

# RENNIE'S TO THANK YOU FOR 9 GREAT YEARS PRESENTS

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**WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 14TH  
at 9:00 PM**

**\*\* JOIN THE CELEBRATION \*\***

**Rennie's Landing  
1214 Kincaid  
687-0600**

## Regional

### An Alaskan snowstorm hits Willamette Valley

(AP) — An Alaskan storm blanketed much of Oregon in snow Monday, forcing school closures, causing major traffic problems and signaling the start of what is expected to be a week of snowy weather.

The National Weather Service said several inches of snow fell over a wide region of the state Monday, with about 3 inches of snow falling by evening on the Willamette Valley floor.

Monday's snow was preceded in many places by a thin sheet of ice that covered roads, bridges and long sections of Interstate 5 in the Portland area. Fender-bender accidents and near standstill traffic were reported throughout the area.

Portland's Tri-Met bus traffic was late Monday morning and expected to be even worse Tuesday as the snow piled up.

The culprit, the National Weather Service said, was a slow-moving storm system that crept down from Alaska during the weekend.

"It's been chugging steadily south, going right down the West Coast of Canada since Saturday," said Ira Kosovitz, a weather service forecaster.

Kosovitz said the cold weather will continue for most of the week. Daytime highs should edge into the 40s, allowing some of the snow to melt, he said, but temperatures will fall after dark, causing everything to freeze again.

Another snowstorm was heading toward Oregon and expected to hit the state by Thursday.

Monday morning, the snow and ice — coupled with poor

driving skills — made for treacherous conditions.

"The biggest problem we're having is that we can't get these people to slow down," said an Oregon State Police dispatcher in Portland. Particularly difficult were sections of Interstate 205, where many drivers were hitting patches of black ice while driving at the summertime speed of 55 mph.

"They hit that ice, and there they go. We get one accident cleared up, and there's another one," the dispatcher said.

In Milwaukie, traffic was blocked after a 40-foot tractor-trailer belonging to Safeway Stores Inc. sheared a power pole.

No one was injured, but the road was closed for six blocks from 5:48 a.m. to 8 a.m. as Portland General Electric Co. crews repaired downed lines that dangled over the roadway, said Milwaukie police.

Two lanes of Oregon 6 reopened Monday after a rockslide at the crest of the Wilson River Highway closed them during the weekend. The Oregon Highway Division said a pilot car was leading traffic through the area damaged by the slide.

For all the traffic problems and minor accidents, there were no reports of significant injuries.

The snow created havoc for schools, with some districts closing altogether and others either opening late or closing early.

Striking teachers halted picketing outside after McMinnville schools were closed because of the snow.

### Castration bill debated

By Hal Spencer  
Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — The Washington Senate on Monday narrowly passed a measure allowing sex offenders to choose castration in exchange for reducing their sentences by as much as 75 percent.

The bill was approved 25-23 and sent to the House where Speaker Joe King said the measure probably won't come up before next year.

"We just don't know if we're ready to experiment on the public yet," King said.

The measure, and other legislation aimed at repeat sex offenders, is the Legislature's reaction to recent crimes, including the sexual mutilation of a 7-year-old Tacoma boy.

Senate critics accused backers of the bill of showing "blood lust" and said such a law would dump unrepentant sex criminals back on the streets years earlier than if they were to serve full prison terms. They predicted the courts would throw out such a law.

But sponsors said studies have shown castration to cut repeat crime by 75 percent or more.

"Mutilation is too good for these people," said Sen. Brad Owen. "It should be mandatory for these creeps."

"No one mentions cruel and unusual punishment of the citizens," said Sen. Bob McCaslin.

Both houses have approved tough sex-crimes legislation suggested by a citizens task force appointed by Gov. Booth Gardner. Informal negotiations are under way to iron out the differences.

That legislation includes stiffer sentences, a procedure for civil commitment of incorrigible sex offenders and more services for victims.

Sen. Ellen Craswell, sponsor of the castration bill, and her Senate allies contend those efforts aren't enough.

Surgical castration "does affect violent behavior. The lowering of testosterone level affects violence," said Craswell, referring to a male sex hormone. She said she prefers life sentences for sex criminals.

Foes of the castration bill said it won't survive constitutional scrutiny on 8th Amendment grounds of cruel and unusual punishment. They noted the South Carolina Supreme Court so ruled in the case of three rapists offered the option in exchange for suspended sentences.

Craswell's measure includes provisions for court hearings before castration to ensure the offender understands the legal, medical, emotional and psychological consequences of surgical castration.