

IN BRIEF

Police release sketch tied to Corvallis assaults

CORVALLIS — Police in Corvallis think the same man may be responsible for three separate recent attacks on women in the area.

On Monday, investigators released a sketch of a possible subject, showing a white male adult, about 5 feet 9 inches tall and slight of frame. The sketch also shows that the suspect has medium skin tone, a clear complexion and blue-green eyes.

The most recent assault was in Corvallis on Nov. 9, when a woman said a man tried to grab her and drag her into her car before she managed to fight him off.

Police say the suspect's pattern has been to approach a lone female at night, either in a parking lot or on the street.

The alleged assaults have received extra attention because of the case of Brooke Wilberger, a Brigham Young University student from Veneta who disappeared last spring from an apartment complex near Oregon State University.

Police believe she was abducted, and have identified several persons of interest in the case, although they have made no arrests.

Senator named to power and conservation council

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski appointed veteran Democratic state Sen. Joan Dukes on Monday to one of Oregon's two seats on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Dukes was named to replace Gene Derfler of Salem, a former Oregon Senate president who plans to leave the council when his term expires on Jan. 15.

The full-time council that was created by Congress in 1980 also has two members each from Idaho, Montana and Washington.

The agency develops long-range electric power plans for the region, while balancing power needs with protecting fish and wildlife populations affected by hydropower development in the Columbia River Basin.

The council is funded by power revenue from the federal Bonneville Power Administration, which markets electricity from federal dams on the Columbia River.

Dukes' appointment is subject to state Senate confirmation. If approved, she would resign from the Senate.

Dukes, who lives near Astoria, has served in the Senate since 1987 and currently is the longest serving

senator. Her district takes in Clatsop, Tillamook and Columbia counties and parts of Washington and Multnomah counties.

Commissioners from those counties will meet to appoint a replacement to the Senate, who by law must be a Democrat.

Veteran lawyer evaluates investment council policies

PORTLAND — A veteran attorney with banking and securities law experience is evaluating the Oregon Investment Council's conflict of interest policies after questions were raised about the role of the wife of former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt.

Edward "Ted" McAniff, a visiting professor at University of Oregon School of Law and semi-retired from a Los Angeles law firm, began his review earlier this month under a contract with the Oregon Treasury, which oversees the investment council.

He is expected to complete the evaluation by June 30.

The Treasury announced on Aug. 20 that it planned to hire an outside expert to conduct what is called a "best practices" review of the council, which manages a \$56 billion portfolio of public funds, including a \$45 billion public employees' pension fund.

The review comes after council vice chairwoman Diana Goldschmidt voted along with fellow

council members to allow a \$300 million investment in a private equity fund managed by Texas Pacific Group.

Less than a day after the vote on Oct. 29, 2003, Texas Pacific asked Diana Goldschmidt's husband, Neil Goldschmidt, to participate in a potentially lucrative partnership that would own Portland General Electric, Oregon's largest utility.

Questions about whether Diana Goldschmidt or other council members knew about Neil Goldschmidt's association with Texas Pacific before the vote prompted an investigation by Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers and a decision by Gov. Ted Kulongoski to remove Diana Goldschmidt from the council.

Neil Goldschmidt withdrew from any involvement with Texas Pacific in May after admitting to sexually abusing a 14-year-old in the 1970s when he was mayor of Portland.

Myers began the investigation on Sept. 29. He has declined to discuss details while the inquiry is under way.

"The department is making every effort to complete the investigation by January," said Kevin Neely, a spokesman for Myers.

Several individuals associated with the council, Texas Pacific and the pending acquisition of PGE have been interviewed by investigators with the attorney general's office. They declined to discuss details.

McAniff will evaluate the policies, rules and practices used by the Treasury staff and the investment council to determine whether a conflict or potential conflict exists, according to the Treasury contract.

Man facing rape charges tries to commit suicide

LA PINE — A man arrested for the alleged rape of a 90-year-old woman tried to kill himself while in a holding cell, according to a report from the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

The victim, who identified her attacker to police, was treated for minor injuries and released from a Bend hospital over the weekend, according to the sheriff's office.

The alleged rapist, who is also facing burglary charges, was taken to St. Charles Medical Center-Bend for observation and a mental health evaluation, the sheriff's office said.

The 38-year-old man was being treated for non-life threatening injuries, according to the sheriff's office.

He has a prior conviction on sodomy and kidnapping charges from a separate case in 1995, according to state Judicial Department records, and was convicted of failing to register as a sex offender on Sept. 1, 2000.

—The Associated Press

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Iraq requests neighboring nations tighten borders

Interim leader spokesman says nearby countries have not pulled their weight against insurgency

BY SALAH NASRAWI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt — Leaders meeting on Iraq's future plan to give strong backing to the interim government's war against insurgents, but won't set a deadline for withdrawing U.S.-led forces from Iraq despite a push by France and some Arab countries.

The draft communique for the conference that began Monday, also says the interim Iraqi government should meet with its opponents to try to persuade them to take part in the general elections scheduled for January.

Iraq asked Egypt to convene the conference to bolster world support for its battle against insurgents and its plan to hold national elections.

The meeting brought together Iraq's six neighbors, Iran, Syria, Turkey, Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, as well as Egypt and several other Arab countries, China and regional bodies such as the Group of Eight, the United Nations, the European Union, the Arab League and

the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Syria's foreign minister, Farouk al-Sharaa, had tried to seek support for setting a deadline for the withdrawal of foreign forces in Iraq. But the draft communique, which the Egyptian foreign minister said late Monday had been endorsed by the conference, allows the Iraqi government to decide when the U.S.-led troops should depart. It does remind them that their mandate is "not open-ended."

For all its bloodshed, the insurgency enjoys a certain support in the Arab world, where many regard the U.S. and other troops as occupiers.

In a clear rebuff to such sympathies, the draft communique says the participants condemn "all acts of terrorism in Iraq" and call for "the immediate cessation of all such acts in order to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people."

In what could be the most contentious part of the conference, Iraq has said it will ask neighboring states to tighten their borders against the

infiltration of would-be insurgents and to share information about groups supporting the militants.

"The Iraqi government will put pressure on the neighboring countries not to use their territories to support violence and terrorism in Iraq," said Thair al-Naqeeb, the spokesman for interim leader Ayad Allawi.

In an interview with the AP on Monday, Allawi said neighboring countries had not pulled their weight against the insurgency.

"Certainly, some brothers and leaders in some neighboring nations did not do enough," Allawi said. "They should have tried to help us at a time when we needed help."

On his arrival Monday, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari shrugged off calls by some Sunni Muslims for Iraqis to boycott the elections, set for Jan. 30.

"They do not represent all Sunnis. If they want to prove their popularity, the only way is through the ballot box," Zebari said.

In Baghdad, Allawi also dismissed boycott advocates as "the eventual losers," and said his government was determined to hold the elections on time.

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