

ODOT prepares for winter conditions

ODOT crews in eastern and central Oregon are preparing for winter storms, expected to create challenging winter driving conditions.

Travelers are advised to check road and weather conditions at TripCheck.com before hitting the road. Links to winter driving safety tips are also available on TripCheck under the "Road and Weather" tab at the top of the website. Just open the "Winter Travel" and "Winter Driving Safety" drop down menus where you'll find helpful messages. Here are a few to keep in mind:

- Be ready to use your chains. Be patient. Go slow.
- Turn off cruise control. Never use cruise control in wet, icy, snowy or slippery conditions.
- Expect a long commute that could last hours. You never know when weather or traffic incidents will cause the road to be closed for extended periods.
- Along with snow and slick conditions, expect visibility to be limited.
- Make sure your wipers, headlights, turn signals, heater, etc. are in good working order.
- Keep fuel tank full (in case you get stuck in road closure).
- Keep cell phone charged.
- Avoid following GPS

navigation directions onto remote or unfamiliar roadways if detoured off of the main highway. Most routes not considered main highways are not maintained in winter conditions.

- Carry emergency supplies (water, food, warm clothes, flashlight, etc.)
 - Increase the following distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you.
 - Use extra caution and keep safety in mind when installing tire chains along the side of the roadway. Other drivers may not be able to see you clearly.
 - Drive according to conditions of the road, regardless of posted speed limits.
 - Don't abandon your vehicle, even in the shoulders. It could be towed at your expense.
 - Keep a watch on weather conditions throughout the day in anticipation of the next snow storm which could make current road conditions worse.
 - At the end of your trip, wash off your vehicle to remove mud, snow, road salt and deicer residue.
- Know Before You Go: Call 5-1-1 or visit www.TripCheck.com for the latest real-time traffic updates and camera views of Oregon's highways. Outside of Oregon, travelers can call 503-588-2941.

christmas season Messages

Editors note: The following Christmas message was inadvertently omitted from the December 20 edition of the Gazette-Times

Christmas Message 2017

So much effort goes into preparing for Christmas. We bake. We shop. We wrap. We decorate. We sing. We worship. We lie awake with anxious thoughts. It's all good, except for that last bit. But then another Christmas comes and goes and nothing really changes. Most of us do after Christmas exactly what we did before—eat, sleep, work, play, spend, sing rarely, consult with God in times of crisis only.

What if each of us did things differently this year? What if, instead of focusing all our attention on the run up to Christmas, we used that day to mark a beginning—as a launching pad rather than a place to land? What if, on December 26 and every day after, we began to share more freely, sing more often, pray without ceasing, give away more of our time, look out for others first and be more deliberate about spreading the good news of God's love for all of creation?

Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, posted a stirring

Christmas message this year that highlighted a poem written by Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator and civil rights leader until his death in 1981. Thurman's poem, "Now the Work of Christmas Begins," captures my point exactly, and says it far better:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

*May peace flourish,
and music fill your heart.*
Rev. Katy Anderson
The Shared Ministry
of All Saints Episcopal &
Hope Lutheran

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office has released the following information:

December 1: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report at Hwy 207 Echo/Butter Creek Rd that a newer car was seen on the side of the road out in a field. RP drove past the car, saw the interior light come on. Seems like they are out there waiting for something. RP thought it was suspicious.

-MCSO received a report at Green Acres on Paterson Ferry Rd, Irrigon that RP is keeping an eye on the neighbor's house and saw a male leaving with a duffel bag. Josh (unknown last) lives in the park and RP believes he is taking items from the residence.

-MCSO received a request on Tower Rd, Boardman Intertribe Enforcement would like extra patrol around their building north of I 84 on Tower Rd. They have had some vandalism that they have taken a case on.

-MCSO received a report on NW Gale St, Heppner that there is graffiti on the sidewalk in front of her residence.

-MCSO received a report at Cain Ln, Irrigon that there is a fire, appears to be someone burning tires and uncontrolled.

-MCSO received a report at Washington Ln, Irrigon that there is a puppy in the road. Puppy looks to be a couple of months old and appears ill. Unable to locate owner. Transported puppy to pet rescue.

-MCSO received a report of a structure fire on Columbia Ave, Boardman, appears to be shop or garage.

-MCSO received a report on SE Cowins St, Heppner that four or five dogs come out of the yard and chase people on the walking trail that leads up to the dam. City hall advised the dogs are not licensed and no

one has been bitten.

-MCSO received a report at Columbia River Ranch on Kunze Ln, Boardman that a female is staying there that has a warrant issued out of their county.

-MCSO received a report on NW Gale St/NW Church St, Heppner that a dog is barking all day. Attempted contact, under investigation.

-MCSO received a report that RP accidentally threw away her passport and driver's license and would like us to be aware in case anyone uses it.

December 2: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report Oregon Trail Library on N Main St, Heppner that he just drove by the library in Heppner and there were several children that appeared to be beating up on each other.

-MCSO received a report at Ione School on Spring St, Ione that there is a silver pickup that pulled behind the shop at the high school and has been sitting there for about an hour. RP finds it suspicious since there is nothing there. The driver was sleeping there until the tournament tomorrow.

-MCSO received a report at Columbia Ln/Paterson Ferry Rd, Irrigon that a vehicle is totaled. Ernest Hollingsworth was issued a citation for careless driving.

-MCSO received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that a gray Ford Escape and a white Landcruiser were speeding on gravel like they were chasing each other headed towards tenth on the gravel.

-MCSO received a re-

port at Bank of Eastern Oregon on N Main St, Heppner that person came with a found debit card.

-MCSO received a report at Sinclair station on W Main St, Lexington that one of her employees went into the bathroom this morning and noticed that one of the ceiling tiles looked a bit off and climbed up to check it and found a loaded air soft pistol.

