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## Oregon native puts Tillamook jail on the musical map

TILLAMOOK (AP) — Bad driving cost Todd Snider a hefty fine and six hours in the Tillamook County Jail.

But who can put a price on inspiration?

Snider, a musician and Beaverton High School graduate, put his tribute to that episode on his newest CD, “East Nashville Skyline.” The “Tillamook County Jail” single has started to get radio play, and the CD was named one of The Associated Press’ “sterling yet overlooked albums of 2004” and one of Blender Magazine’s 50 greatest CDs of 2004.

In an interview with The Oregonian, Snider said he landed in the county jail after a run-in with road crew workers on U.S. 101.

Snider and his wife, Melita, were on their way in 2002 to visit his mother in Port Orford when they came upon a construction zone.

Snider recalled that he wasn’t sure where to stop, prompting choice words from a road crew worker. Snider, who insists he was going slow, responded with a universally understood hand gesture.

Twenty miles later, Oregon State Trooper Bill Vanderberg caught up with Snider. The worker reported that Snider drove by at 60 mph, which amounts to a misdemeanor crime called recklessly endangering a highway worker.

Snider eventually got a 90-day suspended sentence, 60 hours of community service and a \$3,000 fine after pleading guilty.

Vanderberg remembers Snider as a nice guy who went along peacefully. “After I put him in the back seat, he said, ‘Yeah, maybe I did drive a little too fast.’ “

Snider spent six hours in the slammer. When he walked out, he had the verse to his new song.

“The lady doing my fingerprints asked what I was doing. I said I was on vacation. She said, ‘You’re going to leave on probation.’ I said, ‘Hey, I’m going to use that.’ “