



A light dusting of December snow on Yachats River Road.

Photo © Ken Gagne

## Home for the Holidays

It could have happened to anyone.

A regular visitor from the Willamette Valley was in Newport last month, and he offered to check on a friend's sailboat. It was a beautiful day, warm; with no wind.

The visitor (who asked us not to share his name) tightened the lines securing the boat to the dock. Suddenly, his boot slipped, and he fell into the cold Yaquina Bay water. He's 6'4," a strong, active man, and as he stayed calm and looked around he saw no one nearby. So he tucked a line under his armpit under water, and carefully worked his way to the front of the boat, hand over hand. He got colder as he moved through the chilly water. Finally, he made it to the bow. Then his foot got tangled in a line.

Across the street, a Central Lincoln lineman, Dan Kinion, and a utility helper, Bryan Boeckman, were working at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. It was time for lunch, and they decided to drive over to the South Beach Marina to eat. They had barely parked when Dan heard what sounded like a call for help. Bryan hadn't heard it, and even though the sounds stopped, Dan was pretty sure he'd heard someone calling. They ran down to the dock.

The visitor, struggling in the water for nearly 45 minutes, had gotten a break: a nearby resident at the Marina heard a noise, then saw a hand coming out of the water. She came running, joined by two others; it was her cries that Dan thought he'd heard. While she called 9-1-1, the four

men hauled the visitor up, and out of the water. He was wearing jeans and a sweatshirt, cotton clothes that soaked up water, making him even heavier. He was hypothermic—shaking heavily from low body temperature. Bryan and one of the other rescuers got him to their pickup, and covered him with raingear as they waited for an ambulance. Dan finished tying up the sailboat.



Utility Helper Bryan Boeckman (left) at the South Beach Marina: "We were really worried he wasn't going to make it." (inset) Lineman Dan Kinion

It took three hours in the emergency department for the visitor's body temperature to be brought back to normal. The next day, one of his friends came to tell us how much she appreciated Dan and Bryan's help in the rescue. "I am thankful, so very thankful he is alive and with us. He has grown children, and grandchildren, and all of us will have him with us for the holidays. It means so much!"

A famous anthropologist wrote, 'a few caring people can change the world.' Last month, in just a few minutes, five caring people changed the world for the visitor, his friends, and his family.



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## Coming Soon to a Mailbox Near You: A Heat Pump Water Heater Deal

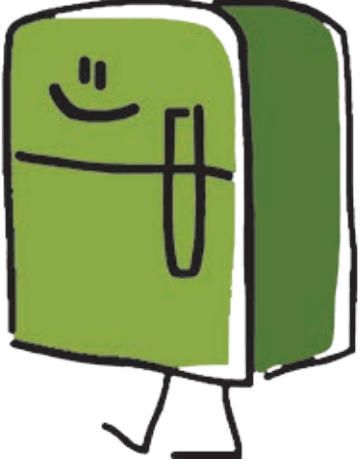
Water heating accounts for 15-20% of electricity use in many homes with electric water heaters. But if you're hoping to cut your electricity costs, replacing a conventional water heater with a new electric heat pump water heater (HPWH) may result in savings of up to 50% or more of a home's water heating energy costs.

Not all homes are well suited for a HPWH, so we encourage you to talk to your contractor, or call our Energy Experts at 888-883-9879 for more details, and to see if your project qualifies. The offer is available for site-built and manufactured homes as well as new home construction, but is limited to one HPWH per home.

If your project meets program requirements, our rebate of up to \$1,000 may pay for an entire HPWH purchase, but not installation. (A state tax break managed by the Oregon Department of Energy may pay for some installation costs.) Watch your mailbox for a postcard coming soon with info about this offer!

## If Santa Brings You a New Fridge or Freezer This Holiday, We Might Haul Away the Old One—and Credit Your Bill!

Refrigerators and freezers made before 1993 can use two to three times as much electricity as a new one!



If you have an old but still working refrigerator or freezer you'd like to get rid of, call our Cash for Clunkers hotline at 866-265-7231. If your clunker qualifies, we'll pay to have it hauled away and dismantled, the parts will be recycled, AND we'll put a \$25 credit on your bill!

## 'Tis the Season to Give, and We Have Easy Ways to Help You Do It

We'll be shredding Christmas trees for contributions to Project Care and turning them into mulch for local gardeners on Saturday, January 7th next to our office at 2129 N. Coast Highway in Newport. What is Project Care? It's a program that assists folks facing extreme financial events to pay for heat and light. Generous customers make contributions by asking us to add a set amount to their bills each month to donate to Project Care, or donors may choose to add a contribution on their payment stub on the line provided, and add the amount of that donation to their payment.

Round Up is another simple but effective way to help out. Donors' bills are rounded up to the next dollar, and the extra pennies collected go to Project Care. While the average Round Up donation is 51 cents a month, the most Round Up could cost is \$11.88 a year. If most of our customers participated in Round Up, some \$18,000 a month would be available to help local people in need. Email us at [info@clpud.org](mailto:info@clpud.org) or write "Sign me up for Round Up" on your payment stub, or call us to sign up or with questions about Project Care. Funds donated are distributed by nonprofits in our District, and contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you!

**PROJECT CARE**



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