



The Spout Sprint Ski Area will not open this year due to concerns about public safety in the parking lot.

## SKI: Spout Springs has been in continuous operation since 1920s

Continued from 1A

said he recently met with Murray to discuss safety concerns in the parking lot. Because it is a Sno-Park, Rassbach said mixed uses are allowed. That includes providing a launch point for snowmobiles to access trails across the highway.

About two-thirds of the Spout Springs lot is day use only, Rassbach said, and the remaining third is set aside for trailers and overnight parking.

"That's how it has been managed for quite some time," he said.

Rassbach said the forest has good working relationships with local snowmobile groups, and they are trying to make sure everyone plays by the rules.

"Through education and enforcement, we hope we can get people parking where they're supposed to park," Rassbach said.

But that's not happening now, according to Murray. He said the lot is usually inundated with snowmobiles and oversize trailers, posing a safety risk to skiers and children.

"I'm very unhappy about this," Murray said. "In my opinion, we've just lost control of the parking area."

He's not the only one upset. Dave Byrd, director of risk and regulatory affairs for the National Ski Areas Association in Denver, said he is aware of the situation and blasted the Forest Service for failing to consider safety first.

"Many other ski areas on Forest Service land throughout the West have

restricted public snowmobile use across their permit areas out of an effort to protect guest safety," Byrd said. "It's breathtaking that the Forest Service in the Umatilla Forest isn't aware of these well-established restrictions at other ski areas, or isn't willing to allow Spout Springs the same ability to restrict snowmobiles."

Dottie Carrell, secretary for the Tollgate Trail Finders snowmobile club, said she was not aware of any parking issues at Spout Springs. Carrell said there are three other large Sno-Parks for snowmobilers in the area, including Morning Creek, Woodland and Andies Prairie.

"Parking is not a problem in the Tollgate area," Carrell said.

Larry Randall, recreation program manager for the Umatilla National Forest, said their goal is to provide balanced opportunities at the Spout Springs Sno-Park, while making sure safety is the top consideration.

"It certainly is a challenge," Randall said. "It's really unfortunate (Murray) feels he can't operate. We want to see that ski area be successful, absolutely."

Spout Springs has been in continuous operation since the 1920s, including the last 18 years under Murray's ownership. The area was also a Nordic training center for the United States Olympic team and the Norwegian jump team in the 1950s and 1960s.

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# For the love of the game

## Avid Pendleton sports booster Dave Walters dies at age 68

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

The mood was somber at Dave's Chevron on Friday.

Shoppers glanced up at a banner hanging from a snow-covered eave as they approached the entrance, some glancing at the words in surprise.

"In loving memory of our friend, Dave Walters."

Dave Walters, 68, was found dead Thursday in Arizona where he had gone to escape the chill of winter for a bit. Walters, known to so many in Pendleton for his support of youth softball and baseball, died suddenly and unexpectedly. The cause and exact time of death is so far undetermined. His family and friends were still trying to wrap their minds around the fact they will never see him again.

Walters, a 1966 graduate of Pendleton High School, went into business with his father, Gurney Walters, who ran a Chevron station on the southeast side of town. In the mid-'90s, Dave, his wife and son launched a convenience store near Roy Raley Park that became a magnet for those in search of ice cream, coffee, gas or a quick bite to eat. Walters retired several years ago and his wife, Toni, runs the store.

Car washes, run by various sports teams, are a common sight in the Dave's parking lot during warm summer days. Hanging inside above the entryway are posters featuring five girls' softball teams that Walters sponsored last summer. Kristan Garton, who co-coaches two of the teams, said Walters often spent entire days in the stands cheering on young Pendleton softball players.

"He was their biggest fan," Garton said. "And they were his, too."

The players called him "Papa Dave." When a team was having a rough time, Walters had a ritual.

"If the team was struggling, down a couple of runs, Dave would go get a hot dog from the concession stand," she said. "Some games he had at least two hot dogs. At some tournaments, where he watched six to eight games a day, we weren't the only team he ate hot dogs for."

Walters' love of sports took root in his own athletic competition. As a 12-year-old, Walters' Little League team won second in state. In high school, the left-hander played first base. Later, he found a niche playing men's softball.

