

National Night Out in Seaside

Firefighters, police serve up a night of fun at Broadway Park

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Just before the grills were fired up for the annual law enforcement National Night Out, beach rescue returned from a distress call in the Cove, as two boogie-boarders got stuck in the current.

Just another life-saving day at the office.

Such are the challenges of Seaside police and fire departments, whether fighting fires near and far, providing aid to swimmers and



R.J. MARX

Duane Heller, Barney Gee, Sandra Gee and Lt. Bruce Holt share a laugh at the National Night Out at Broadway Park.

surfers, or maintaining public safety on the streets of a city that can swell to 40,000

on busy summer days. "I've been to a few of these," Lt. Bruce Holt, Sea-

side's longest serving officer said, referring to the 35th annual barbecue on Aug. 7 in Seaside designed to bring the community out to meet local fire departments and law enforcement.

Holt said the night had an "impressive turnout," with games, brochures and pamphlets highlighting department activities.

Seaside Fire Division Chief Chris Dugan served burgers and hot dogs to all comers.

The event had been busy from the start, Police Chief Dave Ham said. "Broadway Park is a great place to have it," he said. "We're very happy with all the cooperation from everybody. It's been really great."

Groups clash over marbled murrelet

By Steven Dubois
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Conservation groups sued the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission on Thursday for failing to strengthen protections for the marbled murrelet, tiny seabirds that venture inland to raise their young and depend on old-growth forests for nesting.

The groups petitioned the commission in 2016 to reclassify the bird's status from threatened to endangered under the state Endangered Species Act. A listing as endangered would require the state to develop a management plan and survival guidelines for the birds that are about 9 inches long and weigh 7 to 8 ounces.

The commission denied the petition in June by a 4-2 vote, after hearing testimony from officials in timber-rich coastal counties who worried about the economic impact of restricting logging to save the birds. Commissioners opposed to reclassification said researchers from Oregon State University are in the early stages of a 10-year study about the seabird, and they wanted to wait for results.

The marbled murrelet was listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1992 and the Oregon Endangered Species Act in 1995. The species is state-endangered in Washington and California.

In 2015, there were believed to be about 11,000 marbled murrelets in Oregon, but survey numbers are uncertain because the birds have only been counted at sea and are extremely elusive in the forest. Experts believe the population has declined by more than 50 percent from historic highs.

Though the population has been stable since 2000, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife strategy species coordinator Christina Donehower told the board in February that a model shows the bird has about an 80 percent chance of going extinct in Oregon by the 22nd century.

Among its claims, the lawsuit asserts the commission failed to base its decision on verifiable science and didn't adequately explain its decision to reverse course.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The commission will consider survival guidelines that encourage — but not require — certain actions from timber companies to protect the seabird on state-owned or leased lands. Such guidelines could include additional survey work ahead of logging to determine restrictions on when during the year timber companies would cut.

Gearhart man sentenced to nearly six years in child pornography case

Plea deal with District Attorney

By Jack Heffernan
The Daily Astorian

A Gearhart man was sentenced Thursday to nearly six years in prison for child pornography crimes.

Samuel Roy Polan, 39, compelled at least two children under 12 years old to photograph or record sexually explicit activity. After being indicted in February on 10 counts, including some that alleged he attempted to sell the material, Polan pleaded no contest in July to two counts of using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct as part of a plea deal with the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office.

Each count carries a mandatory minimum sentence of

nearly six years in prison. As part of the plea deal, Polan agreed to have an open sentencing hearing and let a judge determine whether to run the minimum sentences concurrently or consecutively.

Judge Richard Baldwin — a former Oregon Supreme Court justice who spent Thursday filling in for Circuit Court Judge Paula Brownhill — sentenced Polan concurrently, saying it was a "very long" time considering the circumstances of the case.

Polan used Tango, a messaging app, to compel the children to take sexually explicit photos. If they refused, Polan made threats such as contacting their parents, Chief Deputy

District Attorney Ron Brown said.

"He used various tactics that were particularly heinous in my view," Brown said.

A detective in Oklahoma notified Oregon State Police of an investigation into Polan's contact with a child there, prompting the local probe. Polan likely will face additional charges in Oklahoma and possibly Michigan and North Carolina, Brown said.

Polan has two prior sex crime convictions, including for third-degree rape — involving sex with a teenage girl — in Clatsop County in 2010. He also was convicted in a 2004 case involving sexual contact with a minor relative in Texas.

"He obviously has a very serious problem with attraction to children," Brown said.

Polan was sexually abused by his father as a young child

and later bounced from foster home to foster home, said James von Boeckmann, his court-appointed attorney. His 2004 conviction came after he had reunited with members of his family.

"It is not a problem of his own devise," von Boeckmann said.

Polan apologized Thursday for his actions.

"I don't know what caused me to do it, and I'll look for the help I need," he said.

Baldwin pointed out that Polan has had opportunities in the past to seek treatment in prison.

"You can't just say you want it if you don't engage and make your best effort to get something out of treatment," the judge said. "With your record, you're going to be in for the rest of your life the next conviction, I'm sure, if the judge has that opportunity."

POLICE LOG

July 27

1:18 a.m., Broadway: Property crimes are reported at Twisted Fish.

11:10 a.m., First Avenue: A theft in the second degree is reported.

