

AccuWeather Forecast

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TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
46° 26°	43° 30°	41° 29°	40° 23°	48° 33°
50° 27°	46° 27°	44° 30°	44° 23°	49° 32°

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

ALMANAC

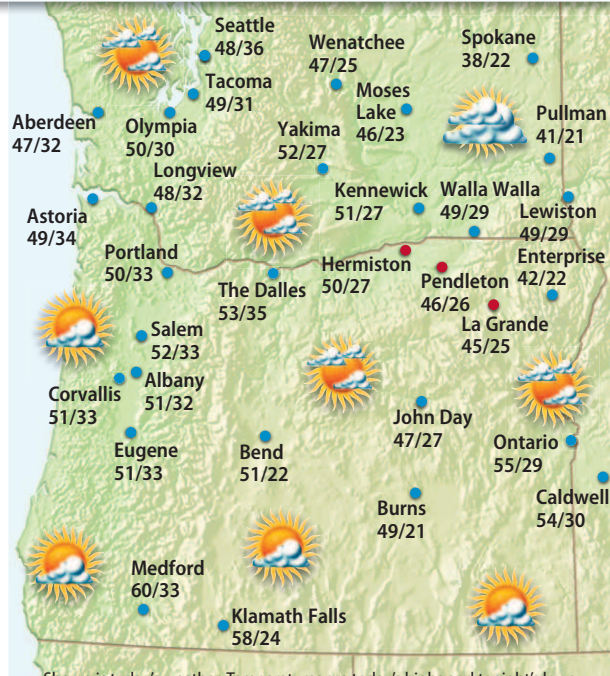
PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	63°	47°
Normals	45°	29°
Records	75° (1996)	-21° (1929)

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
0.00"	0.26"	0.36"	1.85"	1.94"	1.74"



HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	65°	50°
Normals	46°	29°
Records	66° (1945)	-26° (1929)

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
0.00"	0.14"	0.27"	1.24"	1.73"	1.55"

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Partial sunshine today; pleasant in the south. Partly cloudy tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Cooler today with clouds and sun. Partly cloudy tonight; colder near the Cascades.

Western Washington: Intervals of clouds and sunshine today. Partly cloudy tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Intervals of clouds and sun today. Partly cloudy tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

Cascades: Times of sun and clouds today; cooler in central parts. Colder in the south tonight.

Northern California: Partly sunny today. Mainly clear tonight; colder in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	49	34	pc	51	35	s
Baker City	47	23	pc	45	19	pc
Bend	51	22	pc	41	26	pc
Brookings	60	42	pc	60	40	pc
Burns	49	21	pc	42	16	pc
Enterprise	42	22	sf	38	20	s
Eugene	51	33	pc	51	30	s
Heppner	46	25	pc	43	28	s
Hermiston	50	27	pc	46	27	s
John Day	47	27	pc	42	27	pc
Klamath Falls	58	24	pc	49	18	pc
La Grande	45	25	pc	40	21	s
Meacham	41	21	r	37	20	s
Medford	60	33	pc	57	29	pc
Newport	49	36	pc	51	37	s
North Bend	53	37	pc	54	37	s
Ontario	55	29	pc	50	23	pc
Pasco	52	25	pc	47	27	s
Pendleton	46	26	pc	43	30	s
Portland	50	33	pc	52	32	s
Redmond	52	22	pc	47	24	s
Salem	52	33	pc	53	31	s
Spokane	38	22	pc	38	26	s
Ukiah	41	20	pc	36	21	s
Vancouver	49	33	pc	51	32	s
Walla Walla	49	29	pc	46	32	s
Yakima	52	27	pc	51	29	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	40	13	s	32	15	s
Hong Kong	66	61	c	69	53	c
Jerusalem	72	51	pc	72	59	pc
London	42	31	sh	48	39	r
Mexico City	69	49	pc	69	50	pc
Moscow	25	17	c	22	20	c
Paris	36	26	sn	36	33	pc
Rome	55	36	pc	57	36	s
Seoul	40	30	pc	37	15	pc
Sydney	84	72	c	84	73	s
Tokyo	49	38	s	57	44	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	NNE 4-8	SW 4-8
Pendleton	WNW 4-8	W 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

