

Connections

Summer Tips

Your energy bills don't have to rise with summer temperatures.

Energy Trust of Oregon has put together a list of simple energy-savings tips that will help keep your home cool and comfortable.

Visit energytrust.org/tipsforsummer to explore a DIY article for statewide tips, as well as region-specific advice tailored just for you.



Working to make sexual violence yesterday's news

The year was 2001 when a group of local law enforcement officers, nurses and health care providers got together to look at how they could better help sexual assault survivors: they formed Jackson County Sexual Assault Response Team, aka Jackson County SART.

It's estimated that more than 60 percent of all sexual assaults are not reported to the police, and experts from organizations like SART say there are many reasons why sexual assaults go underreported: fear of not being believed, fear of revictimization, and something as simple as fearing a medical bill the assault survivor can't pay.

From day one, SART set about to make it easy—or at least more comfortable—to report an assault. The group wanted to change the long waiting time in busy emergency rooms, get better at collecting and storing evidence and provide better aftercare for sexual assault survivors. In 2001, SART estimated only one in ten sexual assault survivors reported the crime.

Today those stats look a lot different in Jackson County. More than double the number of sexual assaults are reported to the police, compared to when the program began, and the three major Jackson County hospitals all work with SART on how to best support sexual assault victims. Local law enforcement reports that evidence collection is now more frequent and more reliable. That in turn means more assailants end up behind bars.

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The SART Response Team program now sends specially trained nurses, victim advocates and detectives to talk to the sexual assault survivor and respond to each individual case as a team. There are many advantages to the team approach, including that the victim doesn't have to endlessly retell their story.

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The programs operated by SART were used as a model when the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 557 requiring every county in Oregon to establish similar programs.

The non-profit raises money locally and via grants, including a recent grant from the Avista Foundation. For every dollar donated, 90 percent goes to the program services and just six percent to administration.

Visit jacksoncountysart.org to learn more.

Your safety matters

We, at Avista, want to keep you, your family, and neighbors safe around natural gas. That's why we created some useful and informational safety videos.

Find them at myavista.com/safetyvideos.

Questions? Call us at (800) 227-9187.



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Sign up at myavista.com/enrollments.



Managing energy usage and costs can be challenging. It's why we work with local community action agencies in your area to offer programs that can help. From financial assistance to energy-saving home upgrades and more, we're working together to provide options. Contact your local agency to learn more.

If you're looking for a way to lower your energy costs every month, check out our My Energy Discount program. It's a monthly bill discount program that lasts for two years. More people than ever before are eligible, yet thousands have yet to sign up. It takes just a few minutes to apply and no paperwork or appointments are needed.

Visit myavista.com/ORAssistance to find options that may work for you.

Considering a natural gas generator?

A reliable natural gas generator is a great backup power solution for a new or existing home or business.

However, there are a few things to consider before having one installed. The cost and installation process can vary based on the size of your unit, required site prep, permits, and hourly labor.

If you have questions or are ready to get started on installing a backup natural gas generator, call us at (877) GAS-TEAM.



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