

Distracted drivers ignore warnings to stay off phones

On March 6, Royal Canadian Mounted Police participating in an awareness campaign set up several large electronic signs in North Vancouver, British Columbia, that warned drivers: "POLICE AHEAD -- STAY OFF YOUR PHONE." Despite that, within just two hours, officers ticketed 89 drivers, 74 of them for distracted driving, which results in a \$368 fine, plus a \$175 penalty payment on a first offense. "It is evident there is still more education and enforcement needed to make our roads safer," remarked Cpl. Richard De Jong to CTV News.

COMPELLING EXPLANATION

Fort Pierce, Fla., police pulled over a car March 21 after observing it swerving down the roadway. As they approached, they smelled marijuana, and during the

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

ensuing search, passenger Kennecia Posey, 26, was shocked -- shocked! -- when police found two bags in her purse: one containing marijuana, the other cocaine.

WPGL TV reported Posey admitted the marijuana was hers, but told officers: "I don't know anything about any cocaine. It's a windy day. It must have flown through the window and into my purse." Posey was charged with felony possession of cocaine and misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE

Things went from bad to worse for soccer player Sanchez Watt during a match in Hertfordshire, England, on March 6.

Awarded a yellow card, Watt was asked his name by referee Dean Hulme, who mistook "Watt" for "What." As Watt repeated his name over and over, the referee became perturbed and changed the yellow card to red for dissent, BBC Sport reported.

Hulme rescinded the card when someone explained the mixup. "I think everybody found it amusing afterwards, including the referee," said team chairman Dave Boggins. "He was very apologetic."

DISAPPOINTING

Organizers of the Big Cheese Festival in Brighton, England, on March 3 were forced to offer refunds to patrons after the event failed on several levels: 1. The festi-

val ran out of cheese. 2. The promised "craft" beer was Bud Light and Stella Artois. 3. The wet weather prompted some to call the event #BigMudFestival and prevented some cheese-mongers and entertainment acts from making it to the site. The BBC reported the festival has offered half-price tickets to next year's event for anyone who bought a ticket this year.

UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT

Phoenix mom Sharron Dobbins, 40, was determined to get her two teenage sons out of bed for Easter services on April 1. When one of them sassed her back, she grabbed a Taser and "I said, 'Get up! It's Jesus' Day!'" she told KNXV TV. Dobbins said she "sparked" the weapon just to make noise, but the 16-year-old called police, who found

two small bumps on the boy's leg and arrested Dobbins for child abuse. Dobbins told KNXV, "I did not tase my son ... all I was trying to do is tell my kids to put God first."

— Jonathan Rivera, 25, of Hartford, Connecticut, dutifully appeared in Hartford Superior Court March 7 to answer charges of stealing a car on Feb. 17. While he waited his turn, the Hartford Courant reported, parking authority agents outside the courthouse spotted a 2014 Subaru Legacy with license plates that had been reported as stolen.

The car itself had also been stolen from Newington, Connecticut. Police waited for the driver to return and arrested Rivera as he started to drive away in the Subaru. He was charged with second-degree larceny and taking a car without the owner's permission.

CRIME REPORT

A 23-year-old Salina, Kan., woman arrived at her home around 9:30 p.m. on March 29 to find the door had been locked and chained from the inside. She called police, who searched the home and found no one inside, but about two hours later, her ex-boyfriend's legs punched through the ceiling in her living room, the Salina Journal reported.

Tyler J. Bergkamp, 25, of Salina had been hiding in the attic. Police arrested him and took him to Salina Regional Health Center to recover from his fall. Five days later, he left the hospital and broke into another woman's house, where he left his hospital gown, exchanging it for one of her T-shirts and a pair of sneakers. Bergkamp was rearrested a short time later.

Send your weird news items to WeirdNewsTips@amuniv-serial.com.

Word Match winner!



Collette Lee, pictured with granddaughter Adaline Lee, is this week's \$50 winner in the Standard's Word Match game. The contest appears in the newspaper every Friday.

School shooting leaves one injured

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

(AP) — A gunman who carried a shotgun in a guitar case opened fire Friday in a Florida high school, wounding one student before he was arrested.

It happened at Forest High School, which was put on lockdown, the Marion County Sheriff's Office reported.

A 17-year-old boy was taken to a local hospital for treatment of a non-life threatening wound to his ankle.

