

AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
40° 32°	47° 35°	50° 40°	52° 34°	42° 27°
42° 31°	50° 35°	51° 39°	51° 31°	43° 29°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	55°	34°
Normals	47°	29°
Records	68° (2007)	-10° (1936)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m.

Month to date	0.12"
Normal month to date	0.70"
Year to date	2.61"
Last year to date	2.17"
Normal year to date	2.08"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

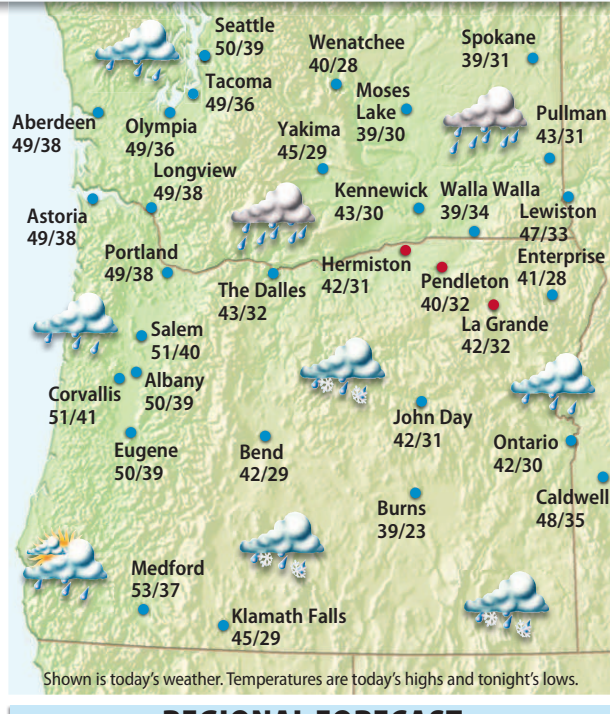
TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	53°	33°
Normals	48°	29°
Records	70° (1948)	-15° (1936)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m.

Month to date	0.02"
Normal month to date	0.68"
Year to date	0.59"
Last year to date	2.37"
Normal year to date	1.34"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:52 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:26 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:36 a.m.
Moonset today	10:52 a.m.



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today and tonight with some showers. Periods of rain tomorrow.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Showers today, but a bit of snow and rain in central parts and near the Cascades.

Western Washington: Mostly cloudy with some showers today. Some clouds with a shower in spots tonight.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy with showers today; snow above 3,000 feet. Showers tapering off tonight.

Cascades: Showers today with snow above 4,000 feet. A rain or snow shower in spots tonight.

Northern California: Breezy with rain this morning tapering to showers this afternoon. Snow above 4,500 feet.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	49	38	pc	50	41	r
Baker City	41	26	sn	41	31	r
Bend	42	29	c	43	32	c
Brookings	50	42	pc	52	47	r
Burns	39	23	c	38	25	r
Enterprise	41	28	sn	40	26	r
Eugene	50	39	r	51	42	r
Heppner	42	30	c	46	32	c
Hermiston	42	31	r	50	35	c
John Day	42	31	c	43	32	r
Klamath Falls	45	29	c	44	35	c
La Grande	42	32	sn	43	33	r
Meacham	39	30	sh	40	31	r
Medford	53	37	r	55	42	sh
Newport	49	42	c	51	44	r
North Bend	51	44	c	55	47	r
Ontario	42	30	sh	44	32	r
Pasco	42	31	r	48	34	c
Pendleton	40	32	r	47	35	c
Portland	49	38	r	49	39	r
Redmond	45	31	c	48	34	c
Salem	51	40	r	52	41	r
Spokane	39	31	r	40	31	c
Ukiah	40	30	sn	44	30	r
Vancouver	50	39	r	51	39	r
Walla Walla	39	34	r	45	36	c
Yakima	45	29	r	46	34	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	51	27	s	58	26	pc
Hong Kong	74	63	s	71	65	c
Jerusalem	50	35	s	54	36	s
London	53	42	c	53	46	pc
Mexico City	76	45	s	74	49	pc
Moscow	36	30	sf	34	32	sn
Paris	51	33	pc	53	42	c
Rome	59	39	pc	57	37	pc
Seoul	37	23	s	45	25	r
Sydney	80	63	t	77	62	sh
Tokyo	49	38	r	50	41	s

