

Astoria Police chief rear-ended

Other driver was arrested for DUII

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston, driving an unmarked police car, stopped for a pedestrian at Commercial and 10th streets in As-

toria Wednesday afternoon, when he was rear-ended by another driver.

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene at 3:26 p.m. Wednesday and arrested the driver, Shelly Allen, 45, for

driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Allen was transported to Clatsop County Jail.

No injuries were reported from the accident, and the vehicles sustained minor damage.

The Astoria Police Department announced the ac-

cident on its Facebook page Wednesday night.

"We were going to wait to share the inevitable article. Since it appears to be running around Facebook and we have had to answer a few personal messages we decided to post it tonight," APD wrote on Facebook.



Submitted photo

Jason Bigby, right, of Bigby Tree Specialists was honored by the Astoria School District Board of Directors, including board Chairman Martin Dursse, for his work around its campuses.

School District honors Jason Bigby

The Astoria School District Board of Directors honored Jason Bigby, owner of and arborist for Bigby's Tree Service, at its Wednesday regular board meeting.

Over the past several years, Big-

by donated various arbor services and removal of brush throughout the district.

"Jason's efforts significantly improve the safety of students and staff on campus while enhancing curb appeal

and community pride," said Superintendent Craig Hoppes in a release.

The school board honored Bigby's donation of more than 30 hours of labor, along with discounts totaling more than \$3,000, in just the past two years.

Astoria Riverwalk assault unfounded

By KYLE SPURR
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The 19-year-old Astoria woman who reported being assaulted by a stranger on the Astoria Riverwalk Tuesday night had actually known the person and no assault occurred.

The person she described as her attacker can be seen with her on a surveillance video at several locations in the time before the attack, according to Astoria Police.

"Given the number of probably false statements that the reporting party has made, there is no reason to believe that an attack by a stranger occurred," Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston said.

The woman contacted the Astoria Police at 11:12 p.m. Tuesday to report the assault. She initially reported that she was walking on the Astoria Riverwalk when she was grabbed from the rear.

Video shows the woman walking with the suspect and introducing him to another couple they encountered on the Riverwalk. She was then seen having a conversation with the suspect near Safeway, where he went into the store leaving her outside so that he was not confronted about purchasing alcohol while accompanied by the minor, according to police.

They rejoined each other then proceeded to walk home

while sharing alcohol he had purchased.

On Wednesday, police detectives contacted the suspect, a 22-year-old Astoria resident. He cooperated and his statement about the incident matched the video evidence and witness statements.

On Thursday, police detectives contacted the victim again. She changed several significant portions of her report to police.

She now says she was not attacked by a stranger but had an

encounter with the man that began as consensual, but that he did not stop when asked to do so.

"It is unfortunate in this circumstance that we have a report that causes public alarm and a general feeling of being unsafe in a particularly popular location," Johnston said. "We support victims of sexual assault and will aggressively investigate each and every reported sexual assault.

Astoria Police will continue to investigate remaining allegations the woman made.

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Words cannot express my gratitude to those that stopped to assist me after hitting a deer near the John Day boat launch Feb. 9th.

To the woman that made sure I was all right and helped me into the boat launch parking lot; to the gentleman from ODOT for moving the deer out of the roadway and also making sure I was ok; to the Clatsop County Sheriff's Deputy that stayed with me until the State Police arrived; and also to the State Police Officer for his kindness...

Thank you all!
Susan Hillen

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PRESIDENTS DAY CLOSURES

In observance of Presidents Day on Monday, all federal, state, county and city offices and services, including Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach city halls, are closed. All U.S. post offices are closed and there is no mail delivery, including express mail packages.

Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Warrenton/Hammond, Seaside (including Cannon Beach and Gearhart schools) and Ocean Beach School District schools and Clatsop Community College are closed.

The Astoria Library, Seaside Library, Warrenton Library and all Timberland libraries in Washington, including Ilwaco, Ocean Park and Naselle, are closed.

The Port of Astoria offices and services are closed.

Garbage collection through Recology Western Oregon (covering Astoria, Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach), city of Warrenton garbage collection, and Peninsula

Sanitation (covering the Long Beach (Wash.) Peninsula) are not affected by the holiday. Recology Western Oregon and Peninsula Sanitation's transfer stations are open.

The Sunset Pool in Seaside is open. The Astoria Aquatic Center is open.

The Clatsop County Heritage Museum is closed, the Oregon Film Museum and Flavel House are open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Carriage House is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Uppertown Firefighters' Museum is closed for the winter. Capt. Gray's Port of Play and Lil' Sprouts are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fort Clatsop is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Columbia River Maritime Museum is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Seaside Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunset Empire Transportation ("The Bus") is running. The Daily Astorian offices are open, and the newspaper is printed and delivered as usual.

Boaters meet to organize club

The Astoria Yacht Club Kayak and Small Boat Club is holding an organizational meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Astoria Yacht Club, 300 Industry St., Suite 201 (West End Mooring Basin, upstairs on the northwest corner, above Tiki Charters).

Paddlers and small boat enthusiasts are welcome.

Clam chowder will be served, and donations will be accepted. RSVP by Saturday

to tobybackwater@gmail.com or call 503-325-0819.

For information, go to www.astoriayachtclub.com

For online updates:
dailyastorian.com

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