



Jason Brainerd/Rapid Aerial LLC via AP

This Jan. 20 aerial image provided by Rapid Aerial LLC shows a Partners Produce facility in Payette, Idaho, that collapsed under the weight of snow.

# Ed Board considers shortening school year because of weather

By PARIS ACHEN  
*Capital Bureau*

**SALEM** — Responding to massive weather-related school closures in the last two months, the Oregon Board of Education on Thursday will consider adopting a temporary rule that would waive 14 hours of state-mandated instructional time for this school year.

The Oregon Department of Education recommended the temporary rule after officials from several school districts contacted the agency to ask for assistance in meeting the requirement.

“Some school districts said: This is a really crazy year; this is unique. Is there something the department can do to help us out with flexibility?” said Emily Nasarov, an operations policy analyst with ODE. “When we started to get those requests, we looked at the given rules and state law to what could we do to afford relief to those schools and still protect instructional time as much as possible.”

be able respond flexibly to this difficult situation.”

Then more snow bombarded the area in January.

In total, the school district lost six school days, Mooney said.

“We were already making up five days and we had moved graduation,” Mooney said. “Unfortunately, the snow kept coming, and when you look across the state we aren’t even that bad.”

Without the temporary rule, the Hermiston School District still won’t be able to meet required instructional time, unless it adds another school day to the calendar.

“With the five days, we still have hours we need to make up, which is why we reached out to the Department (of Education).” Mooney said. “If they issue the temporary rule for 14 hours, we then are fine.”

That scenario assumes another winter storm won’t shut school doors again.

If the temporary rule is voted down, the local school board would have to consider using a day from Spring Break, a parent-teacher conference day or adding in 15 minutes to a number of days to make up time, Mooney said.

# Snow-covered buildings collapsing

By KEITH RIDLER  
*Associated Press*

**BOISE, Idaho** — For buildings in parts of the snow-covered U.S. West, it has become a winter where the weak do not survive.

The accumulated weight of snow has crushed an old lumber mill in Oregon, the main grocery store in a small Idaho town, a sports complex in Alaska and a conference center in Colorado, among others.

They have led to some injuries and at least one death, when the roof of a woman’s snow-laden porch in northern Idaho fell while she was underneath it, officials say. Authorities fear more collapses will come.

Storms this month have blanketed the West and kept dumping more snow on top of it.

Experts say the rare combination of greater snowfall at lower elevations and prolonged cold temperatures that allowed the snow to accumulate without melting away is partly to blame for the collapses.

The combination builds up an amount of snow that exceeds building codes set for weather expected only twice a century, said Dell Winegar, president of the Idaho Onion Growers Association, whose industry has felt the pain at its facilities.

Nearly 20 buildings that store and package onions have crashed down in Idaho and Oregon, leading prices to spike from \$3.50 to \$6.50

for a 50-pound bag of yellow jumbo onions.

“It’s been a heartbreak for a lot of folks,” Winegar said. “It’s hard to prepare for something that has never happened before.”

While lower elevations are getting record snow, mountains in the West are only somewhat above average, forecasters say.

But “that snow hasn’t been melting,” said Troy Lindquist of the National Weather Service. “We’re ending up with snow loads on roofs that we typically don’t see around here.”

Another possible reason behind the collapses is that settling snow does not look as substantial because it’s not as deep, fooling building owners about the weight that’s pressing on shingles and tiles.

But experts say the water density in the snow is increasing, meaning a roof that that does not appear to be holding much powder can be straining under thousands of pounds.

“They may look at the roof and say, ‘There’s not as much snow there because it settled,’” said Ron Abramovich, a water supply specialist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service who analyzes the snowpack in mountains. “But it really comes down to the amount of water in the snowpack.”

Abramovich said 20 inches of snow can weigh about 10 pounds per square foot. That means a portion of a 20-by-20 foot roof with that amount of snow would be

supporting about 4,000 pounds.

