

Cottage Grove Retrospective

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

DRIVERS SEEM TO BE COMPLYING WITH SPEED LIMIT: 1987

Drivers on Oregon's interstate highways seem to be obeying the new 65 mile per hour speed limit. But state officials are worried that drivers failing to comply the national 55 mph speed limit on other roads could jeopardize a portion of the state's federal highway funds.

"I think we've seen good compliance with the 65 mph speed limit," said Lt. Carl Salter, commander of the Cottage Grove Oregon State Police office. "People seem to be more aware of how fast they are traveling."

Salter said the new speed limit is easier to enforce. Citations are down from a year ago, he added.

"With the 55 mph limit, there was a built-in fudge factor," Salter said. "Anyone going eight to 10 miles over the speed limit was cited."

The enforcement policy for the 65 mph is simple - anyone going over 65 will be cited regardless if they are going 66 or 90.

"We're finding that most drivers are going 62-65 mph," noted Salter. "We still have a

few drivers that travel around 75 mph."

While citations are down, Salter said the number of accidents increased over the same period last year. But he adds the faster speed limit could not be blamed for those accidents.

"There are other factors in those accidents," said Salter. "The weather and road condition are playing a large part in the accidents."

"If a driver was going 90 and had an accident, he would be doing 90 regardless of the speed limit," Salter added. "It's just a higher percentage over the speed limit of 55."

The local OSP office had two saturation patrols on Interstate 5 soon after the new speed limit went into effect. A third patrol, which is paid for with federal and traffic safety funds, was cancelled.

"Citations were down roughly 50 percent from other saturation patrols," stated Salter.

Compliance of the 55 mph speed limit on non-interstate roads hasn't been a problem, according to Salter. But drivers statewide are driving faster than the national 55 mph

speed limit.

Since the 55 mph limit was established, monitored speeds in Oregon have been on the rise, according to Bud George, state traffic engineer for the Oregon Highway Division.

If more than half of Oregon's drivers violate the national speed law, federal sanctions could be imposed, said George. Those sanctions include the loss of 10 percent of Oregon's federal highway funds.

While speeds are up, traffic deaths were down in October, according to the Motor Vehicles Division.

There were 55 traffic deaths on Oregon's roads and highways during October. The total is down from 62 people killed in traffic accidents in October of 1986.

Fatalities include 30 drivers, 14 passengers, four motorcyclists and seven pedestrians.

POLICE BLOTTER

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

November 7

A man on Harrison Ave. reported an assault after his brother dumped a pot of hot water and spaghetti over his head.

A chain grocery store on Main St. reported that a bag of white powdery substance was found on the ground inside their business.

Criminal mischief was reported on S. 4th St. after her vehicle was damaged twice in the past week. The vehicle had words painted on it and was keyed.

A theft was reported after a woman took a man's winning ticket from a video poker machine on Whiteaker Ave.

November 8

The police did a welfare check after an 11-year-old called the police after his parents had not yet returned home.

November 9

\$61 dollars was stolen from a woman's car while she was inside a chain superstore on Row River Rd.

An older man was reported stealing a "large amount" of beer from a grocery store on Main St.

A male subject was seen running out the door with a case

of beer at a grocery store on Main St. The man also stole a customer's wallet.

A child called 911 and was "being silly." The dispatcher then had a conversation about calling for emergency situations.

A woman at a restaurant that specializes in poultry products was asking for someone to watch her infant as she was going into the bathroom while carrying a knife.

Several items were shoplifted from a grocery store on Main St. The individual was charged with third degree theft.

November 10

A suspicious condition was seen after a man on a bike on Main St. immediately ducked and tried to leave when he saw a police car driving down the street.

November 11

An individual called for a welfare check after a couple was walking down Main St. and were seen trying to pick each other up and were repeatedly falling down. They were then given a ride back to their home.

November 12

A theft from a vehicle was reported on Pennoyer Ave. when an individual entered her vehicle during the night and took miscellaneous items.

On Monroe Ave. an individual reported that an unknown suspect took her vehicle from the driveway during the night.

A suicidal subject was reported after a man was receiving texts from their ex-girlfriend saying that he needed to come get their kids because she was going to hurt herself.



News from the state and around the nation

From around the state

Oregon State University is battling a meningococcal outbreak. Vaccines for Strain B are being administered for the disease that primarily affects young adults and is often found on college campuses due to shared living conditions. Meningococcal meningitis is a bacterial disease that causes the spinal cord and brain to become inflamed and could become serious if left untreated.

A 16-year-old Oregon boy is expected to recover after being unintentionally shot by his father on Nov. 9.

A woman's body was found in the aftermath of a homeless camp fire in Oregon City. Authorities received a call about a fire near the Albernethy Bridge. After extinguishing the fire, the woman's body was found.

Sharks have been spotted off Cape Kiwanda. Tillamook County authorities are warning residents that several large sharks have been seen off the coast and that swimmers, surfers and visitors should "use caution in and around the coastal waters."

From around the nation

Four women have accused GOP Senate nominee and former Alabama judge Roy Moore of sexual misconduct. The women say Moore pursued them when they were teenagers and he was in his 30s.

Five women have come forward in a new report from the New York Times claiming popular comedian Louis C.K. sexually assaulted them. The reports follow 2015 reports of the same alleged behavior from the comic.

The Texas church where 26 people were murdered after being gunned down during Sunday service, will be demolished, according to the church's pastor.

President Donald Trump continued his Asian tour with a visit to China on Wednesday. During a speech there, Trump said he believed the U.S. and China could work together but sounded off on trade, saying the countries' relationship was "very one-sided and unfair."

Reports released last week note that mass shooter Devin Kelley--who killed 26 people in a Texas church--was able to legally obtain firearms after the military--for which he served--failed to report his domestic abuse conviction to a federal database used in background checks.

Tensions continued to escalate last week between Saudi Arabia and Lebanon when Saudi Arabia told its citizens to leave Lebanon immediately. Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced his resignation from Saudi Arabia and has yet to return to Lebanon. He cited Hezbollah for his departure and Saudi Arabia has claimed Hezbollah's involvement in Lebanon's government is an "act of war."

State Representatives

Senator Floyd Prozanski
District 4 State Senator
PO Box 11511
Eugene, OR 97440
Phone: (541)342-2447
E-Mail : sen.floydprozanski@state.or.us

Rep. Cedric Hayden, Republican
District 7 State Representative
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (503) 986-1407
Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/hayden>
E-Mail : rep.cedrichayden@state.or.us

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| SATURDAY Nov. 18 50° 42° Showers | SUNDAY Nov. 19 50° 43° Showers |
| MONDAY Nov. 20 52° 43° Showers | TUESDAY Nov. 21 57° 47° Showers |

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