

February sets snowfall record in Pendleton

By PHIL WRIGHT East Oregonian

Feb. 7 and 5 more on Feb. 8.

Snowfall for February in Pendleton has already risen to record highs.

Smith said weather systems have been 'very active' and keeping NWS staff on the lookout for changes.

Jim Smith, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pendleton, said total snowfall for February as of Wednesday was 19.1 inches.

That advisory warned travel could be difficult due to mix of snow, rain and freezing rain, and drivers needed to plan ahead for slippery road conditions and limited visibility.

'The normal snowfall for the month of February is 3.3 inches,' he said, while the previous record for the month was 16.8 inches in 1994.

For the latest road conditions call 511 or go online to www.tripcheck.com.

'That was mostly on one day,' he said, 'when 16.1 inches fell on Feb. 24.'

The area looks to warm up Friday with temperatures into the high 30s and lower 40s with the possibility of a rain and snow mix falling at night.

Pendleton's typical amount for the whole season is 19.8 inches. The NWS takes the measurements outside its offices near the airport in Pendleton.

The recent cold spell also set a daily low temperature on Feb. 7 in Meacham, when the mercury fell to -14 degrees, topping the record from 2001 by a full 10 degrees.

Hermiston's snowfall for the month stands at 8.8 inches, Smith said, according to the measurement at the city's water treatment plant, which has been the official site for 20 years.

Settlement brings reforms to Douglas County jail

Woman sues for inhumane conditions

By ANDREW SELSKY Associated Press

SALEM — Officials in Douglas County agreed Thursday to lower the number of inmates crammed into a single cell and take other actions after a woman filed a lawsuit saying she was jailed under inhumane conditions.

Under the settlement in U.S. District Court, staff at the Douglas County jail in Roseburg — once known as the timber capital of America — must document the procedures so advocates can ensure they're being followed.

Kelly Simon, an American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon lawyer who represented plaintiff Terri Carlisle, said the documentation is necessary because such settlements can be used to pull back a 'steel curtain' hiding conditions in overcrowded jails across America that often operate with little to no oversight.



AP Photo/Andrew Selsky, File

In this May 24, 2017, file photo, Terry Carlisle looks at the Douglas County Jail in Roseburg where she was incarcerated under what she describes as horrific conditions in 2015 for drunken driving.

Carlisle was locked up in 2015 for driving under the influence. She says a jailer accused her of hoarding her medication for a nerve disorder and punished her by moving her to a hot, stinking cell for six days crammed with other female inmates with one open toilet.

Some cellmates were menstruating and denied hygiene products, the lawsuit says, adding that at least one woman had an open sore but received no medical attention and another woman was vomiting.

Conditions were so grim in the jail's general population that one inmate had another break her arm so she could get out for medical treatment, Carlisle said. The settlement also allows inmates to shower twice a week and provides menstruating prisoners with hygiene products.

County Commissioner Chris Boice, who signed the settlement, declined to comment. Sheriff Jon Hanlin, named as a defendant, was unavailable for comment, his office said. A department spokesman didn't return a call.

'Lawsuits can help stop counties from crowding people into jail cells without meeting their basic needs,' said Jacob Kang-Brown at the institute. 'But because litigation has constraints, we need to have a larger conversation about oversight across the U.S. that can ensure incarcerated people's rights are respected.'

Carlisle's civil rights were violated under the Eighth Amendment, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment, according to the lawsuit filed in U.S. District

Court in Eugene in May 2017 by the ACLU of Oregon and the Criminal Justice Reform Clinic at Lewis and Clark Law School.

It claims medicine to relieve her peripheral neuropathy was withheld as punishment, causing sharp pains.

Under the settlement, no inmate can have prescription medicine discontinued without medical review; the jail commander will meet with medical staff at least once a week with the meetings documented; and the holding cell, where up to a dozen women had been held, will be limited to nine inmates.

