

## AccuWeather Forecast

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TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Freezing fog in the a.m.; cloudy	A shower in the afternoon	Partly sunny	Times of clouds and sun	Turning cloudy

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### PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

33°	26°	38°	31°	41°	31°	45°	37°	49°	37°
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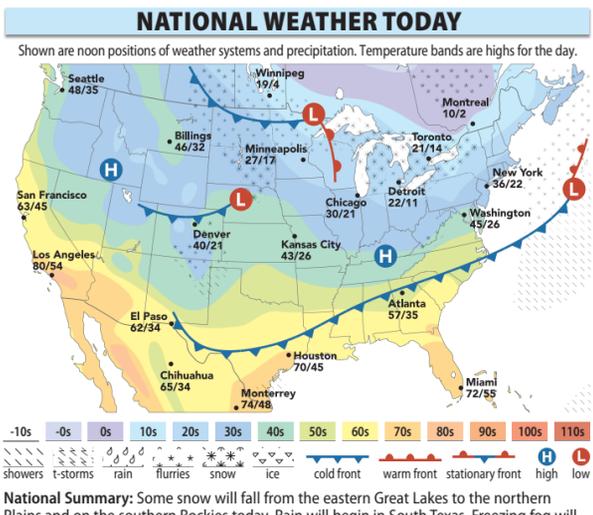
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### HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

34°	26°	38°	31°	44°	31°	46°	38°	50°	38°
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### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	52	37	pc	49	40	r
Baker City	37	18	pc	37	25	c
Bend	39	23	pc	43	21	c
Brookings	63	45	pc	58	42	pc
Burns	32	16	pc	32	17	c
Enterprise	38	23	pc	43	27	sh
Eugene	41	26	pc	40	30	r
Heppner	33	24	pc	42	30	pc
Hermiston	34	26	c	38	31	pc
John Day	47	29	pc	45	28	c
Klamath Falls	46	21	pc	45	23	pc
La Grande	36	24	pc	39	27	sh
Meacham	36	25	pc	38	25	sh
Medford	52	31	pc	49	30	c
Newport	53	39	pc	51	38	r
North Bend	57	39	pc	53	38	r
Ontario	34	22	c	33	24	c
Pasco	34	25	c	35	25	c
Pendleton	33	26	c	38	31	c
Portland	46	30	pc	42	37	r
Redmond	38	17	pc	43	19	c
Salem	46	28	pc	45	34	r
Spokane	32	25	c	32	24	sn
Ukiah	42	26	pc	42	25	c
Vancouver	47	31	pc	44	37	r
Walla Walla	33	28	c	36	31	sh
Yakima	37	27	c	38	29	c



### ALMANAC

#### PENDLETON

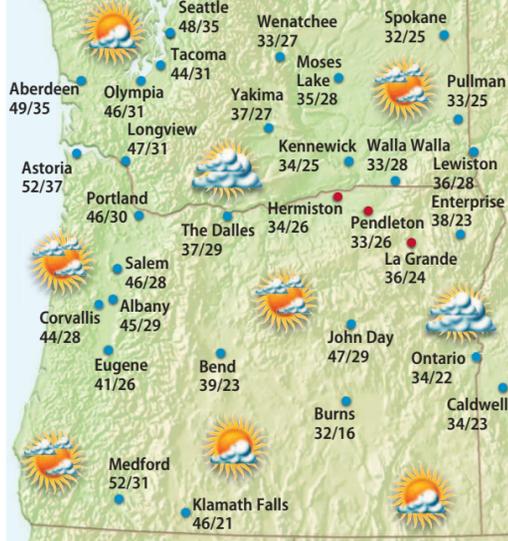
through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
29°	27°
Yesterday	39°
Normals	26°
Records	63° (1924) -28° (1919)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date	Last year to date	Normal year to date
0.01"	0.08"	0.60"	15.34"	11.92"	12.07"



#### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
33°	30°
Yesterday	39°
Normals	27°
Records	62° (1995) -10° (1972)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date	Last year to date	Normal year to date
Trace	0.01"	0.67"	8.77"	8.13"	9.14"

#### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:28 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:11 p.m.
Moonrise today	3:47 a.m.
Moonset today	2:32 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Dec 17	Dec 26	Jan 1	Jan 8

### REGIONAL FORECAST

**Coastal Oregon:** Clouds and sun today; pleasant in the south. A little rain across the north tonight.

**Eastern and Central Oregon:** Areas of fog this morning.

**Western Washington:** Clouds and sun today. Rather cloudy tonight; a little rain, but dry across the south.

**Eastern Washington:** Areas of freezing fog in the morning; cloudy today.

**Cascades:** Times of sun and clouds today. Partly cloudy tonight. A brief shower or two tomorrow.

**Northern California:** Partly sunny today; pleasant in central parts. Partly cloudy tonight.

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	34	20	pc	38	21	pc
Hong Kong	72	62	c	72	59	pc
Jerusalem	60	48	pc	58	45	pc
London	43	36	pc	42	32	s
Mexico City	75	45	pc	74	47	pc
Moscow	33	30	sn	35	29	c
Paris	45	37	sh	43	33	sh
Rome	60	53	r	59	44	r
Seoul	29	16	pc	36	19	c
Sydney	95	72	pc	79	71	pc
Tokyo	50	38	s	48	41	c

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
<b>Boardman</b>	ENE 3-6	WSW 6-12
<b>Pendleton</b>	NNW 4-8	SW 7-14

### UV INDEX TODAY



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# Carols at the Capitol: 'It restores my faith in the future'

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
 Capital Bureau

**SALEM** — First-graders from Salem's Crosshill Christian School curl their arms into wing shapes, flap around the rotunda of the Oregon Capitol and belt out: "Two French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree."

