Meltdown expected midweek

Freezing rain in the forecast before temperatures rise Wednesday

By ANTONIO SIERRA East Oregonian

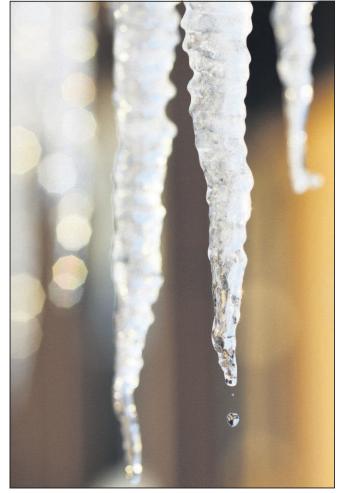
The mountains of snow and ice that have lined Eastern Oregon parking lots and sidewalks in recent weeks could become lakes in a matter of days.

The National Weather Service is forecasting a sharp rise in temperatures by Wednesday, which will clear up many of the area's sidewalks and streets after weeks of subfreezing conditions.

According to Monday evening forecasts, the relatively warmer weather will culminate on Wednesday in a high of 48 degrees in Pendleton and 44 degrees in Hermiston.

This kind of warm-up after a prolonged cold snap can sometimes lead to flooding as rivers, creeks and urban drainage systems are overwhelmed with snow melt, but weather service meteorologist Mike Murphy did not anticipate anything too significant.

Most areas of Eastern Oregon have weathered several inches of snowfall and only a handful of days with temperatures above freezing — Pendleton's last day that got above freezing was Jan. 10, when the high was 37. But Murphy said water levels should be



Staff photo by E.J. Harris A droplet of water falls from an icicle hanging from the roof of Round-Up Vacuum and Sewing on Monday in

restrained by the a gradual cooling after the midweek highs.

Toward the end of this

week, temperatures should start to creep back down toward 30s, staving off a

meltdown of snow in higher

elevations.

Pendleton public works director Bob Patterson said his staff will clean out catch basins and dig channels in the ice to make sure melting water drains properly, but besides these aspects of regular maintenance he expects the city's drainage system to hold up.

Patterson said he'll continue to track the precipitation forecast, which could complicate the public works department's efforts.

The weather service issued a winter storm watch for the region that calls for up to a half an inch of ice from freezing rain and snow, and two to four inches of snow between Tuesday morning and Wednesday morning. The weather is expected to again make travel difficult because of slick roads and low visibility.

As the week warms up, the forecast predicts further rain. The respite from the cold weather will most likely be brief.

According to the weather service's Climate Prediction Center, January is likely to continue with below-average temperatures and above-average precipita-

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian. com or 541-966-0836.

asks for greater oversight of ODOT By PARIS ACHEN

and NICK BUDNICK Capital Bureau

Commission chair

The head of the Oregon Transportation Commission has asked Gov. Kate Brown to personally engage in beefed-up oversight of the Department of Transporta-

In a strongly worded letter on formal letterhead sent Jan. 10, OTC Chairwoman Tammy Baney requested quarterly meetings with Brown as well as an independent staff person to carry out commissioners' requests for information and research. Baney also wants an "active" role in ODOT Director Matt Garrett's performance review, now under jurisdiction of the governor

"This is essential to ensure that the Director is fulfilling our expectations as well as yours," Baney wrote, adding, "To effectively carry out the commission's statutory responsibilities and your policy direction, it is imperative that we more closely coordinate our efforts directly with you."

Baney, in an interview, said she intended no criticism of Director Garrett or ODOT staff. The all-volunteer, five-member commission she heads is appointed the governor. On paper, state law gives it broad powers to run the department.

But several observers say the letter speaks volumes about tensions and potential flaws in ODOT oversight, even as the department prepares for a massive influx of funding for road and bridge projects if the Legislature approves a package of increased fees and taxes.

