

POLICE NEWS

CRIMESTOPPERS

Senior Auto Accident Scam

Portland Police Bureau Elder Crimes Detectives, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in locating and apprehending a woman who is targeting elderly motorists in a phony auto accident scam. Since February, of this year, eight cases have been reported in Portland. In all cases, the victims have been females over seventy-five years of age.

The suspect's M.O. is to watch for a senior motorist leaving a grocery store, or other parking lot, and follow them home. The suspect then confronts the victim, claiming that the victim's car struck and damaged her car in the parking lot. The suspect intimidates the victim, claiming if she, the suspect, files an accident report, the victim will either lose her license,

her insurance will go up, or both. The suspect then offers to forget the matter if the victim will pay her for the damage, which she claims is anywhere from \$250 to \$500.

The suspect takes the victim's money and leaves, but usually returns within the same day and tells the victim that the damage is far greater than first thought. Once again intimidating the victim, the suspect says she needs anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000 more, to repair her car, or she will file a report.

The suspect, who uses a first name of "Wedda," is described as a white female, 35 to 40 years of age, 5'5 tall, and weighs approximately 155 to 160 pounds, with hair that is dyed "strawberry blond." Crime Stoppers is offering a

cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.



Accused Killer To Testify

ASTORIA, OREGON — Accused Seaside Beach thrill killer Bradley Price is slated to take the witness stand in his own defense in his trial in Astoria today. Price and Jesse

McAllister are accused of killing Gabriella Goza and Frank Nimz Junior on the beach in Seaside in the summer of 1997. McAllister is accused of being the triggerman and is

already serving a life prison term. Court observers say this will be the most important day of the trial for Price who has maintained he tried to stop the killings.

Body Found In The Columbia River

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on May 24, 1999 a Coast Guard crew spotted what they thought was a body floating approximately 2-3 miles upriver from the I-5 Bridge on the Columbia River. The Coast Guard called the Multnomah County Sheriff's office and a patrol boat was dispatched to the area. River Patrol Deputies recovered the body of a Caucasian adult male.

Sheriff's deputies believe the body is that of 39 year old Hans Oesch. Mr. Oesch crashed into the Columbia River in a light plane on January 8th, 1999 along with his passenger Kimberley E.

Kelley. Ms. Kelley's body was recently recovered in the Columbia River. Deputies found Mr. Oesch's driver's license with the body at the time of the recovery. The body was

released to the Multnomah County Medical Examiners office who will officially identify the body and notify family members. Mr. Oesch is from Sweden.

Burglar Frightens Small Girls

Clackamas County Sheriff's officers are trying to catch a burglar in the community of Monitor that has been frightening small girls. According to the sheriff's office, the burglar apparently wants to touch small girls. He breaks into homes

during the night and touches the girls as they sleep in their beds. One little girl said she woke up to find him standing alongside her bed. He also has left pornography in some of the homes he entered. None of the girls have been injured.

Observing Vancouver

Clark County & Neighbors To Kick-Off Speed Reduction Campaign

The Clark County Public Works Department is working with neighbors to try to get motorists to slow down voluntarily in neighborhoods.

County officials are handing out "It's our neighborhood... Slow Down!" lawn signs to residents living in the unincorporated areas of Clark County (outside of city boundaries), as part of an overall effort to make drivers aware of the dangers and consequences of speeding.

"The county is focusing its campaign on making drivers more aware of the dangers and consequences of speeding, and encouraging motorists to drive more safely," said Pete Capell, Clark County Engineer. "We receive numerous complaints about speeding vehicles in neighborhoods. This campaign is one of our strategies to help reduce speeds on residential streets."

Citizens living in the unincorporated areas of Clark County are encouraged to pick up a free lawn sign with the "It's our neighborhood... Slow Down!" slo-

gan, and place it in their lawns that face the road. The distribution of the 1,250 signs will take place on Saturday, May 22 at the Clark County Public Works Operations Center, 4700 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, from 9 a.m. to noon. (Or, as long as supplies last)

In addition to the lawn signs, the county is installing larger, permanent versions of the signs onto all Clark County Neighborhood Associations signs. The "It's our neighborhood... Slow Down!" metal signs will be placed underneath the neighborhood signs that mark each entrance of the 35 neighborhood associations in the county. "The permanent signs will be a friendly, year-round reminder to motorists that speeding reduces the livability of our neighborhoods," said Holly Gaya, Clark County Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator.

