

# Phillips is named interim sheriff

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian

Clatsop County commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday, Nov. 13, to appoint Lt. Matt Phillips interim sheriff.

Phillips will also run in the May election to replace Sheriff Tom Bergin, who is retiring effective Jan. 3. Phillips is the only candidate to file so far.

"I recognize the trust and the faith you're placing in me to be the sheriff because the office of sheriff is a weighty responsibility and one that can have a significant impact on the community," Phillips told commissioners. "It is my pledge

that I will work hard to make sure that our sheriff's office is one that everyone can be proud of."

Sarah Nebeker, the commission's chairwoman, said, "And we know that you know what needs to be done because you have so much experience. And we also know you have your work cut out for you, but we believe you will meet the challenges."

Phillips' family, friends and colleagues came to the meeting in support.

During the public comment period, former Sheriff John Raichl and Port of Astoria Commissioner Frank Spence endorsed Phillips. They both praised his leadership in the new



Nicole Bales

Lt. Matt Phillips with his wife, Bree, and their children.

county jail project and said he is the most qualified person to oversee the project as sheriff.

Spence called the new jail the county's "crown project."

"Lt. Phillips has the character, the experience, to

be qualified as your next sheriff," Spence said. "I unequivocally endorse him to be your next sheriff and be elected next fall."

Raichl said he has known Phillips since he was a teenager when he came to work at the sheriff's office as a cadet.

"I can't say enough good about him," Raichl said. "He's been an outstanding deputy and an outstanding lieutenant jail commander."

Phillips said the support from Raichl was especially meaningful.

"It is the way he ran business at the sheriff's office ... I respect it so much it made me think that maybe that's something I would want to do one day," Phillips said.

## Cannon Beach fire district dedicates communication room to Aya

The Astorian

district's board.

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District has dedicated its communication room as a memorial for Alfred Aya.

Aya, who died last year, was the founding father of the community tsunami warning system. He came up with the distinctive "mooring" sound.

He spent nearly 30 years serving the fire district and was elected to the fire dis-

trict's board. "As his voice lives on in our warning system messages we dedicate the communication room, which houses all of his many hours of study and work, to the memory of his name," Gary Smith, the fire district's board president, said in a letter on behalf of the board.



Alfred Aya

### PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS



#### Nov. 4

3:33 a.m., 800 block Ocean Way: Caller reports someone attempting to enter her residence. Police canvass the area with negative results.

9:20 a.m., Queen and 12th: Caller reports loose horse wandering the street. Police are able to corral the horse; a horse rescue is contacted to assist the animal.

9:36 a.m., Beach: Bones found on the beach are determined to be animal, not human. Oregon State police and Seaside Aquarium are advised.

5:52 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

#### Nov. 5

3:21 a.m., Keepsake Drive: Suspicious circumstances are reported.

9:45 p.m., 600 block Broadway: A disturbance is reported.

#### Nov. 6

7:31 a.m., Indian Way and Holladay Drive: A person is pulled over for excessive speed.

7:50 a.m., Indian Way and Holladay Drive: Another person is pulled over for excessive speed.

8:04 a.m., Indian Way and Holladay Drive: A person is pulled over for excessive speed.

8:40 a.m., Highway 101 by Java Reef: A subject is arrested on a warrant.

3:04 p.m., 800 block Necanicum: A disturbance is reported.

6:37 p.m., Highway 101: A caller reports someone rolling around in the road in the vicinity of the Relief Pitcher; police canvassing the area are unable to locate.

11:48 p.m., 300 block N. Holladay: A person wearing a headlamp while searching for cans in private yards is warned he's been complained about and agrees to move along.

#### Nov. 7

12:05 p.m., Avenue S and Alder-Mill: A person is pulled over for exceeding the posted speed limit.

1:10 p.m., Ocean Shore near Mo's: A disturbance is reported.

3:22 p.m., 1000 block S. Downing: A disturbance is reported.

11:38 p.m., Highway 101 and Airport Road: A person is pulled over for excessive speed.

#### Nov. 8

2:44 a.m., Dairy Queen: Caller reports someone attempting to break into Dairy Queen; on arrival, police encounter subject collecting cans outside the shop. Subject advised.

3:21 a.m., 1900 block S. Roosevelt: Police respond to a report of a person holding a gas can and flailing his arms on the side of the highway; on arrival and canvassing the area, no one fitting that description is located.

5:31 a.m., Highway 101: Police pull over a semi-trailer failing to maintain its lane and braking often; the driver tells police he is turned around and is attempting to get to McDonald's.

#### Nov. 9

12:57 a.m., Seaside High School: Police assist Gearhart police on a complaint regarding a possibly intoxicated driver.

#### Nov. 10

1:47 a.m., Sixth and Necanicum: A disturbance is reported.

8:05 a.m., 800 block Ocean Way: A female who told police she might self harm expresses desire to go to the hospital. She is aided.