Dean Fouquette remembers being a bat boy for one of Walters' baseball teams and later played slow pitch softball with him on a men's team. Walters, who also coached, "was a quiet leader who let the guys play."

Fouquette expressed shock at Walters' passing.



A banner remembering the life of Dave Walters hangs over the entrance to Dave's Chevron on Friday in Pendleton.



Dave Walters beams as he poses with Kirah McGlothlin, Katie Bradt and Aspen Garton after the USA Explosion/DFM-Richards team won the Valley Invite Softball Tournament in Portland last June. Walters, who helped sponsor the Amateur Softball Association team, watched all five of the team's games that day and witnessed each girl hit a home run.

"He was in great shape," Fouquette said. "He was lean and mean and took good care of himself."

Another former teammate, Tom Melton, said he will miss Walters' dry sense of humor and positive take on life.

"He really cared about others," Melton said. "He looked at the good side of people."

As far as his ball playing abilities,

"He really cared about others. He looked at the good side of people."

— Tom Melton, former teammate

Melton was tongue-in-cheek. "He was all glove and no hit," he said. "We teased him about that."

Despite Walters' ability to reach out and encourage, he was something of an introvert. Ric Walters said the upcoming funeral will likely be the only one his older brother ever attended.

"He loved visiting with people," Ric said, "but he was never comfortable with large social events."

High school friend Susan Corey, who helps organize class reunions, said Dave was a no-show.

"In all the years, Dave never attended a single class reunion, but the day after the reunion, I'd go get gas at Dave's Chevron and he'd pump me for information," Corey said. "He always bought a class picture."

She still can't believe her friend, the guy who taught her how to drive a stick shift, is gone.

"Everybody liked David," she said. Pendleton's softball players will miss seeing him in the stands this spring. Coach Kristan Garton remembers Papa Dave with gratitude for his financial support and his gift of time.

"He was such a generous man," she said. "He didn't have to do any of this. He did it for the love of the game. He did it for the love of the kids."

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## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
33° 29°	39° 29°	34° 17°	21° 8°	19° 6°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST  
36° 30° 42° 29° 36° 17° 25° 9° 21° 8°

## ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW

Yesterday 22° 18°

Normals 40° 27°

Records 65° (1933) -9° (1972)

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.21"

Month to date 0.44"

Normal month to date 0.41"

Year to date 11.74"

Last year to date 9.07"

Normal year to date 11.92"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW

Yesterday 27° 22°

Normals 40° 28°

Records 67° (1988) -10° (1932)

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.10"

Month to date 0.17"

Normal month to date 0.48"

Year to date 8.07"

Last year to date 6.17"

Normal year to date 8.98"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:25 a.m.

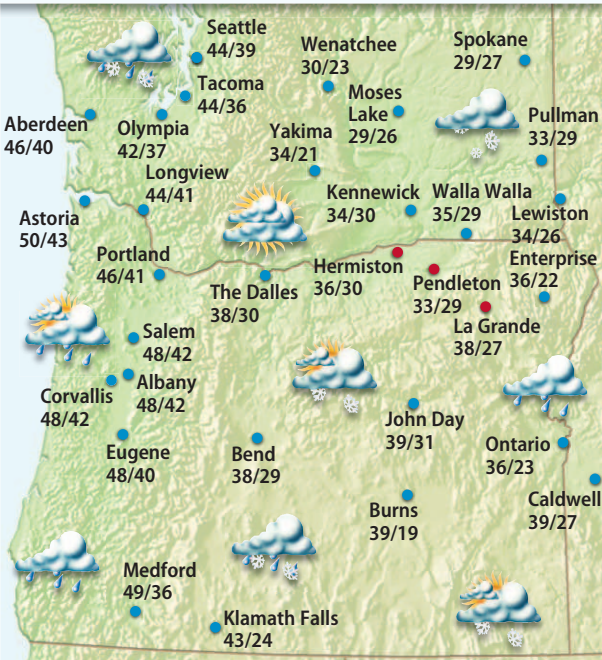
Sunset tonight 4:11 p.m.

Moonrise today 2:16 p.m.

Moonset today 2:59 a.m.

