

Suspect cuffed in robbery with mace

Officers with the Keizer Police Department arrested a Keizer man last week accused of attempting to rob a Salem man during a meeting to complete a Craigslist transaction.

Joshua J. Smith, 28, of 4343 Rivercrest Drive North was arrested and charged July 29 with attempting to rob a 29-year-old Salem man of guitar pedals the victim was there to sell. Smith has been charged with third degree robbery, fourth degree assault, first degree theft and unlawful use of mace. Bail was set at \$30,000.

Shortly after 5 p.m. on July 28, KPD officers responded to 452 Cummings Lane North, John Knox Presbyterian Church, to a report of a robbery that had just occurred.

The victim said he was assaulted during the robbery when the suspect sprayed him with a chemical weapon agent similar to mace or pepper-spray that incapacitated him and his ability to defend himself or prevent being robbed. When officers arrived they found the man lying on the ground in the church parking lot next to his vehicle.

The officer confirmed he had been sprayed in the face with some type of chemical weapon agent and observed his eyes were swollen shut and he had mucus coming from his nose and mouth. The victim also reported he was having difficulty breathing as he suffered from the effects of the chemical agent the suspect had assaulted him with.

Paramedics from the Keizer

Fire District responded to render aid. The victim was treated and released on the scene.

The initial investigation determined that after the suspect robbed the victim he fled on foot to the south of the church parking lot on Toni Avenue North. Additional KPD officers and a K-9 Unit from the Salem Police Department responded to the area in an effort to locate and apprehend the suspect, but the search was unsuccessful.

In addition to providing a suspect description and his last known direction of travel, the victim provided investigating officers with the telephone number he said the suspect called from when they made arrangements to meet. Further investigation revealed this telephone number belonged to a pay phone located at the 7-11 store at 4380 River Road North, approximately five blocks from the location the robbery occurred.

Officers later responded to the 7-11 where they were able to view surveillance video of a person who used the pay phone that matched the description of the suspect

provided by the victim.

On July 29, officers continued to investigate the incident and were contacted by the victim who told investigators he believed he had found the guitar pedals the suspect stole from him. He said he believed the suspect was attempting to sell the stolen property on Craigslist. After learning this information the investigators were able to identify the person who was selling the possible stolen property.

Smith resided within approximately a half mile of where the robbery occurred the previous evening. The follow-up investigation continued July 29 with undercover officers arranging to meet with the seller of the guitar pedals at 2 p.m. at an auto parts business in the 4200 block of River Road North.

The seller arrived and was observed wearing the same clothing the suspect from the previous evening's robbery was described to have been wearing. Undercover officers approached him and took him into custody without incident and they recovered the guitar pedals. Smith was transported to the Marion County Correctional Facility.

School Board tackles guiding principles

By HERB SWETT
For the Keizertimes

The Salem-Keizer School Board represents the owners of the school system, speaks with one voice after reaching a decision, has only one employee and must keep its members from promoting nepotism or cronyism.

Those were among the principles discussed July 28 at a work session on governance, which included the district's administrators. Although the board cannot vote on a policy in a work session, the matter is expected to be on the agenda of the board's August meeting.

Rick Kimball, board chairperson, noted that the governance principles had been in effect for several years but said that, with many new administrators as well as one new board member, it was time to make sure all district leaders knew about the policies. Kimball credited Sandy Husk, who preceded Christy Perry as permanent superintendent of the district, with introducing the governance system to the Salem-Keizer School District.

While encouraging expression of opinion by individual board members before a decision is made, the policy calls for

all board members to support the decision after it is reached.

District voters, as the owners of the public school system, elect the board, to which its one employee, the superintendent, reports. The other administrators, the teachers and the classified employees work for the superintendent.

The governance system limits the authority of the superintendent. Those limits are read at board meetings monthly through the year as executive limitation policies. Many comments have been made about the negative wordings of the policies, but they have been so worded to remind the public, board members and district employees what administrators cannot do.

Policies regarding fairness bar board members from seeking district jobs for relatives or friends, and from voting on facilities in which they have financial interests.

Paul Dakopolos, district legal adviser, noted that board members have personal liability for illegal actions by the board. He said that, in cases of potential or actual conflicts of interest, board members must declare them. He added that board members are encouraged to disclose potential conflicts annually.

Hokanson gets promotion

Maj. Gen. Dan R. Hokanson was recently promoted to the rank of lieutenant general and assigned as deputy commander of the U.S. Northern Command and vice commander of U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Defense command.

Hokanson, a one-time Keizer resident, had been serving as adjutant general of Oregon National Guard.

"Our loss is the country's gain," Gov. Kate Brown said of the move in a press release. "I am proud to see Maj. Gen. Hokanson's dedicated service recognized with this

promotion. We will miss his steady, thoughtful leadership. During his tenure, he guided the state to develop a synchronized response to a Cascadia Subduction Zone event, oversaw the deployment of 1,400 service members; and led the Oregon National Guard's response to state emergencies, including wildfires and search and rescue operations."

The new assignment will take Hokanson to Colorado Springs, Colo., where he will help oversee preparation and response to threats and aggression aimed at the U.S. and its territories.

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