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1 new message
lolz i rllly did
get plled over 4
texting!

Message MENU Contacts

By Joshua Baird
The Clackamas Print

Jan. 1, 2010, showed the beginning of a new way of life for Oregonians.

A house bill changing an existing law to increase safety for motorists statewide was put into effect. The state government passed a revision making it illegal to operate any motor vehicle while using a cell phone or text messaging without a hands-free device.

California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Washington also have cell phone bans in place while driving. Oregon has one major difference from the rest; a driver can be pulled over in Oregon simply for driving while using their phone. In Washington and other states, drivers must be pulled over for another traffic violation, only then is the police officer able to enforce the cell phone laws.

Clackamas student Ryan Feely stated his interpretation of the new law as "[Calls] must be hands free, no texting at all. Which is probably a good thing. I know friends who text; I feel like I'm getting pulled into the ditch every time they try to text and drive." He said that disobeying this new law will result in a hefty base fine of \$205.

Cynthia Tinker, a student at Clackamas, believes that this fine will be a deterrent to prevent people from using their cell phones. "There are better things to spend \$142 on," said Tinker.

According to Sharon Coughlin, a records manager for the Oregon City Police Department, a ticket issued by Oregon City for driving while using a cell phone will be marked at \$205 after additional fees are assessed. There will be no reductions on the ticket for pleading guilty and diversion classes offered.

The Oregon Revised Statute states that drivers who must use a cell phone for business purposes are exempt from this restriction. A detail about the new law that has garnered attention and is being considered to be a loophole. This was initially intended by lawmakers to create some flexibility for contractors, taxi drivers and other professionals who are required to use a vehicle in the scope of their daily employment.

The designers may have unintentionally created an escape route for dishonest drivers.

"That kind of makes it an interesting one; you can claim ignorance on anything," said Feely. "They kind of botched that one up a bit."

Cell phone users have had access to technology known as Bluetooth since 1994; however, over the past few years the use of Bluetooth has grown in popularity.

Bluetooth, a major producer of Bluetooth products, offers a number of headset options including the Discovery and the Explorer.

All of these best selling headsets have noise cancellation technology," stated Colleen Smith, an AT&T representative who was asked about the features that consumers look for most.

No longer are motorists restricted solely to awkward headsets. Jabra, a well known brand, introduced a speaker phone that plays via your car stereo speakers. Other businesses have taken a similar direction by creating speaker phones that attach to your car stereo, many of which are surprisingly clean and clear on both ends of the conversation.

The surefire way to avoid being ticketed is to use a hands-free device or to not use a cell phone at all; however, if an individual is unable to do so, the recommended course of action is to pull over.

Cougar athlete stays positive after accident



Contributed by Kathie Woods

Clackamas coaches and volleyball teammates drove up to Harborview Medical Center to offer Richelle Heacock their support on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

By Mark Foster
Sports Editor

Clackamas volleyball player Richelle Heacock was left paralyzed from the chest down following a car accident on Jan. 4. Heacock was traveling to Eatonville, Wash. to attend the funeral of fallen police officer Kent Mundell, a colleague of Heacock's father.

Heacock drove off the road on Highway 7 about 15 minutes from home. She was originally taken to Morton General Hospital but was then transferred to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle after doctors discovered she had broken her fifth vertebrae, an injury doctors said would prohibit Heacock from walking again.

Heacock, though, has different plans.

Heacock's sister, Sherylee Colbas, said, "She has a very good attitude and is very determined to walk again."

Heacock's coach, Kathie Woods, also spoke of her, saying, "She has a very positive attitude towards all of this and remains amazingly strong." Woods also added that her family has been there for her the entire time and helped keep her spirits up.

"My concern is perseverance. But if any family can do it, if any

person can do it, it's Heacock," said Woods.

From the beginning, Heacock has made it a point to let everyone know she is going to fight back.

“
My concern is perseverance. But if any family can do it, if any person can do it, it's Heacock.”

Kathie Woods
Head Women's Volleyball Coach

Jody Woodcock, a source working with the family, said, "Right away she's telling everyone she is going to work through this and she is going to walk again."

Heacock will be undergoing 8 to 12 weeks of intense rehab before the doctors reassess her status and clear her to leave the hospital.

Woodcock also noted that even in the short time that she has

been in rehab, "Her recovery is progressing."

Heacock as well as her family have received huge amounts of support from their community as well as prayers from many.

Woodcock said, "It was within a day of hearing about the accident and all the sudden there's hundreds of people in the meeting room ready to help."

A meeting was held Jan. 8 to find ways to give aid to the Heacock family when the idea of renovating their home came about. Ground was broken Saturday, Jan. 16.

The renovations include the addition of a second living quarters that will be completely wheelchair accessible and allow room for Heacock's equipment needed for rehabilitation. The expansion is expected to add 1,045 square feet to the family's home.

Multiple funds have been set up to help aid the cost of hotels and medical bills. Donations are being accepted at all US Banks in Heacock's name. Aid is also being accepted through heacockfund.com as well as through Tapco Credit Union. The family and Heacock also ask that they be kept in your prayers. Messages to Heacock can be sent via Facebook at "Praying for Richelle Heacock" and at caring-bridge.org/visit/richelleheacock.