

Snow, freezing rain hit Oregon

Portland schools, other offices closed in anticipation

By STEVEN DUBOIS and GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A wintry mix of snow, ice and rain showered fear and excitement Thursday in Portland — a city that typically lives under a cloud of mist and drizzle — and other parts of Oregon.

Heavy, swirling snow fell downtown, making for slick driving.

Strong winds toppled trees, and Portland General Electric reported about 7,000 customers in neighboring Clackamas County lost power before it was mostly restored.

Forecasters expected a couple inches of snow to stick before freezing rain arrives, heightening concerns about a treacherous evening commute in the region that does not use salt on slippery roads.

Portland transit service TriMet said on Twitter Thursday evening that one of the light rail lines had been disrupted because of ice on overhead power wires. At least one line of bus service



The Columbia River Gorge's Horseshoe Falls is surrounded by snow and ice the morning of Thursday in Portland.

had been canceled, and other bus lines were traveling, many with chains, on snow routes.

Freezing rain was also hitting Vancouver, Washington, and over three inches of snow had fallen in Olympia by Thursday evening.

Many school districts canceled classes before the first flurries fell.

City government also closed, as did federal court, the zoo and state offices in

several counties.

Higher snowfall totals were expected in the Coast Range and Columbia River Gorge.

National Weather Service meteorologist Matthew Cullen said as much as 10 inches of snow could fall in the Gorge, particularly from Cascade Locks east toward Hood River.

Wintry weather also swept through Central Oregon, causing blizzard-like conditions in Ochoco National

Forest. Few drivers traveled on Highway 26 over the pass between Prineville and Mitchell.

In Bend, snow fell steadily and ducks swam among ice floes in the Deschutes River.

Visibility was near zero on US 97 between Redmond and Bend, with at least one crash occurring Thursday along that icy stretch.

The National Weather Service forecast new snow accumulation of up to 8 inches in Central Oregon.

BRIEFLY

Washington state suing Monsanto over pollution

SEATTLE (AP) — Washington says it's the first U.S. state to sue the agrochemical giant Monsanto over pollution from PCBs.

Gov. Jay Inslee and Attorney General Bob Ferguson announced the lawsuit at a news conference Thursday afternoon. The chemicals, polychlorinated biphenyls, were used in many industrial and commercial applications, including in paint, coolants, sealants and hydraulic fluids. PCB contamination impairs rivers, lakes and bays around the country.

The lawsuit, which seeks potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in cleanup costs, was filed in King County Superior Court and says Monsanto long knew about the toxic dangers PCBs posed.

Monsanto was the sole producer of PCBs between 1935 and 1979, when Congress banned them.

The cities of Seattle and Spokane, as well as Portland, Oregon, and some California cities have also sued Monsanto over PCB pollution. In response to those lawsuits, Monsanto said PCBs were lawful when they were produced and "served an important fire protection and safety purpose."

three minutes to have someone answer.

The VA also gave poor grades to Oregon's three VA hospitals. The Portland facility rated only two out of five stars when it was assessed last December, while Roseburg's got two stars in June and White City's received a single star both last December and in June.

Portland's hospital says its ratings in several areas, including inpatient performance and mortality rates, were better than the national average. Roseburg and White City released statements pointing out improvements at their facilities.

Energy Dept. risks missing Hanford deadlines

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Energy is at risk of missing new court-enforced deadlines for emptying some radioactive waste storage tanks on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

The leak-prone tanks contain wastes left over from the production of plutonium for nuclear weapons.

The Energy Department notified the state Tuesday that two newly set tank deadlines were in jeopardy.

The *Tri-City Herald* reported that a federal judge extended deadlines in March after it became clear that Energy could not meet previous deadlines. Work has been slowed by safety precautions implemented to protect workers from breathing potentially toxic chemical vapors.

The first deadline at risk covers emptying five tanks by the end of 2020, and might be pushed back a year. A second deadline calls for emptying additional tanks by 2024, which could slip by two years.

VA hospitals, call center get low ratings

SALEM (AP) — An assessment by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs concluded that more than 12 percent of callers to its Portland call center get tired of waiting for someone to answer and hang up.

