

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30 and 60 years ago

Seat belts down; gas tax holds: Oct. 14, 1987

By Paul Ertlet

Sentinel Staff Writer '87

Petitioners have successfully referred a mandatory seat-belt measure to Oregon voters, but an increase in the state gas tax will go into effect as scheduled.

The state Elections Division announced last week that enough signatures had been collected to force the seat belt measure to a statewide vote on Nov. 8, 1988.

But the anti-gas-tax petitioners did not have enough signatures to stop a 50 percent increase in state gas taxes. Both measures needed 42,385 verified signatures. According to figures released Friday by the Elections Division, anti-seat-belt petitions gathered 50,226 "raw" signatures of which 42,627 were validated; 45,319 signatures were collected for the gas-tax measure, but only 40,555 were validated.

The seat-belt measure, which would have required all drivers and passengers to wear

seat belts, had been scheduled to go into effect on Sept. 27, the same date as the new 65 mph speed limit took effect. But the law was put on hold while the signatures were being validated by county clerks' offices around the state.

The gas-tax measure, designed to raise funds for highway maintenance, will increase the state's 12 cent gas tax by 2 cents a year for three years. The first increase goes into effect Jan 1.

State Rep. Peg Jolin, who voted for the measure during the last legislative session, received the news of the gas-tax's fate with "reluctant pleasure."

The increase is needed to raise the money to repair the state's deteriorating road system, she said. "That's how we pay for roads in this state, and for me it's less painful than paying property taxes," she said.

Jana Jarvis, a spokeswoman for Oregon Taxpayers United which headed the petition

campaign, agreed that the state's highway system needs improvement, but said the efficiency of the Highway Division should be studied first before it receives any new funding.

"The question is do we need more money for that, or less, or how much," she said. "Is 50 percent more funding necessary?"

Jolin said her vote on the tax increase came only after she was assured by the Highway Division that it would go ahead with projects in her District 44.

"Nobody likes to pay taxes, however I think...it'll be good for our district," she added.

If the gas tax had gone to a vote and was defeated, it would not have affected repaving of Highway 99 between Saginaw and Creswell, which began in the summer, or state funding for an access road from the Cottage Grove Connector to the North Regional Park, Jolin said.

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

POLICE BLOTTER



October 16

Suspicious subject reported on N. 19th St. Reports of a transient female going through garbage cans, removing two garbage bags and heading toward 16th St.

Suspicious condition reported. Complainant advised a male is tweaking inside a brown Chevy truck full of wood. Requested drive-by.

Theft attempt on N. 10th St. Transient male reported as trying to steal complainant's cat. Fled on foot.

Complainant reported he returned from vacation to find a dead dog laying on his

property on S. 21st St. Believes it was dumped there by unknown person.

Traffic hazard reported at 16th St. and Curry. Reports shopping cart with an old TV is in the middle of the roadway. TV disposed of. Shopping cart returned to Walmart.

October 15

Suspicious subject reported at Coast Fork Nursing. Caller advised her neighbor just walked in her room without any pants on. Said she informed the nursing staff and they didn't do anything about it. Upset, believes he may have had intentions to harm her. Confirmed no physical contact occurred.

No crime, no prosecution desired.

Illegal camping reported. During a routine patrol the check for illegal campsites, located an unoccupied campsite near tee five on the Frisbee golf course.

Disturbance reported at Mosby Creek trailhead. Camp host reported subject threatened to kill him after confronting subject regarding reckless driving in the parking lot.

October 10

Theft reported on S. 2nd St. Back fence broken down and bags of pop cans were stolen.

Complainant told authorities several juveniles were walking in and out of a garage on E. Madison and appeared to be carrying a bong and smoking marijuana. Believes the parents were at work. Ongoing problem.

October 9

Theft reported at Grocery Outlet. Soda, chips and various food items.

Suspicious subject reported on Wilson St. Two subjects going through garbage cans. Female in hooded sweatshirt. Both on bikes.



National Beat

News from the state and around the nation

From around the state

• Oregon's attorney general announced last Friday that the state would be joining the lawsuit against President Donald Trump against the administration's decision to halt insurer payments under the Affordable Care Act. Oregon will join California and more than 12 other states in the lawsuit.

• Oregon Governor Kate Brown requested Salam Noor--Oregon's chief state school officer--step down last week, replacing him with Colt Gill. The move comes just a little over two years after Brown selected Noor for the position and a day before Oregon's performance ratings were made public.

• The state announced that the infamous kicker payments will not come in the form of a check but rather, as a credit on state personal income taxes filed in 2018.

From around the nation

• Attorney General Jeff Sessions has reportedly deployed a federal lawyer to prosecute a man being charged with the murder of a transgendered individual. The crime, which occurred in Iowa, was classified as a hate crime.

• Tales of sexual assault are flooding social media with the hashtag #MeToo after allegations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein continue to mount. The hashtag is meant to raise awareness of sexual assault and harassment.

• California has become the first state to ban the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits that are not classified as rescue animals. Pet stores in the state will only be permitted to sell rescue animals but breeders are still able to sell animals to individuals under the law.

• After 300 years, New Orleans is set to elect its first female mayor. Both candidates left standing after the primary are women: LaToya Cantrell and Desiree Charbonnet.

• Colin Kaepernick has accused NFL owners of collusion. Kaepernick filed a grievance against the NFL last week after spending nearly a year as a free agent. His time without a team comes after he led peaceful protests by kneeling for the national anthem. Kaepernick claims the owners have violated the NFL's collective bargaining agreement.

• Tina Frost--shot in the head during the mass shooting in Las Vegas--took her first steps last week.

State Representatives

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6-day weather forecast

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|---|---|
| THURSDAY Oct. 19 53° 43° Mostly Cloudy | FRIDAY Oct. 20 49° 42° Showers |
| SATURDAY Oct. 21 56° 51° Showers | SUNDAY Oct. 22 61° 47° Showers |
| MONDAY Oct. 23 66° 46° Sunny | TUESDAY Oct. 24 63° 46° Sunny |

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