

AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny	A shower in the afternoon	Snow or flurries possible	Cloudy, a little snow; chilly	Chilly with clouds and sun

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

36°	22°	36°	30°	34°	28°	32°	20°	29°	12°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

36°	21°	34°	31°	35°	26°	34°	20°	31°	16°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	48°	39°
Normals	39°	25°
Records	66° (1900)	-12° (1990)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.16"
Month to date	1.49"
Normal month to date	0.98"
Year to date	12.79"
Last year to date	9.71"
Normal year to date	12.49"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	50°	34°
Normals	39°	27°
Records	63° (1933)	-12° (1990)

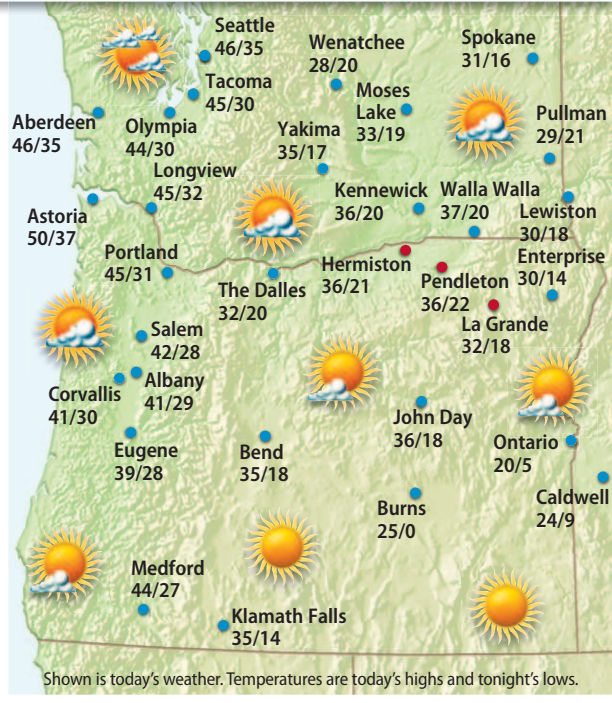
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.24"
Month to date	1.11"
Normal month to date	0.99"
Year to date	9.01"
Last year to date	6.74"
Normal year to date	9.49"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:33 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:14 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:04 a.m.
Moonset today	12:25 p.m.

	New	First	Full	Last
Dec 28	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Sunny to partly cloudy today. Mostly cloudy tonight; periods of rain across the north.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly sunny today; cold in the upper Treasure Valley. Partly cloudy tonight.

Western Washington: Sun and clouds today; areas of morning fog. Periods of rain at the coast tonight.

Eastern Washington: Clouds and sun today, except partly sunny across the south. Some clouds tonight.

Cascades: Partly sunny today. Some clouds tonight. A bit of snow tomorrow.

Northern California: Plenty of sunshine today. Partly cloudy tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	50	37	pc	49	40	r
Baker City	19	3	s	20	12	c
Bend	35	18	s	37	27	c
Brookings	54	38	s	51	44	r
Burns	25	0	s	23	13	c
Enterprise	30	14	s	27	21	c
Eugene	39	28	pc	45	39	c
Heppner	36	23	pc	35	29	c
Hermiston	36	21	pc	34	31	c
John Day	36	18	s	34	28	c
Klamath Falls	35	14	s	39	29	c
La Grande	32	18	s	29	26	c
Meacham	32	19	s	29	26	c
Medford	44	27	s	44	37	c
Newport	49	37	pc	48	41	r
North Bend	54	37	pc	53	43	r
Ontario	20	5	s	20	10	c
Pasco	37	19	pc	34	25	i
Pendleton	36	22	pc	36	30	c
Portland	45	31	pc	43	39	r
Redmond	35	14	s	36	26	c
Salem	42	28	pc	44	38	r
Spokane	31	16	pc	30	28	sn
Ukiah	35	17	s	34	27	c
Vancouver	45	33	pc	43	40	r
Walla Walla	37	20	pc	34	30	c
Yakima	35	17	pc	33	24	i

WORLD CITIES

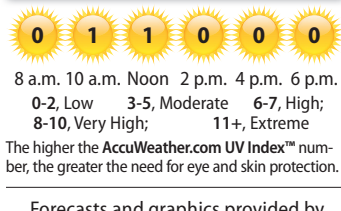
	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	44	29	c	44	20	s
Hong Kong	77	67	t	76	62	s
Jerusalem	51	41	pc	54	41	s
London	51	36	r	47	39	pc
Mexico City	71	45	pc	72	44	pc
Moscow	34	28	sh	33	28	c
Paris	45	43	c	50	35	r
Rome	62	41	pc	59	38	pc
Seoul	54	46	r	51	28	r
Sydney	77	67	s	74	68	pc
Tokyo	61	52	s	67	59	r

WINDS

(in mph)