The *Statesman-Journal* reports that many callers have waited more than

Campaign finance vouchers ready to go

SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle is preparing to mail democracy vouchers to registered voters as part of a new campaign finance initiative.

KING-TV reports that voters and eligible participants will receive four \$25 vouchers that can go toward funding political candidates who opt into the public campaign finance program.

The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission will mail out 2 million of the vouchers to registered voters.

The SEEC has been working on implementing the program since Seattle voters passed it in 2015. The initiative is funded through a small property tax increase. SEEC estimates it at \$11.50 per year for the average homeowner.

Companies with high-paid CEOs to be taxed

PORTLAND (AP) — The Portland City Council has approved a first-of-its-kind tax on public companies that pay their chief executives vastly more than they pay an average worker.

On Wednesday the council approved the plan, which targets publicly traded companies whose chief executives report salaries at least 100 times higher than the salary of a median worker, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported.

Under the ordinance, a company with a CEO-to-worker ratio of at least 100-to-1 will pay a surcharge equal to 10 percent of the amount it pays for Portland's business tax. A company with a

250-to-1 ratio or greater would pay a 25 percent surcharge.

If a company ordinarily owes \$1 million in taxes to Portland, it would have to pay an additional \$100,000 or \$250,000.

Officials expect the tax to raise \$2.5 million year once it starts in January 2017. About 500 publicly traded companies in Portland will likely be subject to the tax, which will rely on compensation data the federal Securities and Exchange Commission will report beginning next year.

Commissioner Steve Novick said he hopes the tax will discourage companies from paying disproportionate salaries to

their CEOs.

"This is as close as I've ever (come) to a tax on inequality itself," said Novick.

Commissioner Dan Saltzman cast the lone vote against the proposal. He said he didn't think it was the appropriate moment to enact such a tax.

"I don't believe this is the right time, the right place or the right reason to address this," Saltzman said.

Marion Haynes, of the Portland Business Alliance, a group that has opposed the measure since Novick first pitched it last summer, said the plan will not address income inequality.

"This is not something that can be dealt with at a local level," Haynes said.

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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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
A bit of snow, sleet and ice	Periods of sun with snow showers	Mostly cloudy, a flurry; chilly	Mainly cloudy with a bit of snow	Mostly cloudy and very cold
27° 24°	37° 33°	39° 27°	31° 13°	21° 1°
28° 23°	38° 31°	42° 27°	33° 14°	24° 4°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW

Yesterday 18° 5°

Normals 40° 27°

Records 67° (1915) -11° (1972)

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.02"

Month to date 0.23"

Normal month to date 0.37"

Year to date 11.53"

Last year to date 9.01"

Normal year to date 11.88"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW

Yesterday 25° 12°

Normals 41° 28°

Records 72° (2015) -10° (1972)

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace

Month to date 0.07"

Normal month to date 0.43"

Year to date 7.97"

Last year to date 6.05"

Normal year to date 8.93"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:24 a.m.

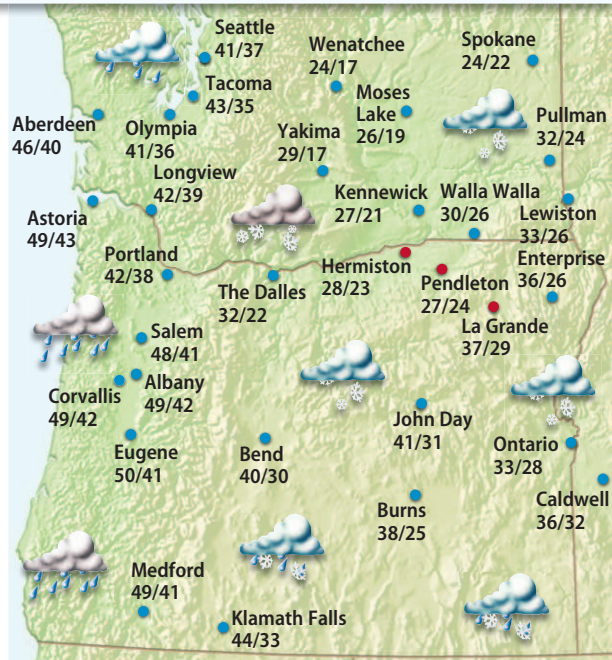
Sunset tonight 4:11 p.m.

