

# CGPD officer pleads not guilty of drug theft

A criminal complaint was unsealed Thursday alleging Phillip Allan Beach, 48, of Cottage Grove, knowingly and intentionally took possession of a controlled substance by misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception or subterfuge.

As alleged in the criminal complaint, in May 2015, an evidence coordinator at the Cottage Grove Police Department (CGPD) reported to their supervisor that Beach accessed the department's evidence locker more frequently than other officers and seemed to do so for no apparent purpose.

The coordinator said that

Beach would repeatedly access the same evidence bag. A CGPD commander later examined the bag and observed that it was open and two plastic bags inside containing several ounces of methamphetamine crystals had been sliced open.

In June 2015, CGPD began an investigation of Beach's conduct and placed two hidden cameras inside the evidence locker.

On June 11, 2015, Beach was recorded on video entering the locker without signing the evidence log and accessing the evidence bag previously examined by the commander.

The video shows Beach taking a small plastic baggie from his pants pocket and using it to take a small portion of meth from the evidence bag. Investigators later weighed the evidence bag and found a 7.3 gram-remainder in weight.

CGPD's investigation revealed that between March 2010 and June 2015, Beach accessed numerous pieces of drug evidence from multiple cases.

For example, Beach would indicate at times that he was taking drugs from the secured evidence locker to send to the crime lab for testing, but no drugs were

sent. On at least one occasion, Beach is alleged to have replaced methamphetamine he had taken from an evidence bag with salt to conceal his actions.

Beach made an initial appearance Thursday in federal court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jolie A. Russo.

Beach entered a not-guilty plea and was released pending trial.

A criminal complaint is only an accusation of a crime, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

## Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"



### Bow Wow Around Town

Is your dog upset for missing the super-fun Puppy Pool Party? Here is a chance to make it up to your furry fave! The Humane Society of Cottage Grove's volunteers and their dogs invite you to celebrate at Saturday's 12th Annual Bow Wow Around Town fundraising walk.

"The donations help homeless puppies and kittens, stray and unwanted animals, neuter/spay program, food for homeless families' pets, and medical expenses for found and feral cats," said Janetta Overholser, president of The Humane Society of Cottage Grove.

"Bow Wow Around Town is like a fun club where paw-ticipants meet for a two-mile walk once a year," said HSCG volunteer Kathy. "It feels like a gathering of friends. Everyone enjoys seeing the rescued dogs and how love has molded them into healthier and happier pets. The walk is a way to socialize dogs, meet K9 loving neighbors, and new next-best friends — for both you and your dogs. We've had up to 30 canines and their parents gather in the park before the walk meeting each other."

Kathy explained that some people who don't have a dog come to visit the dogs, or walk with them, and may also make an appreciated donation. She described the volunteers as a dog-dedicated mix of single people, families with one or more dogs, couples and even caring neighbors who borrow a dog just to meet others like them.

"Not only are the people excited to come," said Penni, mother to three dogs, "so are their dogs, who happily wag their tails greeting each other. It's a friendly, low-key walk with no drama. Everyone has lots of time to mingle on the two-mile loop along River Road to Cottage Grove High School, down R Street to Main Street, through Silk Creek Park and back to our cars at Prospect Park."



Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe" happily announces that dog lovers are putting their canines on leashes and "pulling together" to help kittens

"Bow Wow is the first activity of autumn for my dog, Bella, and myself," said Dron. "It allows us the opportunity to enjoy the crisp autumn air and beautiful fall colors. It is wonderful being involved in another non-judgmental community activity walking for a great paws-caws. Bella loves it too."

Eva, 11-years-old, comes with her mother, Sara, and her Golden Retriever, Gus, her Grandma Becky and her dog, Koda. Eva recalls her Bow Wow Around Town experiences, "They are fun and our dogs love walking with the other dogs."

The beauty of this family paw-ticipating illustrates the joy of growing up with animals as companions and passing this love onto the next generation.

"Having a pet teaches children responsibilities," affirmed Sara. "Eva has learned how to groom, bath, exercise and feed Gus. She knows that a pet is not an object, but a part of our lives who has needs and is our responsibility to care and love them. It is beneficial socializing dogs with all kinds and sizes of dogs. After our first walk, we made September's second Saturday an annual family event. When Eva grows up maybe she will join us with her dogs and eventually her children too."

Get out of "the dog house" after you missed the last fun dog-community event. Come and meet beautiful dogs and people, and support our community's needy, injured and homeless pets. Also, if you want to adopt another pet I am sure that the Humane Society can find you the purr-fect one!

#### TIPS:

- Dogs and their leash holders gather: Saturday, Sept. 8, across from the Old Mill Farm Store at Prospect Park, 913 S. River Road, Cottage Grove
- Donations suggestion \$10 per person/\$15 family
- Dogs receive treats and a colorful scarf
- Sniff meet and greet/registration - 9:30 a.m. at covered-pickup shelter
- Walkie rambunctiously starts at 10 a.m.
- Info: [Humanesocietycg@gmail.com](mailto:Humanesocietycg@gmail.com) or their Facebook page

Share your fun, amazing or crazing pet tips and tales at [angelscribe@msn.com](mailto:angelscribe@msn.com) or Follow Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales](http://www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales). Adopt loving pets online at [www.PetFinder.com](http://www.PetFinder.com). For spay or neutering, call the Humane Society at 541-942-2789.

## Goodwill 'Rounds Up' to support veterans

Now through Saturday, Sept. 8, customers shopping at Goodwill stores in Cottage Grove, Junction City, Eugene, Springfield and Florence will have the opportunity to donate or round up their purchase for the Lane County Stand Down.

Goodwill will donate the funds received during the Round Up for Stand Down to further support the veterans in our community.

Goodwill has a Veterans Employment Specialist to provide Job Connections services at its Seneca location.

Job Connections provides individuals with opportunities for one on one job placement assistance,

resume and interview skills coaching, and referrals to local employers based on employment goals, experience and skills.

Goodwill also aids with the application and interview process, follow-up on job search progress, and access to computers, internet and telephones.

The Lane County Stand Down event takes place on Friday, October 5 from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

More information about this event can be found at [www.lanecountystanddown.org](http://www.lanecountystanddown.org), or by contacting Libby Steffen-Schafmeyer at 541-345-1801 or [libbys@goodwill-oregon.org](mailto:libbys@goodwill-oregon.org).

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**6-day weather forecast**

<b>THURSDAY</b> 81°   51° Sunny	<b>FRIDAY</b> 73°   51° Partly Cloudy
<b>SATURDAY</b> 75°   50° Partly Cloudy	<b>SUNDAY</b> 75°   48° Partly Cloudy
<b>MONDAY</b> 75°   49° Sunny	<b>TUESDAY</b> 77°   49° Sunny

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