

Forecast for remainder of the winter looks 'normal'

Early snowstorms have mountains recording 100% snowpack

By KATY NESBITT
For the East Oregonian



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Snow covers Highway 204 near Summit Road on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020.

PENDLETON — Early season storms have Northeast Oregon snow enthusiasts anticipating a snowy winter, and the extended forecast shouldn't disappoint.

Most of Oregon's mountains were well above 100% of average snowpack by mid-November, a drastic difference from many winters in the past decade when some ranges didn't reach 100% the entire year or at least until well into the spring.

"The snowpack in Eastern Oregon, as well as the rest of the state, looks pretty good right now," said Rob Brooks, a National Weather Service forecaster in Pendleton. "What we anticipate is a normal amount of precipitation for Pendleton."

The Emigrant Springs Snotel, an automated snow and precipitation measuring station near Emigrant Springs State Park south of Pendleton, had as of Thursday, Dec. 3, measured 6.7

inches of precipitation since the start of the water year Oct. 1, slightly below the average of 7.3 inches for that period.

The High Ridge Snotel, near Tollgate east of Pendleton, has recorded 12.2 inches of precipitation since Oct. 1, compared with the average

of 10.8 inches. The water equivalent in the snowpack as of Dec. 3, was 4.9 inches, slightly above the average of 4.7 inches.

With vast differences in elevation across the region, Brooks said snowfall and weather patterns can also vary considerably. He said

La Nina weather patterns from the Pacific that bring a lot of moisture, as is predicted for this winter, have an impact in Eastern Oregon, but most inland Northwest weather depends on the timing and speed of the systems and air temperature.

"Our weather patterns

occur on micro scales," he said. "We have small areas where an inversion sets up — the basin can be 28 degrees with fog, while it can be sunny and 60 degrees in Meacham."

Precipitation for Pendleton and the basin averages 1.55 inches in December,

1.51 inches in January and 1.17 inches in February.

Winter temperatures and precipitation can vary greatly.

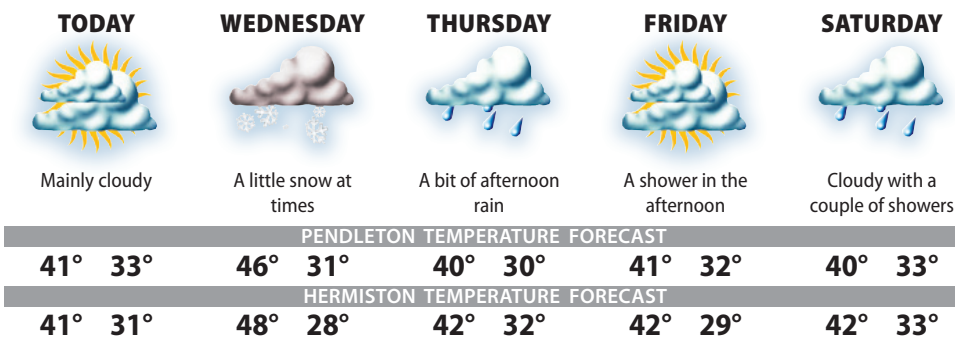
"Last year, we packed up pretty good, and then had floods caused by rain on top of the snowpack," Brooks said.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website, Northeast Oregon should expect normal to slightly below normal precipitation with near normal to slightly above normal temperatures for the rest of December.

When discussing what's "normal" winter weather, Brooks pulled up some interesting data. It's not unusual to have a 70-degree day in Pendleton in late January or early February. Despite the welcome reprieve from winter's grip, sometimes these false spring days cause disaster. In 1996, a year of much flooding in Eastern Oregon, Brooks said it was minus 12 on February 3 and 75 degrees on February 8.