"Wow," said Catherine Mater, who held Baney's position until 2015, as the letter was read to her over the phone. Considering that ODOT staff ostensibly work for the commission, Mater said the request for an independent staffer indicates "a complete disintegration of trust" between ODOT and the commission tasked with overseeing it.

David Bragdon, former president of greater Portland's Metro regional government, has closely watched ODOT for years. The letter "reads like a vote of no confidence in (ODOT) management," said Bragdon, who is executive director of Transit Center, Inc, a nonprofit.

"This is a pretty darn amazing letter," said Jim Moore, a Pacfiic University government professor who leads the Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation. The fact that it was put on official letterhead suggests it was meant "for a wider audience and that the letter was intended to put pressure on the governor," he said.

Gov. Brown wrote a noncommittal reply Jan. 13. She did not comment on Baney's specific requests but expressed appreciation for the commission's role.

"Your involvement and continued communication with my office is key to the active and critical role OTC plays in the efforts to create a robust transportation system," Brown wrote.

Bryan Hockaday, a Brown spokesman, said the governor's response was not a denial of Baney's requests but declined to comment further.

Specifically, Baney wants to increase the commission's oversight of the budget, participation in selection, tracking of funds within the department and development of policy from the beginning stages.

toddler swept into ocean NORTH BEND (AP) — The Coast Guard has suspended its search for a

father and his young son who were

Search canceled for dad,

swept into the sea by a wave along an Oregon beach. The agency, along with Oregon State Police and other responders, searched unsuccessfully Sunday and Monday for

Elmira, Oregon, and his 3-year-old son. Thomas and the boy had been walking Sunday on a beach about 2 miles north of Cape Blanco when the wave struck. The boy's mother saw it

happen and called authorities.

31-year-old Jayson Dean Thomas, of

Crews in helicopters and search boats and state troopers in all-terrain vehicles found only the man's jacket and a child carrier he had been wearing in the surf.

State Police spokesman Capt. Bill Fugate says the area where they were swept away is steep and the ocean was rough due to an approaching storm.

Body found after fire destroys Wash. strip mall

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — The Clark County Sheriff's Office says it has opened a homicide investigation after a body was found in the ruins of a Vancouver strip mall destroyed by fire over the weekend.

The Columbian newspaper reports that crews responded Sunday morning and found Sifton Plaza fully engulfed in flames. The complex included the Oasis Market convenience store, where the body was found, and three other tenants: a barber shop, a pet supply store and a pet grooming business.

blaze but the \$500,000 building was a

Three dozen firefighters fought the

Family says wounded officer may be blind

SEATTLE (AP) — The family of a Washington state police officer who was shot in the head last month while responding to a call says he may be permanently blind as a result of his

KOMO-TV reports that officer Mike McClaughry's daughter April posted on social media that the family is hoping McClaughry's brain recovers, but it is likely he will never see again.

The post says some doctors say it won't be known for sure if McClaughry can see until he is conscious enough to

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AccuWeather.com Forecast **THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY** Spotty afternoon Some glaze: Cloudy, showers Times of clouds Occasional and sun cloudy, not as cold around; breezy morning rain showers PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FO 32° 27° 37° 36° **42°** 33° 43° 32° 23° 39° 33° 33° 26° 39° 30°

Seattle

47/45

Tacoma

32/27

Bend

37/33

Klamath Falls

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

REGIONAL FORECAST

51/45

Longview

46/44

Salem

46/45

Albany

46/44

Medford

45/41

Eugene

46/44

Olympia

35/34

Aberdeen

Astoria

51/49

Corvallis

46/45

0.85

0.33'

0.66

Feb 10

48/47

Wenatchee

Moses

Lake

25/23

Kennewick

24/22

Hermiston

26/22

Yakima

27/25

The Dalles 27/23

ALMANAC

| FLINDLL | ION | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| through 3 p.m. yesterday | | | | | | | | | |
| TEMPERATURE | | | | | | | | | |
| | HIGH | LOW | | | | | | | |
| Yesterday | 11° | 2° | | | | | | | |
| Normals | 41° | 27° | | | | | | | |
| Records | 63° (1976) | -5° (1950) | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace 1.06" Normal month to date 0.85 1.06' Year to date Last year to date 0.49'

