



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain

Late-afternoon sunlight illuminates drifting snow over Twin Peaks as another winter weather system moves into Wallowa County on Feb. 1, 2021.

# Winter's not over yet

'La Nina-late winter' should bring cooler, wetter weather in coming months

By ELLEN MORRIS BISHOP  
For the Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — "It's been a wild ride this winter," according to Pete Parsons, Oregon Department of Agriculture meteorologist.

And it's not over just yet. "It's a La Nina-late winter, with the cold weather coming late," he said. "The cool weather is going to stay with us. The door to the Arctic got opened in the last 10 days of January, and it's going to continue off and on for the next month or two."

Water in the tropical Pacific Ocean remains in La Nina's cooler than normal

state, similar to conditions in 1971, 1996 and 2008, he said.

Based upon the close similarity to those years, Parsons suggested that March could bring more Arctic air outbreaks to the Midwest, with very cold air seeping into Northeast Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

"We're looking at a continuation of February's pattern," he said, "although the cold weather will not be as bad as it has been in February."

For Northeast Oregon, that means temperatures around 3 degrees cooler than normal in March, and continuing a degree or 2 below normal and a bit wetter than normal through May.

The good news, Parsons said, is that the mountain snowpack should continue to build. Chilly March-to-May temperatures, he said, suggest that it's unlikely the

snowpack will melt off early in the season.

As of Feb. 17, the snowpack across Northeast Oregon averaged 113% of normal based on depth. That's an improvement over the Feb. 1 figures, and Parsons is optimistic.

"I think the trend (of improving snowpack) is going to continue," he said. "I think we are going to end up with above-normal snowpack in the northern half of the state and near normal elsewhere in Oregon."

But snow-water equivalent measurements, as of Feb. 19, lag behind the 30-year average, according to Natural Resource Conservation Service data. Mountain soil moisture is also significantly below normal.

Parsons thinks that next winter may also be a late-arriving, cold and stormy one.

"We'll just have to wait and see," Parsons said.

IN BRIEF

### Josephy Center offers job to students

JOSEPH — The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture is seeking an enthusiastic, creative and organized intern to assist staff members with programs at the center, according to a press release.

The position is part-time: 5-15 hours per week on Fridays, Saturdays and some afternoons.

Candidates must have excellent organizational and basic computer skills, and should be comfortable interacting with the public, especially youth. Candidates should have some work experience.

The successful applicant must be in high school, experiencing a gap year or a college student.

Pay is \$11.40 to \$12.50 an hour. The job will run throughout 2021 and beyond.

For details, visit <https://preview.tinyurl.com/JosephyJob>.

To apply, send a letter and resume to Megan Wolfe, [coordinator@josephy.org](mailto:coordinator@josephy.org).

### Metal smithing class planned

JOSEPH — Back by popular demand is the Basic Metal Smithing Class at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, starting Saturday, March 13, according to a press release.

The class, which costs \$75, will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a half-hour break for lunch.

Instructor Dona Miller will lead this one-day class on the properties of different metals, tools needed and how to use them. This class teaches the foundations that are the building blocks for creating jewelry, along with techniques for cutting, piercing, texturing, shaping, filing, sanding, finishing, polishing and more. These techniques will cre-

ate a foundation upon which all other metal working techniques will build when you are creating jewelry. This will be done while making one-of-a-kind pendants.

For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/metalsclass>. Preregister by Tuesday, March 9.

### Spring youth art classes taking signups

JOSEPH — Signups are now being taken for the spring session of youth clay classes at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, according to a press release.

Taught by Pam Beach, the classes run each Friday from March 19 to May 7. Sessions for ages 7-11 are 10-11:30 a.m. and for ages 12-17 from 1-3 p.m.

Tickets for the classes cost \$80.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit <https://preview.tinyurl.com/YouthClay>.

— Chieftain staff



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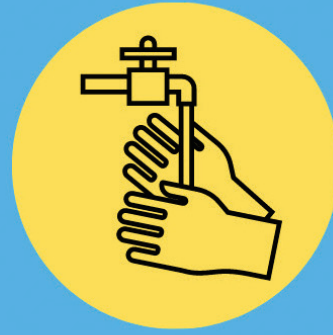
# Thank you for helping keep our schools and businesses open!

Continue wearing your mask in public.



Continue physical distancing.

Keep washing your hands frequently.



Get vaccinated when eligible & able.