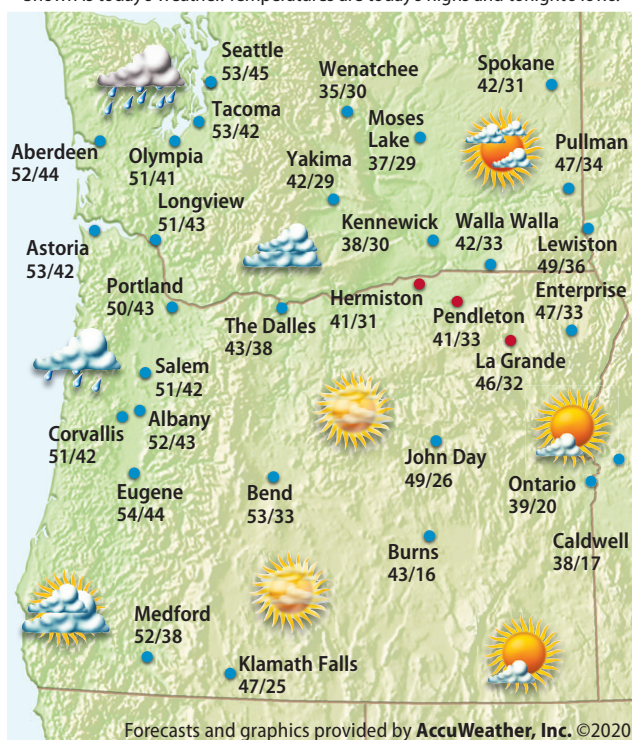
According to Brooks, the coldest month since the weather service began recording temperature in Pendleton was during the winter of 1948, when the average low temperature was 20 degrees and snowpack at Meacham that win-

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	32°	25°
Normals	40°	27°
Records	64° (1938)	-7° (1972)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.32"
Year to date	12.19"
Last year to date	11.64"
Normal year to date	11.83"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	35°	33°
Normals	41°	28°
Records	68° (1938)	-7° (2013)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.37"
Year to date	3.94"
Last year to date	4.95"
Normal year to date	8.87"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	SSW 4-8	SSW 4-8
Pendleton	S 6-12	SW 4-8

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:23 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:11 p.m.
Moonrise today	none
Moonset today	1:07 p.m.

