

New distracted driving law now in effect

By Paris Achen
EO Media Group

SALEM — A new distracted driving law expands an existing ban on using cellphones while driving to all electronic mobile devices and stiffens fines and penalties, effective Oct. 1.

The law is aimed at improving safety conditions on Oregon roads. Drivers who talk on the phone are more than four times, and those who text are more than 23 times, more likely to have a crash, according to a report by the Oregon Department of Transportation's Distracted Driving Task Force.

Violators face a fine of \$130 to \$1,000 for their first offense, \$220 to \$2,500 for their second offense, and a Class B misdemeanor conviction with a minimum fine of \$2,000 and up to six months in jail for their third offense.

First-time offenders can avoid the fine by taking a distracted driving avoidance course, but the violation will

remain on their record.

So, what can you still do with your mobile electronic devices while driving once the law takes effect?

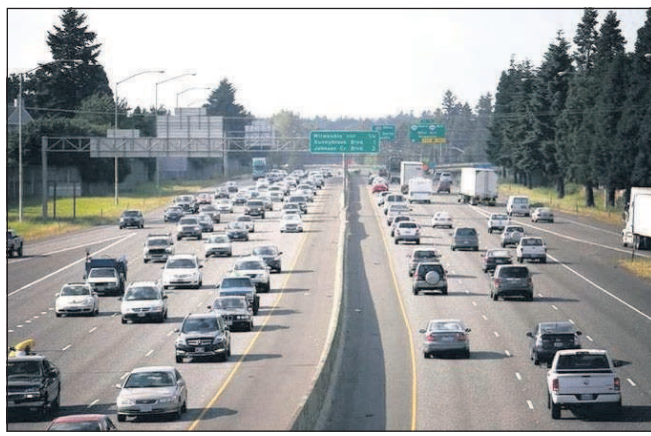
When state lawmakers earlier this year changed the law, they came up with a limited list of exceptions to the ban. None of the exceptions apply to drivers younger than 18.

- Hands-free devices: Hands-free or built-in devices activated by voice command or activated while off the road are exempt from the ban.

Drivers also may talk on the phone while driving, if the phone is set to speaker mode and is not in their hand, said Lt. Timothy Tannenbaum of the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

"You can have a conversation while it's on your dashboard, or on the seat next to you, as long as you're not having to type in numbers or manipulate the phone," he said.

Traci Pearl, a manager with the Oregon Department of Transportation's Safety Division, said a mounted phone



PAMPLIN MEDIA GROUP

New restrictions on using mobile devices while driving went into effect Oct. 1.

is a safer alternative to looking down at the seat or console, but both ways are legal.

Single touch or swipe: Changes to the law allow drivers a single touch or swipe of a screen or button to activate or deactivate a device or function.

This is the exception that allows drivers to answer a phone call, or start a navigation map. It also is meant to allow Uber and Lyft drivers to

respond to calls for service.

"If you can push one button to call the office, you are OK, but if you have to dial a phone number, that is not OK," Pearl said.

• Parked: If one swipe was inadequate to find a desired destination, a driver could, under the law, pull over on the side of the road or in a parking space and legally use their electronic mobile device to, say, type in an address. But

don't try to do it at a stop sign or stop light. You could get a ticket.

- Emergencies: Drivers who are experiencing a medical emergency and have no passengers may use a mobile electronic device to summon help.

- Truck and bus drivers: The law makes exceptions to the regulations for truck and bus drivers, who cannot be cited provided they are abiding by federal rules for commercial driver's licenses.

- Radio traffic: CB users, bus drivers, utility and truck drivers may use a two-way radio only for employment purposes.

- Emergency responders: Police, paramedics and firefighters, may use electronic mobile devices when responding to an emergency call.

- HAM radio operators: Old-school HAM radio operators could be a safety net for communication in the case of a natural disaster, such as an 8.0 earthquake, when other communication systems are

down. That earned them an exception to the new restrictions.

The stricter law, born out of House Bill 2597, was a response to an incident in Washington County.

Oregon State Police arrested Beaverton resident Esmeralda Rabanales-Ramos on drunken driving charges after a trooper reportedly saw the glow of a cellphone illuminate her as she drove.

In 2015, the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled the trooper had no probable cause to stop her, because using a cellphone wasn't against the law, only using it to communicate.

House Bill 2597 "makes the law compliant with the intent," Tannenbaum said. "The intent was to get phones out of people's hands. It's not hard to tell who is manipulating a phone. Surfing the Internet or checking Facebook while driving is just as dangerous as talking or texting."

Geoff Pursinger of the Hillsboro Tribune contributed to this story.

OBITUARIES

Cornelius 'Con' Vincent Cremer



Portland

Dec. 18, 1923 — Aug. 27, 2017

Cornelius "Con" Vincent Cremer passed away peacefully at home Aug. 27, 2017. His final days were spent with the loving comfort provided by family and friends, and the support of Providence Hospice.

Con was born Dec. 18, 1923, in Northeast Portland. His father, Leonard Cremer was born in Fontainebleau, France; his mother, Ada Piccioni was born in Celere, Italy. They met and married in 1922 in Portland.

Con lived in Northeast Portland all of his life. He attended Alameda Elementary School, and graduated from Grant High School in 1941. He played the viola and participated in drama productions. He spent happy summers at their family cabin at Brightwood, playing softball and working at Welches Golf Course.