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yesterday **TEMPERATURE** HIGH LOW Yesterday

Normal year to date

Normals 63° (1961) -9° (1957) **PRECIPITATION** 24 hours ending 3 p.m 0.61 Normal month to date 0.66 0.61 Year to date

Normal year to date SUN AND MOON

Jan 27

Jan 19

| JUN A | ND MC | ION | |
|---------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Sunrise to | oday | | 7:31 a.m. |
| Sunset to | night | | 4:40 p.m. |
| Moonrise | today | | 10:51 p.m. |
| Moonset today | | | 10:27 a.m. |
| Last | New | First | Full |
| 6 | | 3 | (3.3) |

Feb 3

Coastal Oregon: Rain and drizzle this morning, then downpours, heavy rain across Eastern and Central Oregon: Cloudy today. Some glaze across the north; showers

Western Washington: Downpours however, ice during the morning across the

south today.

Eastern Washington: Today: cloudy with periods of freezing rain; a little icy mix in the north. Cascades: Periods of rain today through tonight. A mix of snow and rain tomorrow.

bit of rain overspreading the area later in the day or at night.

REGIONAL CITIES

Today Wed. Astoria 49 r 53 45 r Baker City 14 c 33 sh 18 27 22 sn 30 sh Bend Brookings 51 48 r 44 r 19 sn Enterprise 27 35 30 c 42 r 35 sh 44 32 51 43 Eugene Heppner 23 i 34 c 32 c 39 41 33 sh Klamath Falls 24 sn La Grande Meacham 29 27 i 32 sn 48 35 r 52 45 r Medford 41 sh 49 r Newport North Bend 50 r 45 r Ontario

20 i

33 sh 45 i

37 i

25 i 25 sn

37 r

43 37 sh

26 sh

32 35 27 34

30 28 sn

Pasco

Portland

Salem

Spokane

Vancouver

Yakima

Walla Walla

Redmond

WORLD CITIES

| WORLD GITTED | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|----|---|------|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Т | oda | у | | Wed. | | | | | | | |
| | Hi | Lo | W | H | łi | Lo | W | | | | | |
| Beijing | 40 | 18 | S | 3 | 5 | 23 | рс | | | | | |
| Hong Kong | 68 | 63 | C | 7 | 0 | 65 | C | | | | | |
| Jerusalem | 62 | 45 | рс | 6 | 1 | 43 | рс | | | | | |
| London | 41 | 29 | C | 4 | 2 | 35 | C | | | | | |
| Mexico City | 74 | 47 | рс | 7 | 4 | 46 | рс | | | | | |
| Moscow | 25 | 18 | рс | 2 | 1 | 17 | C | | | | | |
| Paris | 33 | 22 | S | 3 | 4 | 23 | S | | | | | |
| Rome | 51 | 39 | рс | 5 | 1 | 38 | C | | | | | |
| Seoul | 37 | 23 | рс | 4 | 2 | 22 | рс | | | | | |
| Sydney | 96 | 80 | S | 8 | 9 | 70 | рс | | | | | |
| Tokyo | 50 | 37 | S | 4 | 9 | 38 | рс | | | | | |

WINDS (in mph) Today

Wednesday Boardman SE 6-12 **UV INDEX TODAY**

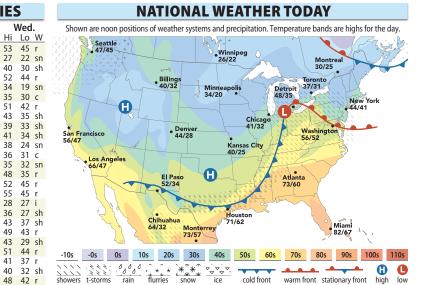
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. **0-2**, Low 3-5, Moderate 11+, Extreme 8-10, Very High; The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ num-