The suit also names Correct Care Solutions, headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, which contracted to provide medical care for inmates. It did not join the settlement and litigation against it continues. The company previously declined comment on the allegations.

Simon credited Carlisle, a former health care worker, for standing up for her rights.

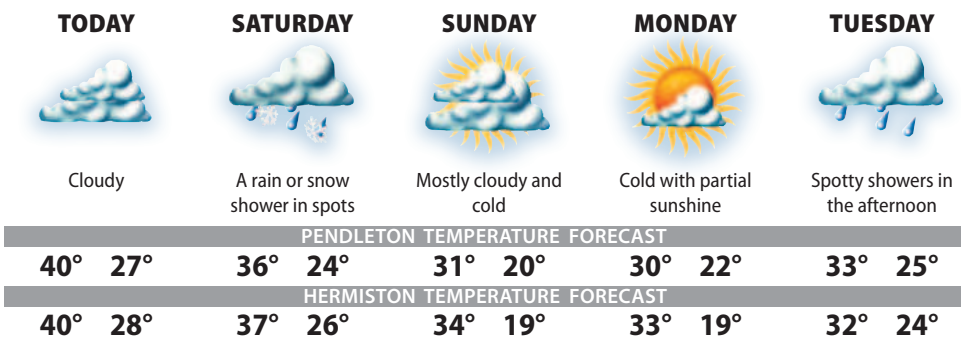
'I don't think we have change without people like Terri Carlisle who have the courage to raise their voices and say 'enough is enough,' to have the courage to claim their dignity in the face of people who want to treat them like animals,' Simon said.

Carlisle said she hopes the county adheres to the settlement.

'I'm concerned about accountability,' Carlisle said in a phone interview. 'Who's going to make sure that they're holding up their end of the bargain?'

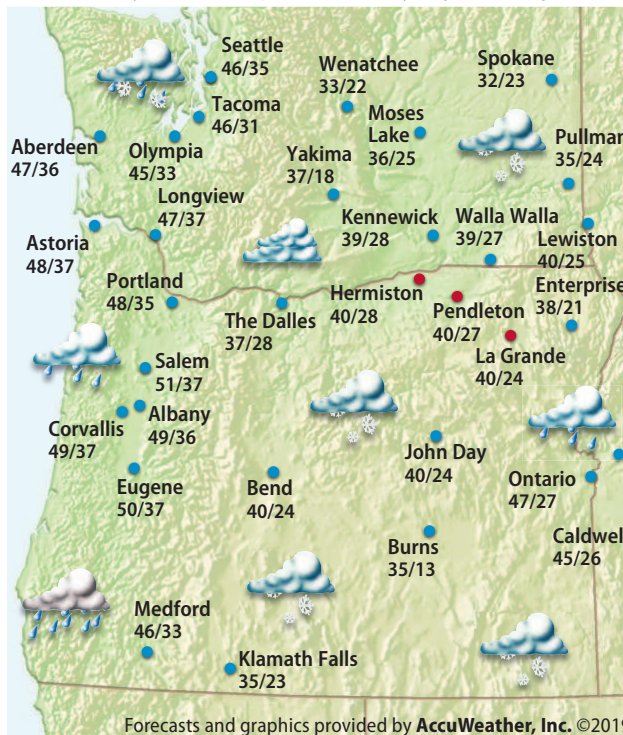
Under the settlement, Douglas County also agreed to pay Carlisle's attorney fees of \$25,000.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