A former factory was bearing much more weight than that when it collapsed this month in the upscale Old Mill District of Bend.

The building, covering 7.5 acres with nearly 30 inches of snow on its roof, was a remnant of an era when two large lumber mills stood where shops and restaurants now do. It stored about 60 campers and motorhomes, said Scott Carlson, chief financial officer of Hooker Creek, a construction materials company that owns the building.

“Typically, we get a lot of snow, but it usually melts some between snowstorms,” he said, noting that new storms made it too dangerous to remove the snow.

He didn’t have a cost estimate for the damage.

In Alaska’s largest city, the 180,000-square-foot sports center called The Dome, billed as the world’s largest structure supported by pressurized air, collapsed last weekend after a snowstorm dumped more than a foot of snow on Anchorage.

Investigators were trying to determine why the roof’s thin, flexible plastic material, supported by pipes and cables, collapsed.

Higher elevations also have faced problems. In Breckenridge, Colorado, a resort mountain town above 9,000 feet, the roof of a hotel conference room caved in last week under the weight of snow. No one was injured, but 70 rooms at the Village of Breckenridge were evacuated.

The Beaverton School District lost about nine school days during three separate ice and snow storms in December and January.

“I’ve been working in education for 18 years, and I can’t recall this extended of a period off,” said David Williams, administrator for government relations at Beaverton schools.

The school district’s calendar provides more instructional time than required by law, but not enough to make up for the missed time, Williams said. The district needed to make up about seven to meet state requirements.

School district officials extended the school year by one day to end June 22 and then used a combination of days for grading, parent-teacher conferences and teacher professional development and extending shortened finals days at the high school level, Williams said.

Beaverton officials were able to change the schedule without a vote by the teachers’ association because they used work days already in the teachers’ contract.

“It was a collaborative conversation with teachers,” Williams said.

# 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	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Cloudy; fog, cold	Areas of fog, freezing early	Areas of fog, freezing early	Mainly cloudy and chilly	Mostly cloudy
36° 25°	37° 23°	37° 23°	42° 32°	44° 30°
36° 25°	37° 26°	36° 25°	39° 30°	46° 27°

**PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**

**HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**

36° 25° 37° 26° 36° 25° 39° 30° 46° 27°

### ALMANAC

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

**TEMPERATURE**

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 37°	29°
Normals 42°	29°
Records 65° (1935)	-10° (1957)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace  
Month to date 1.33"  
Normal month to date 1.18"  
Year to date 1.33"  
Last year to date 1.13"  
Normal year to date 1.18"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

**TEMPERATURE**

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 33°	30°
Normals 43°	29°
Records 60° (1968)	-17° (1949)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 1.39"  
Normal month to date 1.04"  
Year to date 1.39"  
Last year to date 0.87"  
Normal year to date 1.04"

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:23 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:53 p.m.
Moonrise today	6:17 a.m.
Moonset today	3:59 p.m.
New	Jan 27
First	Feb 3
Full	Feb 10
Last	Feb 18

