

Man pleads not guilty to eluding police, drug charges

By **KYLE SPURR**
The Daily Astorian

The Long Beach, Wash., man in possession of methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine when he crashed his car eluding police last week in the John Day area pleaded not guilty to multiple criminal charges.



David Ryan Huff

David Ryan Huff, 36, appeared in Clatsop County Circuit Court via video link from jail Wednesday for an arraignment hearing. He is being charged with 16 counts.

The charges include attempting to elude police with a vehicle, delivery and possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin and cocaine, reckless driving, four counts of recklessly endangering another person, five counts of second-degree criminal mischief and providing false information to a police officer.

Huff was stopped Jan. 26 by Oregon State Police for having a taillight out at milepost 89 on U.S. Highway 30. He gave a false name and then fled from the stop.

A pursuit ensued and Huff lost control near milepost 93, where he crashed into a power pole.

Highway 30 was closed for about two hours from the power lines coming down and striking three other vehicles — a milk truck, SUV and Toyota Tundra. The damage to each vehicle exceeded \$500.

A nearby fence was also damaged from the crash, according to the indictment.

Huff and his passenger, Keisha Marie Ann Jones, 24, of Long Beach, were arrested after the crash. Huff had Oregon and Washington warrants and was in possession of methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine. In addition, drug paraphernalia such as baggies and scales were found in his possession, resulting in the delivery of methamphetamine charge.

Jones was on post-prison supervision and her probation officer issued a detainer.

Huff remains in custody on \$25,000 bail.

An early resolution conference is scheduled for later this month.



Andrew Tonry/For EO Media Group

Volunteer Samantha Ferber provides artistic instruction at the celebration of the Falcon Cove Marine Reserve in Cannon Beach.

Cannon Beach celebrates nature reserve

‘Living laboratory’ to protect sea life

By **ANDREW TONRY**
For EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — From young children and grandparents to politicians, more than 100 people made their way to Cannon Beach’s Community Hall, Saturday to show off their support for the newly designated Falcon Cove Marine Reserve.

Following a similar gala two weeks prior in Manzanita, staff and volunteers from the Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve were again buoyed by the turnout — particularly that of Cannon Beach’s political class.

“I want to thank Mayor Sam Steidel and City Council members Melissa Cadwalader and Mike Benfield for coming,” volunteer Pam Jacobson said. “They attended with their community and I think that’s a really important thing.”

Jacobson extended her



Andrew Tonry/For EO Media Group

County Commissioner Lianne Thompson pitches in at the celebration of the Falcon Cove Marine Reserve in Cannon Beach.



Andrew Tonry/For EO Media Group

Lucie Menke explores her artistic side at the party for the Falcon Cove Marine Reserve in Cannon Beach.

“The overall goal of the marine reserve is to increase the abundance and diversity of life,” Chrissy Smith, outreach coordinator for the Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve said. “We look at it like a living laboratory.”

In addition to an informative presentation on the site, attendees were treated to music from Two Crows Joy and food, sweets and drinks donated from Bill’s Tavern. Youngsters were guided in printmaking by the Haystack Rock Awareness Program’s

Melissa Keyser and Samantha Ferber.

“I’m very glad that it has actually kicked off and I’m looking forward to having some successful results,” Cannon Beach resident Bob Lundy, a longtime volunteer, said. “I think the fecundity of the sea life will show because of the protection.”

Lundy said he was glad to see such a big turnout. “I didn’t know there was a huge amount of public awareness about it, but this is really encouraging.”



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Kristina and Richard Afornorpe took ownership of the Downtown Coffee Shop last month and opened Monday.

Downtown Coffee under new ownership

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Downtown Coffee Shop has reopened with a new set of owners.

Kristina and Richard Afornorpe opened Monday, after taking over from Hayley Clark last month.

“We were looking for another business,” said Kristina Afornorpe, who with her husband runs RK Bouncing House, which rents out play structures for parties.

The Afornorpes overhauled the decor of the coffee shop and added hamburgers, pizza, hot dogs and soft-serve ice cream to the existing offering of paninis, sandwiches, soups and pastries. They are having Columbia River Coffee Roasters create a special downtown blend for the shop, and Richard Afornorpe, who is from Ghana in West Africa, said they plan to periodically offer a “taste of Africa,” offering special ethnic dishes, such as ground peanut soup, on the menu.

