

# Winter outlook leans toward the mild side

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

PORTLAND — Odds modestly favor above-average temperatures in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Northern California this winter, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center said Thursday.

Without a strong signal from Pacific Ocean temperatures, forecasters relied on a trend toward milder winters and long-term climate forces for their outlook for November, December and January.

Sea-surface temperatures at the equatorial Pacific Ocean are neutral — neither unusually warm, as in an El Niño, nor unusually cool, in a La Niña. Even though conditions are neutral, extreme events are possible, NOAA said.

“Without either El Niño or La Niña conditions, short-term climate patterns like the Arctic Oscillation will drive winter weather and could result in large swings in temperature and precipitation.” Climate Prediction Center deputy director Mike Halpert said in a statement.

Forecasters said they



Capital Press Photo/Brad Carlson, File

The outlook for this winter calls for a modest chance of above-average temperatures.

have even fewer clues as to how much precipitation will fall. Washington, most of Oregon and most of Idaho have equal chances of normal, above-normal

and below-normal amounts of precipitation.

Odds slightly favor below-average precipitation in southwest Oregon and Northern Califor-

nia. Odds are tilted toward above-average precipitation in the Idaho Panhandle.

Climate norms are based on regional median precipitation and temperatures

between 1981 and 2010.

Some forecasting models predict a weak La Niña will form by late winter, while other models foresee a weak El Niño. For

the winter outlook, NOAA assumed neutral conditions will prevail through the winter and into the spring.

Above-average temperatures are favored in most of the U.S. Temperatures in the Upper Plains are Great Lakes are a toss-up. Nowhere do the odds favor below-average temperatures.

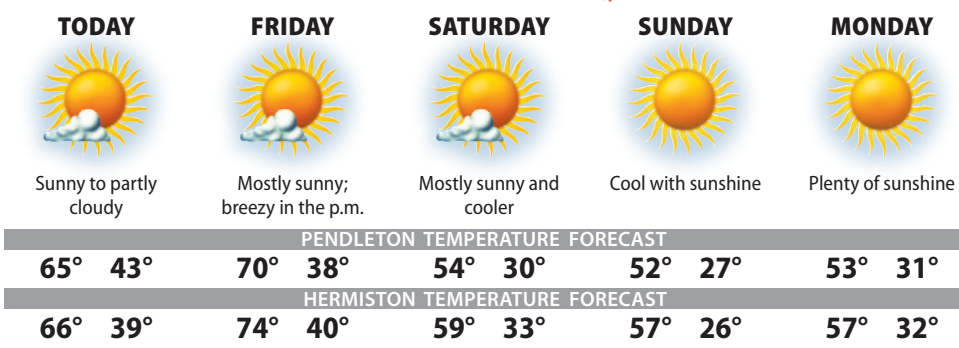
The best odds for a warmer than average winter are in western Alaska, according to NOAA. The ocean around Alaska is unusually warm, and there has been a trend toward later frosts and less sea ice.

The warm water near Alaska could heat air entering the Western U.S. early in the winter, but the uncertainty of whether the water will stay warm limits its value in looking ahead, according to NOAA.

The Northwest will enter the winter fairly wet. There are no drought conditions in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Northern California, the U.S. Drought Monitor reported Thursday.

