



AirLink emergency responders assist hunter Mark Larsen who was rescued after spending 10 days lost in the Fields Peak area southeast of Mt. Vernon.

Contributed photo

Prepare

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budget, which includes the cost of vehicle maintenance.

"I think there is a public misconception that SAR has a lot of money," he said.

He said they do receive some money through fundraisers and donations from rescued individuals, but acquiring rescue-rated equipment is costly.

Dobler said the importance of making a plan can't be emphasized enough.

"Our volunteers are missing sleep, family time and work time to manage these searches that end up not being a search, just miscommunication with the family," he said.

He said that during a recent late-night search for a man, who was in no need of rescue, a SAR team member totaled his vehicle when he collided with a deer. Those damages were not covered by their organization.

One man didn't want to drive an hour to reach cellphone service, so his family didn't receive the message that he'd planned to stay out longer, he said. That resulted in an unneeded search.



Contributed photo

Grant County Search and Rescue team members look at maps on a mission to find a missing man last June at Cottonwood Campground in Wheeler County, providing mutual aid. From left: Nathan Gordanier, Kim Kell, Gretchen Dobler and Jaiden Kerr.

"A waste of resources," Dobler said.

Though Dobler said the hours and requirements can be a challenge, the search and rescue crews are a tight-

knit group that helps each other out. "There is a sense of gratification when you find someone," he said.

Crews recently found a woman who has diabetes who became lost with her 9-year-old daughter.

"She was completely disoriented," Dobler said. "Paramedics checked her out and the SAR took her to her family, and that is just very rewarding."

Safety tips:

- Tell someone where you are going and when to expect you back.
- Have a plan and stick to it.
- Check the forecast before leaving. Carry warmer clothes in case temperatures drop.
- Carry a flashlight and batteries. Don't rely on your cellphone for light — you might need all the juice it has left if you get lost.
- Bring flares and fire starters, including two quality lighters. Don't wait too long before building a fire, if needed.
- Bring a whistle, in case you lose your voice.
- Don't hike alone.
- Carry a satellite phone or charged cellphone.
- Carry a shovel and chains. Strips of carpets can also be helpful if a vehicle becomes stuck.

Hotel

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it includes a temporary property tax abatement. The gateway was created to spur economic development.

Priday said hotel construction will take nine to 12 months. He said the family is in negotiation with two building contractors to take on the project.

The Pridays currently own five other hotels in Oregon: Best Western Prineville Inn, Inn At Cross Keys Station, Best Western Newberry Station, Best Western Rory & Ryan Inns and Rory & Ryan Inns.

"We want to bring a product to John Day that everybody would be proud of and hopefully be a jump start for the new vision that Nick has for the city," said Priday.

In other city council and planning commission news:

• Results from the feasibility study regarding a pool in Grant County will come back in Feb. 2020. The study will answer questions such as how the pool will be paid for and what kind of plan will be put before voters in May or November 2020.

The next big focus for phase two of the innovation gateway project are the reclaimed water facility project, a bridge at Oregon Pine, the Charolais Heights Street Improvements, the completion of the Integrated Park System Trail Network, the Aquatic Center Feasibility Study, the Kam Wah Chung Visitors Center and the Inn at Whiskey Flat

• The city council and the planning commission approved an ordinance amending the John Day Comprehensive Plan and Development Code to adopt policies and codes for the Innovation Gateway Plan.

Plans such as redesign-

ing and relocating John Day's wastewater treatment plant, re-using water from a proposed state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant, which will be new, for a new water garden and hydroponic greenhouses and constructing roads and trails providing access and circulation within the area will now move forward with the amendment.

• The city council and the planning commission approved an ordinance amending the John Day Development Code to comply with the Federal Flood Plain Management Regulations relating to city participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

This amendment will help promote public health, safety and minimize public and private losses due to flooding in flood hazard areas. This amendment will also adopt the best available geographic data which defines locations that are at a high risk of flooding.

• The city council and the planning commission approved an ordinance to adopt minor development code amendments that will broaden the conditions for temporary recreational vehicles used as dwellings in all zones and allow housing units that existed prior to Nov. 24, 2005 to convert back to residential if it was occupied as business.

There is now a maximum time limit of 18 months for dwelling in an RV during the construction of a house. RV owners caring for sick family members would have to renew their permits yearly.

• The planning commission approved Tom and Patty Salvino, the owners of a property on East Main Street, for a conditional use permit that will allow them to temporarily reside in an RV on their property, which is zoned residential general, for up to one year.

Falls

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visible hazard. If you have steps to enter or exit your home, consider installing a ramp.

If needed, look for people or devices which can help prevent falls.

"Use a reacher or grabber device for getting things that have fallen on the floor," Klusmier and Debenport said. "Consider a caregiver to assist with showering, chores, dressing, etc., if you're having particular difficulty with balance or have a fear of falling. Consider having grab bars installed at entry

areas, at side of toilet, and in the shower."

During the winter, ice can be difficult to avoid but there are ways to minimize the risk. Prepare ahead of time by using salt to deal with areas that tend to freeze and become slippery. Avoid walking in the dark since ice will be difficult to spot.

While the county or hospital does not provide any programs to avoid falling, it is recommended that seniors regularly visit their Primary Care Physician and share any changes they are experiencing with strength, balance and vision after falling. People can also consider physical therapy at Blue Mountain Hospital.

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