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State plans to widen Highway 228

By Jeff Keating Albany Democrat-Herald

BROWNVILLE — The state Highway Division now plans to widen sections of Highway 228 before overlaying the roadway.

The latest decision marks a change in direction for the Highway Division, which had planned to simply overlay 228 from Brownsville to Halsey after a group called T.P.P.I. (The Old Pavement Is Tired) complained about a plan to reconstruct the road, scheduled for 1991.

A different group, led by Brownsville resident Vince Hoyer, collected about 80 signatures on a petition that asked the Highway Division to return to its original plan. The first plan called for improvements, but did not reconstruct the road between Brownsville and Silver Lake.

Last week's meeting allowed all the parties involved, including Brownsville Mayor Bob Anderson, Paul Hoyer and representatives from the Pige and Table and James Hoyer ranch in Halsey to reach a compromise, Hoyer said this morning.

The latest solution to the 28 controversy also calls for the Highway Division to create a reconstruction plan for the stretch of highway between Halsey and Brownsville. However, such a reconstruction would not be included in the present six-year state highway plan, Paul said.

Search for girl enters fifth day

Associated Press

The search for a teen-age girl believed missing in the Cascade wilderness entered its fifth day today after rescuers found no trace of her Sunday.

Searchers combed the area near Sustain Junction in a mountainous area near Sustain Junction.

Parkle was last seen Tuesday near the home she shares with her mother and stepfather at the state highway division maintenance complex on Highway 20 about 20 miles east of Albany.

Authorities described the girl as a level 4 missing girl, weighing 67 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes.

At least 44 people killed by 7.7 quake in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A major earthquake rocked Manila and surrounding Luzon island today and officials reported at least 44 people killed, most when a six-story college building north of Manila collapsed.

Some reports put the death toll at 60, and it was expected to rise as rescue operations proceeded.

The U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., reported the quake at 7.7 on the Richter scale. The July 16 earth quake is the largest registered here, 7.1 and 7.2, and killed at least 100 people.

There were scores of aftershocks. The office of Civil Defense said the Philippine Christian College collapsed in the provincial capital of Cebu. The city of more than 80,000 is six miles north of Manila and was near the epicenter.

The office said at least 14 people were killed in the city and outlying area, but neither reports from the office had said.



Wild ride in Sweet Home

A bucking bronco goes Trevor Kothlow a jolt during the bronck riding event at the Calapooa Roundup Rodeo in Sweet Home.

The rodeo was a major attraction of the Spillman's Holiday weekend that opened Thursday and closed Sunday. Buck Slagel of Kuna, Idaho, won the bronck competition. More information on the annual Sweet Home rodeo is included on today's Page 11.

Repeat offenders threaten prisons, public, report says

SALEM (AP) — A flood of repeat offenders is threatening to swamp Oregon's prison expansion program.

Programs to control and assist more than 3,000 parolees and probationers have been rejected in the recent past by the Governor's Task Force on Corrections Planning.

In a report delivered to Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's office today, the task force said the result was an alarming increase in the percentage of parolees and probationers who commit new crimes and return to prison.

In April, two-thirds of the admissions to Oregon prisons were parolees or probationers. The parole failure rate is nearly double that reported in the 1970s and early 1980s.

"Public safety is threatened by an underfunded and ineffective community supervision system," the task force concluded.

The panel also warned that the rate of the prison expansion program could be undermined unless reforms are made to the community supervision system.

"New and expanded prisons are coming on line in Oregon. Without commensurate increases in parole and probation services, as well as community-based programs to handle the increased caseloads caused by the larger population of released inmates, failure rates

under supervision will remain unacceptably high," the task force reported.

"Consequently, the number of 'recycled' offenders will increase, as well as the demand for more prison space. The result could be a larger version of an unbalanced, overburdened and ineffective corrections system that the Strategic Corrections Plan was designed to remedy."

The Strategic Corrections Plan, passed by the task force in August 1989, called for beefing up parole and probation programs and adding as many as 2,500 prison beds. That report was the basis for Goldschmidt's prison expansion proposal to the 1989 legislature, which approved spending \$6 million for 1,215 new beds.

At the same time, legislative state support was provided for community-based punishment, supervision and control of parolees and probationers, according to the task force.

"The Task Force is also concerned that the large operating budgets generated by Oregon's new and expanded systems will discourage future private and legislative support from funding community sanctions and supervision programs adequately," the report said.

"Such funding must receive equal priority in budgeting for the operations of Oregon if Oregon is to maintain a balanced and effective corrections system."