He went on to the University of Portland, but his education was interrupted when his Army Reserve unit was called to active duty in 1942. He landed in Southern France on his 21st birthday in 1944. The majority of his combat was in Eastern France, where he suffered wounds on two occasions. He was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster medals for his service. During the occupation of Germany he was assigned to teach soldiers enrolled in high school completion courses, and discovered his desire to teach.

In January 1946 he was discharged from the Army and returned to the University of Portland, where he graduated cum laude in 1948, the day of the Vanport flood. After the war he continued serving in the Army Reserve, retir-

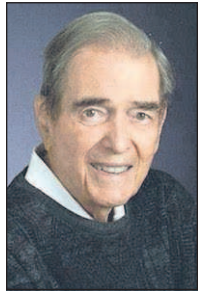
ing as a colonel the same date he retired from Portland Public Schools.

Con taught education classes at the University of Portland and served as department chairman. He received a fellowship to complete his doctorate in education from the University of Oregon. He taught English and social studies at Grant High School. In 1957 he accepted a position with Portland Public Schools as assistant personnel supervisor. He later served as vice principal at Franklin, Jackson and Benson, retiring in 1983.

After his retirement he enjoyed traveling, bridge, bowling, many books and his house in Cannon Beach, which he and Madeleine had since 1975. Con also volunteered eight years on the Public Works Committee in Cannon Beach, along with volunteering at the Title Wave Bookstore for 13 years. He served as president of Club Paesano and the Trailblazers organization of the 70th Division Association, and was a member of the Royal Rosarians.

Con was active until his final weeks. He participated in a memoir writing group and played cards with the Boys at Bridge just two weeks before his death.

He married Madeleine Avena in 1946. They had a house built on N.E. Oregon Street, where they raised their three children, Richard, Michael and JoAnne. After Madeleine's death he married Joan Murphy Aug. 22, 2004. He is survived by Joan; and his three children, Richard (Sheryl), Michael (Kim), granddaughter, Chelsea, and JoAnne, as well as Joan's daughter, Patricia (Sam, children Claire and Ben).



Cornelius Cremer

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Nehalem Bay history course is back

MANZANITA — The Nehalem Valley Historical Society announces the return of the "History of the Nehalem Bay Area" series led by Mark Beach at Pine Grove Community House, 225 Laneda Ave.

The series begins Monday, Oct. 16, and meets 4 to 5:30 p.m. every Monday and Thursday until Thursday, Nov. 2. New classes include "From Indians to Homesteaders" and "Selling the Seashore."

To sign up, call the Historical Society at 503-368-7460, or apply at Pine Grove on the first date, Monday, Oct. 16.

For a detailed list of topics, check the events button at nehalemvalleyhistory.org or request a brochure from the Historical Society.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This is a vintage photo of the Mohler creamery. A century ago, dairy farmers brought milk to the cheese factory at Mohler.

Back to the wild

Lower Nehalem Watershed Council kicks-off their 2017-18 Speaker Series on Oct. 12 by welcoming Katie Voelke, Executive Director of the North Coast Land Conservancy.

The presentation will be held at the Pine Grove Community House, 225 Laneda Ave. in Manzanita, and will start at 7:20 p.m. following an update from Lower Nehalem Watershed Council at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Trio of rescued olive ridley turtles gets second chance

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

Three olive ridley turtles discovered comatose along the Oregon and Washington state coasts after winter storms returned to ocean waters in early September.

Solstice, Tucker and Lightning returned to the ocean after treatment at SeaWorld in San Diego. Olive ridley sea turtles are listed on the federal endangered species list as threatened.

Tucker, a male olive ridley turtle between 15 to 20 years old, was found at Cannon Beach after storms in December 2015. He had a 40-degree body temperature when rescued. Staff at the Seaside Aquarium rescued the male olive ridley sea turtle after it washed ashore south of Tolovana, likely pushed into colder waters by strong winds, aquarium administrative assistant Tiffany Boothe said at the time. Juvenile olive ridleys sometimes travel in warm currents offshore.

Tucker developed severe pneumonia and had to be treated in a hyperbaric chamber because he developed air in his tissue and a buoyancy problem.

He was transferred to the Seattle Aquarium after his



SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO

Underwater photo of Solstice.

initial care then flown to SeaWorld San Diego by the Coast Guard in April 2016.

Lightning is a female olive ridley turtle that was stranded in Pacific City, suffering from hypothermia, buoyancy issues and injuries to both eyes.

After treatment at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Lightning, along with Thunder, an olive ridley found in Gearhart, were escorted by the Coast Guard and a rehabilitation team to SeaWorld. Thunder died while completing her final rehabilitation stage before release into the wild.

Solstice, a female olive ridley turtle, was found in Oysterville, Washington, rescued and cared for initially by the Oregon Coast Aquarium in December 2014. She was flown to SeaWorld by

the Coast Guard in February 2015.

Seaside is authorized to receive stranded turtles and hold them until transport can be arranged, Lance Beck of the Oregon Coast Aquarium said Tuesday. If a turtle washes ashore on the north coast of Oregon it is common for Seaside to be one of the first to respond to a report of an animal on the beach. The Oregon Coast Aquarium and Seattle Aquarium are the only two authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services facilities in the Pacific Northwest that can provide long term rehabilitation care for sea turtles.

"Unfortunately we do expect to see the trend of turtles standing in the Northwest continue," Beck said.

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