

ODOT: JoCo speeders will pay the price

With excessive speed being a contributing factor in 50 percent of fatal crashes in Josephine County during 2008, ODOT's Traffic Safety Division is urging drivers to reduce speed.

Despite the risk of costly fines, driver's license suspensions, jail time, death and serious injury, it appears that many JoCo drivers feel the need to speed — and one way or another, many have paid the price.

According to the latest statistics from ODOT's Transportation Safety Division (TSD), excessive speed played a role in 50 percent of JoCo's 2008 traffic fatalities. In fact, speed is the number-one cause of traffic fatalities and injuries in Oregon and a contributing factor in half the state's fatal crashes each year.

Said Steve Vitolo, TSD statewide traffic law enforcement program manager, "Speed kills — and it isn't just the speeding drivers who lose their lives; it's innocent drivers and passengers; it's construction workers and law enforcement officers; it's family members and friends."

Right now in Oregon, people who choose to speed

kill more innocent Oregonians than drunk drivers. In 2008 alone, there were nearly 210 speed-related fatalities in Oregon. And, 40 percent of those who died in speed-related crashes in Oregon were innocent victims.

In order to curb speeding in Oregon, law enforcement officers are using new technologies to pinpoint speeders. Laser devices track speed and determine the distance between vehicles, allowing officers to hand out high fines and license suspensions to deter drivers from this deadly behavior.

In Oregon, exceeding the speed limit by 30 mph can lead to a 30-day license suspension and a \$679 fine. Speeds of 100 mph or more could earn drivers a \$1,103 fine plus a 30- to 90-day license suspension.

Studies show that the majority of motorists ignore speed limits because they believe they can maintain control of their vehicle, regardless of conditions. In reality, speeding reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway, extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle and

increases the distance a vehicle travels while the driver reacts to a dangerous situation — increasing both the likelihood and severity of crashes.

Plus speeding-related crashes that result in fatalities are four times more likely to occur on a rural road than an urban highway or freeway.

Said Vitolo. "Rural roads and local neighborhood streets provide less room to maneuver and more instances when drivers must react to unexpected circumstances."

TSD is working to educate the public about the dangerous and deadly consequences of speeding. This summer, as Oregonians take to roads for near-home vacations, TSD urges drivers to:

*Reduce speed and obey posted limits.

*Consider the compounded severity of crashes that occur when traveling even a few miles per hour more than the limit.

*Take into account that time saved by speeding is negligible at best, and deadly at worst. Speeding is not worth the increased risk of a severe crash.

*Remember the greater danger of speeding on rural and neighborhood roads.

Some 57 young people and 14 adult leaders from Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in Lake Oswego included the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (IVSHA) building on W. Lister Street in their working mission trip to Southern Oregon last week. On Thursday morning, July 23, the *Entheos* youth group erected a sturdy fence around the site of IVSHA's community garden, painted the building's exterior and trimmed trees and shrubbery. Said coordinator Kathleen Fast, the group's "racked-and-stacked" week of projects



included assisting with low-income housing in Medford, to work at a preschool in Grants Pass. The youths raised \$27,000 at an auction to help fund their mission, Fast said. (Photos by Michelle Binker, *Illinois Valley News*)

Tales from the Police Blotter

(Editor's Note: Factual information for 'Blotter' is provided by official law enforcement agencies. All persons listed are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Charges can be amended or dismissed.)

Wednesday, July 15

*A Hogue Drive resident complained that a family member injured a dog "to the point of death."

*A man found kneeling on the fog line on Hwy. 199 at Hay's Hill was said to be picking up pieces of bark.

*It was stated that a man wearing "boxing-type gloves" was outside a Downtown Cave Junction business, waiting to beat up another guy.

*On Sherwood Avenue, a vehicle reported stolen from Springfield was recovered.

*Three people lounging about were warned against trespassing in the 300 block of S. Redwood Hwy.

*In Kerby a resident complained that someone was wire-tapping her telephone. She suspected that it was someone from the state.

*Damage to a mailbox on Deer Creek Road was reported, along with potential suspect information.

*A mother reported that her daughter was the subject of harassment by another passenger on a Josephine County Transit bus.

*Matthew Edward Baucum, 19, was cited on a charge of speeding (70 mph in a 45 mph zone) on N. Redwood Hwy. at 8:28 p.m.

*Two callers from Madonna Drive and Fir Drive reported a disturbance. One said that her husband had been chasing someone who'd been "lurking" around and throwing rocks at her residence. While tracking the alleged lurker with a K-9 officer, deputies sprayed two neighborhood dogs. They did not find the lurker. The incident was summed up as two men "having a rock-throwing contest."

Thursday, July 16

*Shawn Wade Lamb, 37, was cited on a charge of speeding (85 mph in a 55 mph zone) on Hwy. 199 at Sauer's Flat at 1:05 a.m.

