

## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Some sun	Pleasant and warmer	Partly sunny and very warm	An afternoon shower or t-storm	Mostly cloudy and cooler
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
64°	50°	77°	55°	85°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
69°	50°	82°	54°	90°
59°	42°	72°	42°	58°
37°	42°	72°	42°	58°

### ALMANAC

#### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	53°	36°
Normals	67°	43°
Records	88° (1976)	24° (1905)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.

Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.03"
Year to date	8.21"
Last year to date	4.35"
Normal year to date	5.14"

#### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	59°	34°
Normals	69°	42°
Records	89° (1947)	22° (1954)

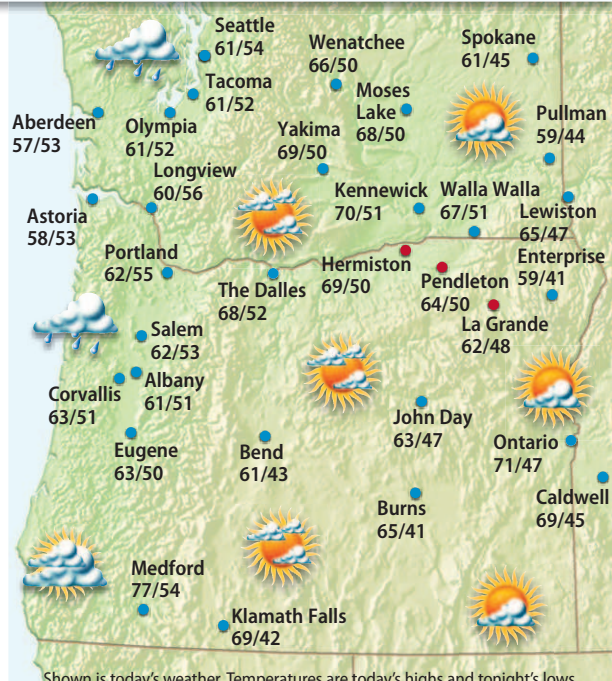
#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.

Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.04"
Year to date	5.88"
Last year to date	2.98"
Normal year to date	4.03"

#### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:41 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:04 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:45 a.m.
Moonset today	1:45 a.m.



### REGIONAL FORECAST

**Coastal Oregon:** A blend of sun and clouds today; a couple of showers; however, dry in the south.

**Eastern and Central Oregon:** Intervals of clouds and sunshine today.

**Western Washington:** Mainly cloudy today. A couple of showers; arriving in the afternoon in central parts.

**Eastern Washington:** Partly sunny today.

**Cascades:** A shower in places today; mostly cloudy; however, sunnier in the south.

**Northern California:** Mostly sunny today.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	58	53	sh	67	51	c
Baker City	62	41	pc	72	42	s
Bend	61	43	pc	77	49	pc
Brookings	63	53	pc	68	53	pc
Burns	65	41	pc	73	48	s
Enterprise	59	41	pc	69	43	s
Eugene	63	50	sh	81	54	pc
Heppner	64	47	pc	77	51	s
Hermiston	69	50	pc	82	54	s
John Day	63	47	pc	77	51	s
Klamath Falls	69	42	pc	78	45	s
La Grande	62	48	pc	74	50	s
Meacham	59	45	pc	72	47	s
Medford	77	54	c	88	58	pc
Newport	57	50	sh	65	51	c
North Bend	62	52	sh	69	53	pc
Ontario	71	47	pc	77	49	s
Pasco	70	50	pc	82	52	s
Pendleton	64	50	pc	77	55	s
Portland	62	55	sh	81	58	c
Redmond	64	42	pc	79	47	pc
Salem	62	53	sh	81	56	pc
Spokane	61	45	pc	69	50	pc
Ukiah	61	43	pc	73	47	s
Vancouver	60	54	pc	79	58	c
Walla Walla	67	51	pc	79	57	s
Yakima	69	50	pc	82	52	pc

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	88	60	s	85	61	c
Hong Kong	84	76	pc	84	75	t
Jerusalem	72	53	t	72	53	s
London	63	45	c	56	48	c
Mexico City	82	54	pc	82	55	pc
Moscow	70	39	pc	55	38	pc
Paris	62	45	t	58	45	sh
Rome	69	49	pc	68	49	pc
Seoul	80	53	s	83	54	s
Sydney	74	59	pc	67	59	c
Tokyo	70	58	s	70	57	pc

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	WNW 4-8	SW 4-8
Pendleton	W 6-12	WNW 4-8