Moonrise today 1:42 p.m.

Moonset today 1:46 a.m.

Full Last New First

Dec 13 Dec 20 Dec 28 Jan 5



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Periods of rain today; milder across the north. Occasional rain tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: A little wintry mix today; a bit of morning snow, then a little rain in the south.

Western Washington: Occasional rain today and tonight. A little rain tomorrow, but dry at the coast.

Eastern Washington: A little snow at times with little or no accumulation today. A little snow tonight.

Cascades: Snow at times today, accumulating 3-6 inches; not as cold across the north.

Northern California: Rain today; a bit of morning snow, then snow showers in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	49	43	r	50	42	r
Baker City	32	20	sn	34	20	sn
Bend	40	30	c	39	30	sn
Brookings	53	45	r	49	42	r
Burns	38	25	sf	37	22	sn
Enterprise	36	26	sn	36	27	sn
Eugene	50	41	r	49	40	r
Heppner	31	27	sn	40	32	sf
Hermiston	28	23	sn	38	31	sf
John Day	41	31	sn	40	32	sn
Klamath Falls	44	33	pc	41	26	r
La Grande	37	29	sn	39	31	sn
Meacham	34	29	sn	37	31	sf
Medford	49	41	r	48	38	c
Newport	50	44	r	49	42	r
North Bend	53	45	r	52	43	r
Ontario	33	28	i	36	24	sn
Pasco	29	19	sn	36	27	sn
Pendleton	27	24	sn	37	33	sf
Portland	42	38	r	47	41	r
Redmond	39	27	r	39	28	sn
Salem	48	41	r	48	42	r
Spokane	24	22	sn	32	29	sn
Ukiah	38	30	sn	37	29	sf
Vancouver	42	39	r	46	41	r
Walla Walla	30	26	sn	38	34	sn
Yakima	29	17	sn	35	20	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	41	18	pc	42	20	s
Hong Kong	74	67	s	76	66	s
Jerusalem	55	39	s	55	45	s
London	59	49	pc	57	40	c
Mexico City	67	48	pc	69	48	pc
Moscow	28	24	sf	29	14	c
Paris	51	36	pc	50	40	pc
Rome	60	40	s	60	44	s
Seoul	39	20	s	37	22	s
Sydney	77	65	s	74	65	s
Tokyo	61	46	s	53	40	s

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	NE 4-8	SW 6-12
Pendleton	NNE 6-12	SSW 8-16

UV INDEX TODAY

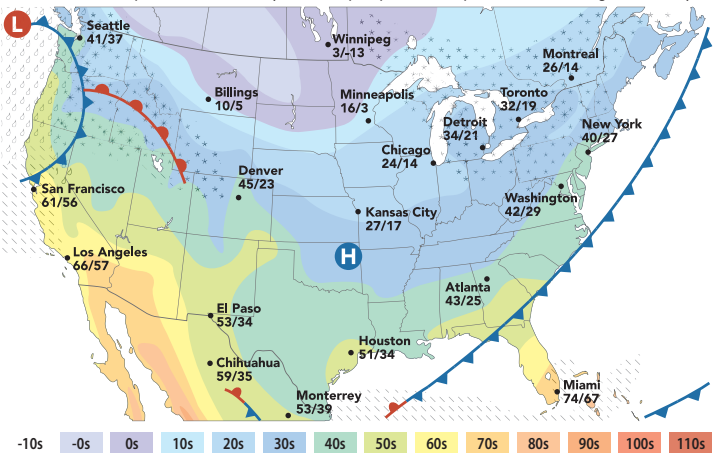
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

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: Lake-effect snow will continue over the Upper Midwest and interior Northeast today. Rain will soak the coastal Northwest with substantial snow and ice reaching from the Cascades to the northern Rockies.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 85° in Miami, Fla. Low -33° in Casper