

Many chases test police officer mettle

The Columbia Press

Police have been busy chasing down crime. Literally.

Four incidents in eight days had officers running through the woods, jumping over fences and lurking around in the dark attempting to capture suspects who bolted when police arrived.

The first involved a group of young people who'd been drinking and crashed through a fence and into a boat trailer at the Columbia River Bar Pilots' facility on Skipanon Drive, causing an estimated \$10,000 damage.

The call came in at 8:51 p.m. Sept. 25 and, when officers arrived, a teenager took off running behind the Bar Pilots' office toward the Pacific Coast Seafood plant.

Sgt. Jim Pierce gave chase, having to jump a fence at the Skipanon Condominiums before catching him on the entrance road to the seafood plant.

The 17-year-old Seaside youth, whose name was withheld because of his age, was arrested and booked at the Seaside Jail on suspicion of being a minor in possession of alcohol by consumption, driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and driving while suspended.

A 21-year-old woman from Hermiston, Brianna Leigh

See 'Chases' on Page 6



Nature takes a stroll

Photos by David Bogh

A large bull elk takes a walk along the dike at Warrenton Marina on Tuesday morning in these photos by Warrenton resident David Bogh. Last fall, amid increasing reports of aggressive elk during the mating season, the city adopted an ordinance prohibiting feeding them within city limits. This guy, however, was helping himself to fresh grass.

Seaside crash takes life of Hammond man

The Columbia Press

A Hammond man was killed Saturday and a Longview resident seriously injured when an out-of-control vehicle jumped the curb and ran into people waiting at a Seaside bus stop.

Robert Miles, 42, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Longview man, Abdirisak Mohamed, 41, was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital before being transferred to a Portland trauma hospital for treatment of serious injuries.

The crash was caused by a woman who had just moments before been involved in an alleged assault on another woman in Seaside, according to a joint investigation by the Oregon State Police and Seaside Police.

Corissa Barnett, 38, of Seaside was ar-

See 'Crash' on Page 4

County is state's first to adopt green power initiative goals

Clatsop County's commitment to renewable energy earned it recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Clatsop County has become the first county in Oregon and only the second nationwide to join EPA's Green Power Partnership, an initiative launched in 2001 to encourage the use of energy from renewable sources such as solar, wind and hydroelectric.

The designation recognizes the county government's commitment to purchase at least 10 percent of its electricity from renewable sources.

The county board of com-

missioners voted in March to make the pledge.

The partnership has more than 1,300 participating organizations voluntarily using billions of kilowatt-hours of green power annually. Partners include colleges, Fortune 500 companies, small- and medium-sized businesses, and local, state and federal governments.

County commissioners also voted to join the North Coast Blue Sky Challenge.

Blue Sky is a voluntary program of Pacific Power that provides utility customers the opportunity to support newly developed renewable

energy now as a means to build a larger market for renewable energy later. For every customer who signs up as a Blue Sky participant, Pacific Power buys renewable power certificates equal to that user's purchase.

The county was joined in the Blue Sky Challenge by the cities of Warrenton, Astoria, Cannon Beach, Gearhart and Seaside. Together with Pacific Power, the entities set a goal of enrolling 500 new residential and business customers in the program to bring the countywide participation rate to 3 percent – equal to 12,101 megawatts of

renewable power a year.

Pacific Power spread the word through advertising, bill inserts and staffing booths at local events, and also sent representatives into North Coast neighborhoods with customized proposals telling utility customers how they could participate.

Pacific Power will provide Clatsop County with a one-kilowatt solar power installation as a reward for reaching Blue Sky's 3 percent goal. The county and utility are studying options for locating the installation, which is expected to be put in place early next year.