



# Connections

April 2026 | Oregon

## Celebrate Earth Month all year long

**This Earth Month, make energy-saving upgrades that benefit your home and the planet.** Energy Trust of Oregon offers incentives from smart thermostats and insulation to heating equipment upgrades. There are many options to make energy more affordable by using less.

Visit [energytrust.org/save](https://energytrust.org/save) to explore available incentives and start saving.



## Community tradition at the Ross Ragland Theatre

**The Ross Ragland Theatre celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2024, marking more than three decades as a cultural hub in Klamath Falls, Oregon.** While its history is rich, its future depends on the programs that inspire the next generation—programs Executive Director Curtis Peoples works hard to sustain.

Today, the Ragland serves roughly 10,000 young people each year through arts education, performances, and community partnerships. Curtis emphasizes that this impact is only possible through ongoing local support. “It’s a struggle right now to keep arts alive. Theatres are closing across the country,” he says. “If funding declines, we may have to cut programs. We want to keep inspiring growth through education and the performing arts.”

One highlight is the theatre’s Spring Break Camp, launched in 2019. About 25 students participate each year, benefiting from hands-on, small-group learning. Each season offers something different—partnerships with Missoula Children’s Theatre, themed programs ranging from farming to magic, and occasionally discounted spring-break movies.

The Ragland also hosts youth matinees featuring interactive performances. A longtime favorite, Astronaut Academy with Janet from Janet’s Planet, blends humor, puppetry, music, and multimedia to introduce STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) concepts in a memorable way.

Local grants help keep these opportunities accessible. Support from organizations like the Avista Foundation offsets program costs so more children can participate. “Experiences like this can genuinely shape how a young person sees themselves,” says Kristine Meyer, Avista Foundation executive director. “When that confidence branches out into families and neighborhoods, the whole community grows stronger.”

The theatre’s mission also looks ahead. With Kingsley Field nearby, the Ragland hopes to inspire interest in aeronautics and advanced degree paths. Families return year after year, many now bringing a second generation of young performers and audience members. Curiosity leads to confidence, confidence builds community—and community keeps the Ragland thriving.

Visit [ragland.org](https://ragland.org) to learn more, sign up, or support their work.





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

**Life can throw curveballs, and keeping up with your energy bill isn't always easy.** If you're feeling the pinch, you're not alone—Avista has resources to help.

We offer flexible payment plans and assistance programs for qualifying customers. You can also explore home energy upgrades designed to improve efficiency and lower 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](http://myavista.com/ORassistance) to see what's available.

## April is National Safe Digging month



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

**National Safe Digging Month is a great reminder to stay safe before starting any project that breaks ground.** To keep our natural gas system operating safely, Avista crews complete regular maintenance throughout the year, including leak surveys, pipeline excavation monitoring, and meter inspections or replacements. You may occasionally see our employees in your yard performing these important tasks.

Because underground lines can be located almost anywhere, state law requires contacting 811 at least two business days before you dig. A utility locator will visit your site and mark the approximate location of public utility lines so you can work safely.

For customer-owned underground features—such as private natural gas lines or sprinkler systems—you can also request private locates through 811 (fees may apply).

Thank you for helping keep your community safe. Visit [myavista.com/811](http://myavista.com/811) to learn more.



## Connect with us

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