

Gearhart building official is charged with aggravated harassment

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

The building official for Gearhart has been charged with aggravated harassment after allegedly spitting at a Seaside police officer.

Mark Brien was arrested earlier this month after officers responded to a report of a person punching walls in his house. When officers confronted Brien, he became confrontational, according to court documents.

While putting Brien into a patrol car, a Seaside officer stepped back and made a statement indicating that Brien had spit onto his face, according to court documents.

Brien was sent to Providence Seaside Hospital for

an evaluation by medical staff. He was determined not to be a threat to himself or others and was subsequently released.

Brien is away at rehab, City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

The city will work with Jim Brien, who works with Mark Brien in the same company, for building official services while Mark Brien is away.

The city will continue to monitor the situation before making any decisions about Brien's employment, Sweet said.

"We're sorry that this happened. We're concerned for Mark and we're very appreciative of what our officers do in this community," Sweet said. "We just hope for the best for everyone in this."

Driver crashes into Hamlet Quick Stop

Seaside Signal

A driver was seriously injured after a police chase and crash into the Hamlet Quick Stop on Friday, March 8.

At about 8:45 p.m., the Seaside Police Department attempted to stop a vehicle for reckless driving when the driver began to elude the officer. The pursuit traveled south along Highway 101 to the Highway 26 junction where the fleeing suspect began driving east.

After a couple of miles, the officer ended the pursuit by turning off the patrol vehicle's emergency lights and siren.

The suspect had reportedly driven into the oncoming traffic lane multiple times while passing vehicles and traveling between 60 and 80 miles per hour.

The officer continued to drive east on Highway 26 to follow in the direction the suspect was traveling. After several miles the officer completely lost sight of the suspect vehicle.

After passing the Highway 26 and Highway 53 Junction, the officer continued east on Highway 26, stopping to turn around near Saddle Mountain Road to return to Seaside when a reported single-vehicle crash occurred at the Hamlet Quick Stop store, located at the Highway

53 Junction. The vehicle involved in the crash was the suspect vehicle that had eluded the officer.

Hamlet Fire responded to the scene, Chief Matt Verley said.

Firefighters had to winch the vehicle out of the building and cut the driver out of the car.

The driver suffered severe injuries, Verley said, and was sent to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria.

The building was damaged, Verley said, but in a section that did not impact the store itself. The store was closed at the time.

Emergency rescue personnel responded and extracted the driver from the vehicle. The driver sustained serious injuries and was transported to Columbia Memorial Hospital before being transported to a Portland-area hospital.

At this time, the driver's name is not being released and the driver is not currently under arrest while being treated for injuries sustained during the single-vehicle crash into the store caused by the suspect's own reckless driving, Seaside Police said.

The investigation continues into the felony elude of a police officer and reckless driving. The case will be forwarded to the Clatsop County District Attorney's office for review.



City of Seaside

Gearhart Fire responded to this beach blaze in Seaside Saturday, March 2.

Gearhart renders fire assist in Seaside

Seaside Signal

After a report of possible fireworks on the beach Saturday, March 2, Gearhart Fire Department responded to a blaze in the dunes.

With Seaside firefighters attending

an annual banquet, a Gearhart team stationed in Seaside responded to a call of a possible fireworks-related brush fire near Avenue G and the Prom on Saturday night.

According to Gearhart firefighter Josh Como, personnel with hand tools were able to extinguish 90 percent of the fire.

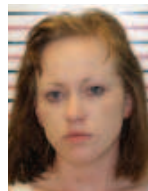
A brush truck drove on the beach to assist with hand tools and water. No one was hurt in the incident.

"It was pretty far out," Como said, "probably 50 yards away from the Prom."

The incident is under investigation by Seaside police.

North Coast woman sentenced to 10 years for theft

By **BRENNA VISSER**
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Desirai Skye Schehl

A North Coast woman was sentenced March 1 to 10 years in prison for racketeering and more than 20 identity-theft related charges.

Desirai Skye Schehl, 28, was charged with 145 counts of identity and mail theft, first-degree forgery and other crimes earlier this year. More than 130 Clatsop County people and businesses were listed as victims.

