

# Tips to keep your home warm during wintry weather

As colder air moves into the Pacific Northwest, bringing freezing temperatures and snow across the region, Energy Trust of Oregon is offering advice on how to keep your home comfortable while not wasting money on added energy costs.

## Seal up places where air escapes

The small gaps, cracks and leaks throughout your home can seem insignificant. But they can really add up to the point where you're losing as much energy as if a window is open during this winter weather.

Use caulk or spray foam to seal up small holes and cracks around plumbing pipes, exhaust fans, dryer vents, sink and bathtub drains, fireplaces and under countertops.

## Check air filters

You hear it a lot, but it's important to check your air filter, if you haven't already this winter. Dirty filters cause your heating system to work harder, wasting energy and money. Pets are inside more in colder weather and fur can clog the filter faster.

## Don't crank up the heat

When temperatures drop, don't raise the thermostat higher than you normally would during more mild



A "dragon" at Tree Top Play Park in The Dalles appears to mix fire and ice in an attempt to melt the snow on a park slide Wednesday. Cold temperatures and snow continued Thursday and were predicted for Friday as well. Additional moisture but warmer temperatures were forecast over the weekend and much of the coming week. Mark B. Gibson photo

weather. Cranking up the thermostat by a few degrees will not warm up your home faster; it will cause the furnace to run longer.

Try lowering the heat. Each degree lower is a three-percent savings on your bill. Energy Trust recommends the following settings: 65 - 68 degrees during the day; 58 - 60 degrees at night during cooler months.

If you have a heat pump, turn the thermostat down no more than three degrees at night. Later, consider investing in a smart thermostat.

You can set it to automatically lower the heat at night and the hours you're away. Energy Trust offers \$100 coupons for smart thermostats throughout the year.

## Check the fireplace

If you're not using your fireplace, be sure the damper is closed. An open damper allows warm air to escape up the chimney.

When you do use the fireplace, close the room's doors. Also, give the furnace a break by lowering the thermostat.

## Let the sun help

During the day, keep curtains on your south facing windows open to allow sunlight to naturally help heat your home. Close the curtains at night which will help insulate the windows.

Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping utility customers benefit from saving energy and generating renewable power, according to a press release. Learn more at [www.energytrust.org](http://www.energytrust.org) or call 1-866-368-7878.

## FOR THE RECORD

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** All individuals arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

### ACCIDENTS

**The Dalles City**  
Jan. 14, 9:40 a.m. - Two vehicle, non-injury crash, West 8th and Cherry Heights streets. Officer assisted with the exchange of information.

Jan. 14, 10:49 a.m. - Single vehicle, non-injury crash, East 16th Place and East Scenic Drive. A report was taken.

Jan. 15, 2:18 p.m. - Two vehicle, non-injury crash, East 2nd and Union streets. Officer assisted with the exchange of information.

### Oregon State Police

Jan. 13, 11:30 p.m. - Single vehicle, non-injury crash, Interstate 84 westbound, milepost 111. Trooper witnessed a vehicle lose control due to icy road conditions and crash head on into the center barrier displacing three barriers. A report was taken.

Jan. 14 12:33 a.m. - Single vehicle, injury crash, Interstate 84 eastbound, milepost 77. Driver lost control of vehicle due to icy road conditions. The driver was taken to the local hospital for minor injuries. A report was taken.

### FIRE

#### Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue

The agency responded to eight calls for emergency medical services on Jan. 13, five on Jan. 14, and eight on Jan. 15.

### POLICE REPORTS

#### The Dalles City

Police responded to the 2900 block of East 2nd Street Jan. 13 after a caller reported two dogs at large. The dogs were located and taken to the local shelter. A report was taken.

Police responded to the 3200 block of West 6th Street Jan. 14 after a caller reported she was alerted by her security system that the building had been broken into. Caller advised

she could see the suspect on the cameras until they were tampered with. Jeffery Scott Fisk, 54, Portland, was arrested in the 900 block of Chenoweth Loop Road and is accused of second-degree burglary.

Samantha Marie Solberg, 19, The Dalles, was arrested Jan. 14 in the 2700 block of West 7th Street and is accused of first-degree criminal trespass and unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

A theft report was taken Jan. 14 from the 500 block of Mt. Hood Street after a victim reported her lottery tickets were stolen.

A theft report was taken Jan. 14 from the 500 block of West 9th Street.

Police responded to East 19th and Dry Hollow streets Jan. 14 after a caller reported a driving complaint. Caller stated she witnessed a driver almost run over a couple walking in the area. A report was taken.

Javier Alvarez Sepulveda, 60, The Dalles, was arrested Jan. 14 in the 500 block of Mt. Hood Street and is accused of second-degree theft.

A theft report was taken Jan. 14 from the 900 block of Pomona Street after a victim reported she was scammed out of money.

Police responded to the hospital Jan. 14 after staff reported finding methamphetamine on a patient. A report was taken.

Police responded to the 3000 block of Old Dufur Road Jan. 14 after a caller reported a juvenile subject was smacking around his grandmother. Subject was cited for harassment and a report was taken.

Brandon L. Gerard, 32, The Dalles, was arrested Jan. 14 during a traffic stop near East 3rd and Madison streets and is

accused of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Jose Castaneda Rosas, 29, The Dalles, was arrested Jan. 14 in the 500 block of Mt. Hood Street and is accused of post-prison violations.

Police responded to the 300 block of Court Street after a caller reported a male subject was on the premise after previously being trespassed. Subject was located and cited and released for second-degree criminal trespass. A report was taken.

