

Homeless Connect will be on January 28

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to grow. The unemployment rate in Washington County has

grown from 4.4% in January 2008 to 9.0% in October 2010, with the highest rate occurring in September 2009 at 9.9%. Since January 2010, the Oregon Employment Department has seen 18,182 new unemployment insurance claims in Washington County, the second highest in the state. Approximately 8,000 Washington County residents are projected to have their unemployment benefits end by or before June 2011, while remaining unemployed. Washington County's 2010 one-night homeless count identified 1,383 homeless individuals, up from 1,243 in 2009. The 2010 numbers include 449 children under the age of 18.

The 2010 Washington County Project Homeless Connect saw over 60 nonprofit, faith, public and private community partners and 275 volunteers work to provide services such as health and dental care, haircuts, food and clothing, and connections to needed housing and social services to approximately 500 individuals in need. In addition, 65 community leaders attended a key leaders briefing, hosted by the Vision Action Network, to learn more about the issue and how the community is responding.

Project Homeless Connect has been identified by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness as an innovation that can move people more quickly toward housing and stability and furthers the goals of community 10 Year Plans. In Washington County, it is truly an example of how communities can come together to positively impact people's lives. As one 2010 Project Homeless Connect volunteer put it, "I'm humbled by the strong community response in Washington County for this issue."

The Vision Action Network is a private nonprofit organization committed to the promotion and support of collaborative community-based problem solving in Washington County.

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DIRECTV must pay settlement money

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RECTV over the next several months. Consumers who have not filed complaints have until June 9, 2011, to do so. Consumer complaint forms are at http://www.doj.state.or.us/fin_fraud/engexplanation.shtml. Consumers also can call the Attorney General's Consumer Hotline at 1-877-877-9392 between 8:30 and 4:30 M-F to request that a form be mailed to them. DIRECTV will attempt to resolve the complaints directly with consumers. If a complaint deemed eligible cannot be resolved, DIRECTV shall inform the consumer that the complaint can be resolved by a Claims Administrator and will mail a Claim Form to the consumer for further review of the complaint.

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Keep your power

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what he calls Verbal Judo to fend off words that hit like a fist. "In some martial arts," he explains, "you don't meet force with force. Instead, you take your opponent's thrust and redirect it away from you. Often their own energy works against them."

As an example, he told me of a college friend who was teasing him about losing his hair. Rob replied, "It's true John, I am losing my hair, but you were always the handsome one."

WEATHER REPORT			
DECEMBER 2010			
DATE	TEMPERATURE		PRECIP. AMT.
	HI	LO	
1	46	39	.02
2	42	34	.01
3	46	30	--
4	43	28	--
5	47	32	.05
6	47	29	.03
7	44	38	.98
8	53	39	.69
9	49	36	.72
10	46	36	.23
11	54	36	1.20
12	56	49	.35
13	54	38	.55
14	51	34	.25
15	42	31	.11
16	45	30	--
17	43	25	.35
18	42	33	.41
19	41	34	.25
20	43	39	.24
21	45	34	T
22	47	33	--
23	49	36	T
24	47	46	.43
25	47	40	.13
26	42	33	.82
27	44	33	.92
28	45	34	.91
29	39	29	.10
30	35	25	--
31	33	17	--

Temperature and precipitation amounts are from the official U.S. weather station at the Vernonia water plant. Measurable precipitation in December totalled 9.75 inches.



Consider all of the conditions before you drive this winter.

Winter weather in Oregon can make driving downright hazardous at times. But weather isn't the only condition that leads to safe winter driving. Here are a few things to consider before you hit the road.

Weather conditions Check a weather web site, such as www.weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/sectors/pacnorthwest.php, for driving conditions to help you decide when and if to hit the road, or across the mountains and into the city.

Road conditions Oregon Department of Transportation continually updates www.tripcheck.org with road and weather conditions, construction zones and road camera views.

Your car's condition How are your tires? Do you have chains? You should also be prepared with emergency supplies, a full tank of gas and a charged cell phone so you can call 9-1-1 in an emergency. We hope you never need us, but if you do, we're here to help you arrive safely at your destination.

Your own condition Have you had enough rest? Or a few drinks? Honestly assess your own ability to drive safely before you get behind the wheel in winter's more challenging driving conditions.



Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District. Always there.

January 6 Sudoku solved

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