As part of a deal with prosecutors, Schehl pleaded guilty or no contest to 13 counts of identity theft, three counts of first-degree forgery, six counts of mail theft and one felony count of racketeering.

"Not only was her exposure just greater than I've ever seen on any kind of case like this, but also Ms. Schehl from the beginning was ready to come to terms," said James Lee von Boeckmann, an attorney who represented Schehl.

Schehl could have been sentenced to spend the rest of her life in prison, due to

the number of charges. The district attorney's office and the defense agreed on a 10-year sentence to give Schehl an opportunity to do drug treatment and have a chance at being a part of her 5-year-old son's life again.

Schehl's behavior is believed to be related to her drug addiction.

"Considering the number of individuals she has taken advantage of, I thought 10 years was an appropriate sentence," said Deputy District Attorney Steven Chamberlin, who prosecuted the case. "Frankly, I'm hopeful that she takes advantage of getting some drug treatment so when she comes back she has the opportunity to be a part of her son's life and be a positive role model for him. If she doesn't, she's going to fall right back into this."

For almost a year, Schehl systematically gained access to other people's accounts by stealing checkbooks or mail

with personal information. She would forge checks, deposit them into other people's bank accounts and then withdraw the money, she said during her sentencing.

In many cases, Schehl would give people she knew who were also addicts money or drugs to set up fake bank accounts, where she would deposit and withdraw money she stole from other accounts. Other times, she stole bank cards or checkbooks and made unauthorized purchases at local stores.

In one incident, police found Schehl with 117 pieces of mail after receiving reports of stolen mail from a mass mailbox along state Highway 202.

"You have victimized so

many people in our community," Circuit Court Judge Paula Brownhill said. "I wish the police could have caught you much earlier. I don't know why it took so long."

In addition to prison time, Brownhill is requiring Schehl to pay back all of the money stolen from the victims.

After pleading, Schehl apologized for causing harm and said she intends to pay everyone back to "make things right."

"I wish I could change the fact I hurt a lot of people," she said. "I feel like this process can either make me stronger or make me worse, and I'm going to use it to make me a better person."

SEASIDE POLICE LOG

March 1

1:04 p.m., Avenue L and the Beach: Caller reports someone has dug a cave to camp in on the beach; Public Works is contacted to fill it in.

4:38 p.m., 800 block Necanicum: A disturbance is reported; both parties were separated when officer arrives.

March 2

12:42 a.m., 200 block Holladay Drive: A person is arrested and charged with assault in the third degree and unlawful possession of a weapon with intent to use.

4:20 p.m., 400 block Second Avenue: Police respond to a report of an intoxicated person sitting in a parked vehicle. The person is warned they will be investigated for DUI if they attempt to operate the vehicle.

March 3

1:13 p.m., Wahanna and Shore Terrace: Caller says the presence of an abandoned shopping cart indicates a possible transient campsite. Officer responding found an old baby carriage but no shopping cart, and no evidence of a camp.

3:00 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

8:42 p.m., 1500 block Donnerberg Road: Police assist county deputies with a disturbance call.

March 4

1:02 a.m., Park Lane: Police assist Gearhart police with a disturbance and aggravated harassment.

9:47 p.m., E. Washington, Cannon Beach: Police assist Cannon Beach police with a building search.

4:29 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

March 5

3:08 p.m., 600 block Broadway: A burglary in the second degree is reported.

7:20 p.m., 1400 block N. Roosevelt: Officer responds to a report of a physical disturbance; upon arrival, subjects say they were hugging each other.

March 6

9:13 a.m., 800 block S. Holladay: In response to reports of increased drug activity in the area, police say more patrols will be added.

1:16 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

4:36 p.m., 900 block 13th: Sex crimes are reported.

6:06 p.m., Avenue A Bridge: A bike thrown into the river is unable to be retrieved by police.

March 7

3:17 p.m., 1000 block S. Columbia: Barking dogs are reported. Officer spoke with the dog owner.

5:29 p.m., Beerman Creek Lane: Police assist another agency with a DUI-related crash.

11:13 p.m., 2900 block Keep-sake Drive: Police assist Warrenton police with a call.

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