

Overtime May Be Re-examined

(SALEM) — If you're a state employee, your overtime pay may be affected by a court decision. The state Attorney General is asking the state Supreme Court to take a look at

overtime pay for state workers. The Attorney General's office says it would like to stop an award of around ten-million-dollars in overtime pay that salaried workers recently got.

New Contract for State Workers

(SALEM) Nearly 20-thousand state workers have a new two-year contract. They voted 87-percent FOR a new contract and just 13-percent AGAINST. Some 35-hun-

dred members of the Oregon Public Employees Union employed on state university campuses are still negotiating their contract.

Boaters Instructed

(STATEWIDE) — The governor plans to sign some new boating certification standards into law today. The new rule goes into effect in October. It mandates that Or-

egon boaters have to prove they know the rules of the water by getting an education certificate before they can operate a powerboat with more than ten-horsepower.

Just Say No

(SALEM) Governor John Kitzhaber says he has a list of 32 bills that he is considering vetoes for. Included is a measure that would increase the speed limit on rural freeways. Another would allow local communities to vote on property tax

increases to help fund schools. The governor says he may also veto bills that would force doctors to notify the parents of teenagers who want abortions, and others that would keep cities from suing gun manufacturers for damages caused by gun violence.

No Random Testing

(TIGARD) — No random drug testing for students involved in after-school activities in the Tigard-Tualatin School District. The School board voted against the idea. But board members did

vote to raise the academic requirements for athletes. It used to be that students with a "D" average could still play sports. Now they need at least a "C" to "D" average.

Voter Empowerment Forum

Special Election • Voter Drive • Measure 11 Repeal

State Representative Jo Ann Bowman (D-19, Portland) will chair a community forum addressing ballot measures for the Special Election this fall. These are ballot measures referred by the 1999 Oregon Legislature intended to bypass gubernatorial vetoes, and are intended to rewrite the Oregon Bill of Rights. Proponents for these changes have dubbed these changes "Victims' Rights Reforms". "My concern", said Representative Bowman, "is only one of the seven measures actually puts new rights of crime victims in the State Constitution. The other six simply expand the powers of the state in criminal prosecutions and remove Constitutional rights from people accused of a crime."

This community forum also aims to increase voter participation in N/NE Portland. It is a joint

effort with the Albina Ministerial Alliance to have a 'Voter Registration Day' at all AMA locations on Sunday, September 12, 1999.

Also part of this forum will be signature gathering for a movement to repeal Ballot Measure 11. Representative Bowman, along with Citizens to Reform Measure 11 "2000", will discuss the need to "put judges back into the justice system."

"It's up to judges to determine appropriate sentences, not assistant district attorneys who seek high convictions rates. Measure 11 gave the power of sentencing to assistant district attorneys with a 'One Size Fits All' system." Measure 11 must be repealed and we can have judges returned to the sentencing process of our justice system. The judges must be allowed to do the job we trust them to do," stated Representative Bowman.

FDA Restricts Blood Donations

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
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WASHINGTON (AP) - Some Americans who visited Britain frequently at the height of that country's mad-cow-disease scare will be banned from donating blood back home, the government decided today.

Britain is one of American tourists' top destinations, and today's decision by the Food and Drug Administration will affect only a small portion of those travelers: Americans who have spent a total of six months in Britain since 1980.

The average tourist who spent just a few weeks in Britain can still donate blood, the FDA said.

Canada is issuing similar restrictions today, said the FDA, which worked with that country as well as top U.S. blood experts in developing the policy.

There is no evidence that any mad-cow-type illness has been spread through blood transfusions. But because mad-cow disease has been linked to a human brain destroyer in Britain, federal health officials decided the blood donor ban was an appropriate precaution.

The decision, which blood banks have expected all summer, was controversial because the United States is poised for blood shortages. Blood donations already have been falling, and the American Red Cross says the new policy will cut the U.S. blood supply by 2.2 percent.

At issue is an infection that kills by literally eating holes in brain tissue. In cows, it's called mad-

NE Community to Benefit From Freightliner Expansion

Residents and businesses in Northeast Portland stand to benefit from an upcoming expansion of Freightliner's operations on Swan Island, should the PDC and City Council approve an Enterprise Zone application. Freightliner plans to invest more than \$90 million in new facilities. The company plans to build a new \$315,000 square foot corporate headquarters facility, move its R&D Cascade Research and Development facility to house its Trucks Business Units and invest in new production machinery and equipment. Freightliner and rep-

resentatives of the Northeast Portland community have been meeting over the past several months to discuss elements of the job placement, good and services procurement and employee benefit programs that will be part of an Enterprise Zone agreement with the City. As part of the city's Enterprise Zone program, the company would receive \$6.6 million tax abatement over a five-year period. In return, the company would agree to a number of workforce and business developments to benefit Zone residents including:

"In today's business climate,

merges and acquisitions are a common occurrence. Portland has seen its share of former Portland-based operations merge and move out of the city and out of Oregon. Enterprise Zone tax abatements are one of the tools we can use to encourage key businesses to stay in our area," said Marty Brantley, Chairman of the Portland Development Commission. "Headquarters operations strengthen the overall business climate in the region not only in terms of jobs, but also in the commitment to community that stems from company leadership living and working in the area."

