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This week's weather report was not available at press time Saturday.

Weather

by the City of Heppner

New DUII law has serious consequences



Oregon State Police officer Carl Martin (left) and Deputy Thomas Krause of the Morrow Co. Sheriff's Dept. demonstrate the intoxilizer test.

What happens if you're convicted of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants?

Oregon law requires the Department of motor vehicles to suspend the license of drivers convicted of DUII. The DUII diversion program allows first-time DUII offenders to avoid a conviction - and license suspension - by agreeing to undergo an evaluation process and attend either an alcohol information program or, in some cases, alcohol treatment program says a DMV news release.

These suspensions or diversion entries are in addition to more than 5,000 administrative suspensions under the state's get tough DUII law which took effect in July.

The new law requires a 90-day suspension for drivers who are arrested for DUII, take the breath test, and get a .08 percent or more blood-alcohol level, the legal level of intoxication in Oregon.

The suspension period jumps to one year for drivers who fail the test and have prior DUII-related entries on their records.

Drivers who refuse to take the breath test get a one year suspension if it is their first DUII-related entry within five years. A breath test refusal with prior DUII-related entries results in a three-year suspension.

Entry into a DUII diversion program has no effect on the mandatory suspensions under the new law. These suspensions run in addition to any suspension or other penalties imposed by a judge after conviction for DUII.

What happens if you're suspected of DUII?

First, an officer will pull you over to the side of the road. He will have a tape recorder with him and he will tell you that he is recording the proceedings. He will begin asking questions such as "Have you had enough sleep?" Is there anything mechanically wrong with your car?" "Have you been drinking?" He is also noticing the condition of your eyes and your general appearance.

If the officer smells alcohol on your breath or believes that you may be driving under the influence after the preliminary interview, he will conduct a field sobriety test. Deputy Thomas Krause of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office says that each officer may give a slightly different variety of test, but basically will test for balance, coordination, and memory. Tests for balance can include the traditional heel-to-toe walk, picking up coins from the ground, or, standing on one foot and

counting to 10. Tests for coordination may be touching the end of your nose with your fingertips or walking in a circle. Tests for memory usually include reciting the alphabet or months of the year or counting backwards.

If following the field sobriety tests, says Krause, you are considered to be driving under the influence, the officer will read you your rights and place you under arrest.

What happens if you're arrested for DUII?

The officer notifies the sheriff's office that he will be bringing someone in for an intoxilizer test. He makes sure that you don't smoke or chew or have anything in your mouth for 15 minutes before you are given the opportunity to blow into the intoxilizer. Officers follow a precise procedure and record all information.

What happens if you refuse the intoxilizer test?

Safe winter driving tips

According to Norman Darwick, executive director of the Internal Association of Chiefs of Police, "slow" and "easy" are two key words that give motorists extra advantage in solving winter driving problems—the need for extra time and extra space to stop and to maneuver on winter slick roads.

Darwick contends that stubbornly sticking to 55 mile an hour speeds (or to other posted limits) regardless of conditions can lure drivers into traveling too fast on slippery pavements or when visibility is restricted during winter storms.

The importance of accurately reading pavement conditions as they may change during the day has been detailed by Darwick, who in addition to his IACP responsibilities is also a director of the Safe Winter Driving League headquartered in Chicago.

"Get the 'feel' of the road throughout the day and whenever there is any question as to how slippery the road surface is. By gunning the engine or by jabbing the brake pedal away from traffic, you can determine how much traction is available. Reduce your speed and increase your following distance accordingly."

To illustrate how much adjustment may be necessary, Darwick turned to findings based on controlled tests conducted by the National Safety Council's Committee on Winter Driving Hazards.

From a speed of 55 miles an hour on good, dry pavement, a car can be

You will be finger printed and booked and your driving privileges will be suspended for up to three years before you are even brought to court.

What happens if you take the intoxilizer test and the results are reading is less than .08 percent of alcohol in your blood?

