

# Search and Rescue advice for safety in the woods

*From the Conservation Enforcement Ranger Program*

Fall time is here, winter is close, and the weather can be nice one minute and bad the next.

This time of year we have many hunters and woodcutters out in our wooded areas. And not to forget, we may have some fisherman down along Deschutes, gathering food and wood to keep their homes warm through the winter.

Each year the Public Safety Branch receives calls from people reporting that a loved one or friend has not returned home from these types of outside activities.

Maybe their vehicle has failed to start or is stuck, or a hunter is lost due to getting turned around in extreme weather such as snow or fog.

When this happens, try to stay calm as much as possible and contact the Warm Springs Police Department dispatch as soon as possible.

Dispatch may inquire about pertinent information from you; and when the report is taken, officers will be assigned to help find your friend or loved one.

Don't be surprised if an officer or a Search and Rescue staff member arrives at your home to gather more information for the teams who are searching. They do this in the attempt to find that loved one who is over-due.

The more information we can gather, the more likely we are to find the loved one or friend in a shorter amount of time, ensuring their safety.

### Important program

The Conservation Enforcement Ranger Program plays an important role when this type of situation arises.

The program staff work cooperatively with the Warm Springs Police Department and Fire and Safety.

If you have a loved one or friends going out for the day, ask some questions, because if you don't hear from them by a certain time, you may want to call for help.

### Get information

Here are some questions to ask, or things to keep in mind for your loved one or friend:

- Where are you going to be hunting, woodcutting or fishing? (For example North Butte, Kaskella and etc.)

## Hunter lost two nights in wilderness

In mid October Max Mitchell spent two nights outside in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness.

Search crews were dispatched when he was reported lost; two days later Mitchell was located in good health, and good spirits after being reunited with his family.

Mitchell had been out hunting on the reservation in the Mt. Jefferson area.

He was tracking a large elk when an unexpected

storm came up, and then it was nightfall.

He spent the first night under a tree, as snow came down. The following morning, family contacted Warm Springs Search and Rescue, and the search was under way.

Fire Chief Dan Martinez was a leader of the search effort, encouraging a community-wide effort. A helicopter assisted in the search during daylight hours.

His second night out alone Mitchell stayed in a lookout

cabin on Shitike Butte. The cabin was not much warmer than being outside. By good fortune a search crew found Mitchell the following morning.

In all, 135 Search and Rescue personnel and volunteers covered an area of about 20 square miles during the search.

Max and the Mitchell family thank all those who helped and prayed during the unforgettable ordeal.

stay the night out there, at least you will have some essential supplies that can help you keep warm along with foods and fluids to drink.

Hunters, we recommend you have a small daypack, and if you get turned around or lost, find the nearest road and get a fire going.

Always carry water proof matches or a cigarette lighter in your pocket at the minimum. A warm fire is always a relief and it will keep you warm and dry out your clothes if wet.

We all have loved ones or friends, so please be safe and carry some of the essential supplies that could potentially keep you safe, as we cannot predict what and if something will happen.

Each year we have Search and Rescues here on the Reservation, and if your loved one or friend doesn't arrive at home at a reasonable time, please contact the Warm Springs Police Department as soon as possible.

The weather conditions can get extreme, and when this type of situation occurs we are running against the clock, especially if people are not prepared.

- What time will you be home?

- Who is going out with them, and what vehicle will they be using? Get the vehicle year, make, model and color. This information can be very helpful.

- Are they dressed appropriately for the weather elements? Do they have sweaters, jackets, footwear, gloves etc.? And an extra change of clothing in case somebody gets too cold or gets wet.

- Does the individual or individuals have any medical

conditions, or are they on any type of medication, and do they have it on their person?

- Are they sure they have fluids to drink and a lunch or some type of snacks for the day? Having extra food and water is beneficial should something happen.

- Does the person have a shovel, axe, jack and spare tire? (We recommend they also bring a chainsaw if they have one).

- Does the person have a flashlight/headlamp, with spare batteries, water proof

matches, cigarette lighter, flares, or some type of fire starting device?

- Cellphones are good to have, but they have limited usage in remote areas.

- Does the person have rope, a tarp, tow chain, knife, small First Aid kit, and even toilet paper.

These are just a few things you should have while outside.

Putting a small day pack or large pack together is a good idea. Take it with you all the time. If for some reason you know you have to

## Prevention Bingo



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

A Bingo winner chooses a prize, as the other 60 players hold their cards and await their Bingo numbers to be called. The Bingo tourney was last Thursday at the Community Center. "The Prevention Team will be doing family activities once a month," says Andy Leonard. "We want to educate the community about prevention. There will be a presentation and activities planned. Keep an eye out for flyers."

## Umatilla tribes to trim wild horse numbers

(AP) - Officials of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation hope to cut a population of 400 wild horses by three-quarters or more without slaughtering any.

The horses graze as they please, resulting in ruined wheat crops, overgrazed rangeland, harm to other wild species and the occasional impregnated mare from a wild stallion, say tribal officials.

But limited budgets and limited options for finding new homes will prove a challenge, said Gordy Schumacher, the tribal agricultural and forestry manager.

The tribe's plan to control the population, approved last year, calls for a roundup of all the wild horses on reservation land.

The goal, Schumacher said, is a population of 50 to 100 horses on the south side of the Umatilla River, and

### Bus hits horse near W.S.

(AP) - Earlier this month a school bus from Prineville struck a horse near Warm Springs. No students were injured.

At the time of the accident the bus was carrying 20 members of the Crook County High School cross-country team home from Portland to Prineville.

The bus collided with a horse, killing the animal,

breaking a window in the and causing the vehicle to electrical power.

The students were checked by medics at the Warm Springs fire station, and then were picked up by parents and taken on to Prineville.

School superintendent Duane Yecha says air brakes stopped the disabled bus from rolling downhill.

none north of the river, in agricultural areas.

Using helicopters in their first effort, the tribes drove fourteen horses into corrals last month. Five, however, did not sell at auction. "They will be offered to tribal members for free next Wednesday.

The tribe's plan says horses are to be offered at auction

first to tribal members and then to the general public. Those that don't sell are offered for free to tribal members and then the general public.

"Then I don't know what to do," Schumacher said.

He said he has room to board only 30 horses.

He said the tribes don't

## Project seeks to draw water from Columbia

PENDLETON (AP) - An Eastern Oregon taskforce is examining ways to acquire water from the Columbia River, including dam repairs.

The 20-person group discussed projects ranging from

advancing aquifer recharge to expanding reservoirs.

Some projects are not feasible until the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation finish negotiating the tribal water rights settle-

ment.

One of the most promising ideas is repairing the Wallowa Lake Dam and using that water to mitigate Columbia River withdraw-

## Tribal nursery focuses on native plants

ARLINGTON, Wash. (AP) - Banksavers Nursery is the state's only tribal-owned native plant nursery. It's one of a few that focuses solely on plants native to Western Washington.

The nursery is operated by the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians.

It has evolved from early efforts to engage tribal members in learning about native plants. It's now a program in which the tribe grows native plants for its own salmon

habitat projects.

The nursery has acres of 63 species of native plants potted up in neat rows. At full capacity, the pesticide-free,

organic nursery has space for a half million plants. The operation, which gives preference to tribal members, employs 14 people.

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