Gorbachev: Germany free to choose its own allies

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev today removed his objection to a united Germany belonging to NATO, saying Germany was free to choose its allies.

The Soviet objection had been a major obstacle to full German unification.

Gorbachev spoke at a joint news conference with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in western Berlin that was broadcast live on Soviet and West German television.

Kohl said West Germany wants to see unified state "to be a member of NATO." He said he was sure the government of East Germany would accept NATO terms.

Gorbachev said that the four-power agreement of the intricate World War II allies that has governed Germany since the end of the war will cease when Germany is unified.

"Unified Germany receives complete sovereignty," Gorbachev said in the conference.

"It has the right to use this sovereignty to make its choice that is its internal choice, meaning its variant of social development, and meaning what it would like to be a part of what it chooses to support," he said.

The two leaders spoke following a today visit by Kohl aimed at removing Soviet concerns over German unification. The news conference was held in Dachaevskaya, in western Berlin.

Gorbachev said that no NATO forces must be stationed on the territory of that is now East Germany during a period of three to four years, when Soviet troops will be withdrawing.

He said the Soviet Union hopes that after that period, no NATO forces or nuclear weapons would be stationed there.

Previously, the Soviets had insisted on a neutral Germany, and recently had suggested a form of associate membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization after an unspecified transition period.

West Germany and its NATO allies had insisted that a united Germany be a part of the western alliance.

Deficit estimate balloons

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration today dramatically boosted its official estimate of the fiscal 1991 budget deficit to \$168 billion, nearly double that of its forecast just six months ago.

The increase could force automatic spending cuts of over \$16 billion if Congress and the administration don't agree on a package of spending reductions and tax increases.

Today's estimate did not even include the costs of halting the savings and loan industry. When those costs are included, the deficit for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 climbs to \$214 billion, the White House said in its fiscal mid-session review of the budget.

The administration's new forecast is far higher than the \$100 billion deficit estimate included in the president's budget when it was released last January.

It is also significantly higher than the \$64 billion deficit target set by the Gramm-Bludenz balanced budget law. If Congress is unable to reduce the deficit to within \$10 billion of the \$64 billion, it triggers across-the-board spending cuts.

Along with its new deficit estimate, the administration included five savings of what could happen if the current budget negotiations between Congress and the administration fail and the across-the-board cuts are triggered.

White House Budget Director Richard Darman called across-the-board cuts of more than \$10 billion unprecedented in their magnitude and "highly disruptive" to the budget of government programs.

Darman said such a reduction would require a 24.4 percent in low-defense spending and cuts of between 25.1 percent and 41.3 percent in military programs. Social Security and other entitlement programs are exempt from Gramm-Bludenz cuts, forcing even sharper reductions in other programs.

Darman said that the Gramm-Bludenz cuts would force more cutbacks in air traffic control operations, increasing delays for air passengers by 50 percent to one year. The cuts would also require a 48 percent cut in the fiscal Start program affecting 200,000 low-income and elderly children, other government programs ranging from post- and mail inspectors to cleanup of Superfund toxic waste sites.



Brady holds head as Darman warns of cuts.

"If the annual negotiation falls through, effects are exactly what we will face in the fall," Darman said.

Darman said a new confidence in the administration's new estimates make it highly likely that the Gramm-Bludenz law will have to be at least modified, even the case of the savings needs to reach a \$66 billion target. Both the administration and Congress have been discussing spending cuts and tax increases in a range of between \$10 billion and \$60 billion, about half of what would be needed with the new estimates.

By emphasizing a deficit figure that did not include the savings and loan bailout, the administration seemed to be laying the groundwork for removing this giant expenditure from the Gramm-Bludenz calculation, something that many members of Congress have also proposed.

The administration blamed the sharp deterioration in the deficit from January until now on the higher-than-expected S&L bailout and weaker economic growth, which cuts into government revenues and higher interest rates, which raise the cost to the government of paying for the \$1 trillion national debt.

The administration actually included three deficit estimates in its mid-term review. In addition to the \$214 billion with the S&L bailout included and the \$168 billion deficit which excluded loan stamp costs because the program technically expires this year.

The mid-session budget review lowered projected economic growth from 2.1 percent down to 1.2 percent, more in line with what private forecasters are predicting.

It projected a 4.8 percent rise in consumer prices this year, matching last year's inflation increase, but up from the administration's estimate of a lower inflation figure of 4.4 percent.

It raised the government's cost of borrowing short-term by a full percentage point to 7.7 percent.

Both Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and Michael Boskin, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisors, said that the administration's present rate forecast depended on the Federal Reserve raising up on its tight credit stance.

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