You will be cited for DUII, finger-printed and booked and given a court date and time. At this point the officer cannot release you with your vehicle. Your choices include having someone else give you a ride home, (released on your own recognition) or posting bail or being lodged either at the Umatilla City Jail for men or Pendleton City Jail for women.

What happens if you take the intoxilizer test and the results are greater than .08 percent of alcohol?

All of the above and the officer confiscates your drivers license on the spot. He then determines if you are eligible for a temporary permit.

If you have had prior convictions for DUII, you will probably not be given a temporary license, good for 30 days, but not effective until 12 hours after it is issued.

"If you are convicted of a DUII, insurance companies will check your driving record more often than those of others who do not have violations or convictions. And, if you are a new applicant for insurance, your acceptance by a carrier hinges on how clean your record is," said Ellie Bennett, Oregon Manager for Western Insurance Information Service.

"An insurance policy most likely will be canceled after a DUII conviction, because Oregon law now requires suspension of the driving privilege and most insurance companies require an insured to possess a valid drivers license," Bennett added.

On ice - conventional snow tires develop about 28 percent more traction ability than regular tires; studded snow tires provide about three times and reinforced chains about seven times the traction of regular tires.

On loosely packed snow - conventional snow tires develop about half again as much pulling ability as regular tires, while tire chains provide about four times the pull of regular tires.

Contrary to the impression of many motorists, radial tires are not necessarily a substitute for snow tires for driving on snow and ice. The performance of radial tires varies widely and is dependent on the type of tread, i.e., a snow tread will perform as a snow tire, a regular tread will perform as a regular highway tire.

"These test results make a key fact abundantly clear," Darwick concludes. "Even with the help of special traction equipment, performance on snow and ice is nowhere near the normal, dry pavement performance."

"Reduce speeds drastically, follow other vehicles at a far greater distance, and perform all maneuvers—slowing, steering or accelerating—with a gentle, delicate touch. Easy does it."

When it comes to getting started and keeping going:

Courtesy car Available to anyone

A courtesy car, available in Heppner since July will be on Main Street as usual on New Year's Eve, says Buzz Lynch of Cal's Cafe and Lounge.

Originally sponsored by liquor-serving businesses, the courtesy car is sponsored this month by Buckingham's Tavern, the Elks Club, Bonnie Palmateer's barber shop, the Wagon Wheel, Heppner Auto Parts, Green Feed, Pettyjohn's Farm and Builders Supply, Central Market, Ray Boyce Insurance, D&L Repairs, Murray's Drug Store, the Pioneer Tavern, the Country Rose, Turner Van Marter and Bryant, Vinh's Chevron and Case Furniture.

"I hope this clears up some misconceptions," said Lynch, who owns, "The car is for everybody... anyone can ride."

The car is available from 7 a.m. to 3 a.m. for senior citizens who need a ride to the downtown area for shopping or for anyone else who needs a ride, by calling 676-5026 and asking for the courtesy car.

Lynch says that the car is provided free of charge, though sometimes a driver may ask for a donation to help the costs especially if he must transport a person to Lexington or Lone. Lynch who sometimes drives an extra car expects to be assisting the courtesy car on New Year's Eve.

Committee appointed to study best route for proposed road

The purpose of a meeting hosted by the Port of Morrow Dec. 19 was to determine if there was a need for a more direct road between the north and south ends of Morrow County.

For several months, the Lone Community and Agri-Business Organization has been enlisting support of other organizations in beginning to set the groundwork for a road which would join Tower Road from its intersection with Interstate 84 with Elia Road just north of Lone. This would require six and one half miles of new road.

Following welcomes by Bob Miller, acting port manager, and Louis Carlson, president of the Port Commission, Chuck Starr, president of I.C.A.B.O. addressed the group with a checklist of the steps needed to prepare for construction of the road.

