



Newport Police Department

169 SW Coast Highway
Newport, Oregon 97365

NPD MEDIA RELEASE

02/13/2010 08:30 a.m.

Incident: Hit and Run Crash--DUII Arrests **Case: Multiple**

Location: 800 Block of SW Bay Blvd

Date/Time: 02/13/2010 at 2:26 a.m.

Suspects: Kellen Bryce Huddleston, age 33 of Corvallis
Melissa I. Peterson, age 31 of Beaverton
Richard Justin Whitman, age 37 of Corvallis

Details: On 02/13/2010, at about 2:26 a.m., Newport Police Officers responded to a reported Hit and Run (H&R) car crash that led to two DUII arrests, multiple charges being filed against two different drivers, and the warrant arrest of one of the passengers. Newport Police responded to the H&R crash in the 800 block of SW Bay Blvd in which an unoccupied parked vehicle had been struck and damaged. Officers located the suspect vehicle while in route to the call, and identified the driver at the time of the stop as Kellen Huddleston, age 33 of Corvallis. Huddleston showed signs of impairment, failed the field sobriety tests, and was taken into custody for DUII by Newport Police. His breath sample showed .13; a BAC of .08 is the level over which one is defined as intoxicated. He was lodged at the Lincoln County Jail (LCJ) and charged with DUII. Huddleston was also found to have a valid warrant for his arrest, issued by the Corvallis Municipal Court, for Contempt of Court.

An Oregon State Police Trooper assisted with the investigation, discovering that the driver at the time of the first H&R crash was now a passenger in the same vehicle. She was identified as Melissa Peterson, age 31 of Beaverton, Oregon. The Oregon State Police Trooper conducted a DUII investigation, and Peterson was arrested for DUII as well. She was lodged at the LCJ, where she provided a breath sample with the results of .17. Newport Police also cited her for the original H&R incident.

Another passenger in the vehicle was identified as Richard Justin Whitman, age 37, of Corvallis. A valid warrant was found for his arrest, charging him with Failure to Appear by the Corvallis Municipal Court. At the request of the Corvallis authorities, Whitman was cited and released by Newport Police for this warrant.

The vehicle was towed and impounded. No one was injured in the original reported accident.

Information Released By: Sgt Tom Simpson, 541-574-3348