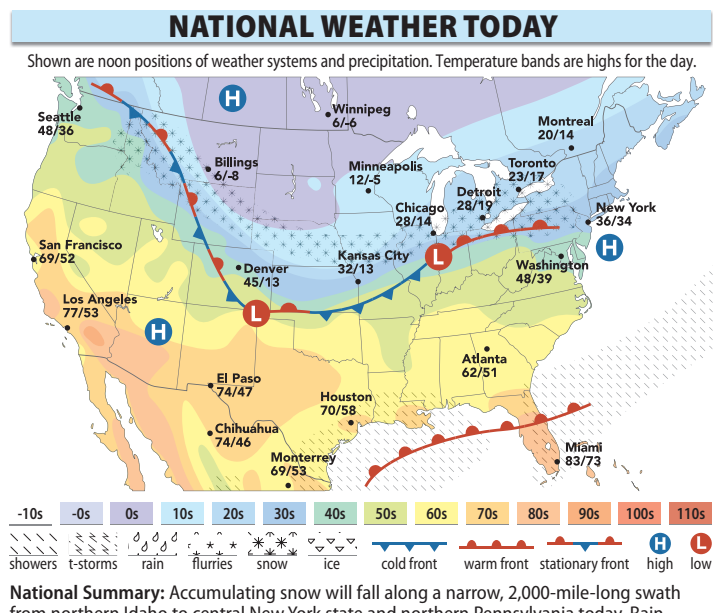
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

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: Accumulating snow will fall along a narrow, 2,000-mile-long swath from northern Idaho to central New York state and northern Pennsylvania today. Rain showers are in store from coastal Texas to Florida.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 91° in Thermal, Calif. **Low** -28° in Stonington, Mich.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	65	37	s	65	32	s
Atlanta	62	51	c	66	62	sh
Atlantic City	41	37	c	52	48	r
Baltimore	44	34	c	51	48	r
Billings	6	-8	sn	20	13	pc
Birmingham	64	53	pc	67	64	r
Boise	53	28	pc	48	28	pc
Boston	34	30	s	50	40	c
Charleston, SC	67	55	c	75	63	c
Charleston, WV	56	40	pc	53	46	r
Chicago	28	14	sn	23	13	sn
Cleveland	39	28	sn	36	26	r
Dallas	74	55	s	56	29	c
Denver	45	13	pc	24	10	sn
Detroit	28	19	sn	27	18	sn
El Paso	74	47	s	76	49	s
Fairbanks	-3	-17	s	-1	-17	pc
Fargo	5	-8	s	10	0	s
Honolulu	80	67	pc	80	68	pc
Houston	70	58	c	74	53	t
Indianapolis	48	27	c	37	23	r
Jacksonville	70	58	c	79	62	c
Kansas City	32	13	c	19	9	sn
Las Vegas	78	52	s	77	46	pc
Little Rock	58	46	pc	54	33	r
Los Angeles	77	53	s	67	52	pc
Louisville	57	44	pc	57	44	pc
Memphis	60	52	s	59	37	r
Miami	83	73	sh	84	74	s
Milwaukee	25	10	sn	22	11	sn
Minneapolis	12	-5	pc	13	-1	c
Nashville	64	50	s	58	50	r
New Orleans	72	62	c	74	65	t
New York City	36	24	pc	50	44	c
Oklahoma City	64	24	s	30	18	i
Omaha	16	5	sn	14	3	sn
Philadelphia	41	36	pc	52	48	r
Phoenix	83	52	s	81	54	s
Portland, ME	30	24	pc	43	33	sn
Providence	36	30	pc	52	41	c
Raleigh	58	44	s	66	62	r
Rapid City	4	-10	sn	12	0	pc
Reno	68	34	s	52	22	pc
Sacramento	74	44	s	69	41	pc
St. Louis	54	27	c	32	20	i
Salt Lake City	61	38	pc	48	27	c
San Diego	69	55	s	67	55	pc
San Francisco	69	52	s	65	49	pc
Seattle	48	36	pc	47	35	s
Tucson	83	50	s	81	52	s
Washington, DC	48	39	c	52	49	r
Wichita	42	16	s	25	15	i

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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Crows crowd downtown Portland: Enter the hawk

By KALE WILLIAMS
The Oregonian/OregonLive

PORTLAND — With a whoosh, Clive, a 7-month-old Harris's hawk, spreads his wings and takes flight over the wet streets of downtown Portland. The skies are dark and cloudy on a chilly January evening, but Clive's keen eyes dart from treetop to treetop, scanning.