	Today	Thursday
Boardman	ENE 3-6	SSW 3-6
Pendleton	SE 4-8	SSE 6-12

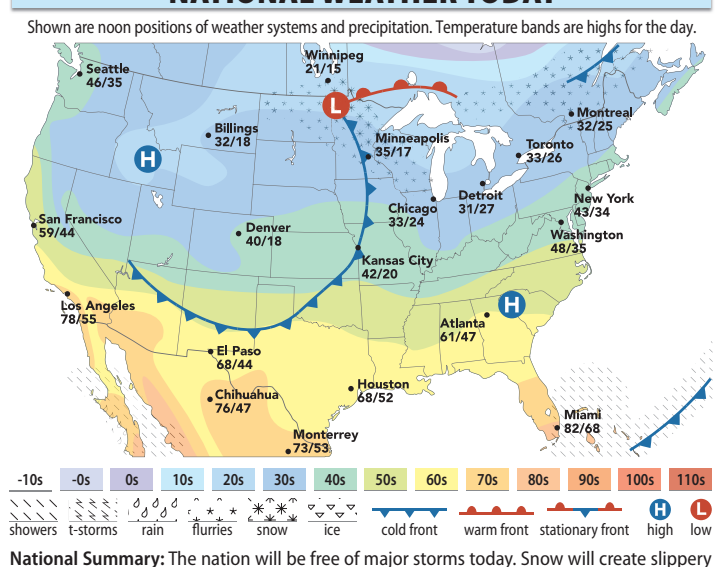
UV INDEX TODAY



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: The nation will be free of major storms today. Snow will create slippery travel from North Dakota to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Rain showers will dampen part of southern Florida for a time.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 88° in Naples, Fla. **Low -21°** in Presque Isle, Maine

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thur.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	53	32	s	42	35	sn
Atlanta	61	47	s	62	40	pc
Baltimore	47	29	s	49	28	pc
Birmingham	58	45	pc	60	38	pc
Boise	24	9	s	27	19	c
Boston	41	30	pc	42	28	c
Charlotte, SC	60	36	s	66	41	pc
Charlotte, WV	48	37	pc	44	26	c
Chicago	33	24	c	32	18	pc
Cleveland	37	29	c	35	25	c
Dallas	63	36	s	51	37	pc
Denver	40	18	s	41	24	s
Detroit	31	27	c	36	20	pc
El Paso	68	44	pc	53	42	r
Fairbanks	7	-16	sn	-11	-18	pc
Fargo	35	18	c	33	20	pc
Honolulu	81	71	pc	80	68	pc
Houston	68	52	pc	67	49	pc
Indianapolis	38	24	pc	35	19	pc
Jacksonville	64	40	pc	71	50	pc
Kansas City	42	20	pc	39	26	s
Las Vegas	58	45	s	57	39	r
Little Rock	53	32	s	49	31	s
Los Angeles	78	55	s	74	53	c
Louisville	45	30	pc	43	25	pc
Memphis	51	34	pc	48	33	pc
Miami	82	68	pc	82	68	s
Milwaukee	34	26	c	34	21	pc
Minneapolis	35	17	c	30	22	pc
Nashville	49	35	s	47	31	pc
New Orleans	65	53	pc	65	52	pc
New York City	43	34	pc	44	34	c
Oklahoma City	54	27	s	45	32	s
Omaha	41	18	pc	39	24	s
Philadelphia	45	30	pc	47	31	pc
Phoenix	72	57	pc	67	55	r
Portland, ME	38	24	s	36	23	sh
Providence	43	29	pc	43	29	c
Raleigh	56	33	s	59	30	pc
Rapid City	36	11	pc	39	13	pc
Reno	45	25	s	48	33	pc
Sacramento	58	35	s	57	41	s
St. Louis	48	27	pc	39	25	s
Salt Lake City	37	21	s	36	24	pc
San Diego	73	57	s	69	56	sh
San Francisco	59	44	s	58	45	s
Seattle	46	35	pc	44	39	r
Tucson	72	58	pc	68	53	r
Washington, DC	48	35	s	52	32	pc
Wichita	45	22	s	41	27	s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

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 333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
 Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Closed major holidays

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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and Dec. 25, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801.
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Audit takes a look at state's business incentive programs

By SAUL HUBBARD
The Register-Guard

EUGENE — Oregon should work to ensure better return on investment and transparency in the \$340 million a year in tax breaks and cash incentives it provides to businesses, a new audit from the Secretary of State's office concludes.

The audit, released Monday, examines Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency, and the incentives it provides directly to private companies. Those sweeteners — including forgivable and low-interest loans, tax credits, and direct cash assistance — total \$72.5 million a year.

But the review also examined property tax waivers granted by local governments through state-approved enterprise zones and the Strategic Investment Program. Those add up to \$267.5 million a year in waived property taxes throughout Oregon. Technology firm Intel is the biggest recipient with \$162.5 million a year in tax breaks from Washington and Multnomah counties.

Lane County currently has several enterprise zones, which provide property tax waivers to a wide range of companies. Hynix, which shut its West Eugene plant in 2008, was the county's largest recipient of property tax breaks: \$65 million over ten years.

