

Police: Increase in drug activity blamed for proximity of chases

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station, Poppe said. He drove down Alder Street before stopping at the parking lot between the Music School and the Education building.

A female passenger escaped from the vehicle. Devault tried to escape on foot but was caught on 15th Ave. and Alder Street.

Devault was arrested for reckless driving. Devault had a past record for driving while his license was revoked, possession of a concealed weapon and forgery.

No one was injured during any of the chases in the campus area, Poppe said.

The low number of students in the campus area during the chases helped to reduce the injuries caused by the pursuits.

"We are really lucky pedestrian traffic was light at the time," Poppe said. "What we have been seeing for some time now is an increasing on East 13th Ave. of criminals involved with drugs and with theft, larceny and forgeries related to drugs. As drugs move closer to the campus, so will the chases."

The best thing for a students to do when they hear police sirens in the campus area is to pay attention and watch out, Poppe said.

Drivers: The board is operated by the police and public works departments

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"Public works sets it up in the morning and the police take it down at night," Ludeke said. "It's a cooperative effort."

The radar board, which was first used in Eugene on Friday, Dec. 13, is moved to a different area in the city every day.

"It has its own schedule on the city calendar," Powers said.

The radar board is used in areas that are listed on what traffic engineers call the "traffic calming" list.

Locations are ranked according to speeds and traffic safety problems, Ludeke said.

"We start with areas at the top of the list and work our way down," he said.

While the University is not on the radar board schedule for the next few weeks, there is a possibility that it may be in the future.

"There have been a number of complaints in the University area," Ludeke said. "So it is a possibility that the board will move out there to help with traffic problems."

The radar is only one of the ways to handle traffic problems. While other options make take

years to implement, the radar board is one way to help cut down on speeders right now, Ludeke said.

Data used to measure the effectiveness of the radar board are collected after the board is moved from the area.

"We collected speed data in the past," Ludeke said. "Now we need to wait and see if there is an improvement in the areas the radar has left."

Data collection has been put on hold due to the recent bad weather conditions.

"We use the hoses with counters to collect data," Ludeke said. "When the weather is bad it is hard to get out there to set them up."

Reactions to the new radar have been limited.

"Most of what we've gotten has been positive," Ludeke said. "But we don't get much reaction from the motorists. It's mostly from the people living in the neighborhoods where we put the board."

While no plans are set to order more radar boards, others may be purchased based on the experience with the first board over the next several months, Ludeke said.

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