

Rain, snow pummel the West

More wet weather on way

RENO, Nev. (AP) — More winter snow and rain pummeled the West on Thursday as the first in a series of expected storms soaked morning commuters in much of California, dumped 18 more inches of snow in the Sierra Nevada and closed schools in Oregon.

The first of three anticipated winter storms hit the Lake Tahoe area, with another 6 feet of snow possible by Monday in the upper elevations of the Sierra Nevada.

Winds in excess of 100 mph are possible and could churn up waves on the lake as high as 5 feet on Sunday, forecasters said.

Since Jan. 1, more than 15 feet of snow has fallen at some Tahoe area resorts — the most in more than five years.

Mike Dulinawka was busy taking reservations for weekend snowmobile tours at the Zephyr Cove Resort near Stateline, Nevada.

“We’ve been sold out for the last couple of weekends. It’s great. We’re definitely loving the snow,” he said.

Californians endured snarled morning commutes, downed trees and heavy snow



A man stops to view an uprooted tree, Thursday, that struck a home in Sacramento, Calif. The homes' resident said the tree fell during the storm around 7 p.m. Wednesday.

in the mountains.

A storm system dumped nearly an inch of rain on San Francisco and more than 3 inches at some locations in the Napa-Sonoma wine country.

In Southern California's Santa Monica Mountains, rain fell at rates of up to a half-inch an hour and a rockslide closed canyon roads near Malibu.

In Sacramento, a wind-storm with gusts topping 50 mph destroyed three historic trees Wednesday night that

were planted at the California Capitol about 120 years ago to honor Civil War veterans.

“We lost three grand ones,” said Democratic Assemblyman Ken Cooley.

The National Weather Service in San Diego warned that five-day rainfall totals would likely be substantial and that mud and debris flows could occur as heavy rains fell on wildfire burn scars east of Los Angeles.

Grand Canyon National

Park closed some roads on the South Rim due to snow and unsafe driving conditions.

The road woes were also felt to the north in Oregon. A 45-mile stretch of Interstate 84 between Troutdale and Hood River remained closed because of ice.

The temperature in Hood River was expected to climb to slightly above freezing, melting some of the ice that has turned the highway into a skating rink.

BRIEFLY

Wyden goes after Trumps pick for treasury secretary

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's getting pretty snippy at the Senate confirmation hearing for Donald Trump's pick for treasury secretary.

It started when Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden — the top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, opened with a tough statement about financier Steven Mnuchin.

That led a Republican senator, Pat Roberts of Kansas, to suggest that Wyden might want to take the sedative Valium. Roberts also said Wyden had suggested the former banker Mnuchin was “in charge of the Great Recession.”

After Roberts' attempt at humor, Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio jumped into the fray and said Roberts' Valium comment was “just outrageous.”

Oregon jobless rate drops to record low

EUGENE (AP) — Oregon's average unemployment rate has fallen to match a previous low record set in the economic boom of the mid-1990s.

The Register-Guard reported Thursday that according to the state Employment Department, Oregon's unemployment rate fell to 4.6 percent in December, from 5 percent in November. For 2016, Oregon had an average rate of 4.9 percent, matching a previous low set in 1995.

Between December 2015 and December 2016, employers in Oregon added 52,900 jobs when seasonally adjusted, an increase of 2.9 percent. The national job growth rate is 1.5 percent.

The state's fastest-growing industries in 2016 by percentage were construction, which grew by 8.1 percent, other services such as repair and maintenance, which grew by 4.8 percent, and professional and business services, which grew by 4.5 percent.

Man sentenced for illegally poaching 2 deer

EUGENE (AP) — A man has been sentenced for offenses related to the poaching of two deer south of Portland in Lane County.

Oregon State Police say 19-year-old Hunter Dillen Johnson was sentenced Wednesday to three years of probation and a three-year suspension of all hunting privileges. He must also pay \$2,000 restitution to the state.

Police say a deputy stopped Johnson of Noti, Oregon Oct. 26 and discovered the carcasses of a Black-tailed deer doe and a Black-tailed deer spike Johnson's pickup truck.

Police say Johnson produced a hunting license and tag issued to another person. An investigation revealed Johnson shot the deer with a .22 caliber rimfire rifle and had already filled his valid tag earlier in the season.

Standoff lawyer faces 3 charges in court scuffle

PORTLAND (AP) — The attorney for a leader of the armed occupation at an Oregon wildlife refuge is now facing three charges after an incident in which federal marshals tackled him for refusing to stop arguing with the judge in the case.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports a federal prosecutor assigned from Washington state filed court documents Friday charging Marcus Mumford with three misdemeanors.

The incident in question occurred when Mumford's client Ammon Bundy was acquitted last fall.

Feds reject Idaho utility's bid to negate Oregon fish law

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Federal authorities on Thursday rejected a request by an Idaho utility to negate an Oregon law requiring fish passage as part of relicensing for a hydroelectric project on the Snake River where it forms the border between Idaho and Oregon.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission dismissed the petition by Boise-based Idaho Power asking to exempt the three-dam Hells Canyon Complex from the Oregon statute.

The filing in December said the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution that has to do with federal authority over states pre-empts the Oregon law.

But the commission in the 14-page decision said it

found no reason why Oregon couldn't require fish passage and reintroduction as part of relicensing.

While Oregon requires fish passage, Idaho lawmakers have prohibited moving salmon and steelhead upstream of the three dams. That leaves the relicensing in limbo.

“We're still stuck between the state of Oregon and Idaho with their conflicting positions,” said Idaho Power spokesman Brad Bowlin.

He said the company was still evaluating the commission's decision and had no comment on that.

