

Proposed bill would allow military surplus Humvees for street use

By KRISTENA HANSEN
Associated Press

SALEM — Discharged from their military days hauling troops and gear as long as 30 years ago, monster-sized military surplus Humvees may soon be cruising the Oregon streets and highways alongside eco-conscious Prius drivers and outdoorsy Subaru commuters.

A proposal that's been advancing at the state Capitol could make Oregon one of the few states to allow these two-ton, 7-foot-wide diesel gas-guzzlers — not to be confused with their flashier Hummer, H1 and H2 commercial cousins — on the roadways for civilian use. These rigs would be hard-pressed to pass emissions in places like California and they also don't meet federal safety standards, although updates for proper seatbelts, turn signals and other tweaks could make them street legal in Oklahoma, for instance.

Spared from the scrapyard as newer models were brought on, surplus Humvees made by AM General became available for purchase from the U.S. military by civilians in late 2014. Nearly 8,000 Humvees have been sold to-date, but often without standard features such as horns, airbags or even doors and windows while burning diesel as fast as 4 mpg, these big rigs usually don't pass muster with state DMVs, including in Oregon.

The Oregon proposal, however,



Hank Porter, 75, Mayor of Stayton, stands with his 1990 military surplus Humvee outside his residence March 2. Oregon could be the first state to allow street-use of retired military Humvees should state lawmakers approve a bill that was proposed at the request of Porter, who wants to tow war veterans through parades in Stayton during Fourth of July celebrations.

would register these older Humvees under the same special designation used for antiques, collector's cars and street rods.

A one-time \$81 fee would permanently register these massive vehicles for the streets — but only for limited purposes, such as group rides with car clubs, shows and exhibitions and, luckily for 75-year-old Hank Porter, parades.

“All I want to do is haul around old veterans in parades on the Fourth of July” said Porter, mayor of Stayton, Ore., a small town just 12 miles east of the state capitol in Salem. “I don't need to run all over the country in the thing.”

Porter, a retired school teacher, asked his former student Fred Girod, who is now a Republican state senator, for help after hitting

“My motives are pretty clear and straight-up. I just want to drive the thing in parades. I don't know how more pure a motive you can get.”

— Hank Porter, Humvee owner and mayor of Stayton

snags at the DMV in trying to register his 1986 Humvee — one of three he and his family purchased last year, mostly for off-roading and, of course, parades.

Civilians like Porter buy these military behemoths for usually \$10,000 or less through a third-party auction site called GovPlanet, a subsidiary of IronPlanet, which sends three-quarters of the proceeds back to the military. Buyers sign hold-harmless agreements acknowledging the Humvees are “not roadworthy” and then receive a federal proof-of-ownership certificate with an “off-road only” stamp that they can take to their local DMV.

“The (Department of Defense) has determined that this is a prudent measure when vehicles do not meet the (federal vehicle safety standards) in order to alert state licensing authorities of the nature of the vehicle,” Susan Lowe, a spokeswoman for the U.S.

Defense Logistics Agency, told the Associated Press through an email. “The ultimate decision on whether a state will license these vehicles for on-road use is a decision within discretion of state licensing authorities.”

That's where civilian Humvee owners like Porter run into issues, which vary greatly by state.

“As a practical matter (the federal documents) tend to negate any argument that the vehicle is, in fact, built for on-road use, or that the purchaser believed he/she would be able to get it registered at DMV and drive it on public roads,” said Amy Joyce, legislative liaison for the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The proposal faced no opposition during its first hearing last week, although the Oregon DOT stayed neutral.

Without registration records, Joyce says it's unclear how many Oregonians would be impacted — only 11 Humvees currently have Oregon titles, which are optional — but more could be arriving as GovPlanet auctions continue for up to four years.

Still, Porter is hopeful that decision-makers won't be deterred either way.

“My motives are pretty clear and straight-up. I just want to drive the thing in parades,” Porter said. “I don't know how more pure a motive you can get.”

Woman who inadvertently shot neighbor gets 6 years in prison

OREGON CITY (AP) — A young woman who fired a gun during an argument with her boyfriend — inadvertently killing her elderly neighbor — has been sentenced to six years and three months in prison.

