

WHAT'S UP?

Thursday, Dec. 18

-- The Senior Citizen meal set for today at the UCC in Condon has been cancelled.
 -- A holiday open house will be held at the Wheeler Co. Courthouse in Fossil, 2 to 4 p.m., which will coincide with a farewell to retiring Justice of the Peace Theresa Ward.
 -- The Heppner Ranger District meeting scheduled at Fossil on the West End OHV project alternatives has been cancelled.

Friday, Dec. 19

-- The Mid-Columbia Producers' marketing breakfast will be held at the Western States Insurance office in Condon, 7 a.m.
 -- The Condon Elks Lodge will host its annual Tom & Jerry Party, which will feature pizza and games and a visit from Santa Claus, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20

-- An open house will honor Physician Assistant Dave Jones of Condon on his retirement after serving health care needs of the community for the past 28 years, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Memorial Hall on Condon's Main Street.
 -- The Sherman Food bank at the Wasco Methodist Church will be open for the distribution of commodities, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
 -- Gilliam County's Senior Transportation Service will have a bus available with which to offer a tour of Christmas lights around Condon from 6 to 8 p.m. The bus will pick you up at your home for the tour if you call to reserve a seat, 541-384-2252.

Sunday, Dec. 21

-- 'The Surprising Christmas Pageant' will be presented by the youth of the United Church of Christ at Condon, 10:30 a.m.
 -- St. Francis Catholic Church at Arlington High Mass, 11 a.m. followed by a Christmas potluck.
 -- The Arlington United Methodist Church will present a Christmas program, 4 p.m. to which all are invited.

Monday, Dec. 22

-- St. Francis Catholic Church at Arlington will conduct Mass at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 24

-- It's Christmas Eve, we note with wide-eyed anticipation!
 -- The Bank of Eastern Oregon will host an open house at Arlington from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The bank will close at 2 p.m.
 -- A candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held at the Baptist Church in Condon, 6 p.m.
 -- The Valby Lutheran Church will offer a Christmas Eve service at the church, 6:30 p.m.
 -- The Arlington Church of the Nazarene will offer a Christmas Eve service, 6:30 p.m.
 -- The United Church of Christ at Condon invites one and all to its Christmas Eve service, 7 p.m.
 -- The Christmas Eve service at the Arlington United Methodist Church will be at 9 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 25

Merry Christmas!

-- Mass at the St. Francis Catholic Church at Arlington will be at 11 a.m.

The

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Shirlee McAllister named Civil Manager of the Year by sheriffs

Shirlee A. McAllister of Wasco has received an award as Civil Manager of the Year for the State of Oregon.



Shirlee McAllister

She was presented the award by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association at the association's annual awards banquet held Dec. 10 at Bend.

McAllister has served the citizens of Sherman County for 31 years as the Civil Manager for the Sherman County Sheriff's Office. Under her

tenure, she has worked for four sheriffs and flawlessly processed thousands of civil paperwork, warrants and concealed weapons permits. She has trained countless deputies on the proper procedures of civil processing.

"Everybody needs a Shirlee McAllister working with them," said Sherman County Sheriff Brad Lohrey. "She is the central person in the Sheriff's Office. I cannot think of another person who would be more deserving of this award."

McAllister recently retired from full-time status as administrative assistant, to part time civil manager in July of 2008. In her 31 years of service, she not only served as civil manager, she also was the county tax collector and office deputy.

— Sherman Co. e-News No. 300

Former Arlington schools deputy clerk arrested on theft, fraud charges

A former Arlington School District deputy clerk was arrested Friday, Dec. 12, by Gilliam County Sheriff's deputies in conjunction with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office after a grand jury released an indictment charging her with 51 counts of theft and forgery. She was taken to North Oregon Regional Correctional Facility (NORCOR) and was released on \$75,000 bail.

Sheriff's deputies arrested Danielle Galbert, of Hermiston on multiple charges of

aggravated theft, theft, official misconduct and forgery after a grand jury indictment was signed by a judge last Friday. Galbert had been placed on administrative leave by the Arlington School District Sept. 26, and later submitted her resignation due to "health reasons" on Oct. 1, said Arlington School District Superintendent Raymon Smith. She had been an employee of the district since September 2005.

Galbert was placed on leave after district suspicions led to a

financial audit, which found evidence of the alleged fraud, Smith said. The Arlington School District is fully cooperating with the Gilliam County Sheriff and Gilliam County District Attorney. No other details are available at this time, pending the ongoing criminal case.

It is anticipated that Galbert will be arraigned in Gilliam County Circuit Court when it convenes at the Gilliam County Courthouse in Condon Jan. 9, 1 p.m.