### UV INDEX TODAY



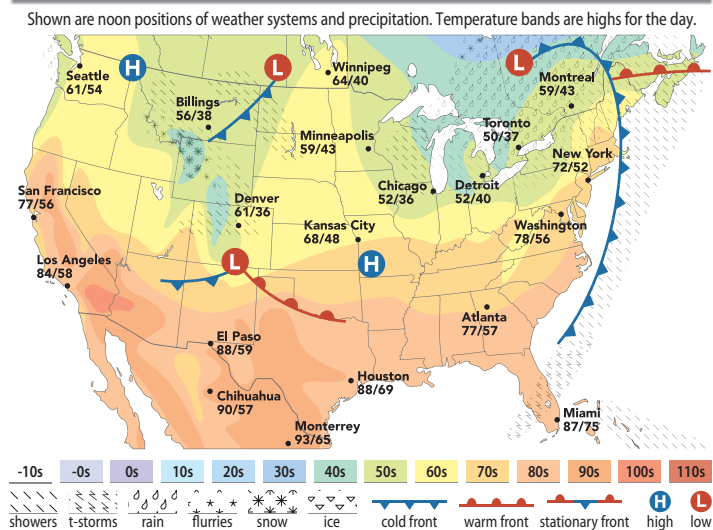
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 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



**National Summary:** Storms will affect South Florida, while clouds and showers frequent areas from northern New England to the Great Lakes today. Rain and snow showers will slide southeastward across the northern Rockies.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
**High** 100° in Palm Springs, Calif. **Low** 12° in Pine Junction, Colo.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.			Today			Wed.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	78	49	s	73	46	pc	Louisville	72	48	s	62	53	c
Atlanta	77	57	s	83	61	pc	Memphis	79	59	s	79	50	r
Atlanta City	70	54	s	64	47	s	Miami	87	75	pc	87	76	t
Baltimore	75	53	s	66	47	s	Milwaukee	53	38	c	56	39	pc
Billings	56	38	r	67	47	pc	Minneapolis	59	43	pc	63	46	sh
Birmingham	80	56	s	84	63	pc	Nashville	77	53	s	77	56	c
Boise	67	47	pc	74	52	s	New Orleans	85	65	s	80	65	t
Boston	71	49	pc	63	44	pc	New York City	72	52	s	62	46	s
Charleston, SC	83	58	s	85	64	s	Oklahoma City	79	53	pc	64	46	c
Charleston, WV	70	45	s	66	49	pc	Omaha	65	43	pc	62	44	sh
Chicago	52	36	c	59	41	pc	Philadelphia	75	52	s	65	45	s
Cleveland	56	44	c	57	45	pc	Phoenix	96	70	s	98	72	s
Dallas	87	66	s	77	53	r	Portland, ME	64	44	sh	62	39	c
Denver	61	36	t	57	35	c	Providence	71	50	pc	63	43	pc
Detroit	52	40	c	62	43	pc	Raleigh	78	56	s	79	56	s
El Paso	88	59	s	87	58	s	Rapid City	57	36	c	61	35	c
Fairbanks	58	40	pc	56	38	r	Reno	79	53	s	83	54	s
Fargo	66	42	pc	66	39	sh	Sacramento	92	64	s	93	62	s
Honolulu	84	71	pc	84	73	s	St. Louis	70	48	s	55	46	r
Houston	88	69	s	80	59	t	Salt Lake City	64	44	pc	67	47	pc
Indianapolis	62	40	s	58	46	r	San Diego	75	60	pc	75	61	pc
Jacksonville	84	55	s	85	61	pc	San Francisco	77	56	s	78	56	pc
Kansas City	68	48	pc	58	44	sh	Seattle	61	54	sh	72	54	c
Las Vegas	91	71	s	92	71	s	Tucson	92	61	s	94	64	s
Little Rock	80	57	s	72	49	r	Washington, DC	78	56	s	69	51	s
Los Angeles	84	58	s	83	59	s	Wichita	70	49	pc	61	45	r

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

# EAST OREGONIAN

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## MERKLEY: 1 in 3 people are on the Oregon Health Plan

Continued from 1A

In an effort to revive the bill after it couldn't muster enough Republican support, the leaders of the ultra-conservative Freedom Caucus and the moderate Tuesday Group reached a compromise that moved the bill to the right.

Merkley said he was concerned that the amended bill would allow insurance companies to deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions and do away with the essential benefits package.

He added that the bill's Medicaid rollbacks would particularly affect Oregon where 1 in 3 people are on the Oregon Health Plan, the state's Medicaid program.

Merkley thought the bill might be within a few votes of passage in the House of Representatives, in which case, it would go on to the Senate.

"If it comes to the Senate, we'll have quite a conversation," he said.

