

OREGON IN BRIEF

From wire reports

Remains found after cabin explodes during police standoff

OAKRIDGE — Human remains found in a cabin that exploded in flames early Tuesday morning during a standoff between law enforcement and a wanted man are believed to be those of a suspect who barricaded himself when police arrived Monday night, the Lane County Sheriff's Office said.

The sheriff's office said Tuesday that police tried to contact the man at the cabin east of Oakridge about a warrant Monday, to no avail, KATU-TV reported.

Police called the sheriff's office for help and deputies made contact with the man, who refused to come out of the structure. The cabin was located up a narrow road overgrown with vegetation, the sheriff's office said.

Shortly before 3 a.m. Tuesday, law enforcement reported hearing a small explosion that sounded like it came from inside the structure followed by fire erupting inside, the sheriff's office said. The fire department was called but was unable to get the truck up the road, the sheriff's office said.

Authorities found a person dead once they were able to get inside.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office will investigate the fire and the man's name will be released later.

Black guest at Portland hotel sues over 'no party' promise

PORTLAND — An African American woman who says she was required to sign a "no party policy" when she checked into her Portland hotel filed a \$300,000 lawsuit Monday against the Marriott chain, claiming it singled her out because of her race.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Felicia Gonzales claims the front desk clerk at the Residence Inn by Marriott Portland Downtown/Convention Center told her that all guests had to sign the policy. But Gonzales says she watched white guests check in after her who weren't required to sign the policy, according to the lawsuit.

Marriott spokesman Jeff Flaherty says the company doesn't comment on pending lawsuits.

The two-page no party policy, provided by Gonzales' attorneys, says it was established to inform all guests of noise limits and "not to insinuate any distrust in the 'average' guest."

Gonzales' suit seeks \$300,000 for embarrassment, frustration, humiliation and "feelings of racial stigmatization." The suit also says it could later be amended to add \$1 million in punitive damages.

The suit was filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

Woman's family sues Bend hospital over her death

BEND — St. Charles Health System is facing a \$26.5 million wrongful death lawsuit from the family of a Jacksonville woman who died of septic shock following a breast infection in 2017.

The Bulletin reports the family of Casey Galusha-Beck filed suit last week in Deschutes County Circuit Court, naming two St. Charles doctors as co-defendants.

After Galusha-Beck's

infection was successfully treated, hospital staff missed obvious signs of adrenal insufficiency, which led to circulatory collapse and death, the lawsuit said. Galusha-Beck was 32 when she died on Jan. 17, 2017.

St. Charles spokeswoman Lisa Goodman declined to discuss the lawsuit, citing pending litigation.

Portland State University to pay \$1M in man's fatal shooting

PORTLAND — Portland State University has agreed to pay \$1 million to the family of Jason Washington, who campus police shot and killed in 2018.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports as part of the settlement, some of the money will go to create a memorial scholarship fund in Washington's name. The university also agreed to provide campus police with additional training.

"Mr. Washington's death was tragic, and our campus community mourns his loss," Interim President Stephen Percy said in a statement. "His death made us significantly reassess our approach to campus safety."

The university did not release terms of the agreement. The family had notified Portland State earlier this year that it intended

to file a wrongful death lawsuit.

After the shooting, the university hired an independent public safety consultant who held campus forums and produced recommendations in a lengthy report. In October, Percy announced a comprehensive campus safety plan that includes training designed to minimize the use of force and increased oversight by a university committee.

Michelle Washington, Jason Washington's wife, said the settlement "acknowledges our profound loss." Washington is also survived by three children.

Officers James Dewey and Shawn McKenzie shot Washington, a U.S. postal worker and Navy veteran in a chaotic scene as Washington tried to break up a fight near the Cheerful Tortoise on June 29, 2018.

A Multnomah County grand jury later found no criminal wrongdoing by the officers. McKenzie and Dewey have since left PSU's public safety force.

New Portland police chief sworn in

PORTLAND — Portland's new police chief Jami Resch was sworn in during a private ceremony Tuesday.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports the 20-year bureau veteran succeeds Danielle Outlaw, who stepped down to become Philadelphia's next police commissioner.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler made the announcement Monday at the same time he announced Outlaw's departure. Resch, who made \$185,556.80 as the bureau's No. 2, will be paid an annual salary of \$215,000.

The bureau declined to make Resch available for an interview Tuesday, saying she would make her first public remarks next week.

Last year, Outlaw picked Resch, then a captain, to serve as assistant chief of investigations. In May, Outlaw promoted Resch to deputy chief.

Chris Davis was sworn in as the new deputy chief. He was named assistant chief of operations in June. Before that, he served in a variety of posts, including assistant chief of services, Central Precinct commander and captain of North Precinct.

City parks director being investigated for sexual harassment

ASTORIA — The director of the Astoria Parks and

Recreation Department in Oregon is under investigation by the city for sexual harassment.

Documents provided to The Astorian show that a woman who works with Tim Williams told the city in November that his behavior was inappropriate and upsetting.

The Astorian reported Sunday that the woman said he hugged her in a sexually suggestive manner and tried to discuss his pornography problem and fetishes with her.

Williams could not be reached for comment.

City Manager Brett Estes said in a statement that when Williams was asked to participate in an interview as part of the investigation, he took leave under the Oregon Family Leave Act and declined to do so.

Estes said once Williams' leave is finished he will be required to answer questions needed to conclude the investigation.

Before the claims of sexual harassment surfaced, documents say others at the parks department had voiced concerns about Williams. Documents indicate city officials had spoken to him about his behavior and keeping comments appropriate.

Williams started as director of the Astoria Parks and

Recreation Department in January. He grew up in southeast Idaho and worked for several parks departments, most recently in Roswell, New Mexico.

Teen climber rescued after fall on Oregon's Mount Hood

MOUNT HOOD — A 16-year-old mountain climber has been rescued after he fell 500 feet on Mount Hood Monday and hurt his leg, authorities said.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office said a call came in at about 9 a.m.

about a boy who fell while climbing with a group.

Rescue teams reached the teen at about 1 p.m. Monday at an elevation of about 10,500 feet. The sheriff's office says rescuers put a splint on his leg and said he was in stable condition. It took rescuers until nearly 5 p.m. to bring him down to Timberline Lodge where an ambulance was waiting.

At 11,239 feet, Hood is the highest mountain in Oregon and one of the most-climbed mountains in the world, according to the sheriff's office. More than 10,000 people make the technical ascent to Hood's summit each year.

— The Associated Press

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