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HERMISTON

Airport, 17.5 inches



Photo contributed by Logan Wood
Snow piles up around a road sign at Meacham.

PENDLETON

Downtown, 12.1 inches



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Marvin Morris of Pendleton uses a snowblower to clear the driveway of a friend's house on Northwest Bailey Avenue on Wednesday in Pendleton.



Photo contributed by Kate Raymond

The sun sets on a plowed driveway in Helix.

DEEP INTO WINTER

Eastern Oregon buried by heavy snowfall; 11th snowiest Pendleton winter on record

If it feels like it's been a wetter winter in Eastern Oregon than usual, it's because it has been.

At the Pendleton airport, the National Weather Service station has measured 30.9 inches of snowfall since the beginning of December.

That's the second most the service has ever recorded through Jan. 11 in its history, bested only by the 2008-2009 winter season.

If Pendleton gets no more snow for the rest of the year, it would still be the 11th snowiest winter on record. The heaviest snowfall Pendleton has ever received in a winter season, according to service records, was 53.9 inches in 1949.

Winter has been a little more hospitable in Pendleton's flats, although Jim Smith, the service's observation program leader, noted that the records were incomplete.

Records show at the Pendleton Fire Station that this area of

Pendleton has received 12.1 inches of snow since Dec. 1.

Hermiston has also seen less snow than the Pendleton airport — 17.5 inches since the beginning of December, not close to the 36.9 inches Hermiston was buried under in 1921.

Hermiston's pace of snowfall is the fourth highest in recorded history.

Other places that have received significant snowfall in the region include Heppner — 27.5 inches — and Meacham — 70.2 inches.

Eastern Oregon residents tired of breaking out the snow boots and shovels will get a respite next week.

The National Weather Service is currently forecasting warmer weather and rain Monday through Wednesday, which could mean less layers of clothing but also flooding along the region's rivers and creeks.



Photo contributed by Tabatha Steffer

This photo of the Hermiston Butte was taken from Good Sheprd Medical Center.



Photo contributed by Sarah Thompson

Maria-Teresa Thompson, 19 months, offers moral support to her daddy, Ira Thompson, while he clears the sidewalk at their Hermiston home.



Photo contributed by Vivian Hulick

A horse named Ariel goes for a walk in a snowy pasture east of Pendleton.



Photo contributed by Clifford Stanger

Marcella and Lauralee Stanger stand with their 12th man snowman on East Poverty Flats near Mission.

Snowfall since Dec. 1