Idaho Power's 50-year license to operate the complex expired in 2005, and the company has since been operating on annually

issued licenses. The main problem, the company said in the filing, has been obtaining Clean Water Act certifications from the two states.

“If this had been granted it would have squashed Oregon's ability to regulate its own water quality—to Idaho Power's benefit,” said Kevin Lewis of Idaho Rivers United, an environmental group that works to protect and restore rivers.

In the utility company's filing, it notes that Oregon has said it wants salmon and steelhead to be able to access four Oregon tributaries that feed into the Hells Canyon Complex. To do this, the company would have to trap and transport the fish, which would require approval

from Idaho.

But Idaho is against reintroducing salmon and steelhead above the dams, and has passed a law opposing reintroduction of any species without the consent of the Legislature and governor.

Biologists have said the Snake River above the dams is so degraded it couldn't support salmon and steelhead without significant rehabilitation work, which would require cooperation from landowners.

Idaho Power supplies electricity to customers in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. The Hells Canyon Complex produces about 40 percent of the company's total annual power generation, the company said in its filing.

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 p.m. rain or snow shower	A snow shower in the afternoon	Showers of rain and snow; chilly	A little snow, mainly early	Partly sunny and cold

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

38°	28°	39°	30°	39°	25°	33°	24°	33°	20°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

37°	27°	36°	27°	38°	25°	35°	25°	35°	23°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	44°	36°
Normals	42°	28°
Records	67° (1968)	-13° (1922)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.

0.07"

Month to date 1.32"
Normal month to date 0.96"
Year to date 1.32"
Last year to date 1.01"
Normal year to date 0.96"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	42°	30°
Normals	42°	29°
Records	61° (1977)	-6° (1957)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.

0.51"

Month to date 1.30"
Normal month to date 0.79"
Year to date 1.30"
Last year to date 0.79"
Normal year to date 0.79"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:29 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:44 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:52 a.m.
Moonset today	11:49 a.m.

Phase	Date
New	Jan 27
First	Feb 3
Full	Feb 10
Last	Feb 18

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Cloudy today with showers; chilly in the south.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today; flurries.

Eastern and Central Oregon: A snow shower, accumulating up to an inch in central parts and the upper Treasure Valley.

Western Washington: Cloudy today; a little rain. Snow showers in the Cascades.

Cascades: A little snow at times today, accumulating 1-3 inches.

Northern California: Showers today; snow, accumulating 4-8 inches in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	49	39	r	49	42	r
Baker City	30	21	sn	31	18	sf
Bend	36	24	c	37	27	sf
Brookings	49	42	sh	49	42	r
Burns	30	17	sn	30	10	sn
Enterprise	34	23	c	33	26	c
Eugene	50	37	r	46	38	r
Heppner	38	28	c	40	31	sf
Hermiston	37	27	sf	36	27	sf
John Day	37	29	sn	38	31	sn
Klamath Falls	37	26	sn	37	28	sf
La Grande	35	27	c	35	28	sf
Meacham	33	25	c	34	26	sf
Medford	48	36	sh	47	36	r
Newport	50	43	r	49	42	r
North Bend	53	43	r	52	42	r
Ontario	33	22	sf	32	19	c
Pasco	36	25	sf	37	24	sf
Pendleton	38	28	sn	39	30	sf
Portland	43	35	r	44	38	r
Redmond	40	23	sn	42	28	sn
Salem	51	38	r	48	39	r
Spokane	37	27	c	36	26	sf
Ukiah	37	24	sn	37	27	sf
Vancouver	43	36	r	44	39	r
Walla Walla	41	29	c	39	31	sf
Yakima	39	28	sn	40	29	sn

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	33	13	s	34	13	s
Hong Kong	66	55	pc	66	56	s
Jerusalem	56	41	pc	53	41	pc
London	44	28	s	41	28	sh
Mexico City	74	45	pc	77	43	pc
Moscow	32	18	sn	26	14	sn
Paris	34	21	s	36	23	pc
Rome	54	35	s	58	42	pc
Seoul	31	14	sf	31	17	sf
Sydney	89	70	t	77	68	pc
Tokyo	43	37	r	50	37	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	N 4-8	NE 4-8
Pendleton	SE 6-12	S 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 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.

National Summary:

Rain will soak areas from the Great Lakes to the mid-Atlantic with locally gusty storms joining in over the Deep South today. Flooding rain is forecast along with heavy mountain snow for the Pacific coast.

Yesterday's National Extremes:

(for the 48 contiguous states)
High 84° in Opa Locka, Fla. Low -18° in Lake George, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	46	31	pc	44	25	c
Atlanta	74	57	pc	69	58	r
Atlanta City	48	43	r	53	45	pc
Baltimore	48	41	c	55	46	pc
Billings	39	21	c	33	22	pc
Birmingham	72	59	pc	71	57	r
Boise	39	27	sf	35	27	c
Boston	43	35	s	48	38	pc
Charleston, SC	77	59	pc	73	61	c
Chicago, WV	65	51	pc	66	50	c
Chicago	44	41	r	54	40	c
Cleveland	54	47	r	61	46	c
Dallas	72	48	s	70	46	c
Denver	42	24	sn	41	26	pc
Detroit	43	39	r	53	44	c
El Paso	54	44	sh	51	38	c
Fairbanks	-7	-18	c	-15	-31	c
Fargo	39	35	c	38	33	sn
Honolulu	81	70	pc	80	69	sh
Houston	77	59	c	74	56	c
Indianapolis	56	48	c	61	47	c
Jacksonville	79	60	r	78	61	t
Kansas City	54	36	c	54	32	pc
Las Vegas	51	43	r	55	42	c
Little Rock	67	50	pc	67	48	c
Los Angeles	60	49	r			