

Conviction tossed for woman who ran over girls in leaf pile

By Steven Dubois
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Court of Appeals on Wednesday reversed the conviction of a motorist who drove an SUV into a pile of leaves that concealed two girls, killing them.

The opinion written by Judge James Egan said it's established that Cinthya Garcia-Cisneros wasn't immediately aware she hit 6-year-old Anna Dieter-Eckerdt and 11-year-old Abigail Robinson, the step-sisters who were playing in the leaf pile in October 2013. Oregon law, the opinion states, does not contain an "implicit requirement" that a driver return to the scene after learning of an accident sometime later.

Garcia-Cisneros was 19 when she was found guilty of failing to perform the duties of a driver to injured persons. She was sentenced to probation and community service, and faced possible deportation before eventually being released from an immigration detention center.

Garcia-Cisneros, brought to the U.S. from Mexico as a 4-year-old, was on her way home from getting fast food when she drove through

leaves that were raked near the curb on Main Street in Forest Grove, a small town west of Portland.

Garcia-Cisneros plowed through the pile shortly before 8:30 p.m., she testified, and felt a bump.

Her brother, who was a passenger, later passed the scene on his way to his girlfriend's house. He saw a man standing over the pile screaming.

He returned home and told his sister she may have hit children. She didn't identify herself as the driver until police tracked her down the next day.

A prosecutor told jurors at the January 2014 trial that Garcia-Cisneros' decision not to come forward was morally and legally wrong.

The defense told jurors that Garcia-Cisneros was in a state of denial, clinging to hope that she wasn't responsible. Moreover, the defense argued, Oregon law doesn't say anything about the requirements of a driver who isn't immediately aware of an accident.

The appeal court agreed, saying the trial judge should have granted a motion for acquittal.

BrightSide participating in rescue of labs

BrightSide Animal Center of Redmond is among several shelters in Oregon and Washington taking in about 40 dogs rescued this week from a hoarding situation in Stevens County, Washington.

BrightSide employees will travel to Spokane and bring eight dogs back to Redmond. After they have had medical exams and any medical treatment that may be necessary, the dogs will be spayed or neutered and then made available for adoption.

All or most of the rescued dogs are Labrador retrievers. BrightSide will receive a mother and her two puppies, three young adults, and two senior dogs. Jamie McAtee, from Rescue4All, a Spokane-area nonprofit that rescues and fosters animals, described the conditions the dogs were living in as deplorable.

"We are glad to be able to help out in this situation and will work to find new secure, loving homes for these dogs," said BrightSide Shelter Manager Pat Bowling.

SISTERS ENTERTAINMENT • EVENTS

Wed. ~ May 10

The Belfry "Friend & Fund" Raiser Luncheon for Circle of Friends noon to 1 p.m. Learn more about how you can help, or about becoming a mentor! Free, but RSVP by calling 541-588-6445.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go online to hardtailsoregon.com.

Thurs. ~ May 11

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

Friday ~ May 12

Downtown Sisters My Own Two Hands Parade & Art Stroll 4 p.m. Parade, 4 to 7 p.m. for the Art Stroll. Sponsored by Sisters Folk Festival. For more info call 541-549-4979 or go to online to sistersfolkfestival.org.

The Belfry My Own Two Hands Celebration 7 p.m. Featuring a free concert and the Common Canvas community art project. Sponsored by Sisters Folk Festival. For more info call 541-549-4979 or go to online to sistersfolkfestival.org.

Cork Cellars Live Music with Melanie Rose Dyer & Daniel Cooper 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. No cover! For info call 541-549-2675 or go to online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Chops Bistro Live Music with Tony Lompa 6 to 8 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-6015.

Sisters Community Church Spring Concert with Sisters High Desert Chorale 7 p.m. Free to all (donations gladly accepted!). For info go to sistershighdesertchorale.com.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

Saturday ~ May 13

Sisters Saloon Live Music with the Bobby Lindstrom Band 8 p.m. No cover for blues & rock! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

Chops Bistro Live Music with Mark Barringer & Jo Booser 6 to 8 p.m. No cover! For additional information, please call 541-549-6015.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Saturday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

Sisters High School Sisters Annual Lacrosse Invitational (SALI 2017) The 13th annual event! Register through Sisters Park & Recreation District at 541-549-2091. For info go to salilax.com or sistersrecreation.com.

Sunday ~ May 14

Sisters High School Sisters Annual Lacrosse Invitational (SALI 2017) The 13th annual event! Register through Sisters Park & Recreation District at 541-549-2091. For info go to salilax.com or sistersrecreation.com.

Sisters Community Church Spring Concert with Sisters High Desert Chorale 2:30 p.m. Free to all (donations gladly accepted!). Info: go to sistershighdesertchorale.com.

Wed. ~ May 17

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! For more info call 541-549-6114 or go online to hardtailsoregon.com.

Thurs. ~ May 18

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

Friday ~ May 19

Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with JuJu Eyeball 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. No cover for the Beatles tribute band! Possible outdoor show (weather dependent). For info: 541-549-6114 or hardtailsoregon.com.

Sisters Saloon Live Music with the Tommy Hogan Band 8 p.m. No cover for blues, R&B and rock! For info call 541-549-7427 or go online to sisterssaloon.net.

Saturday ~ May 20

Sisters Saloon Live Music with Hutch & Gentry with Bill Powers & Peter Heithoff 8 to 11 p.m. No cover for old-time and ragtime! For info call 541-549-7427 or go online to sisterssaloon.net.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with JuJu Eyeball 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. No cover for the Beatles tribute band! Possible outdoor show (weather dependent). For info: 541-549-6114 or hardtailsoregon.com.

Cork Cellars Live Music with Bill Keale 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For info call 541-549-2675 or go to online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Cloverdale Fire District Station 602 Open House 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy hot dogs, tours and more at 67433 Cloverdale Rd. For more info go to cloverdalefire.com.

Wed. ~ May 24

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! For info call 541-549-6114 or go online to hardtailsoregon.com.

Brooks Camp Rd. & McKinney Butte Dr. Habitat Home Dedication 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to celebrate for Dawn & Dave Holmes' new home. For info: 541-549-1193.

Thurs. ~ May 25

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

Friday ~ May 26

Paulina Springs Books Author Reading with Eli Boschetto 6:30 p.m. Boschetto will read from "Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail Oregon: Section Hiking from Siskiyou Pass to Bridge of the Gods." Call 541-549-0866 or go to paulinasprings.com.

Listings free to advertisers. Submit by 5 p.m. Fridays to teresa@nuggetnews.com

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Mon-Thurs 5:15, 7:30
King Arthur (PG-13)
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Sat-Sun 2:00, 4:30, 7:15
Mon-Thurs 4:30, 7:15
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Sat-Sun 1:45, 4:15, 6:45
Mon 4:15, 6:45; Tues 4:15
Wed-Thurs 4:15, 6:45
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