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National Summary: Rain will extend from Texas to Ohio, southern Pennsylvania and New Jersey today, Ice will occur farther north with snow to take aim at New England. Rain and ice will begin to invade the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) Low -29° in Challis, Idaho **High** 84° in Harlingen, Texas

| 3 | 5 | , | | | | | | , | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-------|----|------|-----|----|----------------|-------|------|------|-------|------|
| NATIONAL CITIES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Т | oday | | Wed. | | l. | | Today | | | Wed. | |
| | Hi | Lo \ | Ν | Hi | Lo | W | | Hi | Lo \ | N F | li Lo | W |
| Albuquerque | 49 | 30 p | OC | 49 | 29 | рс | Louisville | 63 | 41 r | 5 | 1 39 |) pc |
| Atlanta | 73 | 60 0 | : | 71 | 55 | c | Memphis | 59 | 46 r | 5 | 6 53 | pc |
| Atlantic City | 48 | 45 s | h | 52 | 38 | C | Miami | 82 | 67 p | oc 8 | 2 64 | pc |
| Baltimore | 53 | | h | 57 | 35 | рс | Milwaukee | 40 | 31 r | 4 | 3 32 | . pc |
| Billings | 40 | 32 p | | 43 | 32 | C | Minneapolis | 34 | 20 s | f 3 | | S |
| Birmingham | 74 | 60 s | h | 71 | 58 | | Nashville | 66 | 44 t | 5 | 4 49 |) pc |
| Boise | 22 | 15 c | | 35 | 32 | | New Orleans | 77 | 61 0 | : 7 | | . c |
| Boston | 40 | 37 p | C | 41 | 34 | r | New York City | 44 | 41 r | 4 | 6 37 | r |
| Charleston, SC | 77 | 58 p | | 78 | 53 | рс | Oklahoma City | 48 | | | 2 37 | |
| Charleston, WV | 66 | 47 t | | 50 | 37 | | Omaha | 37 | 23 (| | 4 31 | |
| Chicago | 41 | 32 r | | 42 | 32 | | Philadelphia | 48 | 45 r | | 3 37 | |
| Cleveland | 56 | 38 r | | 42 | 34 | | Phoenix | 64 | 46 s | | | S |
| Dallas | 55 | 44 0 | | 58 | 42 | | Portland, ME | 36 | | | | sn |
| Denver | 44 | 28 s | | 48 | 24 | | Providence | 43 | 35 r | | | |
| Detroit | 48 | 35 r | | 44 | 32 | | Raleigh | 65 | | h 6 | | |
| El Paso | 52 | 34 s | | 55 | 40 | рс | Rapid City | 38 | 26 s | | | S |
| Fairbanks | -16 | -38 c | | -32 | -40 | рс | Reno | 39 | | oc 4 | | . r |
| Fargo | 27 | 22 p | | 37 | 23 | рс | Sacramento | 55 | 42 p | | | r |
| Honolulu | 82 | 68 s | | 82 | 69 | | St. Louis | 47 | 33 (| | |) C |
| Houston | 71 | 62 r | | 71 | | - | Salt Lake City | 29 | | oc 3 | | c |
| Indianapolis | 51 | 35 r | | 44 | | | San Diego | 65 | 49 s | _ | | pc |
| Jacksonville | 79 | 52 p | | 80 | 55 | рс | San Francisco | 56 | | | | r |
| Kansas City | 40 | 25 c | | 48 | 32 | рс | Seattle | 47 | 45 r | - | | r |
| Las Vegas | 56 | 38 s | | 58 | 47 | pc | Tucson | 64 | | | | . s |
| Little Rock | 55 | 43 0 | | 51 | 45 | sh | Washington, DC | 56 | 52 s | | 9 40 | |
| Los Angeles | 66 | 47 s | | 62 | 50 | рс | Wichita | 46 | 28 s | 5 | 1 34 | pc |
| 141 -1 (141) | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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