong union support, has not taken a position on whether the initiative makes sense.

"It's a complicated issue, and she's consulting with stakeholders, and she has not reached a conclusion about it herself," says spokeswoman Kristen Grainger. "There's definitely still time to consider the measure and what's going to happen."

House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, who generally leans in support of the measure, says she hadn't heard of alternatives from the business community, and added that a much smaller measure probably would not be enough to make Initiative Petition 28 go away.

"We have a revenue problem in this state," Kotek says. While the measure is not perfect, she says, "it would solve our revenue problem."

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.

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