WINDS

	Today	Sunday
(in mph)		
Boardman	WSW 3-6	WSW 3-6
Pendleton	W 3-6	WSW 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

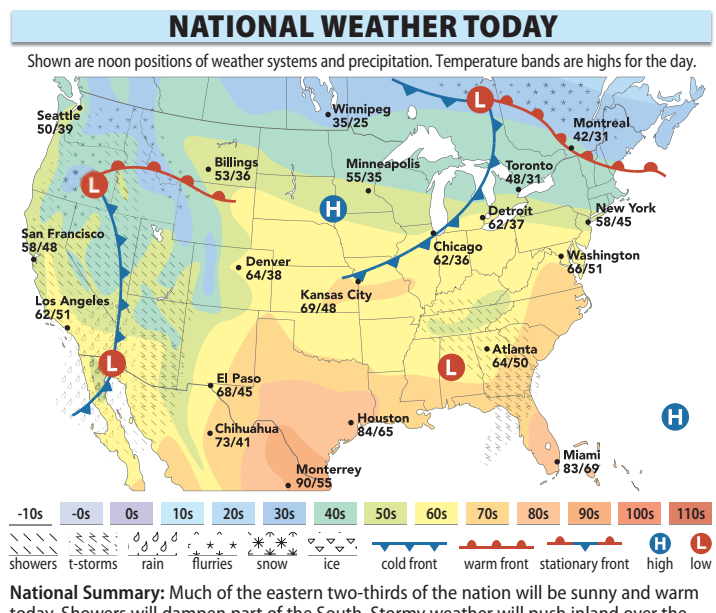
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

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 Summary: Much of the eastern two-thirds of the nation will be sunny and warm today. Showers will dampen part of the South. Stormy weather will push inland over the Southwest with spotty rain and snow in the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 89° in Edinburg, Texas Low -2° in Watertown, N.Y.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.				Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	60	39	c	53	35	c	Louisville	61	50	r	67	46	pc
Atlanta	64	50	c	73	50	s	Memphis	65	51	c	76	59	s
Atlanta City	60	49	s	65	42	s	Miami	83	69	pc	86	68	pc
Baltimore	65	47	pc	68	39	s	Milwaukee	56	37	s	44	40	s
Billings	53	36	pc	54	34	c	Minneapolis	55	35	pc	59	47	pc
Birmingham	63	48	sh	75	51	s	Nashville	62	47	sh	68	46	s
Boise	52	37	sh	47	40	sn	New Orleans	75	59	pc	79	64	pc
Boston	45	38	pc	49	31	s	New York City	58	45	s	59	37	s
Charleston, SC	75	53	c	74	50	s	Oklahoma City	66	51	c	71	52	c
Charleston, WV	63	47	pc	64	42	pc	Omaha	62	42	s	66	55	pc
Chicago	62	36	s	61	42	s	Philadelphia	63	47	s	64	38	s
Cleveland	63	42	s	54	34	c	Phoenix	64	51	t	64	50	r
Dallas	79	60	pc	76	60	c	Portland, ME	40	32	pc	44	27	pc
Denver	64	38	pc	64	34	pc	Providence	46	35	pc	53	30	s
Detroit	62	37	s	55	34	s	Raleigh	74	48	pc	73	46	s
El Paso	68	45	c	58	42	r	Rapid City	62	36	pc	64	41	pc
Fairbanks	13	-6	s	11	-13	c	Reno	52	35	sh	52	43	s
Fargo	47	34	pc	52	46	pc	Sacramento	60	45	sh	57	53	r
Honolulu	83	67	sh	77	67	pc	St. Louis	70	48	pc	73	56	s
Houston	84	65	pc	80	65	c	Salt Lake City	56	40	c	49	34	r
Indianapolis	63	46	c	63	44	c	San Diego	64	55	sh	64	55	pc
Jacksonville	74	54	t	75	50	c	San Francisco	58	48	c	59	57	r
Kansas City	69	48	pc	71	57	pc	Seattle	50	39	r	50	40	r
Las Vegas	54	47	r	63	50	c	Tucson	65	46	t	60	45	r
Little Rock	69	50	c	75	58	pc	Washington, DC	66	51	pc	68	44	s
Los Angeles	62	51	sh	65	53	pc	Wichita	70	47	s	72	51	pc