A few blocks away, Mars, an older hawk, is also patrolling the skies and, a few blocks from that, a third bird is searching the streets.

They're all looking for one thing: crows.

These hawks are not here of their own volition. They were loosed on the crows of downtown by Kort Clayton, owner of Integrated Avian Solutions, a Portland-based company that uses hawks and other raptors to shoo away problem birds from wineries, dumps and, in this case, business districts.

Clayton was called in after years of fruitless efforts at driving out the bothersome birds. Crows were eating the insulation from building walls. They created such a roar that hotel guests were jolted awake at early hours. Most notably, they left busy sidewalks slickened with poop.

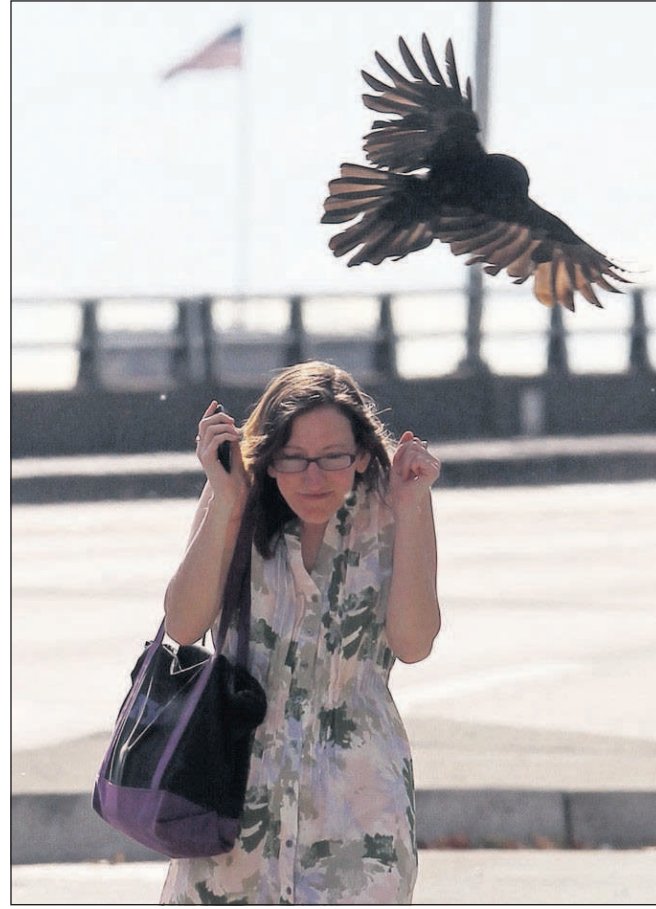
The problem

Sheri Scali, senior property manager at a large building near the Keller Auditorium on the south end of downtown, heard them before she saw them. It was early January and as she was heading into work before dawn, she was greeted by the busy cackles of roosting birds.

They hadn't been there the day before and they were loud, but she didn't give the flock much thought until the sun came up. Under the light of day, Scali witnessed the mess a large group of crows is capable of creating overnight.

"When we looked down from above, it looked like it had snowed," she said.

During the day, crows spread out across the Pacific Northwest, scavenging what they can from sites urban and rural alike. But once the sun heads toward the horizon, they seek warmth and safety in numbers, gathering in flocks of up to 10,000 birds and descending on the trees and



A crow dive-bombs Melanie Lochert as she walks across the Morrison Bridge Thursday, June 28, 2012, in Portland.

parks and rooftops of downtown Portland, Clayton said.

During the great snowstorm of early 2017, a Portland Police criminalist snapped a picture of a flock gathered next to headquarters. The crows were so numerous, and contrasted so starkly against the fresh blanket of snow, that the trees looked like mashed potatoes covered in pepper.

Their ubiquity, at least during winter months, makes them hard to ignore.

