



Groups seek Fanno Creek crossing solutions

Task force assembling to address Hall Boulevard safety issues

By SHANNON O. WELLS
Of Times Newspapers

The quest to safely cross congested Hall Boulevard along the Fanno Creek Trail has flummoxed bicyclists, pedestrians and various governmental agencies for more than a decade.

Since the Beaverton City Council scuttled a 2001 plan to construct a crosswalk and "refuge island" in the middle of the thoroughfare, trail users were left

with the choices of dodging vehicular traffic on the four-lane Hall Boulevard or traversing off course to a controlled signal at Greenway.

The Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District is now working with city and transportation officials to develop a safe, efficient and ideally permanent solution to the crossing conundrum.

The park district is implementing a \$359,000 grant in Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program funds to study options to upgrade the Fanno-Hall crossing.

Adding \$41,089 of its own funding,

the park district is collaborating with the city, Oregon Department of Transportation and Metro regional government, and assembling an 11-member community task force to study four proposed crossing options.

These include:

- A bridge over Hall Boulevard between Fanno Creek Park and Greenway Park;

- A tunnel underneath the road;
- An "at-grade" signaled crossing at Hall, likely with a "relief island" in the

■ See PATH, A8

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Rappleyea trades in city post for county

Board of Commissioners looks to city attorney to lead Office of County Counsel

By CHRISTINA LENT
Of Times Newspapers

Beaverton's city attorney is heading back to his old stomping grounds.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday appointed Alan Rappleyea to lead the Office of County Counsel.

Rappleyea, who has been Beaverton's city attorney since Sept. 3, 2003 (the same day his youngest son, Henry, entered kindergarten), will return to lead the county office he served in from 1996 to 2003.

He begins his new job with the county on June 28.

In the meantime, Bill Scheiderich, an assistant city attorney, will step in as Beaverton's interim city attorney to ensure the office runs smoothly during the city's search for a new leader for its legal team.

Rappleyea said he was looking forward to returning to the county after nearly eight years with the city and working closer to his Hillsboro home.



RAPPLEYEA

"I have enjoyed my time with the city working with the various city councilors, watching the change in the city's leadership and watching the city develop and get more sophisticated," he said. "I've learned a lot about city issues and working with the police department."

"When I was previously with the county, I focused on rural planning. Here in Beaverton, we've been focused more on urban planning."

Beaverton Mayor Dennis Doyle said he would miss having Rappleyea on the team.

"His advice was always solid."



Sweet smells of success

New Beaverton police dog's nose knows no boundaries when it comes to tracking suspects

By SHANNON O. WELLS
Of Times Newspapers

Whether you're the mild-mannered type who occasionally breaks the speed limit or a career criminal on the lam, few experiences are more intimidating than being set upon by an armed police officer with a maniacally barking German shepherd in tow or frothing in the back of a squad car.

As scary as this combination may seem, the relationship between officer and police K-9 is rooted in big-hearted affection.

"It's based on a love of animals. If you don't like dogs, this is not the place to be," says Lt. John Gruber of the Beaverton Police Department, referring to the agency's K-9 Unit. "They become part of the family — and they're a lot of work."

When tracking criminal suspects goes as well as it has in recent weeks, the time K-9 officers devote to training and integrating the department's five dogs — including Enzo, its newest addition — seems well worth it.



JAIME VALDEZ / The Times

GOOD BOY — Officer Robert Wolfe rewards his K-9 partner Enzo, at top, after he successfully located a "suspect" hidden in brush during a late-night training session with Beaverton Police's K-9 Unit.

captures in the 10000 and 16000 blocks of Southwest Cormorant Drive and the 1800 block of Northwest 169th Place.

Five of those successful trackings were the work of Enzo, a 19-month-old black German shepherd imported from Europe, and Officer Robert Wolfe, his designated handler.

"It was Officer Wolfe's third week as a certified handler," observes Sgt. Mark Hevlund, a state certified K-9 handler who heads up the department's training program. "(Enzo) had five captures in four tracks."

Officer Steve Anderson and Alex, his K-9, led to the other two captures on what was a record-breaking night for the 32-year-old unit.

The flurry of late-night incidents yielded arrests related to trespassing, criminal mischief, attempting to break into a truck and stealing gas.

To have so many successful trackings on a given night is pretty rare, Hevlund observes, par-

■ See POLICE, A6

FIRST CLASS — Nirna Mohamed and Fatima



Islamic Academy celebrates its first two graduates

FAST FACTS

The Beaverton Police Department's K-9 Unit comprise the following officers, their dogs' names (in parentheses) and years of service with the department:

- Ken Magnus (Jago), 11 years
- Mike Bewersdorff (Barak), 10 years
- Steve Anderson (Alex), 8 years
- Tony Bastinelli (Kahz), 8 years
- Robert Wolfe (Enzo), 6 years.

Here are some other facts about the Beaverton K-9 Unit including some about Enzo, its newest addition:

- The unit started in 1979.
- Only Kahz is cross-trained to search for illegal drugs as well as criminal suspects.
- Enzo, a black German shepherd, joined the unit on Jan. 6, when he was 14 months old.
- Enzo was imported from Europe from Von Grunheide Shepherds kennels based in Snohomish, Wash.