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

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Bill would prevent employers from recovering attorney fees in wage disputes

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon employers would be stripped of the ability to recoup attorney fees if they win a wage and hour lawsuit under a proposed bill before state lawmakers, while another would allow claimants to file liens on their employer's property before winning a judgment.

Only employees who file and win such cases would be entitled to attorney fees under House Bill 2169, which is being considered by the House Committee on Business and Labor.

Currently, either workers or employers can recover such costs if they win legal disputes over wage and hour claims.

Proponents of HB 2169 argue the current system effectively prevents workers from filing lawsuits when employers have paid less than the minimum wage or made improper wage deductions.

"It serves as a real deterrent for low-asset households to proceed with legitimate claims," said Michael Dale,

executive director of the Northwest Workers' Justice Project, during a Feb. 13 committee hearing.

Judges would still retain the right to penalize plaintiffs and their lawyers for cases that are deemed frivolous, Dale said. "I think it balances out."

Attorneys who represent workers in labor disputes said their clients are typically unwilling to risk paying tens of thousands of dollars in attorney fees over disputes involving several hundred dollars in wages.

"It guarantees bankruptcy for the individual," said attorney David Schuck.

Opponents of HB 2169 argue the law should remain impartial as to who can recoup attorney fees in wage and hour lawsuits.

"We don't think Oregon law should stack the deck against one side or the other," said Anthony Smith, state director for the National Federation of Independent Business.

Tim Bernasek, an attorney representing the Oregon Farm Bureau, said judges ultimately decide whether such awards are appropriate,

so workers don't necessarily have to pay the opposing side's attorney fees when they lose a dispute.

The prospect of being liable for attorney fees has a "sobering effect" on both parties in such disputes, Bernasek said. "It's important to keep that balance."

Representatives of Oregon's business community testified they were also troubled by other proposals aimed at strengthening the position of workers in litigation against employers.

"Wage theft is already

illegal and none of the bills before you make it any more illegal," said Betsy Earls, vice president of Associated Oregon Industries.

Under House Bill 2180, workers who file a complaint over unpaid wages can file a lien against their employer's property.

Supporters of HB 2180 say the change is necessary because companies can transfer assets or change their names, preventing employees from collecting unpaid wages even when they've won court judgments.

Opponents of the bill question its fairness, since a lien can impede the ability to sell property, hurt a company's creditworthiness and otherwise disrupt business transactions, even if the wage claim is unfounded.

"The due process concerns are significant," said Bernasek.

Similarly, under House Bill 2181, if a worker is fired within 90 days of filing a wage claim, the employer faces the "rebuttable presumption" that the

termination was intended as retaliation.

According to proponents, this revision levels the playing field.

"Proving retaliation is very difficult," said Dale. "You have to get in someone's head based on something they did in the past."

Critics of HB 2181 argue it's just as difficult for employers to prove they were not retaliating against workers.

"You're telling me I'm guilty until I prove I'm innocent," said Smith.

Umatilla Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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Umatilla Electric is offering the following scholarships for the 2017-18 school year:

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LINEMAN TRADE
A \$2,000 scholarship is available to members and/or applicants whose parent or guardian is an active member, and are interested in the Line Construction trade and will be attending an accredited Line College. Go to: UmatillaElectric.com to download the application.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
A \$5,000 scholarship is administered to a college student who has completed their freshman year and is interested in pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering-Power Systems. Apply at www.oregonstudentaid.gov.

For more information visit our offices in Hermiston or Boardman or our website: UmatillaElectric.com.

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