

Public safety calls

THEFTS AND BURGLARIES

- Shoplifting, 9:36 p.m. May 15, Fred Meyer. Corey E. Jones, 26, of Astoria was cited for second-degree theft and criminal trespassing after she allegedly left the store but was caught in the parking lot by police with \$158 in speakers, phone cards, and shoes.
- Shoplifting, 10:52 p.m. May 17, Fred Meyer. Mako L. Peterson, 46, of Portland was cited for third-degree theft and an outstanding warrant after she

allegedly attempted to leave the store without paying for \$55 in clothes.

- Shoplifting, 10:52 p.m. May 17, Fred Meyer. Emilee K. Doolittle, 31, of Happy Valley was cited for second-degree theft and criminal trespassing after she allegedly attempted to leave the store without paying for \$230 in merchandise, including an electric toothbrush.

- Shoplifting, 2:25 p.m. May 23, Walmart. Amanda K. Rowden, 32, of Warrenton was cited for second-degree theft after she allegedly attempted to leave the store without paying for \$161 in clothes and drinks.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/
DISTURBANCES

- Man walking into traffic, 1:02 p.m. May 22, Harbor Drive near Youngs Bay Plaza.
- Domestic disturbance, 3:43 p.m. May 23, Highway 26 at Jubilee Road. Oregon State Police and sheriff's deputies stood by while one party retrieved personal items.

VEHICLES

- Vehicle into retaining wall, 12:19 p.m. May 16, Ninth Street west of Southwest Cedar Ave-

nue. James C. Cartwright, 36, of Warrenton was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

- Traffic stop, 7:43 p.m. May 19, 1300 block Northwest Warrenton Drive. David Dean Fisher Jr., 43, no known address, was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of intoxicants, refusing to take a breath test, reckless driving, failure to install an ignition interlock device, driving while suspended and having no insurance. He was booked at Clatsop County Jail.

- Vehicle into embankment, no injuries, 1:06 p.m. May 20, Highway 26 near Saddle Mountain turnout.

- Vehicle vs deer, 9:46 p.m. May 22, Highway 26, 1 mile east of Highway 101. The driver, a 46-year-old Oregon City man, was cited for driving too fast and having an open container of alcohol.

- Speeding, 5:14 p.m. May 23, South Main Avenue at 10th Place. Driver cited for going 45 in a 35 mph zone, driving without a license and having no insurance.

- Multiple violations, 7:54 p.m.

May 23, Highway 30 at Valley Creek Lane, Knappa. Jamie Hill, 41, city not given, was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

- Traffic stop, 8:56 p.m. May 24, South Main Avenue at Whiskey Road. Driver cited for having no insurance or license.

- Traffic stop, 10:23 p.m. May 24, Harbor Drive at Neptune Avenue. Driver cited for driving while suspended and having no insurance.

- Traffic stop, 6:26 a.m. May 25, South Main Avenue at Ninth Street. Brandon D. May, 47, of Warrenton was cited for criminal failure to carry and present a license, driving while suspended and having no insurance.

- Traffic stop, 11:43 p.m. May 25, Ridge Road at KOA. Driver cited for driving while suspended and having no insurance.

FIRE AND SERVICE CALLS

- Transformer fire, 8 a.m. May 21, Pacific Drive at Seventh Avenue.

- Fire alarm, 2:12 p.m. May 22, 1100 block Southeast Flightline Drive.

- Unattended bonfire, 1 a.m. May 24, Hammond viewpoint.

MEDICAL CALLS

- Medical assistance, 8:29 p.m.

May 20, 600 block Alternate Highway 101.

- Medical assistance, 2:23 a.m. May 21, 900 block King Salmon Place.

- Medical assistance, 8:57 a.m. May 21, 800 block Fifth Avenue.

- Medical assistance, 3:28 p.m. May 22, 100 block Alternate Highway 101.

- Medical assistance, 3:08 a.m. May 23, 0-100 block Southwest Main Court.

- Medical assistance, 10:29 p.m. May 23, 100 block Northwest Fourth Street.

- Medical assistance, 11:25 p.m. May 23, 100 block Southwest Gardenia Avenue.

- Medical assistance, 5:29 p.m. May 24, 0-100 block Alternate Highway 101.

- Medical assistance, 11:59 p.m. May 24, 90900 block Highway 101.

- Medical assistance, 1 a.m. May 25, Jetty Road.

- Medical assistance, 8:01 p.m. May 25, 300 block Marlin Avenue.

- Medical assistance, 12:04 a.m. May 26, 100 block Northwest Fourth Street.

The week ahead

MONDAY, JUNE 1

- **Astoria City Council**, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Visit the city's website for details.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

- **Port of Astoria Commission**, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom videoconference. Call 503-741-3300 for details.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

- **Gearhart City Council**, 7 p.m., via GoToMeeting. See website for details.

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Employment Department vows to do better

The Columbia Press

Oregon is facing unprecedented unemployment and hundreds of thousands of Oregon families have sought unemployment benefits to pay for their basic needs.

But the agency acknowledges it has an unacceptable backlog and has begun a program to combat it.

"While the Oregon Employment Department has paid a record number ... within two to three weeks, for too many Oregonians, their claims are in a backlog," the agency wrote. "We know how frustrating it has been for those who are trying to reach us about the status of their claims and have been unable

to get through."

The goal of Project Focus 100 is to process 100 percent of the 38,000 backlogged claims by hiring more staff, putting the most experienced agents on the oldest and most complex claims and temporarily reassigning job center employees to answer calls.

"It's way overdue at this point. They failed miserably," Warrenton City Commissioner Mark Baldwin said.

Baldwin brought up the state agency's shortcomings during a recent meeting after employees on temporary layoff from his construction company could get no relief.

Mayor Henry Balensifer followed up by writing a letter

to the agency expressing the city's dismay.

"I've not heard one person saying they've heard from the Employment Department," he said. "They should prioritize communicating to those who've waited the longest and work their way to the recent."

This week, House Speaker Tina Kotek suggested moving employees from some state agencies to Employment as a way to speed up the process.

Balensifer likes that idea. "Communication sucks. It really does," he said.

The agency has said it's investigating new ways of contacting Oregonians to let them know where their claims are in the system.