When flocks, known ominously as "murders," gather in these numbers, a cacophonous maelstrom announces their evening arrival. Crows are deft communicators and they waste no time telling each other about the exploits of the day. They squawk and bray and bleat from the treetops, drowning out the sounds of the city below.

The din is bothersome, but mostly harmless unless you're trying to sleep. The problems created by that many birds, fresh back from a day of feeding, is feculent. Or to put it more simply, it's

their poop.

The roosting birds, drawn to the downtown core by warmth and an abundance of food sources, started to become a problem about four years ago when everything beneath their preferred trees quickly took on a sheen of avian excrement. Trees, cars, sculptures and downtown pedestrians all became targets of the droppings.

When the crows began to congregate in such large numbers, complaints poured into Downtown Clean & Safe, a program that works in partnership with the city and the Portland Business Alliance to provide cleaning and security services to the downtown area.

Working with Central City Concern, the city hired crews to pressure wash the streets of the crow-created mess, but it was a Sisyphean effort.

"We would pressure wash all night," said Lynnae Berg, executive director of Downtown Clean & Safe. "And then the crows would wake up and it would look like we had done nothing." As it became clear they

couldn't beat the problem with pressure washing alone, they called in a device called the "Poopmaster 6000," a motorized brick-scrubbing cart that resembles a Zamboni. The Poopmaster worked great on the ground, but did nothing for the bird poop that shellacked benches and newspaper racks and public art.

With all of the obvious solutions seemingly exhausted, Berg and the downtown business community had to get creative.

As far as animals go, crows are near the top tier of intelligence. Their brains are oversized for their small bodies and it shows in their behavior. They communicate in complex and intricate ways. If one bird in the roost discovers a plentiful source of food, they'll go back and alert the rest. Sometimes, when one of them dies, a group will gather in a tree above their deceased kin in a kind of mourning. They've been observed using sticks to pry grubs from holes in logs.

A 'Portland' solution

Once it became clear that the problem of the crow droppings couldn't be solved from below, Berg looked skyward.

Clayton, owner of Integrated Avian Solutions, has been working with raptors for 25 years. It started as a hobby in his teens when he began hunting ducks with falcons. His interest in birds of prey grew and eventually he turned it into a business, using peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons and hawks to chase nuisance birds — usually starlings, gulls and ravens — from vineyards and trash collection sites.

Last year, when Clayton brought in hawks as part of a pilot program to chase off the crows, it was his first experience flying his birds in an urban environment.

The Harris's hawk was the obvious candidate. In the wild, they are one of the few raptors to hunt cooperatively so they can work in teams. Any of his falcons would have likely gone after each other before they even noticed the crows.

Each bird is fitted with a light and a bell, as well as a tiny backpack loaded with a GPS tracker. The birds respond almost instantly to

food, but on the rare occasion they don't come back, Clayton tracks them with an iPad he keeps in a fanny pack while he patrols the streets of downtown.

Sporting a neon green vest with "CROW PATROL" emblazoned across the back, Clayton walks the streets of Portland's business district for a few hours four nights a week, eyes trained upward for sightings of black crows against the black sky, ears scanning for the tell-tale sounds of crow flock.

It doesn't take much to scatter a flock. The hawks don't chase the crows, but they are seen as such a threat that even their presence in the area means it's time to move on. As soon as the hawks take flight, the crows nervously move off to safer territory.

The hawks are innate hunters with instinct to kill, but they've been trained not to and they pose no risk to the crows. They operate on a reward system and killing crows doesn't earn them treats from their handlers.

What does earn them treats is clearing crows and, in that respect, they've been quite successful. In their first year, the hawks easily cleared the designated area.

Now in their second year, Clayton and the hawks got started earlier, hitting the streets in late October, and are responsible for clearing

a larger area — more than 70-square-blocks of the busiest area of downtown.

On a recent mid-January night, it appeared that Clayton and his hawks were performing their duties almost too well. Over a few chilly hours, Clayton spent the vast majority of his time looking for crows to chase. Ditto for the two other teams of handlers and hawks patrolling the area.

The few flocks they did encounter were just outside of the designated area, right where they should be. And, according to Berg, the crow-related complaints have dropped.

"We feel like we've found the right solution to manage the issue," she said. "We've had fewer complaints. People are really satisfied when they see the result."