

Lane County Sheriff's Office charges Park Ranger with sex crime

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

LCSO asking victims, witnesses to come forward

The Lane County Sheriff's Office reports that it arrested David Paul Bu-

chanan on charges of public indecency.

According to a press release from the agency, a report was received on July 14 alleging that a man had inappropriate contact with a girl at a local park. The report noted that the suspect had been wearing an Oregon

State Park Ranger uniform.

When deputies responded to the location, they detained Buchanan — a seasonal park ranger assistant—and questioned witnesses.

"After additional investigation, it was determined that Buchanan also matched the description of a suspect

who allegedly exposed himself to two juvenile females at Dexter Lake on June 23," the release states.

Buchanan is currently being housed at the Lane County Jail on the above charges and additional charges of first degree sex abuse.

According to the Lane County Sher-

iff's Office, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is cooperating and placed Buchanan on unpaid administrative leave.

The sheriff's office asks that if there are any additional victims or witnesses, that they contact Detective Greg Jones at 541-682-2342.

PeaceHealth, Kaiser Permanente collaborate for health care service

As part of an ongoing collaboration on healthcare delivery and coverage in Lane County, PeaceHealth began seeing Kaiser Permanente-insured patients on July 1.

Kaiser Permanente is now expanding health plan enrollment with large group employers and will be offering plans to individuals and small employer groups this fall with enrollment effective in January.

In addition to the collaboration with PeaceHealth, Kaiser Permanente's full network in Lane County includes Slocum Center for Orthopedics and Sports

Medicine, Willamette Valley Cancer Institute, and Pacific Women's Center.

"Our commitment is to work collaboratively with local providers and community non-profits to improve community health and access to quality healthcare," said Dr. Tom Harburg, Kaiser Permanente physician in charge for the Downtown Eugene Medical Office. "It's good news that many in Lane County will have access to more healthcare services and choices."

"We believe that by working together to better understand and appreciate the pa-

tient populations we jointly serve, there are opportunities to better meet health needs of more community members. This includes keeping care local whenever possible," said Dr. David Duffey, vice president and medical director, PeaceHealth Medical Group in Oregon.

This is part of a bigger collaborative effort between PeaceHealth and Kaiser Permanente Northwest.

Together, they are working to address community health needs in Lane County, as well as increase access to care in the area.

"PeaceHealth and Kaiser

Permanente share a deeply held commitment practicing preventive health — moving upstream to address the unique and specific social determinants of health that are barriers to wellness," said Dr. Duffey.

"We know it takes more than great medical care to create healthy communities," said Shannon Surber, senior administrator for Kaiser Permanente's Mid Valley Service Area. "To bring about visible improvements, we must work collaboratively within Lane County to address the social determinants that are barriers to improving the

health and wellbeing of the entire community."

In 2017, Kaiser Permanente and PeaceHealth announced a joint contribution of more than \$590,000 to ShelterCare for the creation of a transitional housing program that will provide emergency, short-term housing and support services to Lane County residents who are homeless and battling severe mental illness or medical conditions.

Kaiser Permanente opened its Eugene Downtown Medical Office, 100 W. 13th St., and the Valley River Dental Office, 1011 Valley

River Way, in January 2016.

Kaiser Permanente currently serves about 8,000 patients in Lane County, including out-of-state members and Medicaid patients.

PeaceHealth offers a number of medical services in Oregon, including four medical centers located in Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove and Florence. In addition, 20 PeaceHealth Medical Group clinics provide primary care and specialty services throughout Lane County with specialty outreach to adjacent counties.

New OSHA rules to add protections, reduce pesticide risks beginning in 2019

SALEM — Oregon OSHA has adopted rules that increase protections against the risk of pesticides drifting off their mark when spraying occurs outdoors. The rules, which exceed federal requirements, will take effect Jan. 1, 2019.

The rules expand a protective zone; extend the evacuation period; require doors, windows, and air intakes to be closed during pesticide applications; and require storage for shoes and boots to prevent tracking of pesticides into worker housing.

Pesticide drift outside a treated area is al-

ready illegal. However, Oregon OSHA's rules further address the risk by adding safeguards for workers and their families who rely on farm housing.

At issue is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ). The zone is adjacent to — but outside of — the pesticide-treated area. It provides an added level of protection beyond the safeguards enforced with respect to the treated area itself.

The EPA's rule requires people to move 100 feet away from an area being treated with pes-

ticides. However, it was designed for workers in the field. It did not account for the interaction of the AEZ with worker housing and other agricultural structures.

Oregon OSHA's rules exceed those of the EPA in other ways, including: For pesticides that require applicators to use respirators, the AEZ expands to 150 feet — 50 feet more than the EPA rule. People must stay out of the zone for an additional 15 minutes. There is no option to stay indoors.

For all pesticide applications, doors and windows must be shut, and air intakes must

be turned off before people evacuate or remain inside an enclosed agricultural structure. During evacuation, the EPA rule does not include such requirements.

Closeable storage areas for shoes or boots must be provided to prevent tracking of pesticides into worker housing. The EPA rule includes no such requirements.

Employers must adhere to notification and instruction requirements, including informing people of the start and stop times of pesticide spray, and providing them with instructions to close windows, doors, and air intakes.

Distracted Driving

Driving safety involves a comprehensive set of standards that applies at all times for all drivers sharing the road. It is a privilege and a responsibility to have a driver's license.

That's why distracted driving has come to be the focus of many safety organizations across

the country.

Distracted driving is a top safety concern, and it is caused by participating in a variety of activities that can draw your focus from the road. Even a simple action such as sending a quick text to a friend or family member can divert your attention long enough to put you

or your passengers in serious danger.

COMMON DISTRACTING ACTIVITIES

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 3,179 people were killed and 431,000 were injured in motor vehicles involving distracted drivers in 2014. Here are the most common distracted-driving activities, according to the NHTSA:

- Texting
- Using a cell phone and smartphone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD player or MP3 player

MOST DANGEROUS ACTIVITY

Due to certain factors, some activities pose the greatest risks. Texting is a modern-day safety dilemma, and because it is a multi-dimensional activity, it is now considered the most dangerous by many in the transportation safety industry. Sending an average text takes a driver only five seconds, but your car can still travel a consider-

able distance during that timespan. The NHTSA reports that teen drivers — who also are the most tech-savvy drivers on the road — are the most distracted drivers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The statistics related to distracted driving are startling. Many drivers, innocent passengers and even pedestrians are impacted if you take your eyes off the road. Some victims have to live with permanent injuries. Drivers are responsible for not only their lives but the lives of every passenger, as well as by-standers. Wondering how you can help keep our roads a safer place? Education is the most effective tool in persuading the public to avoid these activities and make safe driving a priority. Contact your local safety organization today to find out if there are volunteering opportunities at local events or schools. Share this article with others. Do whatever you can to spread the word on distracted driving and its negative impact on the roads we all share.

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