The campaign kicks off just as school is preparing to let out for the summer months, and a lot of kids will be playing

throughout the neighborhoods.

"We have photo radar, and a multitude of traffic calming devices that we could use, but the person with the control is the person behind the wheel," said James Naramore, Clark County Sheriff's Deputy. "Our goal is to raise each driver's awareness, and let them know that they can make a difference in the quality of people's lives. It can also mean the difference between life and death."

The "It's our neighborhood... Slow Down!" campaign is being kicked off during National Public Works Week, May 17-22. The program was initially started by Clackamas County, Oregon, and was a huge success. Clark County is now partnering with them for the production of the lawn signs in order to reduce the individual unit cost.

For more information, please contact the Clark County Customer Service Representative at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4444.

Golf Tournament To Benefit Retired And Senior Volunteer Program

American Express Financial Advisors and the City of Vancouver Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) invite golfers to play for fun and prizes at the 18th Annual RSVP/Jim Chriss Memorial Golf Tournament at Tri-Mountain Golf Course, 1701 NW 299th St. in Ridgefield. The Tournament is scheduled Friday, June 25, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"American Express Financial Advisors (AEFA) welcomes the opportunity to participate in this important community event," says Frank Mossett, Field Vice Presi-

dent for American Express Financial Advisors. "We look forward to a great day of golfing to raise funds to support the efforts of volunteers who benefit mature citizens of Southwest Washington."

The entry fee is \$65 per person or \$260 per foursome. Golfers can sign up as individuals to be matched with other players, or sign up as a team. Entry fee includes golf cart, golf accessories, door prizes, refreshments, lunch buffet and awards. A prize raffle will feature a week's stay in Waikiki Beach sponsored by Riverview Savings Bank

(airfare not included).

Players of all ages and abilities are welcome. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit RSVP. "It is exciting to work with so many talented and caring people who are putting this tournament together, from many different business and social organizations in Clark County," says volunteer Constance Gualden, Personal Financial Planner with AEFA. "This is a community that takes care of its venerable adults."

To register for the tournament call Judy Davis at 576-9985.

City To Hold Public Hearing On Property Sale

A public hearing is scheduled Monday, June 7, before the Vancouver City Council for the purpose of approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City and the Clark College Foundation. The Agreement provides that the City would convey approximately 4.8 acres of property south of Fourth Plain Boulevard and west of Fort

Vancouver Way within the City's Central Park District.

The property was acquired by the City from the federal government in 1974 and is undeveloped, except for a pathway connecting Fort Vancouver Way with Fourth Plain Boulevard. In exchange for receiving title to the property, the Clark College Foundation has

agreed to improve pedestrian access, provide lighting and utilize the property in conformity with the Clark College Master Plan and the Central Park Master Plan. For additional information, contact Kelly Puntney at Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Services, 696-8173.

National Neighborhood Award Goes To The Columbian

The Columbian newspaper is one of seven organizations from across the U.S. selected to receive the prestigious Neighborhoods U.S.A. (NUSA) Notable Award. The award was accepted on behalf of The Columbian by Vancouver Mayor Royce E. Pollard on Thurs-

day, May 27, during the annual Neighborhoods USA Conference in Madison, Wis.

The Notables Award is reserved for those "silent partners" who provide important contributions to the community.

The City of Vancouver's Office of Neighborhoods nominated The Columbian for the exceptional contributions it makes which help citizens connect to government, to one another and to understand how they can make a difference in their community.

Master Plan Completed For Fir Garden Park

Clark Parks & Recreation Services has completed a final master plan for Fir Garden Park. The park is east of NE 155th Avenue and north of NE 42nd Street. Planned improvements include an enhanced entry from NE 43rd Street, signage,

concrete/asphalt access to the playground, general site grading, play equipment, bench, drinking fountain and lawn seeding.

The timeline for construction includes ground breaking in the middle of July, with park dedica-

tion in November.

Copies of the master plan are available by calling Rodney Wojtanik at Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Services, 696-8171 ext. 8426.

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