

# Deputies nab heavily armed felon in Ocean Park

Weapons drawn in arrest due to concerns about 'suicide by cop'

By NATALIE ST. JOHN  
EO Media Group

OCEAN PARK, Wash. — Pacific County sheriff's deputies on Saturday afternoon arrested a heavily armed felon who had allegedly threatened to shoot family members or engage police in a standoff.

Officers discovered large quantities of live ammunition as well as multiple guns, including an assault rifle, during a subsequent search of his home and car.

In a Dec. 30 phone interview, Chief Criminal Deputy Pat Matlock said officers first spoke with Wayne Dean Rutherford, 61, of Ocean Park, around 10:45 on Sat. Dec. 27, after receiving reports of a domestic dispute at his home in the 1400 block of 254th Street.

At the time, Rutherford told the deputies that the atmosphere inside the home was "tense," due to an escalating conflict with his son. However, the son was not home at the time and Rutherford said he planned to leave, according to a deputy's report.

Later, Matlock said officers ran a background check on Rutherford and learned that he had an outstanding warrant in Douglas County, Wash., for possession and sale of stolen firearms. In subsequent phone conversations, Rutherford's son in-

formed deputies that the older man had a stockpile of guns and ammunition, even though his felony conviction makes it illegal for him to possess weapons. The son also said his father had hinted that he might shoot other members of the household, or commit "suicide by cop."

## Downtown Ocean Park

After learning about Rutherford's warrant, a team of about four deputies decided to try to arrest Rutherford, but agreed that it would be unsafe to return to the home.

The officers waited for Rutherford to leave, then pulled him over. However, Rutherford initially ignored the police and did not pull over until he reached the parking lot of Jack's County Store. Matlock said the deputies did not intend for Rutherford to park in such a busy area.

Matlock said that when Rutherford stopped, the deputies treated it as a potentially volatile situation, drawing their guns and asking the man to exit his vehicle with his hands in the air.

"We treated it as a high-risk stop," Matlock said. "We take due caution with that."

According to the report, Rutherford initially refused to obey commands, but decided to comply after deputies threatened to use a stun-

gun. Rutherford was arrested and transported to jail for his outstanding warrant.

Based on the son's report that his father allegedly had numerous weapons, officers secured a warrant to search the home and car. Matlock said they found live ammunition inside the home. A search of the vehicle revealed "Hundreds of rounds of ammo and numerous loaded magazines," as well as three loaded pistols and nine rifles, including one AR-15 rifle.

Two of the pistols were found on the passenger's seat, and the AR-15 and at least one pistol were loaded, Matlock said. "As you can see there was a reason why (deputies) had the guns out."

Matlock said it's still not clear whether Rutherford seriously intended to follow through on his alleged threats. If he had a specific plan, he did not tell officers about it.

"He did state to one of the officers, 'Don't worry, they weren't loaded for you.' I don't know if he had a beef with somebody else or what," Matlock said.

Rutherford has already been extradited to Douglas County. He has not yet been charged with any crime in Pacific County, but he could be charged on suspicion of as many as 12 counts of felon in possession of a firearm, Matlock said.

# First baby born on the North Coast this year

The Daily Astorian

Nova Grace Cramblit, a 7-pound, 8-ounce baby girl, was the first baby born in hospital on the North Coast in the new year.

Nova, who was 19-and-a-half inches long, was born at 6:52 a.m. Thursday at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria.

Her mother is Contessa

Angus of Astoria. Her father is Joshua Cramblit.

"It is the coolest thing ever because my birthday is on (Dec.) 30th, and I thought she'd come then. And then my stepson was the 31st — and I didn't want her to come then because I didn't want it to ruin his birthday. He's little; he wouldn't understand. And then here she came yesterday. It was great," said Angus, the manager of The Chart Room.

# Learn to volunteer at The Harbor

Looking for a way to give back to the community; help individuals who have been affected by domestic violence and/or sexual assault; and increase job skills?

The Harbor holds volunteer training 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 20. Learn the basics in compassionate communication; crisis intervention; active listening; the impact of oppression on individuals and communities; domestic violence and the law; and more. The training includes educators from The Harbor, as well as experienced guest speakers from the community.

The Harbor has volunteer

opportunities at the shelter during community events and special projects. Some volunteers work in its client service office, Déjà Vu's donation center and as ongoing advocates for individuals accessing services.

All volunteers will need to attend the first training Jan. 20. Training requirements vary depending on the type of volunteer position. Contact Chris Wright, volunteer coordinator for The Harbor, at 503-325-3426. Or stop by the office at 1361 Duane St. above Déjà Vu in downtown Astoria to receive a volunteer application packet.

# Astoria officer McNeary promoted to sergeant

The Daily Astorian

Chris McNeary, an Astoria Police officer, was promoted to sergeant effective Thursday.

McNeary, who has worked at the department since 2000, serves as an instructor for the drug recognition expert program, firearms, defensive tactics, standardized sobriety tests, taser and other

An emergency medical technician, McNeary also is a member of the Clatsop

County Underwater Rescue Team.

As sergeant, McNeary will supervise a work team of officers.

"Sgt. McNeary has been a valuable member of the Astoria Police Department since he was hired," Chief Brad Johnston said in a statement. "He has been a leader in the department for many years. It is a pleasure to be able to move him into a formal leadership role. He was a clear choice for this opportunity."



Sgt. Chris McNeary

# Flu yet to reach Oregon, but bad year expected

This year's flu season is now an epidemic, meaning it's widespread nationally. But levels in Oregon are still minimal.

Flu activity is high in 22 states and Puerto Rico, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Oregon is only seeing sporadic cases.

But Dr. Paul Cieslak of the State Health

Department says flu season usually comes later in Oregon.

"I fear that it will be a bad season for two reasons. One is that the major circulating strain is H3, and that tends to be worse than H1 or the Bs," Cieslak said. "So that in and of itself is a predictor of a bad flu year. And the second

thing is, of course, the trouble with the vaccine." The CDC says this year's vaccine doesn't match the viruses currently circulating.

The Washington State Health Department says seven flu deaths have been lab-confirmed there in the last couple of weeks. — Oregon Public Broadcasting

# 'In Their Footsteps' talk set for Jan. 18

The Daily Astorian

The "In Their Footsteps" series, hosted by Lewis and Clark National Historical Park and Fort Clatsop, continues with a free talk, "I Am Always on the Women's Side — Vignettes of the Civil War," by Karen Haas at 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18.

Haas is a storyteller, music teacher, curator, tour guide and living history performer.

Her talk will cover researched diaries, letters and songs written by women impacted by the Civil War. Haas' presentation will introduce six historic women

from all sides and walks of life at that time. The audience will meet these women striving to survive in a time of violence, turmoil, and societal change.

The monthly Sunday "In Their Footsteps" forums are sponsored by the Lewis & Clark National Park Association and the park. These programs are held in the Netul River Room of Fort Clatsop's visitor center and are free of charge.

For more information, call the park at (503) 861-2471, visit [www.nps.gov/lewi](http://www.nps.gov/lewi) or <http://on.fb.me/13N4cst>.



Historian and storyteller Karen Haas demonstrates mid-19th century weaving techniques during an annual Weaving Weekend on the San Juan Island.

National Park Service

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