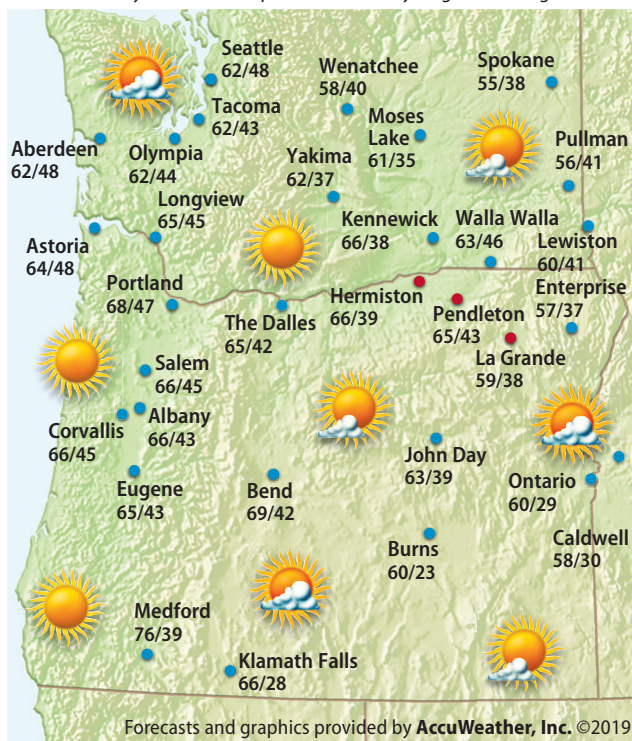
Parts of Western Washington and Oregon are still classified as “abnormally dry” after a summer of being in a “moderate” or “severe” drought.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

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



## ALMANAC

**PENDLETON** through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	60°	36°
Normals	60°	38°
Records	82° (1933)	19° (1916)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace  
Month to date 0.46"  
Normal month to date 0.75"  
Year to date 11.31"  
Last year to date 7.91"  
Normal year to date 9.69"

**HERMISTON** through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	62°	34°
Normals	62°	37°
Records	80° (1933)	20° (1935)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.18"  
Normal month to date 0.46"  
Year to date 4.94"  
Last year to date 6.29"  
Normal year to date 7.02"

**WINDS** (in mph)

	Today	Fri.
Boardman	SE 3-6	WSW 10-20
Pendleton	SW 4-8	WSW 8-16

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today	7:23 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:55 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:40 a.m.
Moonset today	4:40 p.m.

**MOON PHASES**

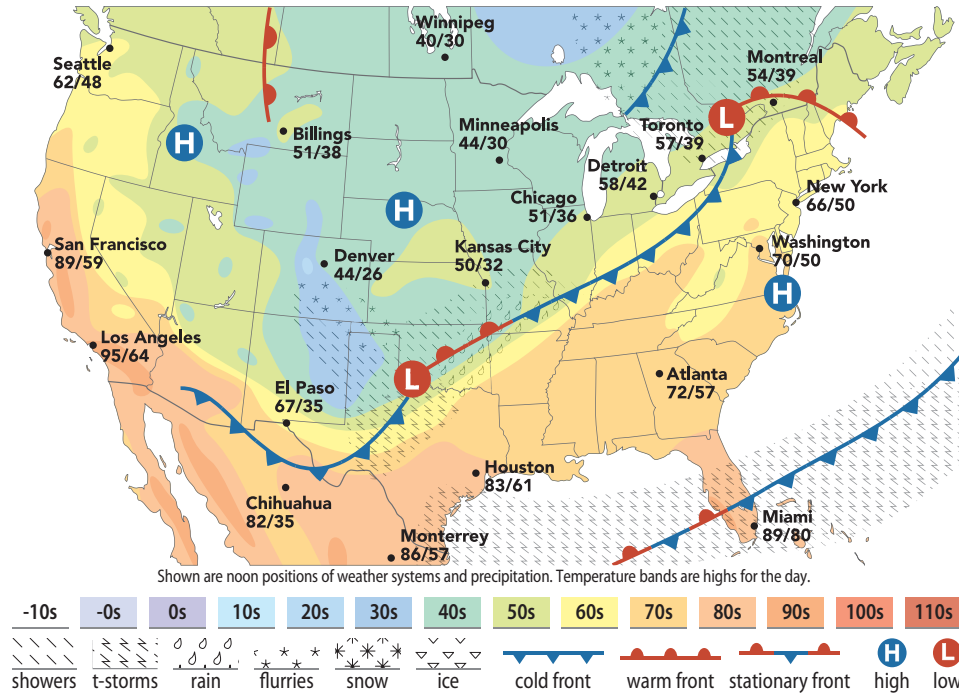
New	First	Full	Last
Oct 27	Nov 4	Nov 12	Nov 19

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 99° in Palm Springs, Calif. Low 11° in Lake George, Colo.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Brown appoints panel to address health care costs

Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has announced the members of a new committee tasked with controlling rising health care costs.

