

City News You Can Use This Week
Mayor Gordon Petrie

1. Building/Zoning Department

- As the inversion with the heavy frost continues in the valley, homeowners using heat pumps to heat their homes should clean the frost from their outdoor compressors. This allows the unit to work properly. Heat pumps rely on circulating air to operate correctly. Without it, the unit could burn up.

2. Fire Department

- Christmas tree fires comprise one of the leading causes of fires in the United States. The Yuletide is a festive season but please follow these tips to make it a safe one.
- (1) Before placing the tree in a stand, cut 2 inches from the base of the trunk; (2) Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, candles, heat vents, or hot lights not designed for Christmas trees; (3) Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit; (4) Add water to the tree stand daily.

3. Library

- The Library Board of Trustees and our staff appreciate and thank all the community members who volunteer with helping hands, donate in many ways of support, and the patrons and families who come into the library and use it. Whatever brings you to the Emmett Public Library, you're the reason we're here. We are proud to wear the "Heart of the Community" title. It's our honor to serve you!
- See you at the library! We are open Monday-Friday, 11 am to 6 pm, and Saturday 11 am to 3 pm.

4. Police Department

- Emmett has a new ordinance for traffic circles because the state does not! Here's what drivers need to know: (1) all drivers approaching a traffic circle in Emmett slow down to at least five miles below posted speed; (2) if turning, drivers must signal their intent no less than 100 feet from the circle; (3) if more than one vehicle arrives at about the same time, the driver to the right shall yield the right of way to any vehicles to the driver's left. In a traffic circle, we YIELD TO THE LEFT!

5. Public Works

- Public Works has initiated prepping for sidewalk access around the Pickleball courts. This will allow us to open courts in the Spring. Once we complete the sidewalk installation, we will apply the final surface and install the fence around the court's perimeter.

6. Systems Administration (IT)

- In partnership with the Gem County Tech Department, the city and county are ready to roll out an update for our public safety departments, enhancing their computer-aided dispatch software. All first responders—law enforcement, fire, and emergency medicine—use the platform daily.
- Updating software and patching for functionality and security enhancements are our priority. We thank the Gem County staff for collaborating as we complete and deploy the updates.

7. City Clerk

- All city offices will be closed at noon on Tuesday, December 24th, and all day on Wednesday, December 25th. Anyone having an emergency during our closure should contact Gem County Dispatch at 208-365-3521 for assistance. The staff at the City Clerk's office wishes you a very Merry Christmas.