February sets snowfall record in Pendleton

By PHIL WRIGHT East Oregonian

Snowfall for February in Pendleton has already risen to record highs. The accumulation is more than making up for the meager trace that dusted the town last month.

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

'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.

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

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.

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. The city's record for February is 9 inches from 2014, when 4 inches fell on

Forecast for Pendleton Area

Feb. 7 and 5 more on Feb.

Smith said weather systems have been "very active" and keeping NWS staff on the lookout for The agency changes. issued a winter weather advisory over the region, including northern Umatilla and Morrow counties, which is in effect until Thursday at 10 p.m.

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.

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

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. Temperatures drop to the 30s on Saturday and early next week any precipitation probably will be snow, but it may not amount to much.

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

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

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.

AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

HIGH

66° (1898)

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

Today

SW 6-12

SW 7-14

HIGH

-4° (1936)

Sat.

SW 6-12

SW 6-12

6:58 a.m.

5:21 p.m. 12:58 p.m.

3:41 a.m.

First

TEMP.

Normals

TEMP.

Normals

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m.

Month to date Normal month to date

Last year to date

Normal year to date

PRECIPITATION

Month to date

Year to date

Boardman

Pendleton

Sunrise today

Sunset toniaht

Moonrise today

Full

Last year to date

Normal year to date

WINDS (in mph)

SUN AND MOON

Last

24 hours ending 3 p.m

Normal month to date



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.

settlement also The 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

Nationwide, jails log 12 million admissions a year, mostly low-income people arrested for minor offenses who can't afford bail, according to the Vera Institute of Justice, an organization based in New York that seeks to improve the justice system. It says many jails are crowded, with poor sanitation

"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

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.

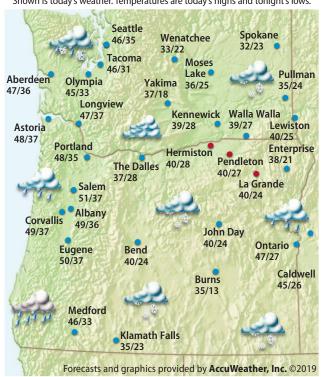
"I don't think we have change without people like Terri Carlisle who have the courage to raise their voices and say 'enough is enough,' to have the courage to claim their dignity in the face of people who want to treat them like animals," Simon

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.

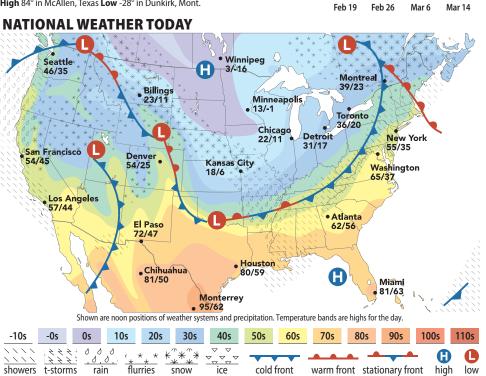
TODAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY Cloudy A rain or snow Mostly cloudy and Cold with partial Spotty showers in the afternoon PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FOR 24° 25° 20° **40° 30°** HERMISTON TEMPERATURE 24° 26° 19° 33° **OREGON FORECAST** ALMANAC **PENDLETON** through 3 p.m. yest. Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

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



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.

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

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



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, III.

in oil train accidents, including that emergency responders were not fully aware of resources available from railroads and other organizations that would be helpful in preparing for such disasters.

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.

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

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