

Union couple building home from scratch

COVID-19 has made accessing and ordering materials difficult

By **SABRINA THOMPSON**
The Observer

UNION — After living in a 900-square-foot house for a few years, Union couple Nick and Adri Moncrief decided to go after their dream home by building it from the ground up.

“This is our forever home,” Adri Moncrief said. “We are building this to live in forever. It is really our dream, and we wanted this for our kids. This is a dream for us.”

Adri Moncrief is 27 years old, and Nick Moncrief is 30. They have a 16-month-old daughter, Saylor.

Adri Moncrief said many people are surprised by how young she and her husband are and that they are building their own home. But, she said, now is the right time for them to do this and they are going “pedal to metal” to finish the house.

The new home will be two stories with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, a garage, a bonus room and an office, plus patios in the front and back of the house.



Sabrina Thompson/The Observer

Union couple Adri and Nick Moncrief are making progress on building their own home from the ground up. The exterior walls and framing are complete as of Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020.

She said the project would not be possible without the support of family.

The land, just off Highway 237 in Union, has belonged to Adri Moncrief’s family since they settled off the Oregon Trail. Nick Moncrief, who works as a general contractor when not building his own home, said his and his wife’s families

have a background in construction, which has helped in the project.

Nick Moncrief and the team of contractors started construction in August, first laying down the foundation. By November, Moncrief and his team had put up the framing and walls for the home. The plan is to have the home move-in ready

by March 2021.

There have been hurdles to building the home, Nick Moncrief said, as COVID-19 has made accessing and ordering materials difficult. Fortunately, the construction team ordered early enough that a majority of the supplies were at the site by the time work started.

“I come out here and

work on the house and it’s my job, but it is a little surreal at times,” he said. “I have more pressure with it being my own home. The deadlines are on me. We have our deadlines to meet for the bank, and what we hope to get done. But in the end, I don’t have any fingers to point if it’s not done by a certain time.”

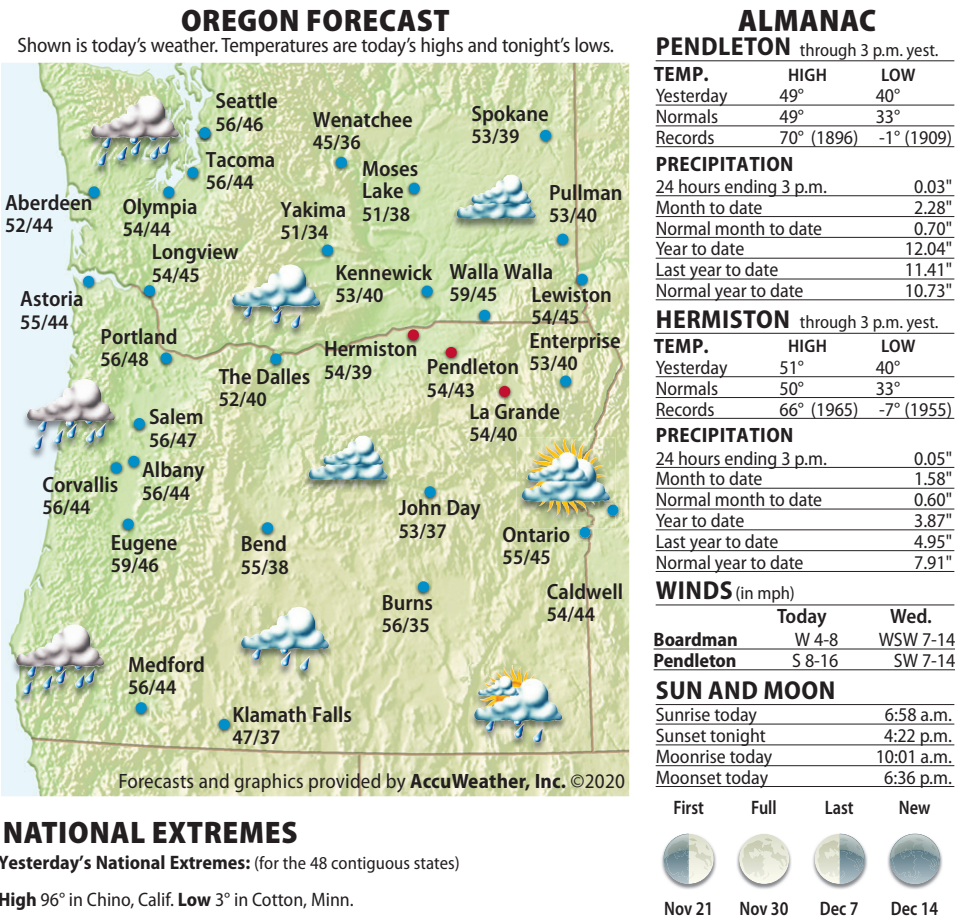
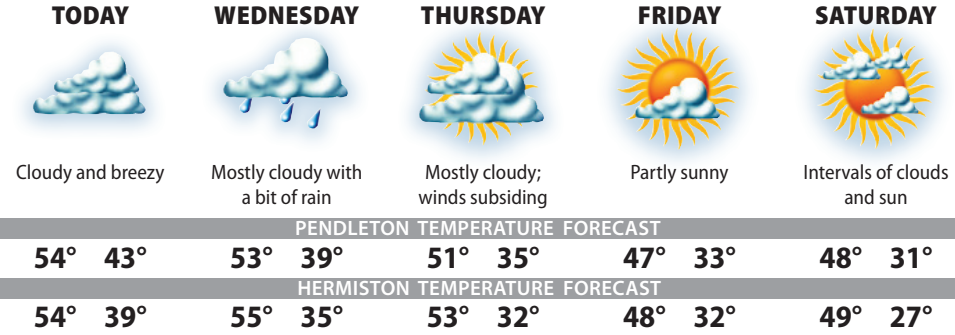
Adri Moncrief said the best part about building the house has been the control she has on every element. While sometimes the choices seemed daunting, she said, having a particular taste and idea in mind has been helpful.

