'Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest' due

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ment blitz:

"Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest."

It will run through Monday, Sept. 4, encompassing the Labor Day weekend.

Out of the 10 people who died in Oregon traffic crashes during the Labor Day break in 2005, three were died in 19 alcohol-related crashes. That's 30 percent of all the state's traffic fatalities for the three-day holiday last year, in which there was a total of 266 crashes in Oregon.

Alcohol was an even bigger factor for Labor Day 2004. Four of the eight people who died on Oregon roads during the three-day holiday that year died in 15 alcohol-related crashes out of a total of 261 crashes across the state during the 2004 holiday. In other words, 15 alcohol-related crashes in 2004 resulted in half of all Oregon's traffic fatalities, said OSP.

Among the 488 people who died in Oregon traffic crashes during 2005, 162 died as a result of crashes in which alcohol was a factor.

"Alcohol is a factor in more than a third of all Oregon traffic fatalities," said Gretchen McKenzie, coordinator for the ODOT Safety Division's Impaired Driving Program. "The odds of being killed are many times higher when alcohol is involved in a crash," she said.

Nationally the number of alcohol-related fatalities increased 1.7 percent in 2005 after declines of 2.4 percent in 2003 and 2004, according to NHTSA.

"Any amount of alcohol will impair your ability to drive safely because it slows your reaction time and affects your judgment," McKenzie said.

A conviction for driving under the influence of intoxicants can lead to driver license suspension, in addition to expensive fines and perhaps legal fees as well. Refusal to take a breath test when requested by law enforcement will result in an enhanced suspension, and a citation under ORS 813.095 punishable by a fine up to $1,000.

In addition, Oregon safety laws have zero-tolerance for drivers younger than 21. Any amount of alcohol detected in a minor driver violates Oregon law.

"People who plan on drinking should not plan on driving," McKenzie said. "And never get into a car with a driver who has been drinking."

There are other options to help people get around if they have been drinking. They can make sure that their group has a designated driver who won't be drinking, or they can volunteer to be a designated driver. People also can use public transit or taxis.

"Still, even if you haven't been drinking, the problem is your concern if you get into a car," McKenzie said. "When driving, watch out for impaired drivers and impaired pedestrians. And always make sure that you and your passengers are properly restrained with safety belts or child seats."

Additionally, drivers should report impaired drivers by phoning (800) 24DRUNK or 911 if they spot someone whose driving clearly is an immediate danger to themselves or other people.

According to ODOT data, the Labor Day weekend has the second-highest percentage of alcohol-involved fatalities of the year. Only the Memorial Day holiday period is higher:

Memorial Day, 56 percent; Labor Day, 53 percent Independence Day, 50 percent: New Year's, 45 percent; Thanksgiving, 39 percent; Christmas, 37 percent.

TWO OFFICERS WERE HONORED for their 'outstanding Illinois Valley community support' Thursday, Aug. 17 during a reception hosted by Lake Selmac Resort. Cited for their exceptional service by Illinois Valley Merchants Association were Deputy Cory Krauss (left), city of Cave Junction contract officer; and Cpl. Sean Rarey (right), officer-in-charge of the sheriff's substation in Cave Junction. Sheriff Dave Daniel (center) attended the recognition event, as did CJ Mayor Tony Paulson. (Photo by 'Illinois Valley News')

DEQ leader J. Hickman

Jane Hickman has been appointed as administrator of the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Office of Compliance and Enforcement (OCE).

The 13-person office oversees compliance of state environmental laws by businesses, individuals and other entities.

Hickman has worked for DEQ's OCE since 1997, specializing in cases involving violations of state environmental rules concerning asbestos, on-site (septic) systems, water permitting and spills of hazardous materials and oil.

She recently played a lead role in DEQ's efforts to streamline and clarify its enforcement rules. She also briefly served as an assistant to the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission.

Hickman replaces Anne Price, who has been administrator of OCE for nearly six years. Price is leaving the agency to pursue new business interests in California. Hickman will report directly to DEQ Deputy Director Paul Slyman.

Punks, thugs vs. crime

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balls up the citation and bounces it off Rarey's chest.

