

# Proposed law would limit traffic stops

By ALEX WITTWER  
EO Media Group

EASTERN OREGON — Police officers might not be able to pull over Oregon drivers for faulty lights starting next year if a bill in the Legislature becomes law.

Senate Bill 1510 would limit police officers from initiating traffic stops for taillight, headlight or license plate light issues, as well as make officers require verbal consent to search a vehicle. Drivers will also not have to worry about getting fix-it tickets — those would be unenforceable unless the lighting or equipment violation was accompanied by another violation such as speeding.

If passed, the legislation would take effect on Jan. 1.

The Senate bill is part of a broader reform initiative started in the 2021 legislative session with House Bill 2002 — a 47-page document which would have made sweeping changes to Oregon's criminal justice system. That bill



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

**An Oregon State Police trooper's signature hat sits in the cabin of an OSP service vehicle on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022. A law in the Oregon Legislature could remove the ability for officers to stop motorists for faulty lights.**

died in the 2021 legislative session. The change to the laws regarding police officers initiating traffic stops from lighting violations comes from text within HB2002.

Testimony on the bill was largely in support of the new restrictions on police stops, citing racial disparities in the Oregon criminal justice system and the use of pretextual police

stops as a way to target minorities.

But for rural law enforcement officials, the inability to stop vehicles with faulty lighting is a concern for safety.

"I'm not in favor of that legislative change," said La Grande Police Chief Gary Bell. "The way I see it, essentially, we're talking about a public safety issue. I under-

stand that this is packaged in some of the criminal justice reform legislation efforts, and I appreciate those efforts, I understand."

Bell said that often in inclement weather or low light — such as a country road in rural Oregon on a winter's night — the loss of a headlight poses a serious safety concern.

"When we see a vehicle approaching us with two headlights — you're able to discern the outboard sections of that vehicle," he said. "If you see one headlight, in hours of darkness or low light, you know, is it a motorcycle or is it a vehicle with a headlight out, and which headlight is it? If it's a two-lane highway or a roadway, you don't know — are they in their lane or your lane? It's genuinely a safety issue."

Bell also said that in his many years working as a law enforcement officer, and among the countless times he's stopped motorists for faulty equipment, he often heard the driver state that they were unaware that their headlights were out. That can spell disaster, Bell said, if the other headlight fails as well, creating a situation that is "straight up unsafe."

Oregon State Police has a program in place that gives motorists with faulty lighting a voucher for auto parts stores to allow them to get discounts on the parts needed to fix issues such as burnt-out bulbs.

But the law, if passed, would limit those interactions and prevent drivers and motorists from receiving those vouchers and the notification that their equipment was defective. OSP officials said they weren't looking to discontinue the program, however.

"At this time there are no plans to discontinue the Car Care Program," Oregon State Police Capt. Stephanie Bigman said. "The passage of SB1510 may affect the overall numbers of vouchers handed out, but officers would still have the option of providing the vouchers if the person was stopped for an unrelated violation."

SB1510 would also make changes to the way in which law enforcement officers search vehicles.

Under SB1510, police officers would require informed verbal consent of the motorists to initiate a search when no probable cause is found. That verbal consent would also need to be recorded.

## SENIOR Outlook Chester's

### Prairie City Seniors

Rose Coombs



Did you have a nice Valentine's Day? We celebrated by ordering a heart-shaped pizza. Yes, we knew that we would be having pizza at senior

dinner, but we indulged anyway. After all, it was heart shaped! So we are pretty well pizza-ed out now. And they were both really good. The one at senior dinner had a lot more toppings than what I ordered — and I only had to remove a few olives and a couple of pieces of onion. Then I ate the whole thing! We had a nice big green salad to go with the big pizza slice, along with a chocolate pudding cup and a lemon cake/cookie for dessert. Yummy, yummy in the tummy. Thanks to Pam and her new oven the pizzas were perfectly cooked! Our sponsor is Tootie Cernazanu in memory of Jim Cernazanu and Blanche Lundbom. Thank you for your generous donation to our cause.

The delivery people included Gwynne, Carlos, Del, and Mary. Pam held down her post at the front desk and Ginger and Angie helped with whatever needed help. Remember, if you are housebound due to physical limitations, you may be eligible to have a meal delivered to you. Let us know and we'll get the paperwork to you and sign you up.

Ah, yes. The paperwork. In order for us to be reimbursed by the government, we have to prove that you actually are

receiving a meal. So, even though some of the questions on the new form are more than silly, just fill out what's necessary and return it to the meal site. Then we can get some money back from the government! And that's a good thing, right?

Did you know that it is possible to get bursitis in your foot? Found out that those little bursas are all over the body. Anywhere that parts of your body come in contact with other parts, there is a little bursa to cushion the friction. And sometimes the friction causes inflammation. And that is what is known as bursitis. How do I know all this? 'Cause I went to the podiatrist to find out why my foot started having pain all of a sudden. His Rx to alleviate the pain was a cortisone injection in the are of pain. Yikes! So am trying some alternative therapy first... Pray that it works.

