

Sheriff's office welcomes Tux, its newest K-9

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

In March, the Clatsop County Sheriff's office welcomes its newest recruit.

Tux, a 5-year-old Belgian Malinois, met his new handler, Senior Deputy Thomas Phillips, just a few days ago. In the next few weeks, Tux will go to patrol school to train up on how to sniff out drugs and find suspects.

But until then, Tux's first order of business will be to play around and eat. Food, unsurprisingly, is a crucial tool to build trust between a canine and his handler.

"I'm the guy who brings him food," Phillips said. "I'll do little things, like having him eat the food out of my hand versus just giving him the bowl of food, so he knows, 'Well, food is coming from this guy, so I should be nice to him and maybe listen.'"

Tux replaces Pax, a fellow Belgian Malinois, who served as the sheriff's dog for 6½ years and conducted more than 70 captures. The 8-year-old Pax suffered an injury after chasing a ball down an embankment and was off the



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Thomas Phillips, senior deputy with the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, talks about his new canine partner, Tux.

streets for about six months.

He eventually trained up and got recertified. Pax had the ability to work a little longer, Phillips said, but doing so would probably take years off his life.

Around the same time the sheriff's office was considering a new dog, the Washington County Sheriff's Office was looking for a new home for Tux. After five years on the job, his former handler had moved into the agency's public affairs unit.

The timing couldn't have

been better.

Phillips was excited at the prospect, as he had met Tux multiple times at canine training exercises around the state.

"They wanted Tux to be able to come to a good home," Phillips said. "He has a lot of years of working life in him, and I think he'll be able to serve the sheriff's office and citizens really well here."

Phillips has been involved with canine work ever since he was a cadet with the sheriff's office, serving as a decoy for the previous handler and

taking bites from the dog during training exercises. He long has been in awe of what they can do.

"I think (canine units) can make a difference. Their noses are tremendously better than ours, and unfortunately we have this huge opiate problem nationwide," he said. "So, I mean, if we can get more drugs off the streets through traffic stops and interdiction stops, that's a win."

He also loves the bond that is formed with each dog.

"I think sometimes my wife is jealous because I spend more time with the dogs," Phillips joked. "But it's definitely a bond that's really unbreakable ... I'll do a traffic stop with (Pax), and he'll be upright watching what I've got going on ... just ready to spring into action and save the day."

Even in retirement, Pax won't stray far from Phillips. He will spend his days living the good life, eating steak and laying on the couch.

Though he is ready and excited to start training with Tux, Phillips can't help but admit it will feel strange not putting Pax into his rig anymore.

State data breach exposes health information

By **AUBREY WIEBER**
Capital Bureau

Oregon's Identity Theft Protection Act requires agencies to alert the public when there is potential to cross that 350,000 threshold. A more specific number should be available in about two weeks, Oakes said.

When asked why the public wasn't notified in January, he said it took time to go through the large number of emails to figure out what was exposed. When asked what happened in the two months since the discovery of the breach, Oakes declined to elaborate, saying, "It just took time."

The delay in informing the public, and the breach itself, caught the attention of Republicans in the Capitol long critical of the Department of Human Services.

"Nearly two months passed before DHS revealed that its system had been compromised, exposing Social Security numbers, birth dates and additional personal information," House Republican spokesman Greg Stiles said in a news release. "This risks identity theft and other criminal exploitation of this data."

The Oregon Department of Human Services last week disclosed that millions of agency emails had been breached in January, potentially exposing the personal medical information of hundreds of thousands of people.

The agency said it discovered the data breach involving 2 million emails on Jan. 8 and by Jan. 28 realized the emails included personal medical information protected under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, known as HIPAA.

The agency hasn't confirmed that any information was actually taken, but the hackers gained access to the emails. Agency officials couldn't readily explain why the public was being alerted two months later.

Robert Oakes, a department spokesman, said the agency found there was the potential for the breach to impact at least 350,000 people.

CANNON BEACH POLICE LOG

March 29

1:24 a.m., Highway 101, MP 34: Police assist Cannon Beach Fire Department; Oregon State Police and Oregon Department of Transportation with a three-car motor vehicle accident.

3:20 p.m. Shorewood: Children are upset when a subject came on to their property and spoke to them; mother reported incident to police. Police locate the subject and tell her to stay away from the children.

4:54 p.m., Shorewood: A second report came in regarding the neighbor and the children.

6:20 p.m., 8400 block Highway 101: Police check the welfare of a man threatening to jump into traffic. The man was transported by the County Deputy to Providence Seaside Hospital for evaluation.

March 30

8:29 p.m., 3400 block S. Hemlock: Police assist fire department with a female fall patient. Woman transported to Providence Seaside Hospital by Medix.

March 31

5:24 p.m., Beach and North of Creek: A drone reported missing was recovered and returned to its owner.

6:53 p.m., Ecola Park Drive: An intoxicated male reported to be bothering people at Indian Beach by asking for a ride is given a courtesy lift to Seaside to his grandfather's residence.

10:45 p.m., Jackson and Hemlock: Youths fooling around and lying in the middle of the road are warned of disorderly conduct.

April 1

5:39 p.m., Haystack parking: A motor vehicle hit and run is reported.

April 2

2:37 p.m., Beach: Police receive numerous reports of a heavyset white male with a limp reported to have a knife and behaving in a combative manner. Police are unable to locate.

April 3

8:07 p.m., Brallier and Ocean Shore: A male subject is apprehended and arrested for menacing; disorderly conduct; and giving false information to a police officer as well as interfering with a police officer after caller reports a negative interaction with the person who was carrying a sword.

April 4

6:30 a.m., Highway 101, MP 3: A dead elk in the roadway struck by a vehicle is removed by ODOT.

9:36 a.m., S. Spruce: A lost firearm is reported.

April 5

12:34 p.m., Deer Place: Police deal with truancy concerns regarding a 14 year old. Father is given options. Child is reported missing.

April 6

12:19 p.m., N. Gower: Police respond to a verbal disturbance reported. No crimes were committed.

2:47 p.m., Hug Point: Police respond to a report of a man swept out by a wave. Man located prior to police arrival and determined to be fine.

April 7

3:25 p.m., W. Warren Way: A ring is reported missing.

4:20 p.m., N. Hemlock: Theft of a mermaid doll and a hat reported; clerk made contact with the suspect who returned the doll, but not the hat.

April 8

3:02 p.m., N. Hemlock: A hit and run motor vehicle accident is reported.

April 9

9:20 a.m., 80,000 block Carnahan Rd.: Police assist another agency at a verbal disturbance reported. Cannon Beach police maintained scene.

April 10

5:23 p.m., Vista Del Mar: Caller expresses concern about being left alone with her mentally disturbed son who she said is not taking his medication. Son agreed to tone it down and resume medication.

5:53 p.m., W. Gower: Police respond to a report of a juvenile playing in the surf. Police explain to grandparent the ocean is rough due to storms and unsafe for an unsupervised juvenile.

April 11

2:49 p.m. W. Washington: Police assist with a female fall patient.

2:56 p.m., N. Hemlock: Police respond to a report of a suspicious black bag left on sidewalk. Bag gone on police arrival.

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