

La Nina settling in for third straight winter

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

SALEM — Federal forecasters are nearly certain a La Nina will prevail in early winter and think it likely will stick around until early spring, raising prospects for ample snow.

The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center on Thursday, Sept. 8, predicted there is a 91% chance that a La Nina will influence the climate worldwide through November.

Forecasters are uncertain how long the cool sea-surface temperatures that trigger a La Nina will last. Forecasting models agree that waters will begin warming in late 2022, but disagree on how soon temperatures will get to normal.

The climate center settled on forecasting a 54% chance for a La Nina to be in place between January and March.

If La Nina prevails, the odds favor a weak one, though there is a 46% chance it will be moderate or strong in early winter, according to the prediction center.

La Nina conditions have ruled for the past two winters. A third-straight La Nina winter would be rare.



The Observer, File

A snowplow gets an early start in December 2016 in Union County. The La Nina winter of 2016-17 inundated La Grande with 32 inches of snow, more than a third of which fell in December. Federal forecasters in September 2022 announced they are nearly certain a La Nina will prevail in early winter and think it likely will stick around until early spring.

It has occurred only twice since 1950.

La Nina is linked to cooler and wetter winters in the northern U.S. Eastern Washington irrigators who rely on melting snow are among the beneficiaries.

Above-average temperatures create an El Nino. Washington's 2015 snowpack drought was during an El Nino. There is almost no chance for an El Nino this winter, according to

the climate center.

La Nina typically worsens droughts in some regions, including Southern California and the Southwest U.S.

Ongoing droughts in East Africa and southern South America bear the hallmarks of La Nina, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

In predicting a third-straight La Nina, the climate center considered 24

forecasting models. The models offered a range of predictions on sea-surface temperatures.

Only one, a Beijing Climate Center model, predicts that temperatures will be above average in November.

A second Beijing Climate Center model is the only one that predicts that sea-surface temperatures will be cold enough to trigger a strong La Nina this winter.

SCOTT

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She sees some of her own qualities as key to achieving her goals.

"I'm not much to boast on myself, but I do work very hard. I try to tie up loose ends and I don't like to leave customers hanging," she said. "I know they've had a lot of short-staffing here ... so we have a new (teller) hired as well as myself. We're still looking for another teller."

She currently has four employees at the Enterprise branch.

Working with the public is what Scott likes most.

"The customers make it fun," she said. "Everybody has a different story and it's fun to help them. That's another of my skills at being a manager, solving problems. It's been fun and I enjoy it."

She also wants to grow the bank by expanding its customer base and she plans to help out at local nonprofit organizations. Right now, she's on the board of the Elgin Food Bank and may take part in something similar here.

Scott learned Umpqua is not directly involved in helping with Wallowa's recovery from the Aug. 11 hailstorm, as another bank is, but she said it's something she plans to

AT A GLANCE



Umpqua Bank: Umpqua Holdings Corporation is the parent company of Portland, Oregon-based Umpqua Bank. Umpqua has 243 locations in Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho and Nevada. Umpqua Holdings and Columbia Banking System Inc. based in Tacoma, Washington, announced last year the two banks would merge. Columbia Bank has more than 150 locations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California.



Source: umpquabank.com and columbiabank.com

investigate.

"That would be a good thing to look into," she said. "I know it's really terrible for them (in Wallowa). ... That's another thing on my goals list."

As for her personal goals, she doesn't envision moving on from her current post.

"I like the idea of staying here," she said. "I like seeing the people and doing the banking and helping the people succeed."

40TH

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Gately became the sole proprietor of the business.

Twelve years ago, Gately's son — David — started working at the jewelry store and more recently his grandson — Joseph — began training at the shop. Gately is now semi-retired — working four days a week and spending more of his time at his ranch in Cove.

Gately and Donna Andrews — who has worked

for the company for 16 years — organized a celebration to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the store, offering great deals for the entire last week of September.

To round out the celebration the jewelry store is running a drawing for a Pulsar quartz men's watch and a pair of 14 karat yellow gold ruby earrings. Visit the store's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LaGrandeGoldandSilver) for details and announcement's of the anniversary daily specials.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Shaped with an axe
- 5 Pack tightly
- 8 Butter squares
- 12 Lotion additive
- 13 Tavern order
- 14 Pass over
- 15 First name in horror
- 16 Not well
- 17 Rummy or tag
- 18 Prefix for "below"
- 20 Pedro's coins
- 22 — kwon do
- 23 Wearing less
- 25 Dry, as wine
- 28 Perform again
- 29 Is or was
- 30 Turn on an axis
- 33 Napped leathers
- 35 Verve
- 36 — noire
- 37 Flowery garland

DOWN

- 1 Custom
- 2 Ms. Verdugo
- 3 Rex Stout detective
- 4 Not far
- 5 — alai
- 6 NFL honor (hyph.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	E	N	S	A	C	K	T	O	R	T	
E	L	I	A	M	E	N	H	A	H	A	
A	L	K	A	L	I	N	E	I	R	O	N
M	E	E	T	S	T	W	I	G			
			O	A	F	R	H	I	N	E	
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I	T	L	L	L	E	G	S	O	L	E	
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G	E	N	E	S	D	U	N				
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I	N	K	Y	Y	E	A	H	T	N	T	

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