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September 23,
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SERVING SALEM, KEIZER AND THE MID-VALLEY

Police set crime prevention district to eradicate prostitution

Those facing drug, prostitution charges can be banned

By DENNIS THOMPSON JR.
Statesman Journal

Salem police are preparing to enforce a newly passed law that makes it harder for prostitutes and johns to operate in

the city's northernmost neighborhoods.

People busted on prostitution or drug charges inside the boundaries of the North Salem Crime Prevention District now can be banned from that area for up to a year, Salem police Lt. Steve Bellshaw said.

If violators are caught back in the district, police can arrest them immediately

for trespassing.

"This is great news for northeast Salem," said Nomi Pearce, the chairwoman of the Highland Neighborhood Association. "I hope it works as a deterrent, and I hope it lets people know this is not a place they can come to and conduct those sorts of illegal activities."

Salem City Council passed an ordinance authorizing the

crime prevention district earlier this month, a year and a half after police first requested the district's creation.

Officers have moved quickly and are ready to begin enforcing the district. "It has gone into effect, and we are good to go," Bellshaw said.

The crime prevention district is aimed at tackling prostitution that occurs on Broadway and has plagued Portland

Road in the past, Bellshaw said.

A similar crime district already covers downtown Salem, but that one is geared toward banning people who are disorderly or menacing.

The North Salem district is large, encompassing the Grant, Highland and Northgate neighborhoods.

See District, 6A

Exclusion zone

The district is bordered by Market Street NE to the south; Front Street NE to the west; Salem Parkway and Hycinth Street NE to the north; and Capitol Street NE, Portland Road NE, Silverton Road NE and Hawthorne Avenue NE to the east. For a map, see Page 6A.



Oregon threatened by
INVASIVE SPECIES

and experts look for ways to stop the spread

By BETH CASPER
Statesman Journal

It's the "Bat Phone" for keeping unwanted species out of Oregon.

When a call comes in to 866-INVADER, Oregon Department of Agriculture officials answer — ready to protect the state's borders from plants, animals and diseases that wreak havoc on natural areas and cost Oregon's important industries millions of dollars annually.

There are no fancy Batman outfits or high-tech convertibles flying out of caves. Officials work in a nondescript government building and wear typical business-casual attire while they field calls about potential problems.

But with thousands of species gaining footholds in areas where they can cause the most damage, Oregon officials have the chance to be heroes and save the Beaver State.

They've heard it all: an unlicensed owner allowed fallow deer to escape near Portland; exotic wood wasps found alive in crates imported from China; an Oriental weatherfish seen lying on the bank of Multnomah Channel.

Some calls are false alarms. A recent call about a mitten crab was a case of misidentification.

The hotline is just one defense in the fight against invasive species. State officials already have lost battles with many critters and plants but hold out hope for a range of others that aren't yet established here.

See Invasive, 11A

ARRIVAL IN OREGON: Invasive species find their way to Oregon through dozens of pathways, many of which cannot be regulated effectively by state officials. Individuals can block some of the ways that destructive species get to the state.

FISH BAIT RELEASES

Anglers use bait and the escaped fish create their own populations.

AQUARIUM RELEASES

People often dump their aquarium fish and plants in nearby streams or ponds.

HIKING OR WADING SHOES, TIRES

New Zealand mud snails can attach to waders or stream shoes and reproduce quickly in a new environment.

ESCAPED ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

Purple loosestrife with its showy purple flowers was planted in gardens and spread from there.

SHIPS

Microscopic organisms can be scooped up in another part of the world when a ship takes on ballast water for stability and then releases it in an Oregon port. Organisms can attach to the outside of ships and boats and can reattach to rocks in Oregon ports.

INTERNET PURCHASES

Pets or seeds of invasive plants can be purchased online and shipped directly to the buyer.

LIVE FOOD SOURCE

Bullfrogs were brought here in the hopes of starting a frog-leg industry.

INTENTIONAL RELEASES

Feral pigs were introduced for hunting and nutria were introduced in hopes of starting a fur-trading industry.

SCHOOLS

Teachers and students sometimes release plants, animals and insects after the completion of science projects. Invasive crayfish have found their way to Oregon through this way.

