

Owner kills youth stealing beer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A convenience store owner chased down a group of teen-agers who allegedly stole some beer, killing one and wounding another, police said Saturday.

The owner of the North Hollywood mini-market confronted two youths, each holding a case of beer, as they apparently tried to leave without paying about 11 p.m. Friday, Detective Mike Coffey said.

One of the youths threw his case at the owner and they fled, joined by a few more people who were waiting for them outside, Coffey said.

The owner grabbed a handgun, fired several shots and gave chase to Mariano Chaidez, 23, of North Hollywood, who was still holding a case of beer, Coffey said.

After a half-block pursuit, Chaidez turned and punched the owner in the face, then struggled with him for the gun, Coffey said. During the struggle, the weapon fired and Chaidez was wounded. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Coffey said a 17-year-old North Hollywood youth apparently was wounded by the earlier shots. The teen-ager, whose name was not released because of his age, was arrested for investigation of murder since the slaying allegedly occurred during a crime, Coffey said.

The teen-ager was shot once in the upper body, but Coffey did not know his condition.

The convenience store owner's name was not released for fear of retribution, Coffey said. He was questioned by detectives but not arrested.

Marijuana-growing chiropractor jailed

EVERETT, Wash. (AP) — A Snohomish County chiropractor who grew marijuana to give to a patient with glaucoma has been sentenced to three days in jail.

A Snohomish County Superior Court judge also sentenced Joanne Pittman of Lake Stevens to 216 hours of community service Thursday.

Pittman, 40, asked for leniency during her sentencing.

She told the court she is homeless, jobless, six months pregnant and fighting cervical cancer. She said stress could cause a miscarriage.

During the trial, Pittman admitted growing the marijuana for Don Inman of Index to ease pain in his left eye. Evidence was presented at the trial that Pittman also used marijuana to enhance her appetite while she fought the cervical

cancer.

She was convicted of possessing marijuana with the intent to manufacture or deliver it.

Pittman will have to report to jail by April 4.

When sheriff's detectives raided her Index home on November 4, 1992, they found 12 marijuana plants hidden in a washing machine.

Big dog leads to canceled insurance

MEDFORD (AP) — Cathy Hauser said she didn't need to post a "Beware of Dog" sign because of Sara, a year-old German shepherd-rottweiler mix, but if it meant a lower insurance premium, she was willing to consider it.

"That's like telling people your dog is vicious, and she's not," Hauser said. The sign might deter burglars, she thought.

But when she called Oregon Mutual to talk about it, she was told her preferred rate policy would be canceled when it expires this September. She could either pay a higher rate or look for another insurer.

Insurers have paid up to \$300,000 in damages for one dog bite, with German shepherd's accounting for more claims than any other breed, said

Dennis Hoffman, an underwriter for Oregon Mutual.

"Rottweilers and pit bulls are breeds of dogs that are extremely dangerous in a fight because they don't just take a nip like a Labrador or something, they bite and don't let go," Hoffman said.

Pamela Merritt, Hauser's insurance agent, said she has an obligation to inform the insurer if she finds out about a dog.

"If they're made aware of it, they'll non-renew the policy."

State Farm Insurance agent John Yapple said his company checks out the dog to see if it is a poor risk before changing the premium.

"We've never had any problems with her. She's a good dog," said Hauser.

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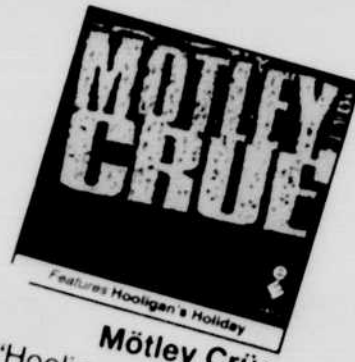


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