

## NEACT to meet in LaGrande

The North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT) will hold its next meeting on Aug. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 5 Headquarters, located at 3012 Island Avenue, LaGrande. The NEACT, comprised of transportation stakeholders from Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Baker counties, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, helps identify and prioritize transportation-related projects in the five-county area. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities, per the Americans with Disabilities Act. The general public is invited to attend.

On the agenda, are the following key topics:  
 -an update on approved Connect Oregon projects;  
 -a review of projects proposed for funding through the 2008-2011 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP);  
 -highlights from the most recent Oregon Transportation Commission meeting

-an update on the Transportation Enhancement Program;  
 -a review of construction cost trends;  
 -a discussion on the ACT bi-laws and budget report.

Time has been set aside for public comments regarding project proposals and other transportation related topics. To schedule time on the agenda at future NEACT meetings, please contact Glenis Harrison (541) 963-3179.

An Area Commission on Transportation is an advisory body chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission to help address all aspects of transportation. More information about ACTs is available at the ODOT website at [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/act\\_main.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/act_main.shtml).

For more information about any of the agenda item topics, contact Tom Strandberg at (541) 963-1330, or via email at [thomasstrandberg@odot.state.or.us](mailto:thomasstrandberg@odot.state.or.us).

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## Safety advisory issued on kite tubing



The Oregon State Marine Board, in cooperation with the Consumer Products Safety Commission, is advising water enthusiasts to use extreme care when using a new towable device called a "kite tube."

"There have been a number of accidents this summer in a hand-full of states," says Marty Law, Education and Information Manager for the Marine Board. "Riders can get injured after falling or being thrown off the kite tube and can plunge 15 feet or more at extremely high speed."

Kite tubes are large, wide and sometimes saucer-shaped inflatable tubes that are towed behind boats at speeds between 25 to 35 mph. The speed of the boat causes the tube to lift into the air with the rider(s) sometimes falling 30 feet or more. This device behaves just like a regular kite by spontaneously plunging without warning.

### Precautions for drivers and their cars in hot weather

Summer is here and even with higher gas prices, many drivers will be hitting the road for vacations and weekend get-a-ways. "Hot weather brings unique challenges," said Ray Palermo, director of public relations for auto insurer, Response Insurance. "It can present dangerous conditions for both the vehicle and its occupants." Each summer sees more than 7 million car breakdowns on the road and he suggests that most summer breakdowns can be easily avoided.

-When driving in hot weather it's particularly important to keep an eye on the lights and gauges. If your temperature gauge moves up, turn off your air conditioner and turn on your vehicle's heater to its highest and hottest setting. It will be uncomfortable, but it will help draw some of the heat away from the engine. If you are stopped in traffic put the car in "park" and lightly step on the gas to help circulate coolant. If the temperature light goes on or if the gauge enters the red zone, immediately pull off the road to a safe spot, well away from traffic. Do not drive any further - not even to the next exit. Driving with an overheated engine can cause serious damage to the engine.

-Do not attempt to remove the radiator cap itself. The pressurized coolant is extremely hot and will spray out with great force. Do not pour water over the radiator or engine, since a dramatic change in temperature could cause damage. After the engine cools a bit, add a 50-50 mix of coolant and water to the reservoir to bring it up to its proper level.

Two free brochures and other information are available by calling (800) 610-5928 or at their website [www.response.com](http://www.response.com).

At least three kite tube fatalities have occurred this summer in the US, as well as several dozen personal injury accidents.

Injuries noted include heart and lung trauma, broken neck, back injuries, jaw and other facial fractures, concussions, cracked ribs, perforated eardrums and broken limbs.

The Army Corp of Engineers banned kite tubing on its lakes in Oklahoma and in neighboring states as well.

In a Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warning on kite tubes released on June 30, they noted that possible reasons for incidents and injuries include a rider's difficulty controlling the tube, boat operator inexperience and how the tube reacts in certain weather conditions. Conditions of highest concern to the CPSC are wind gusts that can cause the tube to spin out of control, or suddenly stopping or slowing by the boat operator. According to the CPSC, slowing can cause the tube to nose dive and hit the water or allow the tube rider to continue past the top of the boat and hit the towing boat, another watercraft or other objects such as a bridge.

"We want boaters in Oregon to know how potentially dangerous this apparatus is, and to seriously consider the amount of risk involved," Law adds.

For more information, visit [www.cpsc.gov/talk.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html).

## Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

MCSO received a report from Hermiston PD that Steven M. Zacharias, 41, was arrested on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/Driving while Suspended.

MCSO received a report from caller in Irrigon that her Oxycodone has been possibly stolen, as it was not with her other medications. The caller was on her way about but would call back in the evening and requested a deputy contact her the next day.

MCSO received a report from a caller in Heppner that someone was driving a vehicle in Hager Park and attempting to run someone over. Another call reported that a couple was fighting and the female party was attempting to run over the male party. The female party was arrested for Reckless Driving.

MCSO cited a male juvenile for No Operator's License.

MCSO received a report from the Water Park in Heppner that a 13-year-old male fell backwards onto his head. He was conscious and breathing but unable to walk. He also had a bump on the back of his head, but was not bleeding. He was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**OREGON MILITARY DEPARTMENT**  
**INVITATION TO COMMENT ON**  
**PROPOSED WEAPONS TRAINING RANGES**  
**ON NAVAL WEAPONS SYSTEM TRAINING FACILITY,**  
**BOARDMAN**

The National Guard Bureau and the Oregon Military Department are proposing to construct and operate four live-fire weapons training ranges on the Naval Weapons System Training Facility, Boardman, located approximately five miles south of Boardman, Oregon. The ranges would include a Multi-Purpose Machinegun Range for machineguns and light weapons, a Multi-Purpose Training Range for larger vehicle-mounted weapons such as battle tanks and fighting vehicles, and two Convoy Live-Fire Ranges for training responses to hostile threats during vehicle convoy operations.

The Oregon Military Department has prepared an analysis of the potential environmental impacts of this proposal in a draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which is available for public review and comment. Copies of the draft EA may be reviewed at:

Boardman Library  
 200 South Main Street  
 Boardman, OR 97818  
 Hours:  
 Mon & Wed: 12pm - 8pm  
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Hermiston Public Library  
 235 E. Gladys Avenue  
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 Hours:  
 Mon - Thur: 11am - 7pm  
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An electronic copy of the draft EA may be viewed or downloaded at <http://www.mil.state.or.us/AgI-E/index.html>. Copies of the draft EA also may be obtained by contacting Mr. Jeff Mach, at the Oregon Military Department, by telephone at (503) 584-3493, during normal business hours, by email at [Jeff.Mach@us.army.mil](mailto:Jeff.Mach@us.army.mil), or at the address provided below. Questions concerning the draft EA also may be directed to Mr. Mach.

The draft EA will have a 30-day public comment period, ending on September 1, 2006. Written public comments for consideration by the Oregon Military Department in the final EA are invited and must be provided in writing to: Mr. Jeff Mach, Natural Resources Manager, Environmental Branch (AGI-ENV), Oregon Military Department, P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309-5047. Written substantive comments received within the review period will be addressed in the final EA.

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