PAST GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Departments of transportation planted Scotch broom as a highway beautification project.

About the Statesman Journal's Invasive Species of Oregon series

The basics Today begins the Statesman Journal's series on the environmental and financial effects of invasive species in Oregon. During the next 10 months, the series will offer a monthly in-depth exploration of different types of invasive species and their many effects on the state.

Online hub

To learn more and make a difference in the fight against invasive species, go to the evolving series Web site:

Multimedia

Enjoy the growing library of videos and photo galleries on specific invasive species' effects and how they affect Oregonians.

Education

The series features materials for teachers and parents. The Newspapers in Education component appears Tuesday following monthly Sunday publication and as PDFs on the site.

Database

The comprehensive Invasive Species of Oregon Database features invasives that are established and threatening the state and will be updated throughout the series.

www.InvasiveSpeciesofOregon.com

Inside
Bridge.....6E Lottery.....2C
Business.....13A Mid-Valley.....3C
Classified.....1E Nation.....4A
Comics.....Insert Obituaries.....5C
Crossword.....6,7D Sudoku.....3D
Editorials.....12C TV.....Insert
Horoscope.....7D World.....5A

Weather
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RiverFest rocks Riverfront

The faith-based Salem RiverFest kicked off Saturday at Riverfront Park, drawing hundreds of people with free children's activities, extreme sports demonstrations and big-name bands. The free event continues today from 12:30 to 10 p.m. at Riverfront Park in Salem.

Today's highlights include 12:30 p.m. kids' entertainment featuring Mark Thompson, the Livin' It action sports demo beginning at 1:30 p.m. and live music beginning at 4:50 p.m. features Bob Smiley, Paul Wright, Big Daddy Weave, Reid Saunders, Avaton and Jars of Clay.

INSIDE/PAGE 2A
STORY AND PHOTOS: Families, children and teens find lots to enjoy at RiverFest.
ONLINE
PHOTO GALLERY: To see more photographs from RiverFest, go to StatesmanJournal.com.

THOMAS PATTERSON
Statesman Journal
Mike Montgomery shows off some moves Saturday at RiverFest.

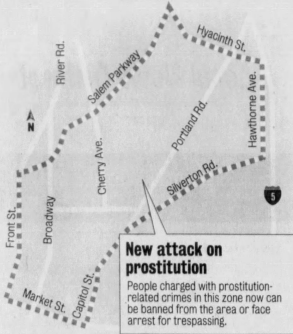
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New attack on prostitution
 People charged with prostitution-related crimes in this zone now can be banned from the area or face arrest for trespassing.

KAY WORTHINGTON | Statesman Journal

District

Continued from 1A

That's so prostitutes and johns won't be tempted to move to nearby streets and to keep them from ducking into residential neighborhoods to perform sexual acts, Bellshaw said.

"They tend to meet on the streets and conduct their business in the residential neighborhoods, in the industrial areas, those kind of places where they have some privacy and it's out of sight," Bellshaw said.

City officials will not put up signs warning people of the crime district, a move they previously had contemplated, Bellshaw said.

"We really don't want to put a stigma on any of the neighborhoods, saying this is a problem," he said.

Prostitutes or johns caught by police will be given an "exclusion" notice banning them for as long as 90 days. The ban will be extended by a year if the suspects are convicted of a felony or high-level misdemeanor as a result of the bust.

Bellshaw said most of the exclusion notices probably will be handed out during the regular prostitution sting operations Salem police perform in the Broadway area.

A sting conducted in August led to the arrest of six johns.

Suspects can appeal the ban against them to the city's hearings officer. They also can file for a variance if they live or work in the neighborhood, Bellshaw said.

City Councilor Kate Tarter, who represents North Salem, said she hopes the district will particularly discourage johns who are coming from out of town to pick up prostitutes.

"The bottom line is, when people find out this isn't an area you want to go to for that sort of thing, businesses and residents will feel more comfortable there," Tarter said.

dmthompson@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6719

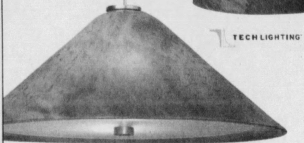
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