A hit and run report was taken Jan. 15 from the 2200 block of West 10th Street.

Justin Ray Brunson, 29, The Dalles, was arrested Jan. 15 during a traffic stop near West 7th and Ash streets and is accused of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

A theft report was taken Jan. 15 from the 2000 block of West 7th Street after a victim reported his food stamp card was stolen.

Nolan Verne Mobley, 30, Moro, was arrested Jan. 15 in the 2900 block of East 2nd Street and is accused of felon in possession of a weapon and providing false information in connection with a transfer of a firearm.

A theft report was taken Jan.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Local farm agencies host informational meetings

Wasco and Sherman County Farm Service Agency offices will be hosting several informational meetings for the current Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Agricultural Risk Coverage /Price Loss Coverage (ARCPLC) programs. Meetings are 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Sage Canyon Raft Shop, 509 Deschutes Ave. in Maupin; at 10 a.m. Jan. 28 at the Sherman County OSU Extension meeting room, 66365 Lone Rock Rd., in Moro; and 10 a.m. at We 3 Coffee & Deli, 576 NE 5th St. in Dufur.

### Gorge Winds Concert Band seeks conductor

The Gorge Winds Concert Band is currently taking applications for a new conductor. This is a volunteer position. Applications close on Friday, Feb. 14th, with the new conductor assuming responsibilities at the end of April. The band's season typically runs from the first week of February through July 4 and resumes the first week of September and continues through the December holiday season. For the required qualifications, full job description and method of application visit [www.gorgewindsband.org/conductors/2020-conductor-search](http://www.gorgewindsband.org/conductors/2020-conductor-search).

### Senator seeks input

Oregon Senator Lynn Findley, who has been appointed to finish the term of former Senator Cliff Bentz, will be in Salem beginning in February for the six-week legislative short session representing District 30. Findley is asking constituents to contact his office if they have questions or comments about the bills or issues working through the legislative process.

His district office is at 252 B. Street West, Vale. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 541-473-4029.

Findley's Salem office is at 900 Court St. NE, S-403; 503-986-1730; email [Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov).

The senator is currently scheduled to attend the Women in Ag conference in The Dalles on Saturday, Jan. 25.

### Cascade Singers begin season

Cascade Singers community choir welcomes new members for its spring season. Work has begun for a choir festival in February and the annual St. Patrick's Day concert. A late-spring concert will feature a cantata and other works by J.S. Bach. The Singers meet under the direction of Miles Thoming-Gale Sundays from 7 to 9 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 10th and Union Streets, in The Dalles. One-hour work sessions are held Thursdays at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 305 E. 11th St. Rehearsals are open to all interested singers. Contact the director at [milesmansfield93@gmail.com](mailto:milesmansfield93@gmail.com) for details.

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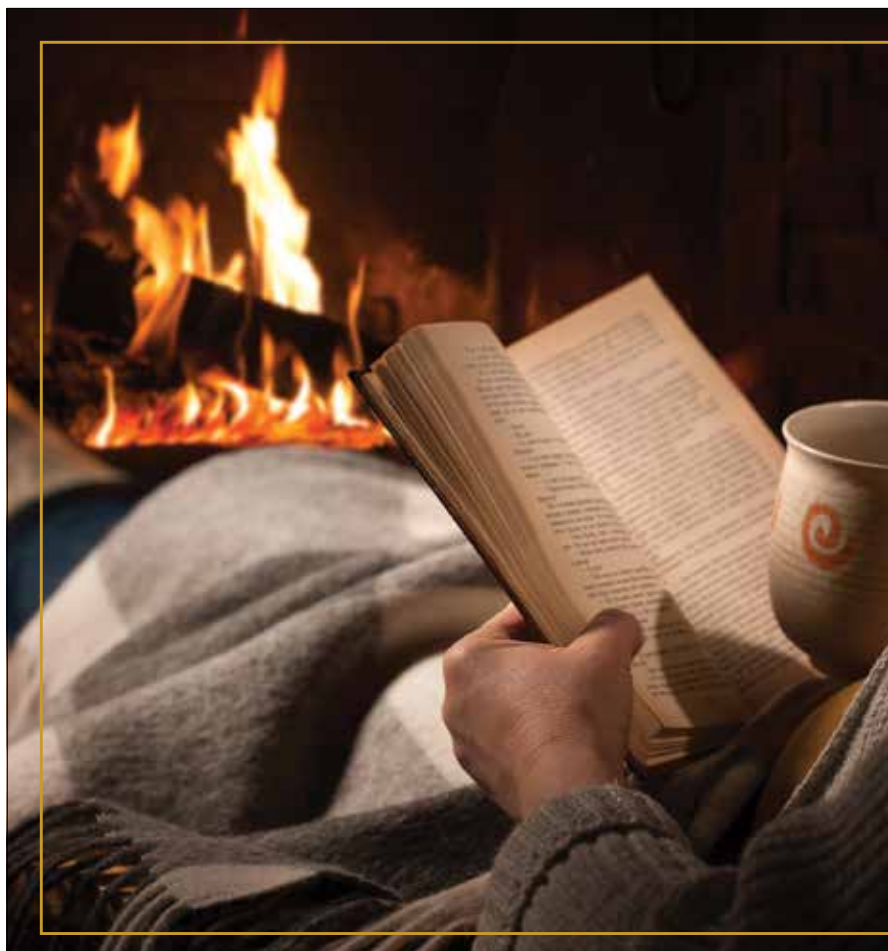
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