Some of the other issues Merkley discussed included:

- Mark Burrows of Pendleton asked Merkley about whether Republicans would move to kill the filibuster entirely after eliminating it for Supreme Court nominees to confirm Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Merkley said he would be "shocked" if that happened, but he took the chance to condemn Republicans for "stealing" a seat on the court after refusing to hold a hearing on Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland.

Prompted by questions from two Pendleton residents, Merkley also touched on some electoral reforms he supports — a national vote by mail law, basing presidential elections on the popular vote and restoring the pre-clearance requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to prevent voter suppression.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

**Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, speaks to a crowd at BMCC's Bob Clapp Theatre on Saturday afternoon. Here, Merkley smiles as he answers a question from Jim Willis, of Pendleton, about the idea of limiting campaign season to one year.**

- Merkley also talked about his "100 by 50 Act," a bill he's sponsoring with Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. that would phase out fossil fuels by 2050.

Pendleton High School student Lily Williams asked Merkley how he would prevent the bill from negatively affecting lower and middle class citizens.

Merkley said Oregon was already feeling the economic effects of climate change, as evidenced by longer fire seasons, smaller and warmer trout streams and a more acidic ocean that was killing oyster hatcheries on the coast.

Merkley said his bill would ease the transition by providing job training to people working in fossil fuel industries and a provision that would keep energy costs down.

Merkley was also critical of President Donald Trump's budget proposal, which he said would eliminate many programs that help rural Americans.

"I refer to it not as the 'America First' budget but as 'Rural American Last,'" he said.

Earlier in the day, Merkley received a direct

appeal from Pendleton city officials to help keep some of the government programs that help Pendleton.

Steve Chrisman, Pendleton economic development director and airport manager, said eliminating the Essential Air Service subsidy and privatizing air traffic control towers would not only hurt the city's business community, but it would stunt the growth of the Pendleton UAS Range.

Besides relying on commercial flights to get to and from Pendleton, Chrisman said the control tower is one of the reasons UAS companies come to Pendleton to test drones. Pendleton's tower is third from the bottom in the number of operations it runs, Chrisman said, and wouldn't fare well in a privatized marketplace.

John Bustard, the Pendleton air traffic control tower manager, gave Merkley a tour of the tower, which was built in the 1940s.

Due to its advanced age, Bustard said the tower's foundation is starting to shift. He eventually hopes to move the tower to the UAS industrial park the city has planned.

## Hermiston grad keeps Walden's schedule running smoothly

By JADE MCDOWELL  
 East Oregonian

Of all the members of Congress that Lorissa Bounds has worked for, she says Rep. Greg Walden is the busiest.

"I can attest to one thing: Greg Walden works," Bounds said by way of apology for running a little behind schedule for a phone interview from Washington, D.C., on Thursday.

Bounds, a Hermiston High School graduate, became Walden's chief of staff in December. The congressman's assignments — particularly chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce — keep his schedule full, and it is Bounds' job to manage that schedule.

She said Walden's office tends to employ around 14 people spread between Washington, D.C., and offices in Oregon's 2nd Congressional District, which represents roughly 750,000 people. Responding to constituent concerns alone can keep those staffers in the office until 10 p.m. some nights; Bounds said Walden's office has received 71,000 constituent calls, letters and emails since the beginning of the year.

"We've replied to 69,000 so far," she said. "That's a lot of work."

Many members of Congress have faced a groundswell of angry constituent feedback in recent months. As an author and key promoter of the Republican attempt to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, Walden has seen his share of that lately. A recent town hall meeting in his hometown of Hood River drew a vocal, disgruntled crowd of nearly 800 people.

Bounds came back to Oregon for Walden's most recent string of town halls, and said she learned a lot from watching the way he responded to the crowds. She said his attitude was that he would rather people be fired up at town hall meetings than sitting on the couch at home, uninvolved in their government.

Not all constituent interactions come in the form of

angry emails and boos from town hall attendees. Bounds said Walden's staff often helps members of the public with small things, like scheduling a capital tour for a family visiting from Oregon or helping a veteran break through red tape to get care.

Navigating the sometimes-contentious world of politics seems to be in Bounds' blood. Her brother Tucker Bounds was Sen. John McCain's communications director during his 2008 presidential run and her brother Ryan Bounds is an assistant U.S. attorney. They also talk politics with their sister Hillary and parents Roger and Karen Bounds around the dinner table when everyone is home for the holidays.

Bounds said she loved growing up in small-town Hermiston, but got bit by the "political bug" when she went to Scotland as a foreign exchange student and got to meet Margaret Thatcher during Thatcher's third term as prime minister.