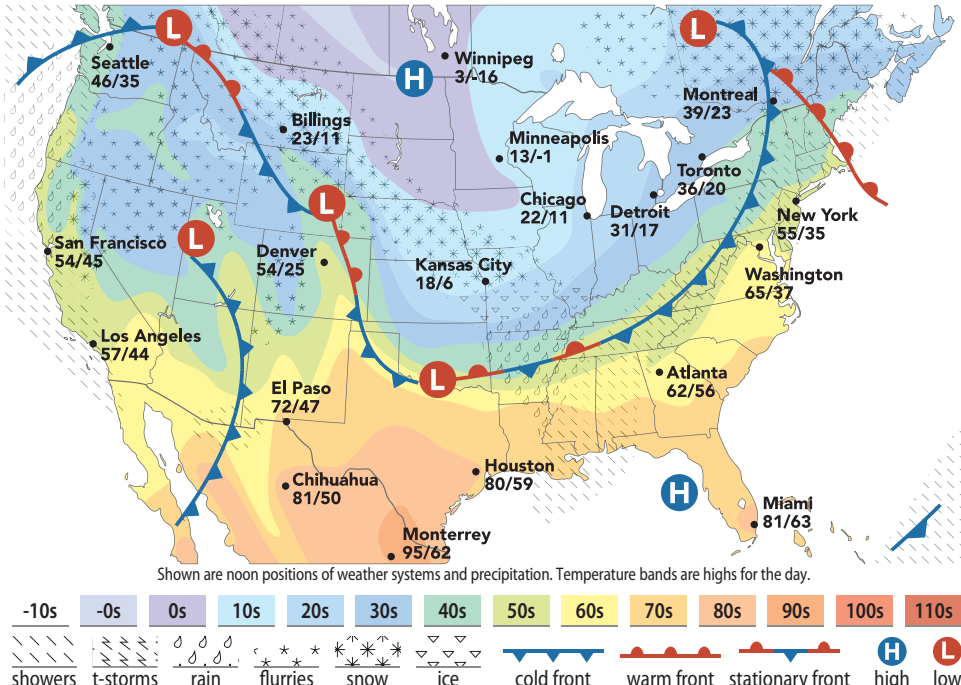
ALMANAC table with columns for PENDING, TEMPERATURE (High/Low), PRECIPITATION (24 hours, month, year), and WINDS (Today/Sat).

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 84° in McAllen, Texas Low -28° in Dunkirk, Mont.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Feds requiring regional response teams for potential oil train wrecks

By JOHN RABY Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Federal transportation officials are requiring railroads to establish regional response teams along oil train routes following a series of fiery derailments.



Telegraph Herald via AP/Mike Burley, File In this March 5, 2015, file photo, smoke and flames erupt from the scene of a train derailment near Galena, Ill.

The new rule announced Thursday is aimed at having crews and equipment ready in the event of an accident. It applies to oil trains in continuous blocks of 20 or more loaded tank cars and those having 35 loaded tank cars.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued the rule in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration. The pipeline safety agency said a review identified challenges that occurred during previous responses to derailments.

'This final rule is necessary due to expansion in U.S. energy production having led to significant challenges for the country's transportation system,' the agency said.

Rail carriers now will be required to provide information about oil trains to state and tribal emergency response agencies and identify someone to oversee each response zone along with organizations, crews and equipment that would be used in a 'worst-case discharge.'

In 2014, the agency issued a report detailing the concerns of fire chiefs and emergency management officials

should be exempt from public disclosure due to security or proprietary concerns.

Environmentally sensitive areas along the route must be identified, along with the location where the response team will deploy and the location and description of equipment. A railroad must indicate whether information

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said in a statement the rule 'will make the transport of energy products by railroad safer.'

The greatest share of oil now moved by the nation's 140,000-mile freight rail network goes from the Bakken oil patch of North Dakota and Montana to the West Coast.

In 2013, a runaway train carrying crude oil from North Dakota derailed in Lac-Megantic, Quebec, and exploded, killing 47 people. Other fiery crashes and fuel spills have occurred in Alabama, Illinois, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Virginia, West Virginia and elsewhere.

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Subscriber services and subscription rates table: Local home delivery savings (cover price), EZ Pay, Single copy price: \$1.50 Tuesday through Saturday.

Advertising information: Regional Publisher and Revenue Director: Christopher Rush, Advertising Services: Angela Treadwell, 541-966-0827.

Classified & Legal Advertising information: 1-800-962-2819 or 541-278-2678, Classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legal@eastoregonian.com.