

Sewer backup could mean natural gas line trouble

Itemizer-Observer staff report

PORTLAND — NW Natural (NYSE:NWN) is notifying its customers of an important safety matter: on rare occasions, a sewer backup could mean a natural gas line has accidentally crossed the sewer line.

If a sewer backup occurs, it's important that plumbers first scope the line with a video camera. Attempting to clear a sewer line without first using a scope could result in the release of natural gas into the sewer system of a home or business, a potential hazard.

If a crossed line is suspected, call NW Natural at 800-882-3377. If the lines cross, the gas line will be rerouted at no cost to customers.

"It's important to scope prior to clearing a sewer line and also to call us," Ryan Van Gordon, NW Natural project manager, said in a press release. "These simple steps could prevent a potentially unsafe situation."

A gas line can accidentally cross a sewer line if the sewer line wasn't able to be located on a map or didn't have tracing technology in it at the time the line was installed. This problem is now preventable because maps and tracing technology are improving. Plus, NW Natural now sends a video camera down the sewer line after installing a gas line with trenchless construction.

To learn more: www.nwnatural.com.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free amateur radio class begins Tuesday

KINGS VALLEY — A free Amateur radio technician class — or ham radio — will begin from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday and continue Tuesday evenings through March 15.

The class will be held at Kings Valley Charter School, 38840 Kings Valley Highway. Participants will prepare to pass the Federal Communications Commission's amateur radio technician class license exam.

In the event of an emergency, the primary modes of communication may be disrupted or overloaded. Ham radio is a third-tier fallback mode of communication, after landline and cellphone, to both receive and disseminate information during an emergency and during recovery operations.

RSVP to dsprague@kvschool.org.

Thompson files for House District 23

DALLAS — Jim Thompson, of Dallas, has announced he will run for the Oregon House of Representatives this year for House District 23. He has filed as an Independent Party candidate.

Thompson held the seat for three terms, appointed in 2008. The last day for candidates to file for the May 17 primary election is March 8.

Remember to claim your kicker

SALEM — Tax return filing season is open and the Oregon Department of Revenue wants to remind you to claim your tax surplus credit, or "kicker," on your 2015 personal income tax returns.

The credit is how the state is returning a more than \$402 million tax surplus to eligible Oregon taxpayers. There won't be any kicker checks issued as there have been in the past.

The Department of Revenue launched What's My Kicker, a new online tool that calculates your credit amount based on information from the 2014 Oregon tax return you filed. All you need to enter is your Social Security number or individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), last name, and filing statuses for 2014 and 2015. Visit www.oregon.gov/dor and click on the "What's My Kicker" link. You can only use this tool if your 2014 and 2015 filing statuses are the same.

If your filing statuses are different, you can calculate the amount of your credit by multiplying your 2014 tax liability before any credits, except credits for taxes paid to other states, by 5.6 percent.

IRS warns of scam

Itemizer-Observer staff report

WASHINGTON — Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remain a major threat to taxpayers, headlining the annual "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams for the 2016 filing season, the Internal Revenue Service announced.

The IRS has seen a surge of these phone scams as scam artists threaten police arrest, deportation, license revocation and other things. The IRS reminds taxpayers to guard against all sorts of con games that arise during any filing season.

"There are many variations. The caller may threaten you with arrest or court action to trick you into making a payment," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen in a press release. "Some schemes may say you're entitled to a huge refund. These all add up to trouble. Some simple tips can help protect you."

Scammers make unsolicited calls claiming to be IRS officials. They demand that the victim pay a bogus tax bill. They con the victim into sending cash, usually through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. They

The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

— Source: IRS.gov

may also leave "urgent" callback requests through phone "robo-calls," or via a phishing email.

Many phone scams use threats to intimidate and bully a victim into paying. They may even threaten to arrest, deport or revoke the license of their victim if they don't get the money.

Stay alert to scams that use the IRS as a lure. For more: IRS.gov.



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Man arrested near Ash Creek

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Ash Creek Elementary School went into a brief lockout Friday when Corey Harman, 22, resisted arrest and ran through the school's grounds, Monmouth Police Sgt. Kim Dorn said.

At 10:45 a.m. on Friday, officers from Monmouth and Independence were attempting to arrest Harman on a felony warrant in the 1900 block of Laurelridge Street in Monmouth, near ACES.

Harman physically resisted arrest and escaped briefly from officers, running

through ACES school yard. Officers quickly caught up to him, and with help from Polk County Sheriff's deputies, were able to take him into custody, Dorn said.

Harman fought with officers, who deployed a conducted energy device (Taser) twice at the initial scene and once on the school grounds, Dorn said.

He was charged with probation violation felony warrant, resisting arrest, second-degree escape, interfering with a police officer, assault of a police officer, harassment and second-degree disorderly conduct. He is lodged in Polk County jail with \$75,000 bail.

"Based on statements made, Harman was believed to be under the influence of methamphetamine, marijuana and alcohol," Dorn said in a press release about the incident.

The lockout was lifted as soon as the scene was secure and Harman was in custody. There was no attempt by Harman to enter the school building.

No students or staff were placed in danger during the event, Dorn said.

Monmouth Police Department was assisted by Independence PD, Polk County Sheriff's Office, Polk Fire District No. 1 and Dallas Police Department.

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Sudoku solution

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9	2	6	1	7	8	5	3	4
8	7	3	5	6	4	2	1	9
5	9	2	3	1	7	8	4	6
3	6	4	8	2	5	7	9	1
7	8	1	4	9	6	3	2	5
4	1	8	7	5	3	9	6	2
2	5	9	6	8	1	4	7	3
6	3	7	2	4	9	1	5	8


Markets Change. Are You Prepared?

When you stop and look back at what's happened in the markets, it's easy to realize how quickly things can change. That's why we should schedule some time to discuss how the market can impact your financial goals. We can also conduct a portfolio review to help you decide if you should make changes to your investments and whether you're on track to reach your goals.


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