Smart Program Seeks Volunteers

SMART is a book and reading program for children in Kindergarten through second grade in low-income communities. The goal of SMART is to create enthusiastic readers who read at or above grade level and to empower communities to help their children. Research has shown that failure to read by the third grade increases the chances that a student will drop out of high school, become involved in early pregnancy, or use

drugs.

Each volunteer reads with two children for one hour per week during the school year. The volunteer shares her joy of reading and enthusiasm for stories with these students, replicating that special connection that can occur between a positive, caring adult, a child, and a book. SMART also gives every student two new books a month to take home and share with their families. The goal is to

create a successful experience for both the volunteer and the student. Join others in improving the lives of Oregon's Children. Share a reading time or carpool to a school with a co-worker. Contact Valerie Anderson at 916-2000 ext. 4564 if you would like to arrange for a presentation about SMART.

If you can read, you've already got what it takes to become a SMART volunteer.

cow disease, and from the late 1980s through 1996, British cows suffered an epidemic.

About one in 1 million people around the world gets a similar brain disease called Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, or CJD. Although CJD sometimes is hereditary, usually its cause is not known.

The worry about blood stems from Britain's discovery in the mid-1990s that some people caught a new variety of CJD apparently by eating beef infected with mad-cow

disease. Named "new variant CJD," it has killed 41 Britons.

There is no known mad-cow disease in U.S. cattle, the United States has not allowed importation of British beef for over a decade and no American has caught new variant CJD.

But because these brain diseases can incubate for years without causing symptoms, some scientists say the possibility exists that years from now they will discover a link between blood trans-

fusions and infection.

U.S. blood banks will have six months to phase in the ban. Included are not just American travelers but potential donors of any nationality who spent a total of six months in Britain between Jan. 1, 1980, and Dec. 31, 1996 - when Britain began destroying mad-cow-infected herds. The ban covers travel to or residence in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

Vacations Can Be Deadly

Most Highway Traffic Fatalities Happen in July and August

Portland, Ore. August 18, 1999 -More Americans are killed in traffic accidents in July and August than any other time of the year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"Statistically, there is a significant increase in fatal car crashes throughout the century during the vacation months," says John Vrijmoet, Progressive's Oregon general manager. "Thankfully, the rate goes down again after Labor Day."

Progressive, which is one of the nation's leading advocates of highway traffic safety, offers the following eight tips on safe summer highway travel:

Wear a seat belt.

Safety belts save over 10,000 lives a year. If every passenger over the age of four was strapped in, an additional 9,000 lives could be saved annually.

Keep children under age 12 buckled up in the back seat

To avoid injury from airbag impact.

Put small children in a car seat.

An estimated 312 children under age five are saved annually by being strapped into a car seat.

Allow extra time to reach a destination.

Speeding causes 30 percent of all fatal crashes and over 13,000 lives are lost every year due to speed-related accidents.

Stop for a walk or meal at dusk and avoid city travel during rush hours.

The increased number of cars on the road, coupled with compro-

mised vision due to the sunset, make evening the most dangerous time of day to drive.

Take frequent breaks.

Stop, get out of the car, and stretch tired muscles. Exercise increases the oxygen flow to the brain and boosts wakefulness.

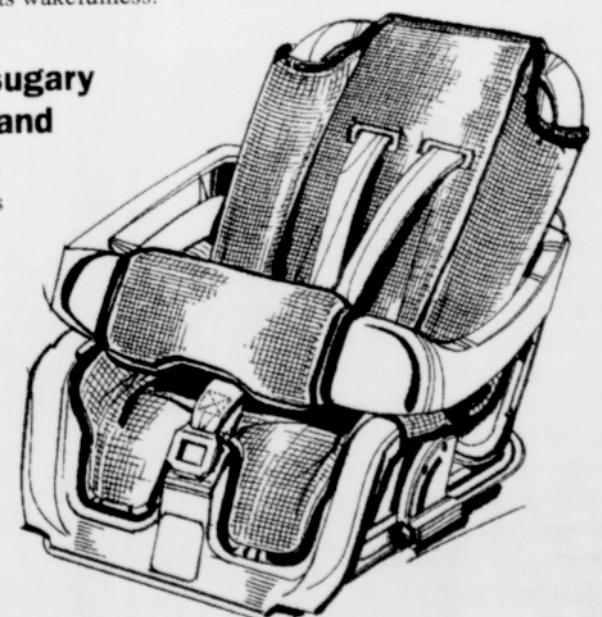
Avoid sugary snacks and caffeine.

Such foods and beverages give drivers a surge of quick energy but leave them feeling more tired later.

Stop to read maps or discipline children.

The rule of thumb is both eyes on the road and both hands on the wheel at all times.

For more information visit the web site at progressive.com.



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