Got to work on another of those ten year old projects this week. Should have only taken a day or two to accomplish, but I managed to stretch it out to a week... ahem. Then there is the little protective strips on the drawer pulls in the kitchen. They have been there for 10 years, too. The builder told me that they could come off after the pull had been installed, but I kinda liked the color so I left them on. Well... now that I want to take the strip off, it doesn't want to come! Oops. (Be sure your sin will find you out.)

*Revelations 21:4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 21:5 "He Who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"*

### John Day Seniors

Elise Huskey



Progress is well on its way at the John Day Senior Center. Air purification equipment is in and is filtering the air in the whole building 7 times

per hour. The dutch doors are installed for the kitchen. The cooks are enjoying a new mixer. Sure makes their work easier. The acrylic partition needed to protect food from everyone's breathing etc. has arrived. Plans are made for the flooring. The area around the refrigerator and the kitchen window is in progress of cleaning out so people can get to the drink corner and the kitchen window easily. The cooling system in the kitchen has been repaired and now the cooks feel safe again. There still are some things to do but it does take time to do all of these things. Chris Labhart is in charge of all these activities and donates a lot of time for them. Thank you Chris.

The Pokeno players had their first game in two years on Friday, February 18th. It is so good to be able to meet with other people. No matter how much we love our homes, we do need to get away some times and see other people and

other things.

We never want to forget to thank our volunteers that help make our center a success. The folks that greet us when we pick up our meals, the drivers and drivers helpers, the ladies that wash the dishes for takeout and others along the way. Without all of you we cannot be successful. Thanks for everyone that volunteers for anything at our center.

In the month of January our center delivered 616 meals to folks in our community who do not have the opportunity to get out much. 108 meals were picked up at the front door. That is a lot of food folks. Our community is grateful for all the nourishment coming from us. Our volunteers served for 56 hrs. in January. Wow what a consensus.

For Thursday February 24, which is tomorrow, the lunch will be fish tacos, pineapple cucumber salsa, cilantro lime rice, cottage cheese and cookies. On Monday, February 28 Kim and Shay will be making meatloaf, mashed potatoes, fruit of their choice, and cherry hand pie. Now I do not know what a hand pie is, so this will be something new for me. Last weeks meals were great so this weeks sounds like it will be great as well.

*John 14:6 I am the way the truth and the life, No one can come to the Father except through me.*

### Monument Seniors

Soo Yukawa



We got served chicken alfredo, garlic bread, fiesta corn, and apple pie for our Tuesday lunch. We thank our cooks Carrie Jewell and Diana Harvey

for making our meal. It was a wonderful meal and a good time of visiting with different folks.

Our greeters at the table were Jan Ensign and her sister Susan Cavender. They collected and counted up the money and filled the paperwork. Jan led us in the flag salute and made announcements. Sylvia Cockrell prayed the blessing over our meal. We had our usual crowd from Spray join us for lunch.

Max Breeding turned 88 years young on February 14. We all sang Happy Birthday to him. He was a Valentine's Day baby. Hope he had a great birthday.

Well, continuing on with my goat saga...Ginger did not die. She is still recovering but still a little unsteady in her hind legs. She is getting around and moving very slowly. I figure she will be fully recovered in about a month. I released her from solitude but she still seems to prefer being in the goat shed, away from everybody else.

One of my young does became a first time mama. Minnie had a very adorable, teeny, tiny doeling. This baby is the tiniest baby thus far. She has La Mancha ears, white with brown spots, and get this, blue eyes! Minnie had been out in the pasture and I was having such a hard time trying to catch

her to bring her in. Apparently, Minnie had been sneaking in through a hole in the fence for quite some time (that was how I was able to catch her, saw her in the act and then buttoned up the hole so she couldn't get back out) and I did not know it. That is, until I caught her.

Since Minnie had been sneaking into the goat pen, she must have gotten bred by my new buckling goat, Yoshi. Bear with me, I know this might get confusing. I figured out how Minnie's baby got blue eyes. Yoshi does not have blue eyes. Remember how I ended up with three new goats from my neighbor who moved away? They were Fern, Mei Mei, and Remi. Remi is Yoshi's daddy. Remi's mama was Fern. Fern is a very small black Nigerian Dwarf with blue eyes! Yoshi had a different mama but the blue eyes must be a recessive gene and got passed down to Minnie's kid baby goat.

I named Minnie's baby Thumbelina, Lina for short. Lina has very short little legs. I think she is only about eight inches long and about eight inches in height. I was doing the happy dance when I saw that she had blue eyes. Looks like Yoshi was an excellent investment!

It appears that Marianne and Yuki are both pregnant too. That woman in Prineville thought she sold me some barren goats. I got the last laugh. Ha.

*Romans 3:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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