4:54 p.m., 300 block Ocean Way: Caller reports male who they observed urinating against his truck is now downtown and possibly intoxicated. Police locate subject who is not intoxicated but excessively chatty. Subject is advised of the complaint.

7:47 p.m., Broadway and Wahanna: A person is arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

#### Nov. 11

12:42 p.m., Section Line: A missing person is reported.

6:52 p.m., 1800 block S. Roosevelt: Caller requests welfare check on individual who appears to be strung out; police making contact say the subject is moving along.

#### Nov. 12

6:13 a.m., 1000 block S. Columbia: Caller reports two coyotes sighted in the area.

1:15 a.m., S. Holladay: A person is arrested and charged with DUI.

2:59 p.m., Chamber rest area: A person is arrested on a warrant.

6:28 p.m., 1900 block Spruce Drive: A disturbance is reported.

19:55 p.m., 14th Street and N. Roosevelt: A person is pulled over for a traffic violation and then ticketed for operating a vehicle with an expired license.

#### Nov. 13

3:34 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

11:58 p.m., 800 block S. Roosevelt: Assistance is rendered.

#### Nov. 14

3:35 a.m., Chamber restrooms: A subject is warned of unlawful lodging.

7:52 p.m., 300 block S. Columbia: A disturbance is reported.

11:13 p.m., 500 block S. Holladay: An unsecured building is secured.



#### Nov. 5

5:43 a.m., Mill Creek: Emergency medical response.

#### Nov. 7

7:35 a.m., 1700 block 12th Avenue: Emergency medical response.

10:58 a.m., Forest Drive: Emergency medical response.

#### Nov. 9

11:27 a.m., 36000 block River-Point Drive: Fire investigation.

#### Nov. 10

3:53 a.m., 1000 block S. Downing: Emergency medical response. Medix on scene.

9:41 a.m., N. Holladay: Emergency medical response.

1:58 p.m., Avenue S: Structure fire reported with flames and smoke.

#### Nov. 11

7:56 a.m., 1300 block Second Avenue: Emergency medical response. A deceased person is reported.

10:10 a.m., Tillamook Head: Emergency medical response.

10:54 a.m., 400 block First Avenue: Fire alarm.

#### Nov. 13

7:15 a.m., 500 block Avenue U: Emergency medical response. Medix on scene.

9:11 a.m., 400 block S. Holladay: Emergency medical response.

11:29 a.m., Highway 101: Emergency medical response.

1:58 p.m., 400 block N. Downing: Emergency medical response.

#### Nov. 14

12:05 p.m., 1000 block S. Downing: Emergency medical response.



#### Washington driver with suspensions

On Nov. 13 at 16:54 p.m., on U.S. Highway 101, Oregon State police observed the operator of a motor vehicle backing up after entering the turnoff to Highway 26. Upon being pulled over, the operator, a 43 year old male from Washington, presented his driver's license; a check of his license revealed his driving privileges have been suspended in both Oregon and Washington. The vehicle was impounded and removed by Gary's Towing.

#### Elk vs Volkswagen incident

On Nov. 13 at 21:25 p.m., on Highway 26 at Milepost 8.5, a

male elk entered the roadway where it encountered a Volkswagen Golf traveling west on the highway. The operator of the vehicle applied the brakes, but hit the elk, which rose up on the windshield and was thrown over the vehicle. The two occupants, a 59 year old man from Astoria and a 12 year old child, declined medical attention from fire and medical response. The vehicle was removed from the scene by Classic Towing. The disposition of the elk is unknown.

#### Teen driver charged after fleeing highway crash

On Nov. 15 at 9:56 p.m., on Highway 26 Milepost 12, heading westbound, Oregon State police responded to a single vehicle crash.

A witness who was flagged down by the occupants of the vehicle called 911, reporting that the driver, a teenager, did not want police on scene. When the driver became aware that police were en route, he lay down in the roadway with the intention of being run over. He was pulled out of the roadway by other occupants of the crashed vehicle; he became combative and fled into the woods.

Oregon State police and Clatsop County deputies searched the area but were unable to find the driver who was likely intoxicated. The 17-year-old male was later located hitchhiking towards Seaside by Medix who cleared the area after a search for the driver was unsuccessful. The youth was taken into custody without incident and willingly provided a BAC of .12 to Seaside police.

His parents were contacted and he was released to their custody on Highway 26 near Milepost 34. He was cited for DUI, reckless driving, and recklessly endangering four people. Additional charges may be recommended. Three other occupants of the crashed vehicle were transported to Providence Seaside Hospital; a fourth occupant was given a ride to the hospital by a good Samaritan. Gary's Towing removed the vehicle. Hamlet Fire, Medix, Seaside police and Clatsop County police assisted at the scene.

#### Woman found lying by the fogline

On Nov. 16 at 12:02 a.m., on Highway 26 near Milepost 3, a 30-year-old woman was found lying by the fogline. Medical assistance was called for and the woman was transported to Seaside Providence Hospital where she was evaluated and discharged with no signs of injury.



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