

Highway 30 could get a new name honoring Oregon veterans

By **KEVIN HARDEN**
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon's long stretch of U.S. Highway 30, from Astoria to the Idaho border, could become the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway.

Senate Bill 790, introduced Feb. 24 by state Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, would rename Oregon's 477-mile section of the national highway. On Wednesday, March 3, the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness.

Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dick Tobiason of the nonprofit Bend Heroes Foundation is the driving force behind SB 790. Tobiason, who served two tours during the Vietnam War as an Army aviator, and his one-man nonprofit operation led efforts on past legislation to rename eight Oregon highways to honor veterans. His legislative success rate is 100%.

"I've never lost a vote in 12 years doing these highways," Tobiason said.

It's simple math, he said. The Bend Heroes Foundation raises all the money needed to create 4-by-8-foot signs to be posted along the highway with the veterans designation (probably more than \$10,000 for Highway 30). It pays Oregon's Department of Transportation to install them. Not a dime of taxpayer funds goes into the effort.

"Why would the Legislature disapprove of this?" Tobiason asked. "It doesn't cost them a cent."

There are nearly 100 signs honoring veterans installed on eight Oregon highways stretching more than 3,000 miles across the state. Each designated highway has between 10 and 18 signs, he said. That means drivers could see

one veterans highway honor sign every 65 miles.

U.S. Highway 30 extends 3,073 miles to Boston on the East Coast. It is the only major highway in Oregon not designated to honor veterans. It crosses 11 states and is the nation's third longest coast-to-coast highway.

Oregon's section of the highway that winds along the Columbia River from the Astoria-Megler Bridge through Scappoose and Portland before heading east as part of Interstate 84, is the beginning of Tobiason's plans for the road. He's working with veterans groups and lawmakers in 10 other states to get the same designation all the way to Boston.

Tobiason's Bend Heroes Foundation has also asked Congress to designate the 3,365-mile U.S. Highway 20, which begins at Newport on the Oregon Coast and heads east to Boston, the National Medal of Honor Highway. Oregon's section of Highway 20 is already known as the Medal of Honor Highway.

SB 790 is also kind of an ending for Tobiason. He has proposed similar bills since 2008 and testified 14 times in favor of legislation. When he's finished with the U.S. Highway 30 project, just about every major highway in the state will honor veterans or service men and women missing in action.

Between World War I (1914) and wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf (1990 and 2003), 6,000 Oregon soldiers, sailors (including Coast Guard), Marines, merchant seamen and airmen were killed. During that same time, about 15,000 Oregonians were wounded in combat and nearly 1,000 were prisoners. About 1,000



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

This sign for Interstate 84 near Hilgard Junction State Park on Thursday, March 4, 2021, also shows this is the route for U.S. Highway 30. A new bill in the Oregon Senate would designate the 477-mile-long road from Astoria to the Idaho border as the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway.

Oregonians remain missing in action from all of the conflicts.

Oregon highways Tobiason and the foundation

have designated include:

- U.S. Highway 395, from California to Wash-

ington, is the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway.

- Interstate 5, from Cal-

ifornia to Washington, is known as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway and the Purple Heart Trail.

• A section of I-5 from Albany to Salem is the Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway.

• U.S. Highway 101, from Washington to California, is the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway.

• A section of U.S. Highway 26, from the Highway 101 intersection to Idaho, is the POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

Tobiason already is planning his Eastern Oregon trip later this year when U.S. Highway 30 is officially designated the Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway. He's been to nearly every highway sign dedication ceremony, racking up more than 5,000 miles on his vehicle.

OMSI roaring back

Dinosaurs return to the museum in time for spring break

By **JAMIE HALE**
The Oregonian/OregonLive

PORTLAND — Spring break is coming back to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, and the museum pulling out a crowd pleaser to welcome people back.

The family-friendly science museum in Southeast Portland said "Dinosaurs Revealed" will be its featured exhibit this spring.

OMSI also is planning an exhibit about the vaccines against COVID-19, museum spokesperson John Farmer said, but it wanted to provide families an escape from the pandemic.

"Let's just have some fun for crying out loud," Farmer said. "And what could be more fun than giant dinosaurs roaring through the halls of OMSI?"

The "Dinosaurs Revealed" exhibit will debut to the general public on March 20, opening a day earlier for museum members. It will be on view through Sept. 6 — as long as the museum stays open this year.

The museum shut its doors March 14, 2020, becoming one of the first large attractions in Oregon to close as COVID-19 began circulating throughout the region. It reopened in June and remained open until November, when state officials once again issued tighter lockdowns on public gatherings.

OMSI on Feb. 18 partially reopened its Natural Science Hall, Kendall Planetarium presentations and the USS Blueback Submarine to a limited number of guests at a time. The museum's other attractions have so far remained closed this winter, though Farmer said the theater could reopen soon.

Day camps will continue for summer 2021, and

are already over 75% full, OMSI said. All overnight camps have been canceled for the year.

Several other Portland area museums remain closed as spring approaches, though at least one other destination plans to reopen. The Oregon Historical Society announced it will reopen March 6, but will only be open for limited hours on the weekends. However, the museum will host special hours for Oregon schools' spring break, opening from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, March 23-28.

As per state regulations, OMSI will limit the number of people allowed into the museum at a time. Multnomah County is in the state's "high risk" category, which means museums can only operate at 25% capacity. If the county is reduced to "moderate" or "lower risk," museums will be allowed to operate at 50% capacity.

