

Police News/Vancouver

Drinking & driving is not only dangerous, it's costly

DUII conviction can cost thousands of dollars

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"Many drivers stay sober simply because it's the safe thing to do, but for others, money talks," said John Vrijmoet, general manager of Progressive Insurance in Oregon. "When people know the dollar and cents costs of a DUII conviction, it gives them yet another reason to avoid the risks of driving under the influence."

In Oregon, the penalties for a first-time offense of driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUII) include fines as high as \$5,000, license suspension, and/or up to one year in jail. The offender can expect to pay bondsmen fees, lawyer fees, and court costs that often total thousands of dollars.

In addition, insurance coverage may be terminated, or at the very least, insurance premiums will increase for the convicted driver. The increase varies by company, state and individual.

According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, there were 22,841 DUII arrests in the state during 1998, and seven alcohol-related fatalities during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Law enforcement is taking aggressive steps against drunk driving, and with all the excitement of Y2K, there will be increased enforcement over the holidays.

As of January 1, 2000, a fourth DUII conviction (in a 10-year period) will carry a maximum five-year jail sentence, \$100,000 fine, or both. This new Oregon law also imposes a minimum \$1,000 fine on first-time offenders.

A DUII is cited in Oregon when drivers have a blood alcohol level (BAC) of 0.08 percent or higher. For many drivers, a 0.08 percent BAC could register after a single five-ounce glass of wine, 12-ounce beer, or shot of 80-proof liquor.

"We encourage Oregon drivers to use good judgment while celebrating this holiday season," Vrijmoet said. "That includes knowing your limits and calling a cab for yourself or a friend after drinking."

Crimestoppers

Crime Stoppers Case # 99-50 Homicide

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in identifying the person or persons responsible for a homicide.

On Thursday, July 22, 1999, at approximately 7:20 in the morning, a janitor at Cherry Park Elementary School, located at 1930 SE 104th Avenue, discovered the body of a young man behind the school. The victim, identified as 16-year-old Ram Singh of Southeast Portland, died of an apparent gunshot wound to the head.

According to neighborhood residents, the sound of loud pop, followed by several cars leaving the area, was heard at about 12:30 in the morning. Investigators would like to speak with any witnesses that may have been at the location.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information,



reported to Crime Stoppers, which 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. Investigator: Detective Frank Jolly Portland Police Bureau (503) 823-4814 Alternate Crime Stoppers Coordinator: Officer John Wrigley Portland Police Bureau (503) 823-4357 (503) 823-0830

Clark County moves forward with Y2K readiness measures

Sheriff's Office and Public Works Department prepared to respond to emergency situations if necessary

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Clark County has been planning for Y2K for a while, now only a week away; final preparations are now being completed.

Sheriff's Office staffing at full bore. For the Clark County Sheriff's Office, much of the forces are on deterring problems and on being ready to respond to them should they occur. Their plans encompass the entire weekend, not just New Year's Eve, with commanders on duty as well as additional deputies and reserve deputies working patrol in each precinct.

Arrangements have been made for emergency back up plans in case either precinct loses power.

"Although we don't anticipate any specific problems," said Chief Criminal

Deputy Mike Evans, "we will be active over the entire New Year's weekend. We will be responding to reports of activities that are in violation of local ordinances as well as state law, and we will be making arrests or issuing citations to violators. We will be responding to reports of

activities that are in violation of local ordinances as well as state law, and we will be making arrests or issuing citations to violators. We will be paying particular attention to driving activities, especially to drunk driving violations."

Evans added that there would be heightened security for the courthouse and the jail.

"We are asking county resident to celebrate responsibly." Evans emphasized "Identify designated drivers and be patients with one another. Staying safe is the best way to see in the New Year."

Public Works ready to assist The county's Public works

department will be on-call to the Clark Region Coordination agency in case of a major event, as well as available to other government agencies that may need assistance.

"The county has anticipated and prepared for any major events during the New Year celebrations," said Bruce Cross, Public

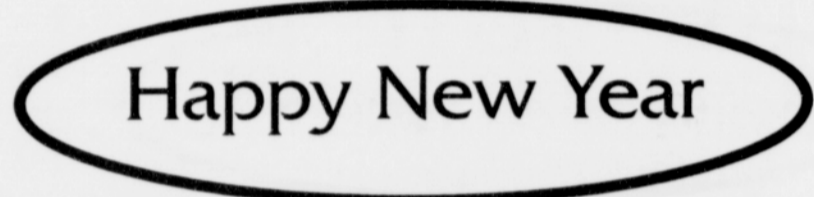
Works Deputy Director. "We have purchased and installed four generators at key intersections in Clark County in case of power interruption. We also have an additional fuel truck that is full, and on-hand to service the motor pool. Our fuel pumps are Y2K compliant, but we need to take every precaution and be ready to assist other agencies in need."

