

## OREGON IN BRIEF

From wire reports

**School district OKs use of eminent domain for church land**

SALEM — School officials in Keizer have approved using eminent domain to acquire land from a neighboring church to address traffic issues at a high school.

The Statesman-Journal reports Salem-Keizer School Board on Tuesday approved a resolution of necessity allowing the district to acquire six acres of private property from St. Edward Catholic Church.

Salem-Keizer officials say they've exhausted all alternatives as they try to address safety issues around the main parking lot of McNary High School.

St. Edward church officials say they haven't been offered a fair-market price. They say they'll fight the district's use of eminent domain, a process that allows an authority to acquire land for public use with compensation.

The district will make a final offer to the church before moving forward.

**Oregon man tries to trade cannabis for a car, lands in jail**

ALBANY — Marijuana is legal in Oregon, but you can't barter it for a car.

Police in Albany said Tuesday a car dealer posted a Mazda SUV for sale on an online marketplace on Friday. A man contacted the dealer and offered to trade cannabis for the car.

Matthew Franks, 38, of Independence, showed up at a parking-lot rendezvous site that evening, expecting to meet the car seller.

Instead, police were waiting for him.

Police spokesman Brad Liles says Franks was arrested and put into the Linn County Jail. Liles says police seized 5.4 pounds of marijuana, less than the agreed-upon amount.

It wasn't immediately clear if Franks had an attorney.

Though marijuana is legal in Oregon, sales are regulated and those in the business must be licensed.

**Portland officer hit with pipe sustained fractured skull**

PORTLAND — Court documents say a Portland police officer sustained a fractured skull after being hit with a pipe by a man he was trying to arrest.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Officer Taylor Rethmeier was hospitalized after the arrest of Tsegay Abraha, according to a probable cause affidavit.

A Portland Police Bureau spokeswoman says Rethmeier has since been released from the hospital and is recovering.

According to the affidavit, a woman reported being hit on the arm with a metal pipe by Abraha Saturday evening. The strike left a large bruise.

Police say Rethmeier then encountered Abraha while responding to a report Abraha was throwing rocks at cars.

Abraha remains in jail on accusations of assault, assaulting a public safety officer, and other charges.

It wasn't immediately known if he had an attorney.

**Man who tried to suffocate roommate gets probation**

PORTLAND — An Oregon man convicted in connection to trying to suffocate his 75-year-old roommate with plastic wrap has been sentenced to two years of probation.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports a Washington County jury found 73-year-old Leo J. Miller guilty of fourth-degree assault earlier this month.

The Tigard man was acquitted of attempted murder, unlawful use of a weapon and strangulation.

According to court documents, roommate Charlotte Simons told police Miller covered her nose and mouth from behind while she was sitting in a recliner after they had argued about utility bills in February.

Miller claimed he acted in self-defense after Simons started hitting him with a cane.

Defense attorneys said Simons was hospitalized four days before Miller's arrest because she had voice intentions of killing Miller.

**Oregon urges Supreme Court to uphold sentence**

PORTLAND — Oregon is urging the U.S. Supreme court to uphold the 112-year sentence given to a man who killed his parents before fatally shooting two students and wounding two dozen others at a high school 20 years ago.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports 36-year-old Kipland Kinkel filed a petition in early August to the nation's highest court for a review of his sentence in the May 1998 shootings in Springfield, Oregon.

Oregon solicitor general Benjamin Gutman filed a brief this month in response, saying the sentence

shouldn't be overturned because the Oregon Supreme Court found it reflected his "irreparable corruption rather than the transience of youth."

Attorneys Thaddeus Betz and Marsha Levick have argued their client never got the chance to demonstrate he's not "permanently incorrigible" before the state

imposed the sentence.

**Man pleads guilty to money laundering**

PORTLAND — A Tualatin man has pleaded guilty to money laundering in federal court following a negotiated agreement that will result in all federal charges being dismissed against his son. The Oregonian/

OregonLive reports 64-year-old Ronald Stover pleaded guilty Tuesday. Stover, who suffers from advanced stage cancer, is expected to face five years of probation and \$3.2 million in restitution at his February sentencing.

In 2016, Stover and his son Jeffrey Stover were indicted on federal wire and bankruptcy fraud charges,

accused of purporting to raise money for different capital projects while using investors' loans for personal use.

Prosecutors alleged the two Stovers were working together for more than four years in the fraud conspiracy to fund their own lavish lifestyles between March 29, 2010, and March 10, 2015.

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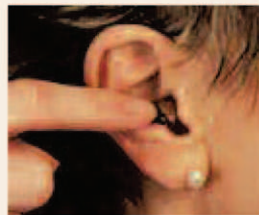
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