The museum will manage crowds by selling timed-entry tickets online in advance. Tickets are available at tickets.omsiedu.

Farmer said the high risk protocol means about 120 people per hour would be allowed into the museum, making for an intimate experience in the 7,000-square-foot exhibit hall that will house "Dinosaurs Revealed."

OMSI will require all visitors and staff to wear face masks and will ask visitors from different parties to maintain 6 feet of distance. Parties visiting the museum together are now limited to no more than six people. Staff will be on hand to enforce the rules and regularly clean all frequently touched surfaces.

"The cool thing about this exhibit is it is classic science museum dinosaurs ... there's a triceratops that's the size of an actual triceratops and a T. rex that's 20 feet tall," Farmer said. "It'll be fun, it's what we need right now."

Losing Your HEARING or are your ears just plugged with EARWAX?

FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!

You are invited for a **FREE** ear inspection using the latest video technology to determine if you could be helped by a hearing aid.

Now through March 10, 2021

Call for an appointment now to avoid waiting! **It's All FREE!**



FREE Video Oscope Ear Inspection*

This show-all Picture of your ear canal is displayed on a color monitor, so you'll see exactly what we see to determine if you could be helped by a hearing aid.

FREE Complete Electronic Hearing Test*

This Audiometric evaluation will precisely show you what you've been missing and if you can be helped by a hearing aid.

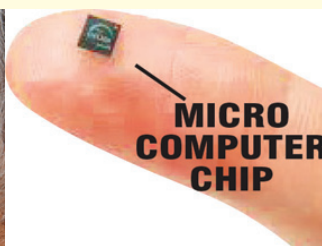
FREE Package of Hearing Aid Batteries

If you now wear a hearing aid, you will receive one **FREE** package of Hearing Aid Batteries. If we test your hearing to see if you could be helped by a hearing aid you will receive another **FREE** Package.

FREE In-Office Repairs

All in-office hearing aid repairs shall be **FREE**...and factory repairs, regardless of make or model shall be **50% OFF** the total cost of the repair.

Introducing the **NEW Chip in the Ear**



Open Fit/Receiver-In-The-Canal

Advanced, powerful technology allows even more options to wear this more natural sounding and comfortable hearing aid.

Open Fit hearing aids fit securely behind the ear and have a thin tube that directs the sound into your ear canal. The RIC (Receiver-In-The-Canal) provides more targeted sound with a speaker added to the end of the clear, thin tube.

More RIC Advantages:

- Smaller than ever
- More natural sounding
- Discreet and comfortable
- Best-in-performance features that reduce or eliminate feedback and whistling
- The most versatile model - able to fit most levels of hearing loss Most models are compatible with wireless Bluetooth® Technology

In-The-Canal Advantages



- Individualized
- Sizes to meet your lifestyle
- Uses the ear's natural ability to locate sounds
- Comfortable to wear
- Most models compatible with wireless Blue tooth® Technology

Receiver-In-The-Canal Advantages



- Versatile
- Utilizes the most advanced technology
- Uses the ear's natural ability to locate sounds
- Rechargeable options
- Most models compatible with wireless Blue tooth® Technology

ANOTHER GREAT WAY TO SAVE!

Save on our advanced line of digital hearing aids.

BUY 1 GET 1 50% OFF!

Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price All ME-1, ME-2 and ME-3 Solutions Hearing Aids

Good only from participating Miracle-Ear® Hearing Aid Centers. One coupon per purchase. No other offers or discounts apply. Discount does not apply to prior sales. Offer valid on ME-1, ME-2, ME-3 hearing aids. Cannot combine with any other offers. Cash value 1/20th cent. Offer expires 3/10/21

LIMITED TIME OFFER!

OPEN FIT TECHNOLOGY

\$995.00

MSRP \$3090 SAVE \$2095

Offer valid on Model ME2400 100% Digital & 100% Programmable

Valid at participating Miracle-Ear® Hearing Aid Centers. Limit one hearing aid per customer at the promotional price. May not be combined with other offer and does not apply to prior sales. Cash value 1/20th cent. Offer expires 3/10/21

Some **FEDERAL WORKERS** and **RETIREES** may be eligible for Hearing Aids at **NO COST** That's Right...**No Co-Pay!** No Exam Fee! No Adjustment Fee! Most Insurance Plans are accepted including **BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD**!**

AT THESE PARTICIPATING MIRACLE-EAR HEARING AID CENTERS ONLY!

CALL FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT!



LA GRANDE
111 Elm Street
La Grande, OR 97850
541-605-2109

BAKER CITY
2021 Washington Ave.
Baker City, OR 97814
541-239-3782

ENTERPRISE
113-1/2 Front E. Main St.
Enterprise, OR 97828
541-239-3877

Mention Code:
21MarLosing

*Hearing test is always free. Hearing aids do not restore natural hearing. Individual experiences vary depending on severity of hearing loss, accuracy of evaluation and ability to adapt to amplification. Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine amplification needs only. These are not medical exams or diagnoses. If you suspect a problem please seek treatment from your physician. **Blue Cross Blue Shield, The Blue Cross, The Blue Shield, BCBS and Federal Employee Program are registered trademarks of Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and its independent licensees are not affiliated with nor do they endorse or sponsor the contents of this advertisement. Trademarks referring to specific providers are used by Miracle-Ear for non-affiliative purposes only, to truthfully identify the source of the services about which information is provided. Such trademarks are solely the property of their respective owners. The aids must be returned within 30 days of delivery pursuant to terms of your purchase agreement and 100% of the purchase will be refunded.