Noelle St. John told investigators she grabbed her boyfriend's .380 caliber handgun at a suburban Portland apartment last June. She pointed it at her head, then opened the front door and fired a round.

The bullet traveled across a parking lot, went through a front window and hit 80-year-old Donna McQueen in the chest.

Clackamas County deputies responded to the apartment complex after the shot was fired, but did not find a victim. McQueen's daughter discovered the body the next day.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports the 22-year-old St. John pleaded guilty last week to second-

degree manslaughter. McQueen's family agreed with the plea deal and St. John expressed remorse at sentencing.

Teen dies in accidental shooting, friend booked

SEATTLE (AP) — A 17-year-old boy has been booked into King County youth detention for manslaughter after police say he killed a close friend in an accidental shooting south of Seattle.

Donovan Spann was killed when a gun discharged Friday evening at a home in the White Center area.

Highline High School principal Vicki Fisher told the Seattle Times that 18-year-old Spann was on track to graduate in June from New Starts alternative high school.

According to the King County Sheriff's office, the suspect invited Spann over to a home and the two were reportedly playing Russian roulette when the suspect fired and hit Spann in the stomach. Medics were unable to revive him.

BRIEFLY

Spann's older sister, Neenah West, said the family doubts that the young men were playing Russian roulette but also said the suspect would not intentionally hurt her brother.

A memorial service is set for 1 p.m. Saturday at Highline High School.

Washington boy, 4, dies after dental procedure

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Authorities say a 4-year-old southwest Washington boy died after undergoing a dental procedure.

Paramedics were called to the dental office Friday and the boy was pronounced dead at a hospital that afternoon. The Clark County Medical Examiner's Office identified the boy as Mykel Peterson of Vancouver and said the cause of death is under investigation.

The boy's mother told KATU-TV that she brought her son in for a routine visit and the dentist suggested repairing previous

work. The boy was sedated by an anesthesiologist and later brought out to the waiting room, where he stopped breathing.

The dentists who run Must Love Kids Pediatric Dentistry released a statement that said outside medical experts will review what happened.

They said the use of general anesthesia is sometimes necessary to provide quality dental care. The statement says the clinic contracts with an independent, board-certified anesthesiologist who follows strict protocols.

Former Coulee Dam vice-principal gets 7 years for child porn

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A former assistant principal of Coulee

Dam elementary school has been sentenced to seven years in prison for receiving child pornography.

Nathan Piturachsait was sentenced Monday in federal court in Spokane after pleading guilty to the charge in November.

The Spokesman-Review reports that he admitted he communicated with a 14-year-old girl in Wisconsin via Instagram. The investigation found that he had been sending her explicit photographs of himself for over a year starting in November 2015.

The 38-year-old was vice-principal at Lake Roosevelt Elementary at the time of his arrest in February 2016 for possession of child porn and other charges.

Homeland Security agents searched his home and his school office last year.

Corrections
The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Cloudy with a couple of showers	Partly sunny	Some sun, then turning cloudy	Occasional morning rain	Partly sunny
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST	63° 41°	54° 34°	53° 45°	63° 33°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST	66° 42°	57° 32°	53° 42°	64° 33°
ALMANAC				
PENDLETON	through 3 p.m. yesterday			
TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	71°	47°		
Normals	55°	35°		
Records	80° (1934)	11° (1906)		
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.11"			
Month to date	0.87"			
Normal month to date	0.56"			
Year to date	4.79"			
Last year to date	3.34"			
Normal year to date	3.07"			
HERMISTON	through 3 p.m. yesterday			
TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	59°	45°		
Normals	57°	34°		
Records	79° (1934)	10° (1944)		
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.10"			
Month to date	0.45"			
Normal month to date	0.44"			
Year to date	3.91"			
Last year to date	2.12"			
Normal year to date	2.68"			
SUN AND MOON				
Sunrise today	7:08 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	7:01 p.m.			
Moonrise today	10:25 p.m.			
Moonset today	8:50 a.m.			
	Last	New	First	Full
	Mar 20	Mar 27	Apr 3	Apr 10