-MCSO received a report on Magic Garden Ln, Irrigon that she is hearing subject calling for help, he has cancer. RP has called his caregiver and she is on her way but the RP is tired of hearing him yell and wants an ambulance to come out.

-MCSO received a report at Green Acres on Paterson Ferry Rd, Irrigon that there appears to be a domestic going on. He believes the male was hitting the female with a pistol. RP gave false report in order to get a response, he wanted to report fishing poles stolen. Warned for filing a false report.

-MCSO received a report on N Main Ave, Irrigon that an assessor from LaGrande was at the location and advised the front door was kicked in and it appeared transients are living in it.

-MCSO received a report that UCSO arrested Jacob Michael Spaulding on probation violation. Lodged at UCJ, no bail.

-MCSO received a report that Monica Lee Longoria was arrested on Umatilla County probation violation. Lodged at UCJ, no bail.

-MCSO received a re-

JUVENILE DEPT

-Continued from PAGE ONE

ing the entire case load. This is a critically needed position," the memo added.

Meier also said that 98 percent of the juveniles in the system are from the north end of the county, while the department of files are in the south end with two thirds of the staff "office bound" there. Commissioner Jim Doherty said he was in favor of the job change. "I like boots on the ground," he said in reference to adding another field worker to deal with juveniles. "We need to realize that with a growing county we are going to have more issues," added Commissioner Melissa Lindsey.

Doherty also wanted to be sure the request would totally eliminate the assistant position and not add more cost and staff to the department, pointing out that the two positions were "like oil and water." Meier assured the commissioners saying the eliminated position's work would be "spread around the office," and handled by other employees.

In other business at the meeting the commission briefly discussed a proposed contract with Crow Engineering to handle facility planning for the north end. The county is considering what to do about needed new facilities for county offices and services in Boardman and Irrigon. The commission authorized the county administrator to sign documents related to the agreement. No contract was made public however.

In other business at an earlier Dec. 6 meeting the commission had heard from Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative CEO and General Manager Tom Wolff about an apparent breakthrough in resolving a dispute about how electric power would be trans-

ported, or "wheeled" from a proposed new windfarm in the county.

CBEC and Umatilla Electric, UEC, have been in a legal dispute about which co-op would handle the wheeling when the new Wheatridge Wind Farm is constructed in the next year. In a letter to the commission Wolff said, "the transmission line that will transmit the project's output to the Bonneville grid is to be constructed and owned by the local electric utility – in mid-Morrow County this is Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative."

Wolff presented a map, (he was also in attendance at the meeting) showing the following power line construction route: "it will run from a switchyard and collector substation on Strawberry Lane at the southern end to the Onion Plant road in the north – Cascade Specialty Lane? UEC is to build the line on northward, within their service territory, to the Port of Morrow complex," Wolff's letter said.

The letter went on to say that the windfarm builder, NextEra Energy, is "providing CBEC with compensation to property owners for this transmission line route. Morrow County will be compensated the same as the other property owners for the use of the land – ie county road right-of-way.

"Be assured this transmission line is being planned and designed in conjunction with the "one Utility Corridor" concept for north Morrow County. It will be built to accommodate future renewable energy projects and their need to transmit electrical power to the Bonneville grid along the Columbia River," the letter said.

port on I 84 E, Boardman that they hit a large rock with their truck and would like someone to pick it up. Referred to other agency.

December 3: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that a blue Ford Ranger extended cab 87 or older flew down the road. RP reports that he yelled at the driver this morning to slow down and now it is occurring again.

-MCSO is meeting OSP in Arlington to transport transient to Pendleton for mental health appointment.

-MCSO received a report at Wilson Ln/Bombing Range Rd, Boardman that a female Jack Russell/Chihuahua was found on Bombing Range. Extremely skinny, looks partially blind, has a sweater on, long finger nail, extremely dirty. Advised they will be taking the dog to Oregon Trail Vet Clinic tomorrow and will post it on Facebook as well.

-MCSO received a report pm Toms Camp Rd, Boardman that person going to school in Ione, lives in the Boardman area with grandparents posted on Instagram that she took 12 pills.

-MCSO received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that an older blue extended cab chrome strip Ford Ranger was speeding through the area.

-MCSO received a report at Threemile Canyon Farms (office) on Threemile Rd, Boardman that he just had a semi fly past the guard shack and is parked in the yard near the weigh station. Tried banging on the sleeper and he is not responding. He would like assistance because he is not supposed to be there.

Christopher Alvin Fuller was trespassed from Three Mile Canyon farms per deputy on scene.

-MCSO received a report on W Fourth Rd, Irrigon that there are cows loose in property running down the road and through the orchard and onto the neighbors property.

December 4: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report on W Sperry St, Heppner that a dog is barking constantly and he would like a deputy to respond and deal with it. Unable to locate.

-MCSO received a report on Kunze Ln/Mountain View Dr, Boardman that there is a horse brown in color in the road and he witnessed someone almost hit it. Referred to other agency.

-MCSO received a report on SE Park Pl, Irrigon that she needed a deputy because she was attacked. Female advised male attacked her when she went to his residence to get her things.

-MCSO received a report at Green Acres on Paterson Ferry Rd, Irrigon that there is a male having breathing problems. Transported to GSH.

-MCSO received a report at Irrigon High School on SE Wyoming Ave, Irrigon that there is a stalking issue. Under investigation.

-MCSO received a report at Green Acres on Paterson Ferry Rd, Irrigon that she is coming to get her children and she has a threatening message from her mother-in-law. Would like to speak to a deputy about getting an escort. Advised RP unable to provide escort without a court order. RP picked up the children.

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