

# Police car vs. elk collision delays local man's trip to jail

By NATALIE ST. JOHN  
EO Media Group

HIGHWAY 101 NORTH, Wash. — A Long Beach man's trip to jail was briefly postponed Monday, when two elk slammed into the side of the police cruiser.

According to a Washington State Patrol report, Long Beach Police officer Michael Parker, 38, was driving Gary Clifford Burke, 60, of Long

**'The elk didn't remain on scene.'**

— Sgt. Brad Moon  
Washington State Patrol

Beach, northbound on U.S. Highway 101 around 1:20 a.m., when he suddenly came upon a herd of elk in the road, around milepost 17. Monday

afternoon, Police Chief Flint Wright said there were elk on the road, so Parker "was creeping along" at about 15 mph. But two of the elk apparently didn't see Parker.

"It sounds like the elk actually came out from the side and T-boned him," Wright said. "All the damage is on the side of the car — (they) plowed into the side of the car."

Neither man was seriously injured, but both were trans-

ported by ambulance to Ocean Beach Hospital as a precaution.

On Monday morning, WSP Sgt. Brad Moon said that the collision shattered the driver's side window and windshield in Parker's 2005 Ford Crown Victoria. The car was towed from the scene, and is now in the city shop.

According to Moon, the elk were probably injured, but responders couldn't find them.

"The elk didn't remain on scene," Moon explained.

The reports says both men were using seatbelts. Parker was not cited for any driving infractions. He believes Parker was exercising reasonable caution, but WSP is responsible for determining what caused the crash, and whether any further action is necessary.

"Police do not investigate their own accidents," Wright said. As far as he knows, this is

the first time a Long Beach Officer has had an accident while transporting an arrestee.

Pacific County Jail records show that Burke had been arrested between midnight at 1 a.m., on suspicion of harassment, first-degree burglary and intimidation of a public servant. He was booked at Pacific County Jail after being cleared at the hospital. Monday morning, he remained in custody on \$150,000 bail.

# Is an underwater volcano 300 miles off the mouth erupting?

Columbia Basin Bulletin

Axial Seamount, an active underwater volcano located about 300 miles off the coast of Oregon and Washington, appears to be erupting — after two scientists had forecast that such an event would take place there in 2015.

Geologists Bill Chadwick of Oregon State University and Scott Nooner of the University of North Carolina Wilmington made their forecast last September during a public lecture and followed it up with blog posts and a reiteration of their forecast just last week at a scientific workshop.

They based their forecast on some of their previous research — funded by the National Science Foundation

and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which showed how the volcano inflates and deflates like a balloon in a repeatable pattern as it responds to magma being fed into the seamount.

Since Friday, the region has experienced thousands of tiny earthquakes — a sign that magma is moving toward the surface — and the seafloor dropped by 2.4 meters, or nearly eight feet, also a sign of magma being withdrawn from a reservoir beneath the summit. Instrumentation recording the activity is part of the NSF-funded Ocean Observatories Initiative. William Wilcock of the University of Washington first observed the earthquakes.

"It isn't clear yet whether the earthquakes and deflation at

Axial are related to a full-blown eruption, or if it is only a large intrusion of magma that hasn't quite reached the surface," said Chadwick, who works out of OSU's Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport and also is affiliated with NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory. "There are some hints that lava did erupt, but we may not know for sure until we can get out there with a ship."

## No threat to residents

In any case, the researchers say, such an eruption is not a threat to coastal residents. The earthquakes at Axial Seamount are small and the seafloor movements gradual and thus cannot cause a tsunami.

"I have to say, I was having doubts about the forecast even

the night before the activity started," Chadwick admitted. "We didn't have any real certainty that it would take place — it was more of a way to test our hypothesis that the pattern we have seen was repeatable and predictable."

Axial Seamount provides scientists with an ideal laboratory, not only because of its close proximity to the Northwest coast, but for its unique structure.

"Because Axial is on very thin ocean crust, its 'plumbing system' is simpler than at most volcanoes on land that are often complicated by other factors related to having a thicker crust," said Chadwick, who is an adjunct professor in OSU's College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences. "Thus

Axial can give us insights into how volcano magma systems work — and how eruptions might be predicted."

Axial Seamount last erupted in 2011 and that event was loosely forecast by Chadwick and Nooner, who had said in 2006 that the volcano would erupt before 2014. Since the 2011 eruption, additional research led to a refined forecast that the next eruption would be in 2015 based on the fact that the rate of inflation had increased by about 400 percent since the last eruption.

"We've learned that the supply rate of magma has a big influence on the time between eruptions," Nooner said. "When the magma rate was lower, it took 13 years between eruptions. But now when the

magma rate is high, it took only four years."

Chadwick and Nooner are scheduled to go back to Axial in August to gather more data, but it may be possible for other researchers to visit the seamount on an expedition as early as May. They hope to confirm the eruption and, if so, measure the volume of lava involved.

Evidence that was key to the successful forecast came in the summer of 2014 via measurements taken by colleagues Dave Caress and Dave Clague of Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute and Mark Zumberge and Glenn Sasagawa of Scripps Oceanographic Institution. Those measurements showed the high rate of magma inflation was continuing.

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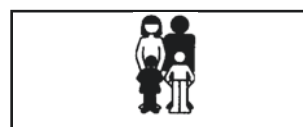
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**Supervisor for Community Support Services (CSS) Program**  
for clients with severe and persistent mental illness. This program offers a combination of day treatment and outreach delivered by a team approach. Qualifications: Masters Degree in psychology or related field, computer and writing skills; supervisory experience, Spanish speaking a plus. Alcohol and Drug experience preferred. Salary range \$50,000 to \$65,000 DOE. Requires valid DL and pass criminal history. Exceptional benefits include Medical/Dental/Retirement/Life.

**Crisis Counselor – QMHP** or eligible (relevant Master's Degree). Perform behavioral health crisis intervention services in accordance with Oregon State Law (will train). Paid contract for weeknights / weekend on-call services.

**Send resume, cover letter and references to Lois Gilmore, CBH, 65 N Hwy 101, Ste 204, Warrenton, OR 97146, fax 503-861-2043 or email [loisg@clatsopbh.org](mailto:loisg@clatsopbh.org). EOE.**

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**Bookkeeper-Full-time G/L**  
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