11:37 a.m., 700 block N. Franklin: Caller reports dogs barking for four days. Property owner shows up and says the dogs can be impounded. The renters (dog owners) arrive prior to the property being entered. The landlord and the renters agree to take care of the issue.

3:16 p.m., Avenue R: Caller reports subject sitting at the end of the road all day. Subject tells police they are having a bad day and are just trying to soak up some sunshine.

4:15 p.m., Police headquarters: A good Samaritan comes in with a found dog in need of veterinary attention.

July 28

2:11 a.m., Holladay Drive: An intoxicated person involved in a physical disturbance is given a courtesy ride home. No criminality involved.

July 29

3:22 a.m., 400 block S. Franklin: Police respond to a report of noise; individuals playing loud music outside the residence are advised of the complaint and agree to go inside.

1:19 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: A man shouting obscenities is informed his actions are alarming others. He agreed to stop.

6:23 p.m., 900 block Avenue S: A man missing his pants is determined to be having mental health issues. He was asked to move along.

July 30

9:38 a.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

10:41 a.m., S. Wahanna: A man found with his pants around his ankles and behaving strangely tells police he is leaving town the next day. He was advised to keep his pants pulled up in meanwhile.

Aug. 1

12:24 a.m., 500 block S. Holladay: A couple reported as behaving in a suspicious manner walking along the riverbank told police they were looking for blackberries. They were advised to quit walking behind closed businesses.

4:26 a.m., 1000 block S. Holladay: A person caught rummaging through garbage cans behind the police department told officers he was trying to earn an honest living collecting cans. Subject was advised about going through cans on private property.

11:56 p.m., 1600 block S. Columbia: An assault was reported.

Aug. 2

12:36 a.m., 1900 block N. Holladay: A couple going through a separation were warned of disorderly conduct after police responded to a report of a disturbance.

10:15 a.m., S. Holladay: A paranoid-acting male who admitted to using meth told police he believes himself to be the target of multiple gangs and is a "marked man." He was given a courtesy ride to the hospital emergency room and advised to report to police any threats made against him.

1:09 p.m., Police headquarters: A child used for sexual display was reported to the police.

Aug. 3

1:21 a.m., 400 block S. Holladay: Noisy revelers are warned to quiet down.

3:11 a.m., Avenue A: Partiers having too good a time are warned; they denied making noise.

7:36 p.m., The Cove: Police respond to water rescue. The fire department was on hand and everyone was fine when police arrived.

8:41 p.m., Avenue A and Highway 101: Police respond to a report of a female looking to the caller as though she was about to run out into traffic. The woman told police she was attempting to get on a bus.

11:39 p.m., 700 block S. Holladay: A woman who reported her intoxicated husband had run off from her and their group of friends later told police they were reunited and she was taking responsibility for him.

Aug. 4

1:49 a.m., 1200 block S. Wahanna: Police responding to a report of a female juvenile screaming determine after speaking with the parents that the child was objecting to being sent to bed.

11:55 a.m., Broadway: Police respond to a report of a man hitting a woman. They were unable to locate and the reporting party had left the area.

2:06 p.m.

1700 block S. Franklin: A caller reported a half-dressed man coming out of the river; the caller described the man's upper torso and face covered in a road burn or a severe rash. Police were unable to locate.

7:47 p.m., 400 block S. Holladay: A male walking around carrying a BB gun rifle on his back is advised by police his activity is stressing others and of ordinances regarding BB guns.

Aug. 5

12:31 a.m., S. Roosevelt: A person was arrested for possession of heroin.

9:14 a.m., S. Prom: A deceased person is reported.

2:29 p.m., Outlet mall: A man reported to be approaching people and asking them for money is trespassed indefinitely from the area.

4:14 p.m., 500 block Broadway: A person is arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a weapon and intent to use. They are also charged with disorderly conduct.

Aug. 6

11:32 a.m., Avenue U: "Mocha" a missing dog found roaming and temporarily kenneled, was reunited with its owner.

6:29 p.m., Lewis and Clark: A disturbance is reported.

Aug. 7

4:27 a.m., Lewis and Clark: A person is arrested and charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle; reckless driving; attempting to elude a police officer.

3:40 p.m., 700 block Avenue R: A couple reported a large black dog they said "tries to attack people" when they walk by. The owner of the dog says the dog never left the property. The dog's owner was issued a warning.

10:24 p.m., Avenue M: Caller reports suspicious persons on street using a flashlight; the subjects tell police they were only looking at a couch someone put on the street for free.

Aug. 8

1:21 a.m., Seaside Providence Hospital: Police assist another agency at the hospital regarding a domestic incident that occurred in Jewell.

1:40 p.m., Broadway: Police respond to a "dine and dash" incident occurring at Finn's restaurant. Police locate the suspects in Quatat Park. The complainant said they would be satisfied if the tab was paid. A civil compromise was negotiated between the parties.

6:27 p.m., The Prom: Police assist another agency with a water rescue.

Aug. 9

6:08 a.m., Gilbert Building: Criminal mischief in the third degree was reported from graffiti spray painted on the side of the building. Police are investigating.

7:25 a.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

1:01 p.m., 500 block S. Edgewood: Burglary in the first degree and theft in the second degree were reported.

11:16 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: A person was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine.

10:49 p.m., Holladay and 14th Street: A person was charged with trying to elude a police officer.

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