"It is critical that Business Oregon and other state agencies regularly evaluate and improve their business subsidy programs to make the best use of limited public resources," Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins said, in a prepared statement. "Taxpayers should expect nothing less."

Generally, the audit found that economic development officials, when they give a business an incentive, aren't adequately monitoring and reporting the number of jobs the company creates or retains, the wages of those jobs, and the state's overall return on investment.

For example, analyzing 231 direct Business Oregon incentives between 2011 and 2012, the audit found that most went to firms where wages were lower, on average, than those in the

surrounding county as a whole.

The audit also found that only 30 percent of Business Oregon incentives between 2006 and 2015 went to firms in rural areas, even though urban areas "already have faster employment growth."

Regarding the enterprise zones created by local governments, the audit found that the standard zones appear to be working better than the long-term rural zones, which provide a longer tax break.

In 2015, each new job in a long-term rural enterprise zone cost \$55,000 in waived property taxes, versus \$4,200 per job in standard zones.

Data storage centers, which tech giants like Apple, Facebook, and Google have built in Oregon in recent years, have been particularly costly in terms of job creation, the audit found. Data centers' combination of high investment in equipment — meaning potentially high property taxes — and few workers needed to maintain them, meant that each job they created cost \$87,000 to nearly \$800,000 in lost property taxes in 2015.

The audit also concludes that, despite some recent improvements, there is still a lack of transparency in the different tax breaks and other incentives that the state and local governments provide.

For example, some subsidy programs don't publicly disclose what requirements — like a set number of created jobs or investment in a facility — businesses must comply with in order to receive their incentive. Others don't provide details on whether a recipient ultimately complied with those requirements or not.

"Both Business Oregon and the (Oregon) Department of Revenue tend to be conservative about releasing business information," the audit states, because releasing more information "could compromise projects ... and reduce demand for the incentive and loan programs."

But auditors wrote that interviews with officials in other states where more disclosure is required hadn't found that to be the case.

Judge: Kids can move ahead with climate rights case

SEATTLE (AP) — A judge says eight Seattle children should have "their day in court" to argue that Washington state and others are violating their constitutional rights to a healthy environment by failing to protect them from climate change.

King County Superior Court Judge Hollis Hill on Monday wrote that there's a need for coordinated science-based action by the state to "address climate change before efforts to do so are too costly and too late."

The petitioners, between 12 and 16 years old, had asked the judge to find the Department of Ecology in contempt for failing to protect them and future generations from global warming. The judge said Ecology complied with her orders within her timeline and so denied the kids' request.

But in an unusual move, the judge allowed the youth to amend their petition and move forward with their constitutional rights claims against the state.

Secretary of state suspends probe of voter 'robocalls'

SALEM (AP) — Oregon's secretary of state is suspending an investigation into automated calls that told some voters in the run-up to the November election that they were marked as "inactive" voters in registration rolls and their vote might not count.

Secretary of State Jeanne P. Atkins said Tuesday that while the calls confused voters, there is no evidence that they contained deliberately false information.

She has said previously that the contacts may have relied on outdated voter rolls.

BRIEFLY

In a statement, Atkins says in the future, political campaigns should consult with state elections officials to make sure their voter records are up-to-date.

Voters all across the state received the confusing automated calls in the week before the Nov. 8 election.

The U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI also looked into the complaints.

Officials concerned about water used for growing marijuana

MEDFORD (AP) — The Medford Water Commission is concerned that commercial marijuana growers might be illegally taking water from municipal sources.

The commission is installing water meters to measure how much water is being used at filling stations in White City and Medford and see if increased marijuana production has had an impact, reported *The Mail Tribune*. Officials are also hoping to determine if there are ways to police the water usage.

"A lot of growers are buying land that is pretty arid," said commission member Bob Strosser.

He said that as a result they could look for other water sources.

Under state law, municipal water can be used for homes, lawns and other landscaping around a house. The law isn't specific about using the water for agricultural purposes.

Local contractors can get permission to use fire hydrants at construction sites, but the

commission has gotten reports that other water trucks are also filling up there. There's also concern about commercial growers with hundreds of plants using water from filling stations.

"At some point, we need to look at our policies and come up with clear and definitive guidelines as to when the treated water can be used," said Strosser, who will be on the Jackson County Board of Commissioners beginning in January. "It's an emerging issue that we are going to have to address and deal with because water is a finite resource."

No charges for fatal medication error

BEND (AP) — No criminal charges will be filed against an Oregon hospital after a patient died from being given the wrong medication.

The Bend Bulletin reports that 65-year-old Loretta Macpherson, a Sisters resident, died in December 2014 when a staff member at the St. Charles Bend hospital pharmacy filled an IV bag with a paralyzing agent instead of the requested anti-seizure drug.

St. Charles said the correct drug was entered in the hospital's record system.

The Deschutes County District Attorney's office announced Monday that it won't prosecute the case.

District Attorney John Hummel said in a news release that he decided not to initiate criminal charges after reviewing the facts and considering steps St. Charles took to prevent future mistakes.

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.

December 26th

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