**REGIONAL FORECAST**

Coastal Oregon: Clouds and sun today. Partly cloudy tonight, but mostly cloudy across the north.  
Eastern and Central Oregon: Fog, freezing early today; a flurry in central parts and near the Cascades.  
Western Washington: Mostly cloudy today; a passing afternoon shower at the coast.  
Eastern Washington: Cloudy today with areas of fog; areas of fog in the north during the morning.  
Cascades: Partly sunny today with a couple of flurries. Partly cloudy tonight.  
Northern California: Partly sunny today; frigid in the interior mountains. Patchy clouds tonight.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today	Fri.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Astoria	51 38 pc	54 38 pc
Baker City	26 5 c	24 9 c
Bend	37 19 c	37 20 pc
Brookings	51 37 pc	53 38 s
Burns	24 0 pc	20 -1 pc
Enterprise	29 9 c	30 16 c
Eugene	51 31 pc	48 30 pc
Heppner	36 20 c	36 23 c
Hermiston	36 25 c	37 26 c
John Day	35 20 pc	36 23 c
Klamath Falls	37 11 pc	31 11 s
La Grande	33 17 c	33 18 c
Meacham	31 16 c	32 18 c
Medford	51 29 pc	50 29 s
Newport	50 37 pc	53 39 pc
North Bend	53 37 pc	55 37 pc
Ontario	27 11 c	25 13 c
Pasco	35 22 c	36 23 c
Pendleton	36 25 c	37 23 c
Portland	47 31 pc	47 30 pc
Redmond	40 18 c	37 18 pc
Salem	51 32 pc	50 31 pc
Spokane	32 25 c	34 23 c
Ukiah	33 14 c	34 18 c
Vancouver	46 31 pc	47 31 pc
Walla Walla	36 24 c	36 24 c
Yakima	36 23 c	36 23 c

### WORLD CITIES

	Today	Fri.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Beijing	49 18 pc	42 18 s
Hong Kong	69 61 s	70 63 s
Jerusalem	55 42 c	47 36 sh
London	40 31 s	47 40 pc
Mexico City	78 45 s	77 46 s
Moscow	13 9 c	29 23 c
Paris	39 32 s	51 42 pc
Rome	56 41 s	55 43 pc
Seoul	41 21 pc	32 14 s
Sydney	80 71 sh	82 73 pc
Tokyo	49 41 s	61 40 pc

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	ENE 3-6	NE 4-8
Pendleton	NNW 4-8	NE 4-8

### UV INDEX TODAY

0 0 1 1 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:** Cold air will extend from the West to the Central states and the Appalachians, where snow showers will develop today. Lake-effect snow will develop over the Midwest. Areas of fog will develop in the West.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 86° in McAllen, Texas Low -25° in Mammoth Lakes, Calif.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today	Fri.	Today	Fri.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Albuquerque	36 15 s	36 16 s	Louisville	47 30 c
Atlanta	55 34 pc	50 32 s	Memphis	47 30 c
Atlanta City	53 39 pc	46 33 pc	Miami	86 65 s
Baltimore	56 34 pc	45 29 pc	Millwaukee	38 25 sf
Birmingham	53 32 s	49 31 s	Minneapolis	29 20 c
Boise	28 13 c	26 14 c	Nashville	46 33 pc
Boston	51 34 pc	44 32 pc	New Orleans	60 43 s
Charleston, SC	71 38 sh	59 35 s	New York City	51 36 sh
Chicago	35 24 sf	37 27 sf	Oklahoma City	48 23 s
Chicago, WV	43 30 sh	37 27 sf	Omaha	29 19 pc
Cleveland	41 31 sh	36 27 sf	Philadelphia	56 36 pc
Dallas	54 33 s	56 32 s	Phoenix	57 37 s
Denver	32 12 s	37 20 s	Portland, ME	45 28 pc
Detroit	41 30 sn	35 28 sf	Providence	50 33 pc
El Paso	50 27 s	48 26 s	Raleigh	61 34 sh
Fairbanks	29 14 c	20 5 pc	Rapid City	28 17 pc
Fargo	23 15 c	31 24 c	Reno	36 18 pc
Honolulu	82 68 pc	82 65 pc	Sacramento	54 33 pc
Houston	61 40 s	61 44 s	St. Louis	37 28 c
Indianapolis	37 27 sf	31 24 c	Salt Lake City	29 14 c
Jacksonville	74 42 sh	62 36 s	San Diego	61 46 c
Kansas City	33 21 pc	38 25 pc	San Francisco	55 41 pc
Las Vegas	48 35 s	49 31 s	Seattle	49 36 c
Little Rock	48 28 s	50 29 s	Tucson	56 32 c
Los Angeles	63 44 s	66 44 s	Washington, DC	58 37 pc
			Wichita	41 22 s

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