

News

Early Data Suggests Major Pedestrian-Death Surge in 2015

Experts say this could be the largest year-to-year increase since 1975, when record-keeping started

JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pedestrian deaths surged by an estimated 10 percent last year as the economy improved, the

price of gas plunged and motorists put more miles behind the wheel than ever before, according to an analysis of preliminary state traffic fatality data. The growing use of cell-

phones distracting drivers and walkers may also be partially to blame, states a report released by the Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents governors' highway safety

offices. Warmer weather and shorter winters along with a greater awareness of health benefits may also be encouraging people to walk more.

"This is really sobering news," said Richard Retting, co-author of the report. "Pedestrian safety is clearly a growing problem across the country."

The data analyzed were from the first half of 2015. If the trend holds true for the full year, it would be the largest year-to-year increase in pedestrian

deaths since 1975 when the current federal system for recording traffic deaths was created.

The report is based on state traffic fatality figures, extrapolated for the full year by researchers at Sam Schwartz Consulting, which specializes in transportation matters.

There were 2,368 pedestrians killed in the first six months of 2015, compared to 2,232 during the same period in 2014 — a six percent increase.

Researchers arrived at a 10 percent increase for the entire year by factoring in that fatalities for the first half of the year are typically underreported, and that for at least the last five years an average of 25 percent more pedestrian deaths were recorded in the second half of the year, which includes warmer summer months, Retting said.

Pedestrian fatalities have been rising since 2005 and account for 15 percent of traffic deaths.

Obituary: Alberta Inez Phillips

Alberta Inez Phillips was born April 24, 1929 in Burleson, Texas to Alan and Georgia Phillips. She attended a one room school house out in the country. Then the family moved to Bryan, Texas where she attended Kemp High School.

Upon graduation she relocated to Vanport to be with her mother. After the Vanport Flood, she and her mother moved to Portland. When they moved into Portland they joined Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church under the pastoralship of Dr. O.B. Williams. Alberta then moved to Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in 1953 under the pastoralship of Reverend Sylvester McCullum. She has been a member of Morning Star for 62 years.

While at Morning Star she was the Youth Choir Director and she became the Youth President of the National Baptist Convention. She received an honorary Doctoral Degree from Multnomah School of the Bible. She was a member of mission 2 of the general Baptist convention of the N.W. Alberta was a well-loved community activist.

Alberta retired from St. Vincent's Hospital after 38 years of working in the maternity ward as a surgical technician. Upon retiring from the hospital, she had a great concern for the youth who were slipping through the cracks of the public school system. Alberta

met with the Superintendent of Portland Public Schools to see about opening an alternative school for these particular children.

From this she founded and operated Christian Women Against Crime, (CWAC), which operated for many years. While running the school Alberta founded Sister House, which was a home for unwed teen moms.

Preceding her in death are mother, Georgia Phillips; father, Alan Phillips; daughter-in-laws, Frenesi Phillips, Teresa Phillips; brother-in-law, Phillip Jarrett.

Alberta leaves to cherish her memory, her son, Wayne (Edna), daughters, Brenda, and Karen, sons, George Anthony, Timothy and Windall. She also leaves 15 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren as well as a host of extended family and friends.

The funeral was held March 7 at Maranatha Church. Terry Funeral Home was in charge of the funeral arrangements. Interment was at Lincoln Memorial cemetery.



Alberta Inez Phillips

520 SW 3rd Ave. Portland, OR
(503)796-9250
Avalonflowers@msn.com
avalonflowerspdx.com

Avalon Flowers
Creative, original designs
Anniversaries, weddings, funerals, birthdays!

MFHM
My Father's House Ministries
Pastors Jerry & Annie Gutierrez

Celebrating Purim
Make plans to be with us on this Special Evening!
We will also be receiving **The Offering of Fire** LEVITICUS 23:8
Friday March 18th @ 7:pm

Good Friday Passover Service
Join us for this special night of celebration! We will also be taking Communion.
And we will be receiving our **Passover First Fruits Offering**
Friday March 25th @ 7:pm
The Double Tree Hotel
1000 NE Multnomah Street • Portland, OR 97232
Across from the Lloyd Center Mall - Free parking at the hotel
For directions or more information, call 503-488-5481 or log on to www.mfhmportland.com



Juneteenth seeks volunteers for celebration

Juneteenth Oregon, a community organization, seeks volunteers to help plan **Portland's 2016 Juneteenth celebration of freedom on Saturday, June 18th.**

Portland's Juneteenth Planning Committee would like to include more people to make this event an even greater success. The committee meets monthly and then more frequently as the date for the event approaches.

The Portland festival will again feature actors, who portray the likes of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and Abraham Lincoln. A special pavilion is established where festival visitors can talk to these actors in character to hear their memorable words, musical performers and host a Village marketplace. Community organizations, social services, others who provide information to the public are welcome to participate. Businesses and other groups are also invited to join as sponsors.

If you are interested in becoming a Planning Committee member, please **contact Doris Rush at 503-764-8836, or email juneteenthoregon@gmail.com.**