

Man faces auto theft charges for taking scooter

The Columbia Press

A man who used one of Walmart's motorized carts for his personal transportation discovered he'd committed a fairly serious crime.

Raymond Clark Heath, 66, of Astoria was arrested Monday on suspicion of vehicle theft.

The electric scooters are worth \$900 and considered motor vehicles under Oregon law.

Walmart employees called police about 11:30 a.m. July 27 when a shopper told them they'd witnessed a man riding one of their carts down Highway 101, according to a police report.

Police searched the area and eventually found the scooter parked on the side of Alternate Highway 101 west of Ensign Lane near the Skipanon River Bridge, about a half mile from Walmart. Officers could hear voices in the nearby brush and found three men.

"I asked which one of them drove the scooter from Walmart to its resting location," the officer wrote in his

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Don't mess with forest 'orphans,' OSP warns

Oregon State Police

Put it back. That's the advice you're likely to hear if you bring a young wild animal home to "take care of it" — if you don't, you could get a ticket from Oregon State Police.

Oregon's deer and elk give birth from May through July and many other wildlife species also bear young this time of year. It's natural for mother animals to leave their young alone for extended periods as they go off to feed, so never assume a young animal is orphaned when you see it alone.

The mother will return when it's safe to do so — when people, pets and predators aren't around.

Unfortunately, every year ODFW offices, licensed wildlife rehabilitators and even Oregon State Police are flooded with calls from people who've picked up a deer fawn, elk calf, fledgling bird learning to fly, or other young animal they assumed was orphaned because it was alone.

Animals taken from their natural environment miss the chance to

learn important survival skills from their parents such as where to feed, what to eat, how to behave as part



Oregon State Police

Trooper Christopher Boeholt holds a black-tailed deer fawn picked up by someone near Salem. It was turned over to a wildlife rehabilitation center.

of a group and how to escape predators. Usually this leads to a shortened life span for the animal.

Removing an animal from the wild is a violation of state law.

"Wildlife may not be captured from the wild and/or held," the statute reads.

Doing so is a class A misdemeanor that carries a maximum fine of \$6,250 and one year in jail. In 2017, Oregon State Police issued seven warnings and one citation to people who had picked up deer fawns, bear cubs, a baby turkey, a baby raccoon, nine baby opossums and an injured osprey.

If you're certain a young animal is orphaned because you saw its mother die, or if you see an injured animal or one in distress, call one of Oregon's licensed wildlife rehabilitators. Rehabilitators are trained and have facilities to properly care for young wildlife and eventually return them to the wild.

You can also call the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 503-842-2741 or local law enforcement.



Scott Docherty/Redhare

Queen Megan Postlewait (left) and Regatta princesses sail off at the beginning of the 2017 Highwater Boat Parade.

Regatta's century-plus tradition livens local waters

The Columbia Press

Astoria Regatta, one of the West's oldest festivals, returns next week for five days of sea-centered activities.

The Regatta is so old and significant in the region's history that the Oregon State Historic Commission has named it a Historic Cultural Tradition.

"It's definitely the oldest festival in Oregon. It started in 1894," said Melissa Grothe, Regatta secretary and a former Regatta court member. "It's just neat to

be a part of the tradition and, in my case, to give back."

The 2018 Regatta includes three parades -- two by land and one by water -- receptions for royalty, children's activities and sailboat races. This year's theme is "Making Waves!"

Regatta Square, at the center of activity, will have a fun zone, food booths and a beer garden.

Columbia Memorial Hospital has taken on Regatta Square's management and has added a health fair.

On the first day of Regatta, four young women will compete for the title of queen. They are Catherine Tapales of Warrenton High School, Danielle Morinville of Knappa High School, Katie Zagata of Seaside High School, and Nikkole Sasso of Astoria High School.

All members of the court receive scholarship money from the Regatta Foundation, which is matched by the Riedel Foundation. The queen receives a

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