



CHRIS DUGAN PHOTO

Fire crews attempt to douse a blaze at 89967 U.S. Highway 53 on Saturday night. In the end, the house burned to the ground.

House on Hwy. 53 a ‘total loss’

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

A house at 89967 U.S. Highway 53 burned to the ground last weekend when a resident accidentally ignited the gasoline in a generator on the deck, according to Chief Bill Boone of Hamlet Fire and Rescue. The house was a “total loss,” he said. Fire crews from Hamlet responded to an alarm at

10:07 p.m. Feb 21. By the time they arrived, the structure was fully engulfed. “En route, we could see the glow in the sky from over a mile away,” Boone said. Personnel from Seaside Fire Department, Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue, Gearhart Fire Department, Elsie-Vinemapple Rural Fire Protection District, Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office and Medix responded as well.

All of the residents got out safely without injuries, Boone said. A couple of pet cats died during the incident, however. Crews cleared the scene at approximately 2 a.m. Feb. 22, though the sheriff’s office remained overnight. Boone expects the property damage to exceed \$300,000, he said. “It was a big house, but it wasn’t in the best shape.”

Life Flight to open a helicopter base in Astoria

Life Flight Network will open a base in Astoria and operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week beginning May 15. The Astoria base is expected to significantly improve access to air medical resources along the Oregon and Washington coast. The helicopter stationed in Astoria will be a twin-engine Agusta 109. The instrument-rated helicopter can make the trip from the coast to Portland in about 25 minutes. Local hospitals, including Columbia Memorial, Providence Seaside, Ocean Beach and Willapa Harbor, should benefit from having an emergency medical helicopter just moments away.

“Providence Seaside Hospital depends on Life Flight services for our patients suffering from cardiac events and other life-threatening trauma,” said Bonnie Thompson, chief operating officer and chief nursing executive for Providence Seaside Hospital. “Having a Life Flight base here on the North Coast will be a tremendous help whenever we need to transport a patient immediately,” she said. Erik Thorsen, chief executive officer for Columbia Memorial Hospital Memorial Hospital said he was “excited” about the new base. “Access to a local helicopter will dramatically

shorten a patient’s transfer time if they need a higher level of care,” Thorsen said. “This will greatly improve the care available to our local communities. We look forward to continuing our long-term relationship with Life Flight.” Noting that Life Flight has served the local area for nearly 40 years from the Portland-Vancouver area, Jacob Dalstra, regional director for Life Flight said he was happy to be able to provide a “more local presence.” Membership options for Life Flight are available. For more information contact the Life Flight membership office at 800-982-9299.

Cannon Beach Police Log

Feb. 1

4:58 a.m. Third and Spruce streets: driving without privileges. Traffic stop. Driver cited for driving without valid driving privileges and no insurance. Marijuana pipe confiscated.

Feb. 3

2:36 p.m. 100 block of West Brailier Road: small dog at large. Officer arrived on scene and attempted to capture the dog, to no avail. Dog was last seen running on the beach. Officer cleared.

Feb. 5

12:55 a.m. Van Buren and South Hemlock streets: assistance provided to another agency. Subject was intoxicated and needed assistance to his hotel.

Feb. 6

11:39 a.m. 1400 block of South Hemlock Street: hit and run, vehicle vs. property. Unknown suspect, noninjury. **1:49 p.m.** Downtown: property crimes. Report of stolen license plate from vehicle. **10:22 p.m.** 200 block of North Spruce Street: suspicious circumstances. Caller reported hearing loud screaming coming from the beach. Unable to locate anything on the beach.

Feb. 8

5:50 p.m. 100 block of North Hemlock Street (on sidewalk): call on a disturbance. On foot patrol downtown, observed a verbal disturbance that resulted in subject getting slapped by female. Subject refused to be a victim and, after consulting with officer, decided to go with a warning for disorderly conduct. **Feb. 9** **3:14 a.m.** U.S. Highway 101 on Falcon Cove Road: assistance provided to fire

department and Oregon State Police with single motor vehicle crash. Reported by passenger that they were southbound and swerved to avoid elk/deer. Vehicle veered east, across roadway and struck two trees on driver’s side before stopping. Two occupants. Female passenger had lacerations to her head. Male driver required extrication. Occupants transported to Providence Seaside Hospital. Two dogs from vehicle lodged in kennel. Photographs taken. Oregon State Police to meet occupants at Providence Seaside Hospital. **8:46 a.m.** Ocean Avenue and West Washington Street: camping within city limits. Report of a vehicle backed up onto the dunes with occupants sleeping inside. Officer arrived on scene and issued verbal warnings for illegal camping.

8:35 p.m. North entrance: traffic complaint. Report of elk needing help crossing the highway. Elk did not need any assistance and crossed highway on their own. **Feb. 10** **3:46 p.m.** 300 block of Elk Creek Road: call on a disturbance. Received report of a restraining order violation. Reporting party stated he was restrained from contacting subject, who had driven into his apartment complex and gave him a “mean look,” then drove out. Unable to locate any restraining order in law enforcement data systems. Finally located as part of reporting party’s bench probation/sentence for assault and menacing. Still, a public apartment parking lot. No obvious attempts to contact reporting party. No further action taken. **7:02 p.m.** 100 block of Pacific Street: assistance provided to another agency. Report of male passed out and unresponsive in vehicle. Officer contacted male, who

was responsive and talking upon officer arrival. Male did not need medical attention and was highly intoxicated. Officer contacted a responsible party to pick up male. Officer kept male’s car keys for safe keeping until male was sober enough to retrieve them in the morning. **Feb. 11** **8:05 a.m.** 3700 block of South Hemlock Street: suspicious circumstances. Report of male sitting in his vehicle parked in front of the daycare every morning. Officer made contact. The subject was there to see his grandchild each morning. Nothing suspicious.

Feb. 14

3:42 a.m. 3600 block of East Chinook Street: assistance provided to Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue. Officer assisted with an intoxicated female with a cut wrist in the 2600 block of East Chinook Street in Cannon Beach. Female was transported by Medix to Providence Seaside Hospital. She is the sister of an intoxicated female at the Warren House Pub who was transported by Medix earlier in the night. **8:48 a.m.** 500 block of South Hemlock Street: motor vehicle hit and run. No injuries reported and damage appeared to be minimal. Vehicle was still operational. **7:33 p.m.** 400 block of North Larch Street: camping within city limits. **9:24 p.m.** Second and Spruce streets: assistance rendered. Received a report of a female requesting assistance. Female stated that she had come to the coast with a friend she had recently met on the Internet. After I had stopped them for a traffic infraction, he had made comments that made her feel uneasy. She waited at the police department until her mother could come and pick her up from Portland.

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