Winter blast closes schools, roads

Winter weather blew into the area with a vengeance, along with a fair amount of snow beginning last Saturday, and continued non-stop through Monday. The cold light snow drifted easily and often as state and county snow plows have worked day and night to keep roads open.

Tuesday morning dawned clear and bright, and windless, for the first time since the weekend, allowing road crews and residents to dig out, at least temporarily. Weather reports indicate that more snow and/or

freezing rain may be on the way by mid-week, and the cold temperatures were expected to hang on through the weekend.

Gilliam County Sheriff Gary Bettencourt reported that drifting has been the major problem, and that, remarkably, only a few incidents have occurred. A vehicle became stuck in a snow drift on Highway 206 west of Condon Monday, Bettencourt reported, a roll-over accident was reported near Olex Monday afternoon, and Pharmacist Jon Murray was retrieved from his stranded

vehicle on Highway 206 near Rock Creek east of Condon.

While schools at Mitchell and Spray were in session Monday, Fossil schools opened two-hours late and schools at Arlington, Condon and Sherman County were cancelled Monday. Sherman County schools remained closed Tuesday, but all other schools were back in session Tuesday. Most schools were scheduled to let out for the Christmas holiday on Thursday, but schedules may have changed because of the 'snow days' earlier in the week.

Road, weather information available

With the winter season technically arriving this weekend, and winter weather warnings already issued around the Northwest, it might pay to do some planning before hitting the road. Here are a few numbers to call and web sites to visit for road and weather conditions.

— Road Conditions and Cameras: www.tripcheck.com; or call 5-1-1;

— Winter Driving Tips: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/winterdriving.shtml;

— ODOT winter operations video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3ZimTZ2XSE;

— ODOT: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/.

Thought for Today

In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.

— Albert Einstein

WHEAT			
December	9	44	\$4.75
January	10	39	\$4.79
February	11	55	\$4.83
White Club Price			\$5.87

BARLEY			
December	14	33	\$87.99
January	15	10	\$87.99
February	16	NA	\$87.99

WEATHER				
	Hi	Low	Prec.	
December	9	44	26	.00
December	10	39	28	.00
December	11	55	33	.00
December	12	39	32	.00
December	13	44	28	.02
December	14	33	9	.18
December	15	10	3	.71
December	16	NA	-5	NA



Members of the Arlington High School Technical Education Class test fire the T-shirt launcher they designed and built before winning the Intel/Trail Blazer Engineering Challenge at the Rose Garden in

Portland last Friday night. Pictured with their one-of-a-kind launcher are, from left, Ty Davies, Evan Poeling, Donny Haney, Ethan Weiser, Ginger Evans (partially hidden) and Jessica Mundy.

(Alan Cunningham photo)

Tech Ed students earn T-shirt launch title

Arlington High School Honker T-Shirt Launch Team dominated the competition at the Intel/Trailblazer Engineering Challenge held Friday, Dec. 12, at the Rose Garden in Portland, and won the award for over-all design of their pneumatic T-shirt launcher and its performance.

A team of students and a few adults, including AHS Technical Education teacher Alan Cunningham, built a pneumatic T-shirt launcher capable of reloading in 10 seconds and launching a rolled up T-shirt to the back wall above the highest seat in the Rose Garden

Nine schools were selected

in August and given \$400 each for research and development, according to Cunningham. Also competing in the competition were Camas Valley, Century High School, Glendale High School, Oregon City High School, Rainier High School, Roberts High School, Tigard High School and Wilson High School.

The Honker team won the overall performance and design categories and were featured during the timeout in the fourth quarter of the Blazer game, at which time the young engineers were able to launch as many T-shirts as possible into the upper deck. Six T-shirts were launched

in 60 seconds, bouncing off the back of the upper level Rose Garden and into the "extreme cheap seats," according to Cunningham.

Launcher design was aided by Intel mentor Randy Fullman, who assisted the Honkers in the design and construction of an efficient, quick exhaust style piston valve and breech loading device, the only breech loader in the contest, allowing for maximum safety and response. The launcher was powered by four gallons of compressed air dumped into a two-inch launch tube in 10 milliseconds. Brian Dennis of Insitu also added ex-

pertise to the project.

While several students helped in the project along the way, Cunningham said the core 'build team' consisted of Ethan Weiser, Jessica Mundy, Ginger Evans, Donny Haney, Evan Poeling, Ty Davies and Freddy Lopez.

The Honker engineers fared better than the host Trail Blazers at last Friday night's contest, as the Blazers lost to the Los Angeles Clippers 120-112 in double over-time. A Rose Garden sell-out crowd of 20,558 people watched the Blazer defeat and the Honker Tech Ed class victory.