“I hear people say, ‘There are so many different options, how do you even choose?’ and I totally agree with that,” she said. “But for me, I am a little bit of a control freak and deciding things feels good to me. And I think we work well as a team. We are both very opinionated.”

Anyone can view the home-building journey on Instagram. Adri Moncrief said using social media is a great way to share what is going on in her life, and sometimes now she gets objective feedback about her ideas for the house.

“I started posting more after I had my daughter, Saylor, and I was home with her,” she said. “I was needing an adult outlet, so I started sharing my everyday life. So many people do that now. I really enjoyed it. It has been fun to interact with people. And then we started building and it was heartwarming and cool to see how invested people were.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area

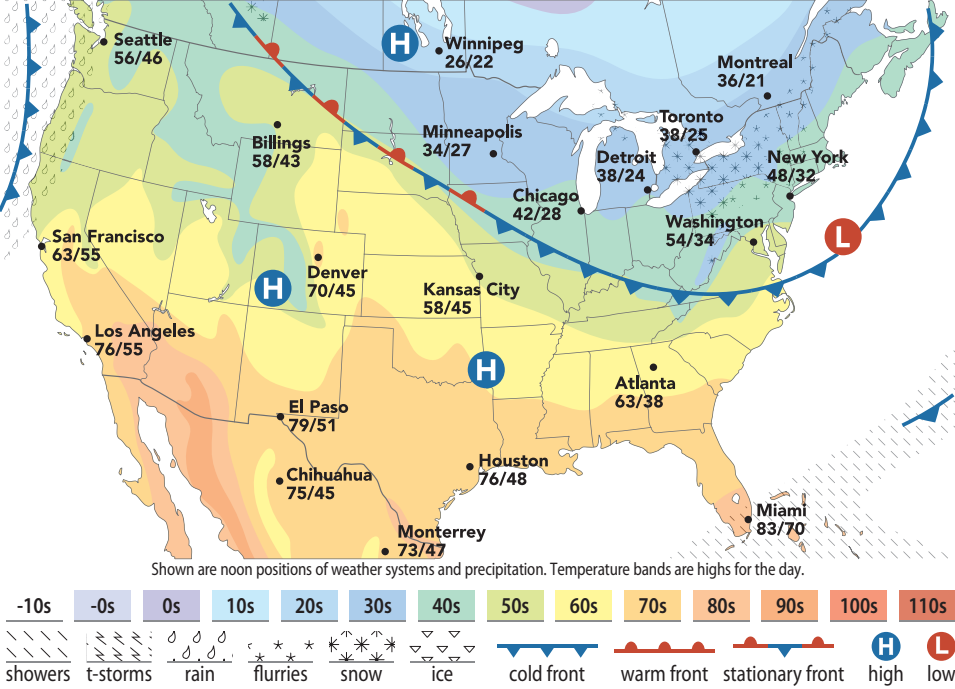


NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 96° in Chino, Calif. Low 3° in Cotton, Minn.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



