



# Newport Police Department

169 SW Coast Highway  
Newport, Oregon 97365

## NPD MEDIA RELEASE

04/21/2012 6:00 a.m.

**Incident:** DUII Traffic Crash/Arrest **Case#: 12N-00650**

**Location:** Hwy 101 at SW Neff Street

**Date/Time:** 04/21/2012 at 2:27 a.m.

**Suspect:** Levi Paul Gaze, age 24 of Waldport, Oregon

**Details:** On 04/21/2012 at 2:27 a.m., a Newport Police Officer observed a Ford 4x4 pickup truck traveling south bound on Hwy 101 near SW Alder Street. The truck was speeding at about 45 mph in an area with a posted speed limit of 25 mph. As the Officer turned to try and stop the vehicle, the truck left the roadway at SW Neff Street, crashed through a light pole on the sidewalk, and rolled over at least twice through the landscaping of the City Center Motel. After landing on its wheels and impacting the building at the Days Inn Motel, the vehicle accelerated again in the parking lot before finally coming to a stop. Officers contacted the driver, identified as Levi Gaze, age 24 of Waldport. Although trapped in his vehicle and uninjured, Gaze appeared to be intoxicated. The Newport Fire Department and Pacific West Ambulance personnel responded to the scene to extricate Gaze and check him for injuries. Gaze declined medical treatment at the scene.

Gaze consented to and failed the Field Sobriety Tests. He was arrested and transported to the Lincoln County Jail where his breath test showed .15% BAC, almost twice the presumptive legal limit of .08%.

Central Lincoln PUD was called to the scene to remove the broken light pole. The landscaping at the City Center Motel was heavily damaged, as was the awning of the Days Inn Motel. The awning began to collapse and was blocked off by Newport Police Officers and

Newport Fire personnel. While the motel lobby is open, the main doors into the lobby are until the structure is stabilized. Customers must temporarily use a side entrance. Traffic on Hwy 101 was diverted for more than an hour while officers conducted their investigation, and accident debris strewn more than two blocks was cleared from traffic lanes.

Gaze was lodged at the Lincoln County Jail on charges of DUII, Reckless Driving, Criminal Mischief II, and two counts of Criminal Mischief I. His bail set at \$145,000.00

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