

Speed limit increase is topic of new ODOT study

The Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) has started a process for studying and determining whether to increase interstate speed limits to 70 mph for cars and 65 mph for trucks and buses.

Legislation passed late in the 2003 Session (House Bill 2661) gave ODOT the authority to conduct engineering and traffic investigations, take public comments, and then let the Oregon Transportation Commission decide if speed limits should be increased.

The Oregon Transportation Commission is considering whether to endorse a plan to conduct two rulemakings and reach a final decision by August 2004.

The first rulemaking would establish procedures to follow and evaluation criteria to consider for increasing speeds. From mid-January until March 11, the public would be invited to submit comments to the Speed Zone Review Panel, a five-member panel formed in 1994 to conduct hearings and rule on the state's contested speed zone cases. Public comments would also be taken by a law judge presiding at a March public hearing.

In this period, ODOT staff would examine all segments of the interstate system to gather data regarding speed, accidents, and vehicle mix. Among other aspects, it would note the location of safety corridors and problem bridges, the road geometry and pavement conditions, and the availability of law enforcement resources.

A second rulemaking would then get underway in mid-May to start the process of actually proposing to change speed limits. The Speed Zone Review Panel would again receive public comments and then make recommendations to the commission, which could act to adopt any speed limit changes.

Mysterious note inspires questions about Iraq war

CJ's Kenney finds a note in her pocket she believes is from Iraqi factory worker

By BRITT FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

Cave Junction resident Kathy Kenney doesn't know exactly who or when or how -- but she knows why.

A note she found in a pocket of her new pair of pants was an apparent call for American awareness about the situation in Iraq.

Kenney bought the Jones of New York pants, made in the gulf state of Qatar, last week at Meier & Frank in Medford. But it wasn't until she returned home and went to wash them that she noticed the small piece of paper, which she crumpled to throw away.

The wrinkled words, "No Business As Usual," caught her attention.

Typed on the other side of the paper: "Wake Up! Is the slaughter of innocents, the devastation of cities, the nuclear contamination of Iraq not real to you?...Can you numbly carry on while...explosions from American bombs dismember the fragile bodies



Kathy Kenney of Cave Junction shows the label that documents her new Jones of New York pants were made in a factory in Qatar. A note found in the pocket, she believes, is from a worker. (Photo by Steve Fairchild)

of frightened children...I guess it's alright to look away when the atrocity isn't targeting white Americans."

Kelley believes the note was put in the pocket by the person who made the pants and not someone in this country.

"They wanted me to have it," she said. "I feel like I got it because I'm not active (about the situation in Iraq)."

Intrigued yet somewhat bewildered by the note -- she had purchased clothes made by the same company in the past and found no notes -- she phoned her sister in Illinois. She also phoned the store and asked a saleswoman in the misses sportswear department if anyone else buying the same pants had found a note. She said the saleswoman knew nothing of

the note, but agreed to check the pockets of other pants in the store.

Kelley said the mysterious note has spurred her interest in finding out who placed it. She said she plans to contact Jones of New York about the note and will try to find the pants factory. "I'm curious," she said.

GP residents notified of sex offender

Oregon State Police (OSP) recently announced that a predatory sex offender no longer on post correction supervision is living in Grants Pass.

Gerald E. Stewart, 50, is a convicted sex offender for first-degree attempted sex abuse and third-degree sex abuse. He is described as a white male, 5'4", 145 pounds, with brown hair and gray eyes. He also has an artificial right eye.

Stewart currently resides at 621 N.W. A St.

The purpose of such a community notification is to reduce the chances of further victimization by the offender and to promote community awareness and safety, according to OSP.

Those with information about this offender committing additional crimes are asked to phone area law enforcement agencies.

Obituaries

(Continued from page 4)

John Floyd

John Floyd, 77, of Cave Junction died on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003 at his home.

Private interment will be at Laurel Cemetery. A memorial service will be held in the Red Garter banquet room on Sunday, Dec. 28 at 12 p.m. Hull and Hull Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

Floyd was born Feb. 5, 1926, in Wheeler, Texas, where he was raised. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy. After his discharge, he worked for the railroad. In the early 1950s, he began working as a truck driver and owned and operated a log trucking business. He also worked for various companies throughout the state until his retirement in 1990.

On July 14, 1979, he married Annetta L. Wylie, who survives. He moved to Cave Junction 33 years ago.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 70. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, mushroom hunting and gardening.

In addition to his wife, survivors include three daughters, Happy Wylie

and Mary Sallee, both of Cave Junction, and Anita Floyd of Portland; two sons, Robert Clarke of Grants Pass and John Clarke of Cave Junction, a sister, Eileen Whitaker of Oklahoma; three brothers, Herman Floyd of Oklahoma, Kenneth Floyd of Texas and Donald Floyd of Michigan; and five grandchildren.

A son died in 1957 and a grandson died in 1986.

Noel Hartford

Noel Vance Hartford, 68, of Selma died on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2003 at his home.

A nicheside service was held on Tuesday morning Dec. 23 at Hawthorne Memorial Gardens Mausoleum, with the Rev. David Goodrich of Immanuel United Methodist Church officiating. Military honors were provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Chapel of the Valley L.B. Hall Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

It is the family's wish that memorial contributions be made to the American Cancer Society, 31 West 6th Street, Medford, OR, 97501.

Mr. Hartford was born on Feb. 5, 1935 in North

Platte, Neb. On Nov. 24, 1951 in Julesburg, Colo., he married Twila F. Horton, who survives.

He served 20 years in the U.S. Navy and retired in 1974 as chief aviation boatswain's mate. He received 29 decorations including the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

He also received decoration for bravery in the 1966 fire aboard the U.S.S. Oriskany CVA 34. His service included the Korean Conflict and three tours of duty in Vietnam. He moved to Grants Pass from Redwood City, Calif. In Nov. 1971, then moved to Selma in 1973.

He enjoyed fishing, NASCAR and helping people.

In addition to his wife, survivors include two sons, Samuel Fay Hartford of Puyallup, Wash. and Noel Eric Hartford of Huntington Beach, Calif.

A son, Harlan Keton Hartford, two brothers, Carroll Hartford and Harlan "Brownie" Hartford, and a sister, Florance Kopsco, died before him.

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DEQ seeks to keep Medford basin air clean

The Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has unveiled an air quality plan aiming to assure that the Medford-Ashland area continues to meet federal and state air quality standards for "PM 10" particulate matter through at least 2015.

Exposure to high levels of PM 10 (particulate matter about one-seventh the size of human hair) is considered a risk to human health due its size.

DEQ is seeking public comment on the proposed plan through Dec. 31.

The proposed plan is available for public review at DEQ's Web site at www.deq.state.or.us/aq/index.html.

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