



March 2026 | Oregon

Connections

Spring into an energy-efficient home

Welcome the season of growth by discovering simple ways to improve your home's energy efficiency. Energy Trust of Oregon's free online home assessment offers personalized guidance such as sealing drafts or adding insulation. The tool is quick to complete and available anytime, helping you stay efficient throughout the year.

Visit energytrust.org/assessment to learn more about your home's energy-saving potential.



Avista Foundation grant helps Oregon youth learn and thrive

Hands-on learning is helping kids across Southern Oregon build skills, confidence and connections.

When Jessica King joined Boys & Girls Clubs of the Rogue Valley in 2014, she knew she wanted to support local children and families.

Today, as CEO, she helps lead an organization that serves students in grades K–12 during the school year and summer months. Each day, kids enjoy a familiar routine—time to play, a meal and the chance to choose activities that fit their interests.

In recent years, the club expanded its offerings with a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) program. The hands-on, project-based approach supports students who may struggle with traditional classroom learning. By building and creating, kids better understand core concepts—and gain confidence along the way.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Rogue Valley was the first organization in Oregon to hire a full-time STEAM coordinator. Today, STEAM programs operate at four sites—Illinois Valley, Grants Pass, Phoenix and Talent—serving nearly 1,000 children each year. In 2025, the club added a second STEAM coordinator, allowing more consistent support across Jackson and Josephine counties.

Students explore everything from circuits and microscopes to stop-motion animation, engineering challenges and creative dioramas. Along the way, they build friendships and learn how to problem-solve together. A grant from the Avista Foundation helped provide the materials that make this learning possible. "When a child feels safe, encouraged and supported, incredible things happen," said Kristine Meyer, Avista Foundation executive director.

Surveys show kids feel safe, supported and excited to learn. As King puts it, "These kids are the future. The more we invest in them, the brighter their futures will be."

Visit begreat4kids.com to join, donate or learn more.





Tree and stump removal near natural gas lines: What you need to know

Working near buried natural gas lines is dangerous. Gas lines can shift over time and may be closer to the surface than expected. Tree roots can also grow around pipes, so pulling or grinding a stump without care can cause serious damage.

Click or call 811 at least two business days before you dig. Mark your work area in white so a utility locator can identify underground pipes and wires.



**SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.**

Less digging means less risk. If a gas line runs close to the stump or large roots, consider cutting the stump flush with the ground and letting it break down naturally over time. Avoid pulling or grinding roots near marked gas lines as this can shift or damage buried lines.

If you must dig within 24 inches of a marked line, use hand tools only, and backfill with sand or rock-free soil.

If you smell gas or suspect a leak:

- Evacuate upwind
- Avoid anything that creates a spark
- From a safe distance, call 911, then Avista at (800) 227-9187
- Do not attempt repairs
- If you hit a line, stop work and call for help immediately.

Thank you for being our partner in safety. Visit myavista.com/gassafety to learn more.

Need help with your energy bill? We've got options.

If life feels a little tighter right now, you're not alone. Many customers face challenges from time to time, and Avista offers programs that may help ease the load.

We provide flexible payment plans and energy assistance programs for qualifying customers. You can also learn about home energy upgrades that may help lower your monthly costs.

You may also qualify for *My Energy Discount*, which reduces your natural gas bill every month for two years. Thousands of Avista customers are currently receiving a discount and it takes just a few minutes to apply. There's no paperwork and no appointment needed.

Visit myavista.com/ORassistance to see what's available.



Connect with us

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