“It hasn’t even been a week, and we have thousands of likes” on Facebook, Afornorpe said, adding the shop mostly has the same clientele from before.

Together 14 years, the Afornorpes met somewhat serendipitously. Kristina Afornorpe, from Astoria, was browsing an online dating site.

Richard Afornorpe, in a suburb of Accra, the capital of Ghana, had ducked into an Internet cafe to escape a flash flood, before logging on and eventually meeting his future wife.

The two have been foster parents together and adopted six children, ages 6 to 21. They bought a bounce house for their youngest. They now rent out bounce houses throughout the Lower Columbia region, and used the profits to buy the coffee shop. With all her kids in school or grown, and after two years of being a stay-at-home mother, Kristina Afornorpe said it was time to get out of the house.

“I had always wanted to own a coffee shop,” she said. “It was a high school dream.”

Audit will investigate possible fraud in energy tax credits

By **HILLARY BORRUD**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Secretary of State’s office plans to investigate whether poor record keeping at the state Department of Energy could have hidden fraud in the controversial business energy tax credit program.

Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins said the agency will hire a contractor with forensic audit experience to conduct the inquiry, after energy agency director Michael Kaplan acknowledged the lack of records in a meeting with Atkins, her top staffers and advisers to Gov. Kate Brown in early January. The state Audits Division is housed at the Oregon Secretary of State’s Office.

The business energy tax credit existed for more than three decades and drew little attention, until the Legislature and former Gov. Ted Kulongoski greatly expanded the program in 2007. The state issued tax credits worth nearly \$1 billion between 2007 and

2014, when lawmakers ended the program.

Brown’s administration is conducting a performance review of the Department of Energy following news reports about problems last year, and the governor’s staff set out specifically to resolve remaining problems with the business energy tax credits. Democratic leaders in the Legislature also formed a committee this year to explore whether to overhaul or eliminate the Department of Energy.

Atkins said in an interview Wednesday morning that the Department of Energy might not have the documents necessary to justify the tax credits it issued, which companies and wealthy individuals have used to reduce their Oregon tax bills.

“During the course of that conversation, the director (Michael Kaplan) was

very straightforward about concerns that the record keeping around the (business energy tax) credits was in many instances flawed, that the files that record all of the

different processes that led to the tax deductions are not necessarily in great shape,” Atkins said of the Jan. 7 meeting with Kaplan and the governor’s staff. “What that might mean for whether there are problems with any of these (tax credits) is an unknown ... The question for us was, was it worth looking behind that bad record keeping and see if there are indications of something else that needs to be investigated.”

decided they should investigate. Atkins chose to hire a contractor in large part because state auditors already have a full slate of audits scheduled for 2016.

The state was supposed to issue tax credits to companies and government agencies only after those entities provided documentation they completed the promised investments in renewable energy and efficiency projects. But The Oregonian reported last year that paperwork for tax credits issued for solar projects at the Oregon Institute of Technology and Oregon State University appeared to be fraudulent.

Emails released by the Department of Energy Wednesday afternoon showed that after The Oregonian’s story, Kaplan presented Brown’s staff with a request for additional energy staffers to review business energy tax credit files for errors and potential fraud.



Jeanne Atkins

WANTED
Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber
Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA
Contact: Steve Axtell • 360-430-0885 or John Anderson • 360-269-2500

We would like to personally thank everyone, from agencies to individuals, who were involved in the rescue efforts to save Kyle Harkless and his son Logan. We are so grateful for everything. We can't thank you enough.
Sincerely, the family of Kyle Harkless

CONCEAL CARRY PERMIT CLASS
Oregon - Utah Valid 35 States
February 13th
1PM or 6PM
Best Western: 555 Hamburg Ave, Astoria
OR/Utah—valid in WA \$80 or Oregon only \$45
www.FirearmTrainingNW.com | FirearmTrainingNW@gmail.com
360-921-2071

Pork Chop Dinner
with Scalloped Potatoes, Veggies & Salad Bar
ulu Dan Reed
Friday Feb. 5th
4 pm 'til gone
\$8.00
6PM “Karaoke Dave”
ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION
Clatsop Post 12
1132 Exchange Street 325-5771

NIPPLES OF VENUS
Belgian chocolate truffles
Only at
Lucy’s Books & Pat’s Pantry
Downtown Astoria
Made by & benefiting
NORTH COAST FOOD WEB