REGIONAL FORECAST

Seattle 54/41	Wenatchee 54/35	Spokane 55/37
Tacoma 54/39	Moses Lake 61/37	Pullman 56/40
Aberdeen 52/41	Yakima 63/34	Walla Walla 64/44
Olympia 54/39	Kennewick 66/43	Lewiston 62/42
Portland 56/39	The Dalles 61/42	Pendleton 63/41
Salem 57/39	Bend 58/34	La Grande 61/41
Corvallis 57/40	Eugene 56/40	Burns 56/35
Albany 56/40	Medford 61/46	Klamath Falls 59/39
John Day 62/41	Ontario 60/44	Caldwell 65/48

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Rain at times today. A brief shower or two tonight; however, dry in the south.
Eastern and Central Oregon: A couple of showers today, except dry in the south.
Western Washington: Periods of rain today. Partly cloudy tonight with a shower in spots.
Eastern Washington: Cloudy today with a couple of showers; however, dry toward the Cascades.
Cascades: Rain today; cooler in the south. A little snow and rain becoming all snow tonight.
Northern California: Cloudy today; a little rain, but dry in the interior mountains. A shower tonight.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	54	41	r	52	38	pc
Baker City	61	38	r	56	28	pc
Bend	58	34	r	50	33	pc
Brookings	55	44	r	55	42	c
Burns	56	35	sh	51	26	c
Enterprise	56	37	r	49	29	c
Eugene	56	40	r	56	36	pc
Heppner	62	38	c	53	32	pc
Hermiston	66	42	sh	57	32	s
John Day	62	41	sh	55	39	pc
Klamath Falls	59	39	r	58	35	c
La Grande	61	41	r	53	32	pc
Meacham	60	38	r	49	29	pc
Medford	61	46	r	61	41	pc
Newport	53	42	r	50	38	pc
North Bend	56	42	r	53	40	pc
Ontario	60	44	c	60	36	c
Pasco	65	43	c	58	33	c
Pendleton	63	41	sh	54	34	pc
Portland	56	39	r	56	37	pc
Redmond	62	33	r	55	30	c
Salem	57	39	r	55	37	pc
Spokane	55	37	sh	47	29	pc
Ukiah	59	36	sh	49	29	pc
Vancouver	57	42	r	55	39	pc
Walla Walla	64	44	sh	56	37	s
Yakima	63	34	c	57	30	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	62	31	pc	64	37	pc
Hong Kong	70	65	c	73	66	pc
Jerusalem	57	43	sh	54	42	pc
London	60	44	pc	59	42	c
Mexico City	69	48	pc	68	48	pc
Moscow	45	33	c	42	31	sn
Paris	56	42	pc	63	43	s
Rome	65	40	s	62	43	s
Seoul	52	28	s	54	29	s
Sydney	77	71	t	79	70	t
Tokyo	46	41	r	53	42	s

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Thursday
Boardman	WSW 7-14	SW 8-16
Pendleton	SW 7-14	W 7-14

UV INDEX TODAY

0	1	2	2	1	0
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Snow will continue to pivot around the departing Blizzard of 2017 as squalls extend to the North Carolina coast today. As the East shivers, heat will continue in the Southwest with rain in the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (For the 48 contiguous states)
High 98° in Thermal, Calif. Low -11° in St. James, Minn.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thur.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	77	46	s	78	46	s
Atlanta	45	27	s	54	37	s
Atlanta City	30	24	sf	38	27	s
Baltimore	31	18	sf	39	19	s
Billings	67	45	c	58	33	sh
Birmingham	46	26	s	55	40	s
Boise	67	48	c	60	41	c
Boston	35	20	sf	35	19	s
Charleston, SC	49	26	s	55	32	s
Charleston, WV	34	18	sf	41	27	s
Chicago	31	15	s	40	34	s
Cleveland	29	24	sf	37	24	s
Dallas	65	53	pc	74	63	c
Denver	75	45	pc	75	41	c
Detroit	30	18	pc	40	24	s
El Paso	85	52	s	87	55	s
Fairbanks	7	-13	pc	8	-19	pc
Fargo	36	25	c	45	31	pc
Honolulu	84	69	c	84	69	pc
Houston	70	53	pc	73	62	c
Indianapolis	30	18	pc	44	33	s
Jacksonville	55	27	s	59	33	s
Kansas City	42	31	pc	56	32	c
Las Vegas	88	63	s	86	62	pc
Little Rock	47	33	s	56	49	c