Some students and teachers piled desks and filing cabinets against classroom doors as a makeshift barricade.

Police said the 19-year-old suspect, Sky Bouche, is a former student not currently enrolled.

Chris Oliver told the Ocala Star-Banner his 16-year-old son, a Forest student, told him the shooting happened near his classroom. The boy told Oliver the shooter stood in a hallway and fired at a closed classroom door.

The shooter then dropped the weapon, ran and tried to hide.

Craig Ham, deputy superintendent of Ocala schools operations, said the gunman carried the shotgun in a guitar case into the school by blending in with students. Ham told reporters the shooter fired at the bottom of a locked classroom door, and pellets struck the victim in the ankle.



BOUCHE

Jake Mailhiot's psychology class had just begun Friday morning when school officials announced a "code red" alert over the intercom.

"You could hear in their voice this wasn't a drill," the 16-year-old junior said.

Prepared for such alerts, students and teachers leapt into action to barricade the classroom's one door and block the door's window.

Marion County Sheriff Billy Woods praised the quick response by the school resource officer, Marion County deputy James Long, "did not hesitate. He went right in," Woods said at a news conference.

The sheriff said the suspect wasn't injured, wasn't fired at, and was arrested without resistance.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Shady Grove Baptist Church, located on 4976 Shady Grove Road, is having its Homecoming at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by singing by The Calvary Trio and the Mel-O-Tones.

MONDAY, APRIL 23

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of McMinnville Housing Authority will be held at the Rebel Hill Community Room at 6 p.m. This meeting is open to the public.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

The next Oster lunch will be at Medley's Diner at 11 a.m. Please contact Linda at 668-2131 with how many will be in attendance. Leave a message if no answer.

There will be an American Red Cross blood drive from 2 to 6 p.m. at Caney Fork Electric Auditorium, 920 Smithville Highway.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

Midway Head Start is accepting applications for 2018-19 school year for children ages 3-5 including children with disabilities. Registration is from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Midway Head Start at 686-2098.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

Campaign Church of God is having a monthly gospel singing at the McMinnville Bojangles' restaurant. Singing begins at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

LB&C Head Start is accepting applications to provide free, comprehensive child development services to children ages 3-5. Register for the 2018-19 school year from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Brookside Head Start at 668-7043.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

A kayak fishing tournament will take place at Smooth Rapids with registration from 5 to 6 a.m. It is a catch and release tournament with two divisions. Lunch will be provided after the tournament and an Orion cooler will be auctioned off by silent auction. For more information, call 931-409-0804.

First Baptist Church is holding Priscilla Shirer Live Simulcast from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets with lunch are \$15, or \$10 without lunch. Childcare is provided with \$3 per child registration. Call 473-4416 for more information.

East End Church of Christ is having its 18th annual Ladies Day at 9 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the guest speakers are Hannah Giselbach and Cindy Colley. Lunch will be provided.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The McMinnville Independent Baptist Church is having a

revival meeting May 2-6 at 7 p.m. The McGilliards ministry team will be there to sing and preach.

The 8th annual Valley Fest will be May 5-6 in Dunlap. Daily admission for adults is \$8 and \$2 for children. There will be a car show, children's activities, a 5K and 10K and more. For more information, call 423-949-7608.

Decoration Day at Charles Creek Cemetery will be Sunday, May 6 and all contributions will go to the care and upkeep of the cemetery.

Homecoming at Ivy Bluff United Methodist Church, 8597 Ivy Bluff Road, will be Sunday, May 6 at 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided at noon and there will be special guest singers.

GENERATIONS 5K COLOR RUN
May 12 • 8:00am
(arrive by 7:15am)
Back parking lot of
McMinnville Civic Center
\$25 to enter

Register at www.runtsignup.com or at USAGYM
Registration available day of race but shirt not guaranteed.
Registration deadline for shirt: April 20
For more info:
931-743-6628

Fairview CIC is having a benefit supper May 5 at 5 p.m. with all proceeds going toward building repairs. The menu is meatloaf or chicken strips with mashed potatoes, pinto beans, cooked cabbage, macaroni and cheese, cornbread or roll, dessert and drinks. Music will be provided by Southern Breeze. For adults, the cost is \$7. For children under 6, the cost is \$5.

Vicki & Jennifer

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