



MOLLY J. SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Linn County Sheriff's Deputy Josh Rue and a group of volunteers from the Sheriff's Search and Rescue team check in with homeowners in Idanha on Thursday, Jan. 12.

Snow

Continued from Page 1A

issues and those kind of things," said Detroit Mayor Jim Trett.

Detroit has accumulated more than a foot of snow over the past week and Trett said the city's sole plow contractor could not keep up with the incessant snowfall.

"We have limited resources for plowing so he was just feeling overwhelmed," Trett said.

As Larsen supervised his teenage crew sloshing through the snow and creating pathways, he compared the conditions to a series of storms that pummeled the region nine years ago.

"I was actually up here in 2008 when they had heavy snow levels here and it was similar to how it is here today," Larsen said.

Idanha and Detroit were buried by roughly 12 feet of snow over a two month period in January and February of 2008. Three dozen National Guard soldiers, inmate crews and engineers were sent to the cities to help remove snow and help residents, according to the 2011 Marion County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

While snow removal

was one of the primary reasons for volunteers and Marion County Public Works crews to make the trek into Santiam Canyon, the county initially received information that low water pressure was causing issues for residents.

"They are having trouble keeping up with all the breaks because of the freezing weather," said Jim Thompson, safety specialist for Marion County Public Works. "The water lines are breaking and they can't tell where."

Marion County Sheriff's Office deployed deputy-supervised inmate work crews to clear snow and ice that blocks access for emergency crews to assess structures, fire hydrants and water melters, according to a statement released by Marion County Thursday.

Search and Rescue volunteers also assisted Idanha's Public Works crews with clearing snow at the city's water treatment center to restore water pressure to normal levels.

Members of both the Marion and Linn County Sheriff's Offices and the Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, were also on site checking on residents.

The search and rescue team spent most of the day traveling house to house by foot to assess roofs with heavy snow loads and helped clear walkways for residents needing to venture into town.

"First responders, public works officials and community members are all working together to help our community deal with the effects of this snow storm," said Marion County Sheriff Jason Myers. "This is a great example of the teamwork and collaboration that exists between county agencies and communities."

Thompson said Marion County Public Works crews will be on site at least until Friday, but that timeline may be extended through the weekend depending on how much progress is made clearing roadways.

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Camping

Continued from Page 1A

base of Mount Jefferson saw a major increase in crowds beginning in 2014. One problem was people arriving, discovering all the designated campsites were taken and making camp on the park's ecologically sensitive meadows.

"The vegetation up there has an incredibly short growing season," said Brad Peterson, wilderness trails manager for Willamette National Forest. "Once it's crushed, it can do extensive damage."

By requiring that backpackers purchase a \$6 permit in advance — and see online if any campsites were available — it was hoped fewer people would camp on environmentally sensitive meadows.

It didn't work out that way. The number of people camping on the fragile meadows actually increased last summer, instead of declining as officials had hoped, Peterson said.

"Our staff observed an increase in camping outside designated

sites," he said. "(People) were also less successful in selecting appropriate campsites."

It's not clear what caused the increase. The past summer was the most crowded outdoor recreation season in Oregon's history, the Statesman Journal has reported. So more people visiting already-popular Jefferson Park and spilling into the meadows wouldn't be shocking.

However, Peterson believes the increase might have been caused by a few factors.

First, many people were surprised by the new permit requirement at Jefferson Park, despite multiple signs and outreach programs, Peterson said.

At the same time, detailed information about the permit system — at trailheads and online — alerted visitors to a little-known fact: while backpackers did need a permit for designated sites, the Forest Service still allows dispersed camping in Jefferson Park, as long as they're 250 feet away from the lakes.

That means people without a permit could legally camp in many places — including the meadows.

"In the past, the public could have been operating under the as-

sumption that camping was allowed only in designated sites," Peterson said.

Peterson said land managers would take a hard look at the permit system.

"It is possible that there may be some changes in the coming year," he said.

One option the Forest Service could consider is a "limited entry system," that would cap the number of people allowed to enter Jefferson Park. Limited entry systems are in place at Pamela Lake and Hunt's Cove, in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, and Obsidian Trail, in the Three Sisters Wilderness.

Installing that type of system at Jefferson Park requires an environmental impact assessment, Peterson said, but might be part of a future solution.

Zach Urness has been an outdoors writer, photographer and videographer in Oregon for eight years. He is the author of the book "Hiking Southern Oregon" and can be reached at zurness@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsORoutdoors.

MarKum

Continued from Page 1A

Marquam, where there's little besides a small store and a church. Its popularity with Salem, Silverton,

Mt. Angel and various Marion County ranchers kept the restaurant alive for over 100 years. Now, under new ownership, that popularity has no sign of slowing.

"Stop on by, we're likely to be swamped," Valera said.

The MarKum Inn is open from 4 p.m. to close Tuesday through Sat-

urday at 36903 S. Highway 213. For more information, call 503-829-6006 or visit markuminn.com.

Email Brooke Jackson-Glidden brookejg@statesmanjournal.com or call 503-428-3528. Follow her on Twitter @jacksonglidden, or like her Facebook page www.facebook.com/BrookeJackson-Glidden.

Church Directory

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Phone: (503) 873-8656
Pastor Leah Stolte-Doerfler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Service time 10:30 a.m.
Nursery Available

St. Paul Catholic Church
Pastor: Fr. William Hammelman, OSB
503-873-2044
1410 Pine Street Silverton
www.stpaulsilverton.com
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
12:00 Noon (en español)
Holy Days 7 am & 7 pm

Silverton Friends Church
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Pastor Bob Henry
Silverton Christian School
229 Eureka Ave. • 873-5131
silvertonfriends@frontier.com
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