Eventually, the suspect might get his wrist slapped in Circuit Court, but he knows that he will not be jailed, and so could not care less about performing community service as his penalty, and feels free to go on committing crimes for which he will not be jailed.

That type of situation was stressed during the 90-minute meeting Monday. Attendees included Mayor Tony Paulson, sheriff candidate Gil Gilbertson, and former Mayor Ed Faircloth.

Rarey and Krauss, plus some of the civilians in attendance, noted a continuing lack of respect for society, and law and order by a certain element. They said that it has continued to deteriorate during the past 20 years.

"The problem we face," said Rarey, "is that we're not taking that element out of the system. Many of the current crimes (burglaries, break-ins and vandalism) would not occur if we had the jail capacity."

And as funding declines for the criminal justice system -- sheriff's patrol, jail, detectives, district attorney's office, and the courts -- the system breaks down.

He said he is confident that Illinois Valley, at least, is ready to pay for a criminal justice system. Whatever proposal emerges, he said, must encompass all aspects.

Some of those attending the meeting posed questions and commented about their feelings regarding law enforcement in and around the city of CJ. One man suggested an undercover officer; another feels that foot patrol and more evening duty would be beneficial.

Another attendee said he feels that by providing free meals to transients and street people, "they'll never leave." Krauss said that churches are beginning to advise people that they're welcome for meal times and church activities; otherwise, they should be somewhere else.

One woman said she felt that the previous meeting, attended by a standing-room-only crowd of some 80 persons, didn't accomplish anything. Rarey said that at least most of those attending were allowed to vent their anger about an

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Make yourself necessary to someone.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson -

To the Root

Faces of Adrenal Burnout

- fatigue
- irritability
- fibromyalgia
- insomnia
- avoidance behaviors
- back pain
- repeated infections
- craving sugar, alcohol
- sluggishness
- overwork
- depression
- weight gain or loss

DHEA hormones, thyroid medications, adrenal stimulants and "cleansing" are not recommended!

Each individual must make the lifestyle changes specific to their needs. Coaching is needed. When left untreated, adrenal burnout leads to diabetes, cancer and all other diseases related to premature aging such as hypertension, stroke, and mobility problems. This process CAN be reversed!

Illinois River Acupuncture
592-5041 Mon., Wed., Fri.
Jo Anne Stone, M.S., L.Ac.

GP gang incident exposed

Four teen-agers believed to be members of the "MC Locos" street gang have been arrested on charges of assault and disorderly conduct following an investigation of a July 13 beating incident in Grants Pass.

Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety (GPDPS) said that two of the four, Leonardo Diaz, 14, and Leonel Diaz, 14, were arrested at Riverside Park on July 30 after a physical altercation.

They were lodged in Josephine Juvenile Justice Center, cited on charges of third-degree assault and disorderly conduct in connection with the July 13 incident.

Following the arrest of the Diaz brothers, the GPDPS "Youth Task Force" members and other patrol officers began the search for the remaining two suspects.

On Monday, Aug. 14, Martel Salazar-Perez, 15, and Ernest Espinoza, 16, turned themselves in to Juvenile Justice authorities. They also were cited on charges of assault and disorderly conduct.

GPDPS acknowledged the assistance of the victims, witnesses, Josephine County District Attorney's Office and Juvenile Justice for assistance with the investigation and apprehension of the suspects.

Are you hungry?
Are you thirsty?
Do you have time for a GOOD meal?
Maybe you'll even make a new friend!

Photo taken 45 years ago.

Find this man and tell him Larry sent you.
You will get his special attention!
220 S. Redwood Hwy.
Cave Junction

The Illinois Valley Wild Blackberry Arts & Crafts Festival Committee wishes to thank the following businesses and individuals whose generous support made the 2006 Wild Blackberry Festival a tremendous success! We couldn't have done it without you!

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I.V. Rural Fire Protection District
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Taylor's Country Store
Cave Junction Lions Club

The Toyes
Hanson Brothers
Southern Oregon Blues Band

A Buck Sixty-three and a Rock
Desperate Measures

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