*At 1:54 a.m. a caller said that his girlfriend's mother was being belligerent, and had pulled his hair. He elected to sleep in his car rather than continue fighting.

*Children seen breaking into an apartment on Hussey Avenue were determined to be residents there, but mom had

locked them out.

*Cynthia Lynn Carr, 35, was cited to appear in Cave Junction Municipal Court on a charge of failure to obey a traffic control device on Sherwood Avenue.

*A property owner reported finding an Oregon Trail (food assistance) card with someone's name on it in a vacant residence on S. Old Stage Road.

*Stacy Jo Yanase, 22, was cited to appear in Cave Junction Municipal Court on a charge of failure to obey a traffic control device on Sherwood Avenue.

*An O'Brien resident complained of receiving threatening phone calls from an ex-boyfriend.

*On Redwood Hwy. north of Cave Junction, Susanne Regnart, 65, was cited on charges of speeding (59 mph in a 45 mph zone) and failure to carry and present a driver license.

*Theft of a laptop computer from an Illinois River Road residence was reported at 10:43 a.m.

*Two people were warned about trespassing at Lorna Byrne Middle School.

*Three minor persons were contacted at Jubilee Park at 10:44 p.m. Their parents were contacted to retrieve them, and all were counseled regarding city ordinances and curfew.

*Helena Marie Ward, 45, was cited on a charge of speeding (73 mph in a 55 mph zone) in the 32000 block of Hwy. 199 at 11:34 p.m.

Friday, July 17

*A man was warned to keep his dog and himself out of the roadway while walking on Hwy. 199 on the south side of Cave Junction.

*On the roadway up Briggs Valley Road a man was reported to be "blowing on dandelions" and acting strangely. He was not considered a danger to himself or others.

*Charges of third-degree theft and theft of services was referred to the county D.A. after a report of unruly persons in the vicinity of Store Gulch Campground.

*Theft of a 9mm hand-

gun from a Rockydale Road residence was reported.

*Nathaniel Dean Campbell, 16, was cited on charges of being a minor in possession of alcohol and careless driving on Illinois River Road at 1:58 p.m.

*A Holland Loop resident said that her son was "high as a kite," and yelling at her. She left, and was advised of her options.

*Nicole R. Phelan, 33, was cited on a charge of speeding (56 mph in a 45 mph zone) on S. Redwood Hwy. at 6:51 p.m.

*David S. Edgar, 46, was cited on a charge of speeding (65 mph in a 45 mph zone) on Hwy. 199 in the 17000 block.

*Heather Whidden, 51, was cited on a charge of speeding on Hwy. 199 at Walddamar Road with a listed speed of 67 mph in a 45 mph zone.

*After providing blood with an alcohol content of .28, Brian Lance Cooper, 28, was cited on charges of driving under the influence of an intoxicant (DUI), failure to maintain a lane of travel, and driving uninsured.

*Greg B. Coatney, 38, was cited on a charge of DUI due to a blood-alcohol content (BAC) of .17 on N. Redwood Hwy. at Lister Street at 10:14 p.m.

Saturday, July 18

*Near St. Mathias Episcopal Church on N. Redwood Hwy., Elizabeth Louise Norman, 50, was taken into custody on Jackson County warrants charging violation of conditional release and DUI. She was lodged in Josephine County Jail in Grants Pass.

*Bobbie B. Bower, 20, was cited on a charge of speeding (64 mph in a 45 mph zone) on N. Redwood Hwy. near Hanby Lane.

*A driver stated that approximately 10 "youngsters" approached his vehicle as he drove on Caves Hwy. and began throwing rocks at him.

Sunday, July 19

*A man on Rockydale Road complained of harassment by two young women. He wanted them warned regarding trespassing.

*It was said that an as-

sault victim resulted after being attacked in Downtown Cave Junction in retaliation for inadvertently busting someone's "drug pipe."

Monday, July 20

*Possible theft of a white/tan pit bull dog from a residence in the 23000 block of Hwy. 199 was logged.

*A youngster on a 50cc motorcycle was complained about on Addison Lane. Mother was advised of ordinances against operation of motor vehicles by juveniles on a public roadway.

*A dispute between a landlord and tenant was reported on Caves Hwy.

*A Logan Cut Drive resident reported "traveling" gunshots at 7:35 p.m. She was concerned that poachers might be afoot.

*In the aftermath of an 11 p.m. pursuit around O'Brien at speeds in excess of 80 mph, the operator of a dirt bike lost control of his ride on Waldo Road. Subsequently, Joshua W. Rosenberry, 25, was taken by Mercy Flights to Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford. He was cited on charges of DUI and attempt to elude.

*Kraig Henry Nicholson, 21, was cited on a charge of no operator's permit in the 400 block of S. Redwood Hwy. at 11:09 p.m.

Tuesday, July 21

*In the 8000 block of Illinois River Road, underage men, who all appeared intoxicated, were said to be riding on top of and jumping back

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