

Police officer kills man who fires at him

The Associated Press

CRESWELL — A Creswell-area man shot to death by an Oregon State Police trooper after firing at the officer apparently was returning home from a wedding anniversary celebration, relatives said.

The dead man was identified as Marvin Donald Free, 64, who was living in a night watchman's trailer on Bear Creek Road.

Free was a passenger in a pick-

up driven by his wife, Ellie Mureta Free, 57.

The trooper, James Hawkins, 45, a 19-year veteran of the force, is on administrative leave pending an investigation.

The incident was the second fatal shooting by an Oregon state trooper in a year.

The trooper stopped the pickup shortly before 1 a.m. Saturday about two miles east of Interstate 5 on the suspicion that the driver was intoxicated, police spokesman Lt. Gregg Hastings said.

Travis Trafton, a 27-year-old University of Oregon student whose cottage is about 100 yards from the shooting scene, said he was reading an economics textbook when the gunfire started.

Trafton estimated that at least nine shots were fired — the first few in rapid succession.

Family members said later that they believed the couple was returning from celebrating their seventh wedding anniversary.

The trooper, who parked behind the pickup on the narrow roadway, ordered Ellie Free out of the truck and asked for her driver's license, Hastings said.

As the trooper was putting her through a standard police sobriety test, Marvin Free exited the pickup with a .30-30 rifle.

Free came around the back of the truck and fired at the trooper, missing at short range, Hastings said.

The trooper returned fire, Hastings said.

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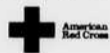


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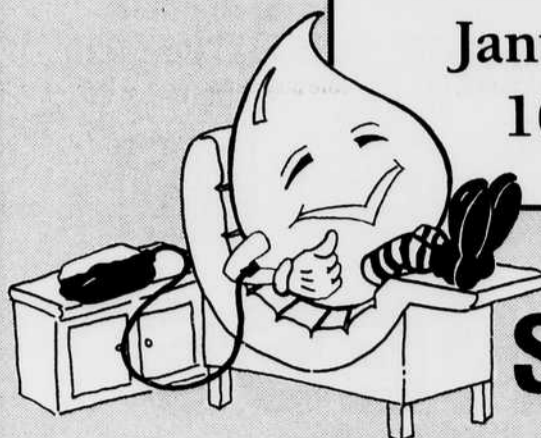
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