The class of nearly 20 first-graders is among more than 500 students who are performing Christmas carols at the Capitol this holiday season.



Paris Achen/Capital Bureau  
**First-graders with their teacher, Colleen Andersson, from Salem's Crosshill Christian School sing "The Twelve Days of Christmas" in the rotunda of the Oregon Capitol in Salem Dec. 12, 2017.**

The decades-long tradition has gained such popularity that the Capitol's Visitors Services employees no longer have to reach out to schools to book the performances. School choir directors call each year to claim their spot on the schedule.

"I remember singing here when I was a child so it was fun to see my daughter sing

here," said Danielle Johnston, mother of Crosshill first-grader Parker Johnston. Surrounded by a magical scene of Christmas trees and holiday adornment in the rotunda, the choirs sing

from about 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday until Dec. 22. Parents, passersby and state employees fill audience seats. Some state employees bring their lunches to the rotunda so that they

can watch the performances during their break.

"Our world is a chaotic place right now," said Robin Maxey, communications director for Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem. "We see and hear a lot more about the bad than the good in it. To be able to see the joy of the season on the faces of these children and teenagers every day gives me a lift. It restores my faith in the future."

Maxey keeps closed-circuit footage of the performances switched on in his office upstairs for most of the day.

The performances also are streamed live online.

"Having it in office doesn't compare to being in the rotunda and actually hearing them, but it's a busy time of year for us prepping for session so we can't always get out there," Maxey said.

(The Oregon Legislature convenes its policymaking session shortly after the holidays Feb. 5-March 9.)

Sherry Chandler of Visitors Services, who schedules the choirs, sits at an information desk near the rotunda for the most of the day. She said she never tires of hearing the carols.

"The little ones have sweet, little voices, and in the middle school and high school choirs, there is very good talent. Sometimes, you hear the same carols over and over. This year, they were mixing it up a little."

The carolers bring a starkly different scene to the Capitol. During other times of the year, lawmakers may bicker over bills and lobbyists pace the halls in the same space.

"The kids aren't wearing thousand-dollar suits and lobbying for bad causes,"

quipped Arthur Towers, a lobbyist for Portland-based Oregon Trial Lawyers Association. "It's heartwarming as opposed to heartbreaking."

Scott Jorgensen, chief of staff for Sen. Alan DeBoer, R-Ashland, said he got sick of hearing Christmas music in his past life as an employee at Fred Meyer, where the music cycled constantly from Thanksgiving to New Year's.

"It's different when the school kids sing," Jorgensen said. "I absolutely love it. I think it's easy to lose sight of how special it is when you're there every day."

"Through the eyes of schoolchildren, especially schoolchildren from the rural parts of the state, it's a really big deal to be able to come to the Capitol. You can see it on their faces how thrilled they are. It really warms your heart to see the groups of kids singing."

## Study: State parks injected \$1B into economy

**PORTLAND (AP)** — A study by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has found that visitors to the state's parks contributed more than \$1 billion to the economy and supported 16,000 jobs in 2016.

The report released this week measures how communities near state parks benefit from that presence.

Employees earned a combined salary of \$550 million and helped welcome more than 54 million visitors. The analysis also found that each dollar invested in the parks system generates \$30.50 in related economic activity.

State parks officials commissioned economist Eric White, a research social scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Pacific Northwest

Research Station, to prepare the report at a cost of \$45,697 over a six-year period. White analyzed survey responses from more than 18,000 visitors to 84 park properties. The agency conducted the surveys from 2011-2016.

"We wanted to measure the economic benefits state parks bring to the state," said state parks and recreation Director Lisa Sumption. "The findings are clear: When state parks succeed, so do Oregon communities. We want to keep it that way, so we continue to look at what we can do to improve visitors' experiences."

The report provided information by region and by park. Coastal parks had the greatest number of visits and slightly higher levels of average spending,

accounting for about half of the total statewide spending.

Silver Falls State Park provided the largest economic boost, with 1.4 million visits contributing \$58.4 million to the local economy. Fort Stevens State Park followed with \$40.1 million, and Yaquina Bay State Recreation Site with \$34.8 million.

White also found that visitors spend an average of \$25 for day trips within 30 miles from home to \$390 for an overnight camping trip more than 30 miles from home. More than half of visitor spending across all state parks — \$619 million — was generated by visitors who traveled more than 30 miles from home and who stayed overnight in or near the park.

## Wolves kill alpaca in Union County

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**  
 EO Media Group

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife has confirmed wolves killed an alpaca Sunday on private land in Union County.

Investigators found tracks and blood in the snow as evidence of an attack by three wolves in the Starkey area southwest of La Grande. GPS data also placed OR-30, a collared male wolf, about 130 yards from the carcass at 5 a.m. the same morning.

The incident comes just a few weeks after ODFW ruled that

wolves "probably" killed a llama in a different area of Union County, which evoked sharp criticism from landowner and retired rancher Howard Cantrell about the investigation findings.

The OR-30 pair was most recently documented in 2016, occupying a large territory spanning the northern Starkey and Ukiah units south of Interstate 84. OR-30 originally dispersed from the Snake River pack and spent most of 2015 in the Starkey, Ukiah and Mount Emily units.

This is the first livestock predation attributed to the OR-30 pair.

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