



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Wade Tucker and Kelly Anderson prepare their trucks for a night of spraying de-icer on area roads.

SPRAYING IT SAFE IN WINTER

Transportation crews fight against frosty roadways

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

While many were resting up the night before New Year's Eve, state Department of Transportation workers Wade Tucker and Kelly Anderson were on the road, spraying down the region's highways with magnesium chloride to prevent roads from freezing amid a forecasted frost.

The two maintenance technicians are part of the crews who spend winter nights de-icing roads before the morning commute. Their main tool is magnesium chloride, a mix of chemical salt and water that quickly melts through ice. The de-icer is purchased in bulk and stored at stations along the state's highways.

Tucker and Anderson begin their nights at a maintenance yard in War-



Kelly Anderson drives a de-icing truck throughout the region for the Oregon Department of Transportation.

renton. They load large yellow tanker trucks with up to 1,600 gallons of the de-icer at a time and fan out on loops along U.S. Highway 30 east to Westport, U.S. Highway 26 east to the Elderberry Inn and U.S. Highway 101 south to the Tillamook County line, along with state highways snaking through the forests. Spraying at a rate of 20 to 30 gallons per mile from a line of sprinklers near the rear bumper, they can put out up to 6,000 gallons in one night.

"We apply mag chloride as a pretreatment to keep ice from forming on the highway due to wet pavement falling below 32 degrees, frost, freezing fog, and in cases, freezing rain," said Mark Buffington, District 1 manager for the state transportation department.

See *SPRAYING*, Page 4A

INSIDE

BUNDYS GO FREE IN NEVADA — and dismissal reverberates across Oregon
READ MORE ON **PAGE 4A**

Uppertown couple stunned by an attempted arson

No suspect identified

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

An Uppertown couple awoke to a potentially dangerous scene late Saturday night when someone tried to burn their house down.

Mari Inaba, 31, and Ben Crockett, 32, heard creaking noises at their 38th Street house around midnight. The house is roughly a century old, so they didn't think much of it at first. They heard the noise again, and their dog began to bark.

"That is highly unusual," Inaba said.

Crockett checked a side room and walked downstairs before seeing flames near the front door.

"It was very apparent that someone left something there to start the fire," Inaba said.

After extinguishing small fires on their front porch and



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Damage to the front porch of a home on 38th Street in Astoria can be seen after a suspected arson attempt Saturday night.

the side of their house, the couple found a burned shirt in one spot, a burned worker's glove in another and a melted gas meter that smelled of perfume or some sort of accelerator. The side of the house sustained some fire damage.

The couple was perplexed, unsure of who would want to damage their home.

"I have no idea," Inaba said. "My husband and I racked our brains thinking, 'Why?'"

The couple has since purchased motion-sensing lights and a security camera.

Astoria police have not identified a suspect. "It was a little odd," Interim Police Chief Geoff Spalding said.

Walla Walla man arrested following downtown dust-up

Harvey, 35, allegedly fought with police

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A Walla Walla, Washington, man was arrested Saturday after allegedly causing disturbances at downtown businesses and then fighting with police.

Just after 4:15 p.m., Astoria police responded to reports of a man who had thrown produce around at the Astoria Co-op grocery store, stole a cellphone from owners of the Mai Tong Thai food cart across the street and poured hot sauce on a black Cadillac Escalade nearby. A witness also told police that the man had shattered a piece of glass in the area.

When officers arrived, they located James Clive Alfred

Harvey, 35. He allegedly struggled for several minutes as officers attempted to arrest him.

During the tussle, two Astoria police officers used a stun gun to try to subdue Harvey, listed as 6 feet 4 inches tall and 230 pounds. A Warrenton police officer and a Clatsop County Sheriff's Office deputy were called to provide backup, and an onlooker also provided assistance before he was finally arrested.

One of several onlookers recorded the scene with an officer's body camera after it fell off, Interim Police Chief Geoff Spalding said.

Harvey pleaded not guilty Monday to charges of assaulting a public safety officer, harassment, aggravated harassment, resisting arrest, second-degree disorderly conduct, second-degree theft, third-degree theft and third-degree criminal mischief.