At this stage, said Miller, "we're not here fighting with the Boeing Co. trying to get a right of way across their land." We appreciate the cooperation which they have shown the county and port by turning over to us the lease for the airstrip which they controlled. It is our desire to work with them.

Since there were no dissenting votes among the 20 people at the meeting about the need for a road, a

committee was formed with representatives from the cities of Boardman, Heppner, Irrigon, Lexington, and Lone; Morrow County Court; the Port of Morrow; the Morrow County Chamber of Commerce; the County Planning Commission; the County School District; and I.C.A.B.O.; with advisors from the Boeing Co., PGE, the State Highway Department, and the Oregon Dept. of Veterans Affairs (owners of the property). The committee's task will be to determine the most acceptable route for the proposed road; one which will avoid the future site of the airstrip which Boeing will need to construct to carry out testing of their equipment and which will avoid conflict with the reservoir at PGE's coal fired plant.

Miller emphasized that the proposed road is still in the very early planning stages. "We're not going to build a road this summer." In fact, the Port will not be involved in the construction of the road. Its role is that of organizing and assembling data and acting as a liaison between the county and the companies involved.

Miller concluded that county-wide support is needed for a project of this magnitude.

Heppner man 'doing well' after accident at city shop

Dave Winters of Heppner was taken by Lifeguard III to St. Anthony hospital in Pendleton following a Friday morning accident at the City Hall Shop in Heppner.

A spokesperson at city hall reported that Winters had been working on a city dump truck replacing a hydraulic hose to the auger. The bed of the truck was raised up and "somehow the bed came down" and

pinned Winters between the dump truck bed and chassis.

Saturday morning, Winters was reportedly "doing well" at St. Anthony Hospital. Although on a respirator for a short while following surgery, a hospital spokesperson said that he had been taken off and was expected to be moved from the intensive care unit to a surgery floor in a couple of days.

Canadian lumber effects U.S. industry

Harry Kennison, manager of Kinzua Corp. was in Portland Tuesday, Dec. 18 not only to receive the governor's award for corporate excellence at Kinzua, but also to testify before Congressman James Weaver (Dem., 4 District) and Bob Smith (Rep. 2nd District) about the impact of Canadian lumber on the U.S. market.

Canadian lumber, says Kennison, accounts for 30-40 percent of the U.S. market. The effect is not only in the northwest but has also effected southern pine mills, says Kennison.

U.S. based companies like Weyerhaeuser and Pope and Talbot, can bring lumber from Canada into the U.S. and undercut our prices which has a devastating effect on the industry here.

Many companies and unions were represented at the hearings. Kennison reports that Congressman Weaver told the lumber producers that upon his return to Washington D.C. he intended to draft a bill which by placing a tariff on Canadian lumber would help equalize the industry pricing.

Rodeo Committee selects contractor

The Fair and Rodeo Committee met December 4 to work on the 1985 tentative budget. At a subsequent meeting, December 10, the tentative

budget was presented to the Fair Board.

Selected as stock contractor for the 1985 rodeo is last year's contractor P9, from Terrebonne, Oregon. The committee hopes to cooperate with P9 to provide bullfighting at the rodeo, said a committee spokesperson.

The Rodeo Court made an appearance at the Farm City Banquet held December 7.

The next meeting of the Fair Board will be at 7:30 p.m., January 14 in the Annex Bldg. at the fairgrounds; of the Fair Committee will be 7:30 p.m., January 14 at the Dorm Bldg.; and of the Rodeo Committee, at 7 p.m. January 1 in the banquet room of the Wagon Wheel.

G-T news & ad deadlines changed for next issue

Next week's Gazette-Times will be published, as usual, on Wednesday. Because Tuesday is New Year's Day, the Gazette-Times office will be closed; therefore, the news and classified ad deadline has been moved up to 9 a.m. Monday, December 31.

Display advertising deadline will be 5 p.m. Monday, December 31.

The office will be open, as usual, Wednesday, Jan. 2.