The *Statesman Journal* reported the committee — made up of government officials, union representatives and health care professionals — is responsible for creating an annual target for health care cost growth and providing recommendations to the Legislature on how to manage unreasonable costs.

Insurance companies, hospitals and health care providers will be required to stay within that growth target.

The first benchmark

from the committee will be reported to the Oregon Health Policy Board for approval by Sept. 15, 2020. The committee's report will include a legislative concept for implementation and possible enforcement actions if a provider or payer exceeds that target.

“All Oregonians should have access to the health care services they need to live healthy and productive lives,” Brown said in a statement. “If we do not control the rising costs of health care, too many Oregon families, particularly those in historically underserved communities, will again find the care they need is beyond their reach.”

According to the Oregon Health Authority, health

insurance deductibles in Oregon are the third-highest nationally. The state is also in the top 10 for percent of family budgets spent on out-of-pocket health costs.

A 3.4% growth rate for public programs already exists, but this new benchmark would target the private market.

It's modeled after a program in Massachusetts that has saved consumers \$5.5 billion between 2013 and 2017 compared to the national average. Oregon was the fourth state to implement a spending benchmark.

It was created by the Legislature this year through Senate Bill 889, which received bipartisan support in both chambers.

## BRIEFLY

### In-N-Out not coming to Bend; sign off Highway 97 is fake

BEND — A large sign alongside U.S. Highway 97, hung on a chain-link fence Tuesday next to Kohl's, proclaimed that In-N-Out Burger would be “here soon” in Bend. But an executive with the wildly popular California burger chain said the sign was fake, and In-N-Out has no current plans to open a Bend location.

“Unfortunately, the sign must have been placed there by a prankster, or someone suggesting that we will soon be opening a restaurant in Bend,” wrote Carl Arena, In-N-Out's vice president of real estate and development, in an email to the *Bend Bulletin* on Tuesday. “Our real estate team is always evaluating new sites, and we continue to look at opportunities in Oregon. However, we have not yet looked at any sites in Bend.”

Phyllis Cudworth, a marketing coordinator with the fast-food chain, said in a phone interview that sometimes people take In-N-Out's signs from legitimate construction sites and hang them up in other locations.

Arena wrote that although there are no current plans to build a location in Bend, In-N-Out has its eye on Central Oregon for future development — maybe.

“We do believe that Bend is a great area and we do hope to be there in the future, but we are unable to speculate when or even if we will open a restaurant there,” he wrote.

### Man suspected of breaking into Ochoco Ranger Station

BEND — An 18-year-old Prineville man was arrested for allegedly breaking into the Ochoco Ranger Station and stealing explosives.

Kaden Michael Bernard is being held in the Crook County Jail on suspicion of first-degree burglary, first-degree theft, first-degree criminal mischief and other charges.

On Sept. 21, Bernard allegedly used bolt cutters and a power saw to illegally enter the Ochoco Ranger Station warehouse on state Highway 42, according to his indictment in Crook County Circuit Court.

Inside, he allegedly stole blasting caps, an explosive belonging to the U.S. Forest Service, and caused more than \$1,000 damage to explosive storage magazines.

Bernard was arrested and booked into jail Sept. 22, according to the jail website.

He was arraigned Sept. 26. His next court hearing is a pretrial conference Oct. 30.

The Forest Service maintains a blasting program for tree removal and trail and road maintenance, according to USFS Spokesman Patrick Lair.

“They are kept secured and monitored,” Lair said.

USFS Ranger Stations in the Rocky Mountain region occasionally use dynamite to dispose of grizzly or horse carcasses, Lair said.

— EO Media Group

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