A cooling La Nina could be a strong one

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

SALEM — La Nina tightened its cold grip on the Pacific Ocean in the past month, leading federal forecasters to predict the first strong La Nina in a decade.

Sea-surface temperatures cooled in October into a “moderate” La Nina and have a 54% chance of cooling further into a “strong” La Nina by the end of November, the National Weather Service said recently.

Ocean temperatures haven’t dropped into the strong La Nina category since the winter of 2010-11. The following spring, Washington’s snowpack was 115% of normal.

Washington State Climatologist Nick Bond said the outlook bodes well for the 2021 snowpack and irrigation season.

“Maybe this La Nina won’t be a whopper, but it will be significant,” he said.

La Nina’s influence likely will be strongest early next year and cause winter to hang on through early spring, Bond said.

“Everything looks good right now, no guarantees, but everything is coming

together for cool and wet weather after the first of the year,” he said.

Low sea-surface temperatures affect wind patterns, triggering changes in the atmosphere that lead to storms forming near Alaska and dropping south into Washington.

The storms should moderate a warmer-than-average ocean off the West Coast, Bond said.

In some recent winters, warm water offshore — nicknamed “the Blob” — has contributed to mild winters.

“I don’t think that’s going to be too big of a factor compared to some past years,” Bond said.

La Nina is also expected to make winter cooler than average in the Idaho panhandle.

La Nina probably will make the winter relatively warm in the southern tier of the U.S., beginning in Northern California, according to the weather service’s Climate Prediction Center.

La Nina has less influence in Oregon and most of Idaho. Federal forecasters said in October that those regions have equal chances of cool or warm winters.

The prediction center will update the winter outlook

Nov. 19. Sea-surface temperatures drive the outlook for the U.S. Forecasters have ruled out the ocean warming and forming a snowpack-reducing El Nino.

A section of the mid-Pacific Ocean along the equator cooled to 1.1 degrees celsius below normal in October, from 0.95 degrees in September. The threshold for a strong La Nina is 1.5 degrees below normal.

The prediction center looked at two dozen forecasting models and concluded the odds favor a strong La Nina in November, December and January.

Every model predicted the ocean will be cooler than average, though there was a wide range.

A model developed by NASA forecast sea-surface temperatures will be 2.66 degrees below normal.

At the other end, the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University predicted sea-surface temperatures will be just 0.22 degree below average.

The prediction center said La Nina already has had a significant effect on the atmosphere, another observation that favors it will be strong.

IN BRIEF

Trump supporters in Oregon hold rally to protest election

PORTLAND — Supporters of President Donald Trump gathered in Oregon for a rally to protest what they perceived as flawed or fraudulent results of the Nov. 3 election.

The event in Salem on Saturday, Nov. 14, was billed by organizers as a “Defeat the Steal” rally and coincided with similar demonstrations across the U.S., KOIN-TV reported.

A crowd of 100 to 200 people gathered at the Oregon Capitol, where many demonstrators said they do not believe the election results naming Joe Biden as the nation’s president-elect.

Attendees said they came to express their love for Trump and to exercise their First Amendment guarantee of free speech. Many said they want a legal fight over the results.

One protester arrived with a metal-cast statue that was previously erected in Portland to support the Black Lives Matter Movement. The statue, known as “Nightmare Elk,” replaced a city-owned statue that was removed over fears of damage by protesters. The elk statue was stolen Oct. 10.

Biden defeated Trump by topping the 270 electoral vote threshold needed to clinch the presidency. As of Sunday, Nov. 15, Biden had 77.5 million votes, the most ever by a winning candidate, to Trump’s 72.3 million votes.

— *Associated Press*

CORRECTIONS: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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