A staffing plan is prepared and in place to call out workers, should they be needed. "We have an action plan in place and ready to go should it be necessary," said Bud Cave, Road Operations Manager.

Like the Sheriff's Office, the Public Works Department is not anticipating

"As a public agency, we have the responsibility of being prepared to assisting other governmental agencies in need. We take that responsibility very seriously," Bud Cave, Road Operations Manager

any particular problems at the stroke of midnight on January 1. "As a public agency, we have the responsibility of being prepared to assisting other governmental agencies in need. We take that responsibility very seriously," said Cave. We hope that we don't have to use any of our contingency plans, and everyone celebrates the New Year in a safe and responsible manner."



Vancouver Briefs

City invites applications for Planning Commission vacancy

The City of Vancouver is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission serves as a citizen advisory body to the City Council. Commissioners work in voluntary capacity to conduct studies and public hearings on subdivisions, comprehensive plan amendments, rezoning requests and zoning text amendment. The commission makes recommendations to the city council for review and final decisions. Applicants must live within the limits. The term runs six years. For applications or further information, contact Peggy Furno in the City Manager's Office at City Hall, 210 E. 13th St., P.O. Box 1995, and Vancouver, WA. 98668 call (360) 696-8484 or Fax (360) 696-8049. Applications must be submitted by January, 3, 2000.

Dana Vest chosen City Employee of the Year

Vancouver Manager Vernon E. Stoner has announced the selection of Dana Vest, Utility Service Inspector, as the 1999 City of Vancouver employee of the Year. Dana was originally hired in 1969 as a temporary employee for the City's and Parks Recreation in April 1972; she was hired as a full time, regular employee for the City's Finance Department.

Dana was described as one who exemplifies the spirit of going above and beyond the call of duty in the daily operation of the workgroup. As special team member and co-worker, she brings a commitment of service to the work area and represents the City well. The announcement was made at the City's annual employee awards ceremony on Dec 16.

Other awards went to: O.O Howard

Award Deanna Summerhill Hough Award: (1) Don Bivins (2) Vancouver Fire Services (3) Vancouver-Clark Parks Recreation Services D. Elwood Caples Award Christopher Sheesley Minnehaha Award" Kathy Heil Pioneer Award: Fred Jackson Mother Joseph Award: Jennie Ju McLoughlin Award: Angela Brosius Lewis and Clark Award: Printing & Mail Services.



Fed Up With BLAND CHICKEN?

SAVING THE WORLD FROM BLAND CHICKEN

REDD & ZEKE

ON A MISSION from **POPEYES**

"We've teamed up with Popeyes to spread the word about flavor. And we mean FLAVOR! Popeyes' own NEW ORLEANS SPICY or LOUISIANA MILD chicken is so packed with flavor, every bite is a PARTY FOR YOUR MOUTH! That's every bite of every way Popeyes serves it up... Chicken Boxes, Dinners, Sandwiches, Wings and Strips. Not to mention the taste-tempting side dishes and biscuits!"

"Yessir, you can COUNT ON POPEYES to deliver flavorful goodness, no matter how you love your chicken. If you are tired of death of that bland chicken those other guys serve, come on over to POPEYES. And help us in our mission to SAVE THE WORLD FROM BLAND CHICKEN!"

-Redd & Zeke

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No strings attached. Anytime something knocks out the lights, we're ready. We're here to give you fast, responsive, dependable help. Our Customer Service Center is open 24 hours a day to answer your calls. Our crews work around the clock, too. And we have teams from all over our service area prepared to offer extra help wherever there's a major outage.

Lights out? We're on it.

Now here's what you can do if the lights go out:

- Be ready!** Keep in your house: a flashlight, battery-operated radio, battery-operated clock, bottled water, manual can opener and extra batteries. If someone in your home is on life support, be sure to have a backup system and an action plan in case of an outage.
- Before you call us, check your breakers** or fuse box to make sure you don't have a tripped breaker or blown fuse. Look for lights at your neighbors'.

After you've checked, give us a call at 1-877-548-3768 to report the outage. Have your account number handy to help us work more quickly.

Turn off major appliances and other electrical equipment to prevent over loading circuits once the power's back.

Keep warm and safe. Wear a hat and extra layers of clothing. Make sure propane or kerosene heaters have proper ventilation and never burn charcoal inside your freezer.

Cover your freezer with a blanket and keep the door closed. Food should stay frozen and safe for about two days.

Turn your porch light and one inside light on. That way you and our crews will know when power is back on.

When your power returns, if your lights are dim or very bright, call again. There may still be a problem.

If there's an outage, we don't kid around. We'll get the power back as fast as we can.

To report an outage, call 1-877-548-3768 (1-877-LITESOUT).

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