

State bicycle helmet law attracts national attention

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do to protect the brain."

National health officials are taking a keen interest in Oregon's helmet law. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has awarded the Oregon Health Division a \$100,000 grant to study the law's effect on helmet use, according to Dr. Katrina Hedberg, deputy state epidemiol-

ogist. "This is the first time the CDC has studied the impact of a bicycle helmet law in an entire state," she said.

Oregon Health Sciences University has operated a successful helmet distribution program. "Because we understand the importance of wearing a helmet to protect the brain, we need to assure that helmets are available to as

many people in the community as possible," said Pamela Frankel, OHSU trauma coordinator. "This law is a terrific step toward keeping people safe."

Cease is encouraging schools and civic groups to start helmet campaigns this spring to distribute helmets and encourage their use. He unveiled a bicycle helmet

guide being distributed statewide to various groups. It contains:

- An explanation of the bicycle helmet law
- A list of helmet suppliers and information on buying helmets in bulk
- Examples of successful community helmet campaigns and step-by-step instructions for setting one up
- Fund-raising ideas

The Oregon Bicycle Helmet Coalition and the Oregon Health Division cooperated in developing the community planning guide. More than 10,000 copies have been printed, courtesy of State Farm Insurance.

The guide is available from the Oregon Department of Transportation's bicycle safety program. Call 1-800-922-0222, extension 242.



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Levy would fund deputies in rural areas

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ed areas.

City and rural residents currently pay the same tax rate for county services, but city residents also pay municipal property taxes, in part to provide a higher level of law enforcement.

If voters approve the levy, twelve additional deputies will be hired, plus the cars and other equipment needed.

Though the primary reason for the levy is to add enough deputies to provide patrol service in rural areas and beef up response time for emergencies, the county jail staff would also be increased and the county would no longer charge cities for the use of jail space. Cities are presently billed \$35 per day per prisoner.

Some of the additional deputies would be assigned to rural Vernonia, Clatskanie

and Rainier areas, which currently receive little assistance from the Sheriff's office.

The county would also rent office space from the cities and assist with utilities for the deputies assigned to those communities.

The Sheriff's department is currently down to 13 officers, including one whose salary is paid by Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to patrol Sauvie Island, and another who is paid by the state Marine Board for Columbia River patrols and marine safety inspections.

Declining timber revenues, not the impact of Measure 5, are primarily responsible for the reduced number of deputies. The two who are now paid for by state agencies were laid off last year.

If the levy fails, the county will have to determine

whether it can offer road deputies at all. Providing law enforcement is not a required activity for the county.

County man named to certification panel

George M. Dunkel, of Scappoose, has been appointed by Governor Barbara Roberts to the Oregon Board on Public Safety Standards and Training. He was confirmed by the Senate for a term ending June of 1996.

Dunkel is assistant fire chief of Tualatin Fire and Rescue, and volunteer assistant chief of the Scappoose Rural Fire District.

The 21-member board establishes minimum standards for recruitment and training of city, county and state police, corrections officers, fire service personnel and emergency telecommunicators.

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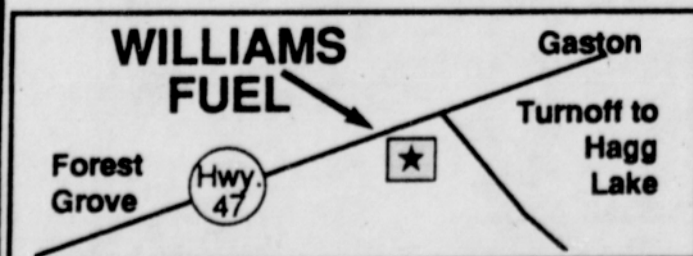
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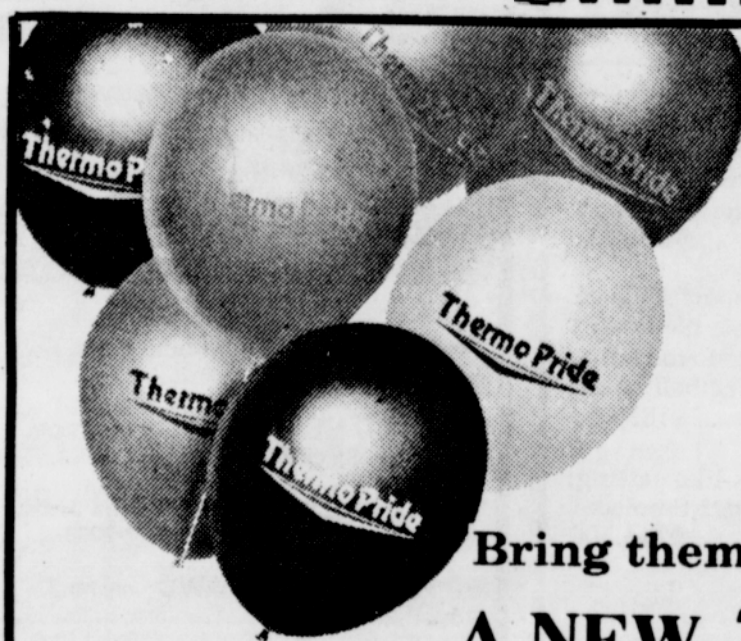
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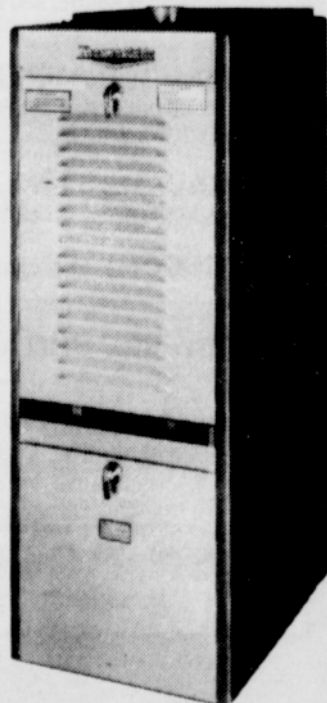
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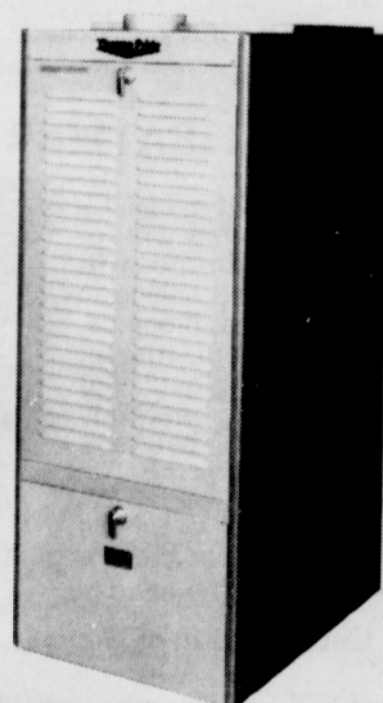
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