New First Full Last

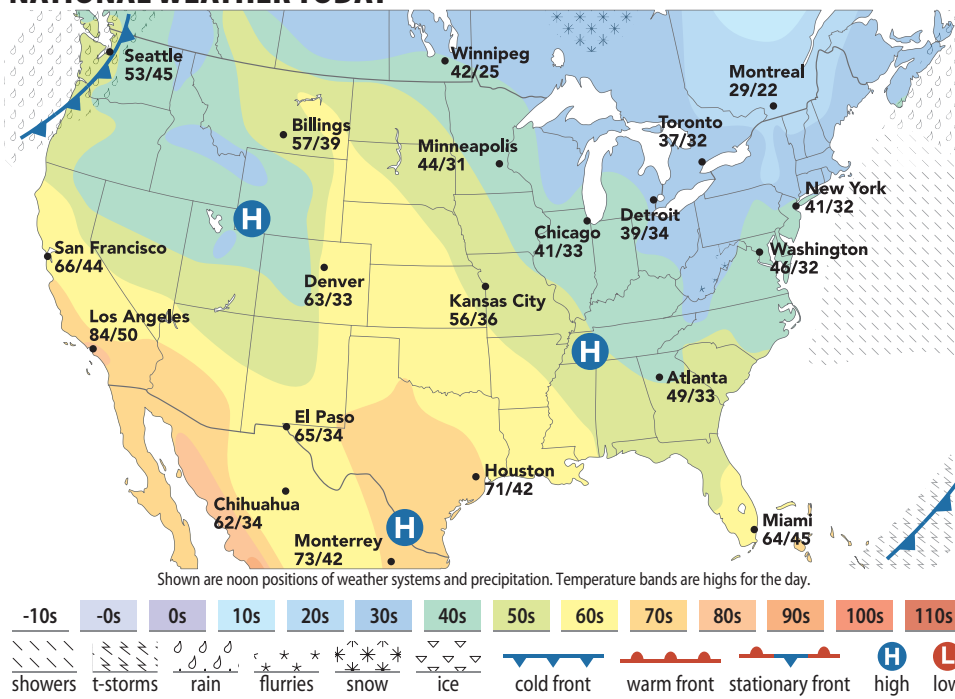


NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 81° in Camarillo, Calif. Low -16° in Yellowstone N.P., Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Eagle Cap Extreme sled dog race canceled for 2021 due to pandemic

Wallowa County event expected to resume in 2022

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chiefstain

ENTERPRISE — The 2021 Eagle Cap Extreme sled dog race, originally scheduled for January, has been canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the ECX website.

"After considerable discussion with medical professionals, community leaders, and several key volunteers in the Eagle Cap Extreme family, we made the difficult decision to postpone our 2021 races," the website states. "We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and look forward to resuming with the 2022 race."

Dr. Randy Greenshields, president of the ECX board of directors and co-owner of the Double Arrow Veterinary Clinic, said the board decided to cancel next month's event on Nov. 23, because of concerns over keeping people socially distanced. He said organizers have been busy getting the word out to all the mushers and volunteers.

"We had a lot of volunteers who were pretty uncomfortable with (holding the ECX)," he said on Wednesday, Dec. 2. "We'd already planned to cancel events where people were in close proximity."

He said although distancing wasn't a problem for the mushers, it would've been for spectators and anyone attending the awards banquet and people gathered in warming tents and eating and sleeping areas.

"It was just real difficult to keep people spread out," he said.

Communications were another problem. Given the terrain involved in the race, cellphones aren't usable and ham radios are used, again crowding people together.

"There would be too many people in close proximity to do it very safely," Greenshields said.

Information on the website has already been changed to reflect plans for the 2022 race. Greenshields said some of the mushers who planned to compete next month said rather than refund their entry fees, the ECX organization should just hold onto the fees until 2022.

"We had a ton of people wanting to race this year but it's not to be," he said. "It's a really cool event. Just not this year, unfortunately."

IN BRIEF

Walla Walla man pleads guilty in Walmart incident

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Michael Tingle, 25, of Walla Walla, Washington, pleaded guilty to charges stemming from one of two incidents in October.

Tingle, appearing in Walla Walla County Superior Court on Friday, Dec. 4, admitted to stealing from Walmart.

He was arrested by College Place, Washington, police in early October for allegedly stealing granola bars from the College Place Walmart, a place from which he'd been banned.

Tingle pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree burglary and one count of first-degree trespassing from that incident.

Tingle is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 14 for those crimes.

He is still facing charges of first-degree burglary and first-degree unlawful firearm possession stemming from an incident that happened two days after his Walmart arrest.

Tingle is alleged to have broken into a Walla Walla business and stolen a gun.

His bail is set at \$25,000 for that case, according to Walla Walla County Prosecuting Attorney Jim Nagle.

Tingle made news two years ago when

he stole a retirement home bus and drove it from Walla Walla to Prescott, Washington.

Tyson Foods goes on offensive against new waves of COVID

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Tyson Foods announced on Thursday, Dec. 3, protective steps against the spread of COVID-19, investing \$540 million in safety measures and testing at its U.S. facilities.

Strategies include walk-through temperature scanners, workstation dividers to social distance monitors, and always-on testing, Tyson said in a release.

The Tyson Fresh Meats plant in western Walla Walla County is working with outside health experts, expanding its health services staff, and adding a chief medical officer. The facility also plans to pilot health clinics for team members and their families early next year.

Tyson estimates more than half of its workforce nationwide has been tested for COVID-19, with more than 1,000 workers examined each week. The company has more than 600 medical professionals on staff, with an additional 200 nurses and administrative staff hired this year.

— Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

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