Full Last New First

Dec 13 Dec 20 Dec 28 Jan 5



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

## REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Variably cloudy today with showers; breezy across the north. Showery tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: A little icy mix today, up to an inch across the north; snow in south and central parts. Rain and drizzle in the upper Treasure Valley.

Western Washington: Rain at times today. Mostly cloudy tonight with showers.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today; flurries near the Idaho border and in the mountains.

Cascades: Periods of snow today, accumulating 2-4 inches. A little snow at times tonight.

Northern California: Cloudy today. A bit of ice in the morning, then a little snow and sleet in the interior mountains; rain in central parts.

## REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	50	43	sh	49	39	r
Baker City	34	16	sn	32	20	pc
Bend	38	29	pc	37	24	sn
Brookings	50	42	sh	47	40	r
Burns	39	19	sn	34	23	pc
Enterprise	36	22	sn	33	24	c
Eugene	48	40	sh	46	37	r
Heppner	38	31	pc	39	28	c
Hermiston	36	30	pc	42	29	sf
John Day	39	31	sn	37	28	pc
Klamath Falls	43	24	pc	42	29	sf
La Grande	38	27	sn	38	28	c
Meacham	36	27	sn	35	27	c
Medford	49	36	c	46	38	r
Newport	49	42	sh	48	39	r
North Bend	52	44	sh	51	41	r
Ontario	36	23	r	33	22	pc
Pasco	33	25	pc	40	25	c
Pendleton	33	29	sn	39	29	c
Portland	46	41	sh	47	38	r
Redmond	38	26	pc	38	22	sn
Salem	48	42	sh	46	39	r
Spokane	29	27	sf	34	21	sn
Ukiah	36	27	sf	35	25	pc
Vancouver	45	42	sh	46	38	r
Walla Walla	35	29	sn	41	30	sn
Yakima	34	21	pc	40	19	sn

## WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	42	19	s	43	30	pc
Hong Kong	75	65	pc	74	67	s
Jerusalem	56	44	pc	55	44	pc
London	55	38	r	50	37	pc
Mexico City	68	48	pc	71	47	pc
Moscow	30	16	sf	19	10	sn
Paris	50	42	pc	52	37	c
Rome	60	43	s	62	49	pc
Seoul	37	21	s	40	23	s
Sydney	75	67	s	79	69	pc
Tokyo	54	39	s	50	40	pc

## WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Sunday
Boardman	SSW 4-8	SW 7-14
Pendleton	SSW 6-12	SW 8-16

## UV INDEX TODAY

0 0 1 0 0 0

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

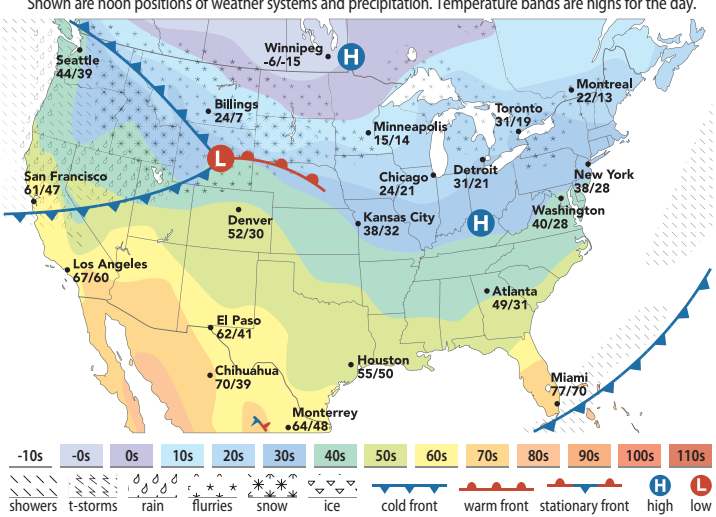
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

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.



showers r storms rain flurries snow ice cold front warm front stationary front high low

National Summary: As snow diminishes around the Great Lakes, snow will ramp up over the northern Plains today. Rain will fall from northern Nevada to western Washington and California, with snow over the interior Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 81° in Marathon, Fla. Low -27° in Hohnholz Ranch, Colo.

## NATIONAL CITIES