

"Safety" means a 4-wheel drive school bus in snow

When you live in the Mt. Hood area, roads covered with snow is a constant problem facing drivers during the winter months. This is even more of a problem for Welches Grade School District.

The mountain area grade school transports most of the school's 275 students to and from school, every day often over roads which never see a snow plow during the winter months.

The district in 1971 decided to meet the problems of bad roads with a four-wheel drive bus.

"We bought the 36 passenger bus to insure the safety of our youngsters," said district superintendent-principal Earl Covey.

"When in use, the bus has a 40 mile route that takes it up and down many of the back roads," said Covey. "These roads never get plowed and without the four-wheel drive the youngster would have to walk down to the main road during the snow season."

The district also has three 66 passenger buses it uses to help transport the students.

The four-wheel bus is equipped with tire chains, but never have they been needed, according to Covey.

The bus is equipped with special gear to protect against the possibility of the bus becoming stuck and the occupants having to wait out a storm.

The special equipment includes oversized heaters, lights, and other extra heavy duty equipment like a defroster.

"The bus cost the district \$11,500 and I feel it has proven its worth everytime we have used it," said Covey.

The district has also had a safety bar installed to help students climb into the bus.

"The first step on the bus is higher than the other regular buses and many of our first and second graders were having problems reaching the first step," said Covey. "This bar

helps them pull themselves up the first step into the bus."

Bill Lukens is the driver of this special bus and he agrees with Covey that the bus has proven its worth during the snow season.

"One of the biggest advantages this bus gives the district," said Covey, "is the ability to go off the beaten track to pick up students and to avoid traffic jams caused by no traction on the snow. Or in other words, safety."

School vacation scheduled

With few exceptions local schools will let out for Christmas vacation following regular classes Friday.

Classes will resume in most cases Tuesday, Jan. 2.

Mt. Hood Community College students completed finals last week. Night classes at the college will resume Jan. 2 and day classes begin Jan. 4.



THE 4-WHEEL drive school bus at Welches is specially equipped with safety and heavy duty equipment. The district

also has three other school buses used to transport students.

(Post photo)

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FOR Christmas

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Mediation scheduled in Orient

Contract negotiations between Orient School teachers and the school board have gone to mediation.

The teacher representatives and the representative of the board have agreed on a mediator but the board has not yet approved that person, according to Charles Carlon, superintendent.

He said the board would probably take action Thursday night.

Carlon said that the negotiators had agreed on six of the 13 items submitted for negotiation. He indicated that one hang up was on salaries, but declined to be specific.

Baldness is extremely rare in the Chinese. Their high consumption of rice and seafood may be a contributing factor.



BUS DRIVER Bill Lukens, front, and Welches Grade School Superintendent Earl Covey check out the tires on the 4-wheel drive school bus. Lukens has gained experience with 4-wheel buses during the past few years as driver of the shuttle bus for Timberline Lodge.

(Post photo)

Santa Claus Will Be At Hoodland Park Plaza Saturday From 1 to 5 P.M. Visit Santa and Enjoy Shopping!



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Hoodland On The Go

- To enter events on the calendar, call Joyce Bowman, 622-4422.
- FRIDAY, Dec. 22**
- Bluebirds: 2:30-3:30 p.m. at Welches School.
 - Christmas Caroling (Family fun): 6 p.m.—Meet at Hoodland Park Recreation Building; return to Rec. Building for hot cocoa and donuts. Everyone invited—sponsored by Mt. Players.
- SATURDAY, Dec. 23**
- Catholic Service: 6 p.m. at St. John's Catholic Church; near Zig Zag. Confession before mass.
- SUNDAY, Dec. 24**
- Catholic Serv: 8 a.m. - St. Johns Catholic Church; near Zig Zag; 10 p.m. - Christmas Mass. Confession before each mass.
 - Chapel of The Hills: 9:45 a.m. - Bible school; 11 a.m. - worship; 7 p.m. - Bible study.
 - Episcopal Serv: 8 p.m. - Christmas Mass (No 12:30 service.)
 - Hoodland Chapel: 10 a.m. - Bible school; 11 a.m. - Worship; near Wemme.
 - Lutheran Service: 9:30 a.m. - Family serv; 10:30 a.m. - Bible school at Hoodland Park Recreation Building.
- MONDAY, Dec. 25**
- MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- Catholic Service: 8 a.m. - St. John's Catholic Church; confession before mass.
- TUESDAY, Dec. 26**
- Firefighters Volunteers: 7 p.m. - Hoodland Fire Hall - Zig Zag.
- NO SCHOOL**
- WEDNESDAY, Dec. 27**
- Chapel of The Hills: 7 p.m. - Bible study.
 - Hoodland Chapel: 7 p.m. - Bible study.
 - Lion's Club (Dinner): 8 p.m. - Lion's Hall; Wemme.
- NO SCHOOL**
- Check stolen**
- Cherene Page, 1999 NE Division, reported to Gresham police Dec. 10 that while she left her car for about 15 minutes to go into her residence a \$200 personal check and \$17 in cash was stolen from her purse on the front seat.

It's a time when the family comes together again.

Christmas always reminds us of all the people close to us... when old friends enjoy a reunion.

This year, when you want to get close to the people you're close to but far away from, call Long Distance.

You can still feel close with Long Distance... remembering, laughing, sharing. Recalling happy Christmases past. We'll be working hard to make sure you can have the pleasures of telephoning your Christmas greetings anywhere in the world. And remember that by calling Direct, you save money and time. And by calling in the evenings and on weekends, you save even more.

Have a Merry Christmas, and this year share your happiness with a long distance call. We're working hard to improve your telephone service because we believe we're a part of you.



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