

A SOSOC by any other name

Bud nips 'University' of Southern Oregon in bud

ASHLAND (AP) — Southern Oregon State College will be Southern Oregon State College a little longer.

In a letter Thursday to Ashland-area legislators, college Pres. Natale Sicuro said he would drop a long-running campaign to change the school's name to University of Southern Oregon.

"It is critical that nothing distract attention from the necessity to obtain legislative support for adequate higher education funding and approval of the strategic plan during this (legislative) session," Sicuro said in his letter. "I believe it is in the best interest of all concerned to withdraw our proposal from further consideration."

The letter was written a week after Sicuro asked local lawmakers to introduce legislation this session to change the school's name.

Sicuro told the legislators Thursday that he regretted what he termed his "sharp yet friendly difference of opinion" with state higher education Chancellor Bud Davis over the proposal.

But, he said, he believes that by raising the proposal, he has encouraged the state Board of Higher Education to clarify confusion about the process for changing a school name.

Sicuro contends that the Legislature alone has the power to rename a state school, but members of the Board of Higher Education have said that body should consider any name change first.

The proposal received widespread endorsement in Jackson County from students, faculty members and various educational and civic organizations. Supporters said the name change would enhance the school's prestige.

'Army of God' pair convicted

ALTON, Ill. (AP) — A Texas man was convicted Thursday of attempted extortion and conspiracy stemming from the abduction of an Illinois abortion clinic operator and his wife.

A federal jury of seven men and five women deliberated three hours before returning a guilty verdict against Don Benny Anderson, 42, of Pearland, Texas.

Anderson was one of three men charged with attempted extortion and conspiracy stemming from the eight-day abduction last August of Dr. Hector Zevallos, 53, and his wife, Rosalie Jean, 45, from the couple's rural Edwardsville home.

Authorities have said that Anderson and brothers Wayne Moore, 18, and Matthew Moore, 20, both of New Caney, Texas, composed a group call-

ing itself the "Army of God," which claimed responsibility for the abduction.

The charges involve alleged attempts to block the Hope Clinic for Women Ltd. in Granite City from participating in interstate commerce. Zevallos owns the clinic, located near the Illinois-Missouri border.

Defense attorney Wayne Schoeneberg said the government failed to prove its case. While admitting that previously the government proved an abduction took place, he argued Thursday the evidence did not show an attempt to block interstate commerce.

"The purpose here was an abduction to get some publicity for abortion," Schoeneberg said, adding that Zevallos and his wife were kidnapped by

three men who had a sincere belief that abortion was wrong.

"The government will not lose this case if you vote not guilty," Schoeneberg said. "The government will go on and the question of kidnapping is for another day."

U.S. Attorney Frederick Hess said the evidence showed Anderson was as guilty as charged.

"Good motive alone is never a defense when the act done is a crime and these acts are criminal," Hess said.

Anderson and the Moore brothers were indicted in November. Wayne Moore pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge under a plea agreement that was ordered sealed. A trial date for Matthew Moore has not been set.

Hearing set on downtown plan

The Eugene city downtown commission will hear comments from the public on a future downtown plan on Saturday afternoon in the Eugene Conference Center.

Commission members will be available from 1 to 5 p.m. to answer questions on the plan inventory, which includes maps and information about current downtown conditions.

The completed inventory will set guidelines for organizing the plan, which is scheduled for public review next fall.

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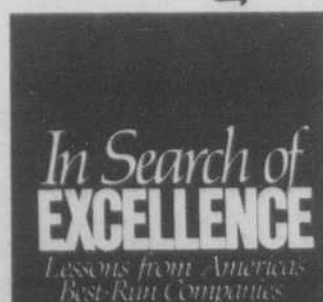
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