

The INSIDE

The Week in Review page 2

CALENDAR page 4

OPINION

pages 6-7



METRO

page 9



pages 8-13

CLASSIFIEDS page 14

OBITUARY page 14

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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Freezing rain and snow that started on Sunday and covered roads in ice made travel extremely dangerous on city streets and sidewalks, including West Burnside, downtown. Local schools, city offices and many businesses closed on Monday, extending a long New Year's holiday weekend for many residents.

Icy Grip Freezing rain disrupts work and schools

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Winter has arrived in Portland – and residents were treated to a blanket of snow and freezing rain to bookend the long New Year's holiday weekend. A winter weather advisory on Monday alerted residents that they should avoid all travel that wasn't "absolutely necessary," with ice encrusted streets delaying public transit and deterring commuters.

The buildup of ice and snow closed Portland Public Schools Monday along with state and city offices, Portland Community College, Portland State Uni-

versity, and classes at Oregon Health and Science University. Some schools managed to open up on Tuesday, albeit with poor attendance as commutes were stagnant along iced over roads.

TriMet reported losing a few buses Sunday night to the ice, with some of them sliding and becoming stuck in the bad weather. Buses struggled with the sleet and icy roads well into Monday, when a bus spun out of control on Northeast Fremont and was shown in social media photos stuck sideways across traffic.

Trimet's paratransit service

that provides door-to-door services for seniors and the physically disabled also cut back services Monday, saying they would only be providing life-sustaining trips until conditions were more conducive to safe travel.

All the closures and delays in travel didn't stop some Portlanders from appreciating a few snow days, however, and dozens of Portlanders took to social media to share shots of their backyards, pets, and children in the snow. The forecast called for clearer skies and daytime temperatures above freezing for the next few days.