

Tense traffic stop raises rights questions



Cannon Beach Police Body Camera Video
Acharmu Crosby was charged with illegally recording a December traffic stop in Cannon Beach where he was cited for a defective headlight and failure to present his driver's license.

Wheeler man charged with illegally recording police

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

On New Year's Day, a new law took effect in Oregon that explicitly allows people to record traffic stops or other interactions with police.

Troubled by a gray area in the state's wiretapping law that permitted recording only when all participants in the conversation were specifically informed, state lawmakers refined the law to provide clarity and greater transpar-

ency in an era when law enforcement is under keen scrutiny.

But that clarity came too late for Acharmu Crosby.

The 41-year-old roofer, who lives in Wheeler, was cited by Cannon Beach Police in December for a defective headlight and failing to present his driver's license after a routine traffic stop on U.S. Highway 101 that nearly spiraled dangerously out of control.

Crosby recorded portions of the traffic stop on his cellphone

in plain view of the police officer who issued him the citation and who was also recording with a body camera.

When Crosby showed up last week at Clatsop County Circuit Court to fight the citation, he was stunned and angry when he was handed a new charge of illegally recording the traffic stop, booked into county jail over his vehement objections, and released pending future court dates.

Cannon Beach Police did not recommend the illegal record-

ing charge. The police officer's incident report and body camera footage clearly show the officer knew Crosby was recording. But David Goldthorpe, a deputy district attorney, decided to bring the extra charge because Crosby apparently did not verbally indicate he was recording.

Goldthorpe signed off on the new charge on Dec. 30. He said he was not aware that state law would change two days later and remove any ambiguity over whether Crosby could legally record the traffic stop.

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Out of many cities, one Warrenton



It was a packed house for Susan Glen's talk at the Netul River Room.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
R. Gregory Nokes spoke Friday at the Astoria Public Library about Oregon's tainted history regarding slavery and black people.

Why is Oregon so white?

Author reveals Oregon's tainted history on slavery

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

In 1850, the U.S. Census counted 55 black people out of a population of 12,093 in the Oregon Territory. Why is Oregon, which as of 2010 was less than 2 percent black, so white?

As a precursor to Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Lower Columbia Diversity Project invited author R. Gregory Nokes Friday to recount the experience of Oregon, a state where slavery was never technically legal, but where free black people were not legally allowed until 90 years ago.

"We need to know our history, and how far we've come and what remains to be done," said Nokes, whose 2013 book "Breaking Chains" describes the experience of slaves in the Oregon Territory and state's tainted history with black people.

Leave or be lashed

The first wagon trains came to the Oregon Territory in the early 1840s, settlers arriving with the promise of land. By 1844, the provisional government of Oregon had outlawed slavery. The government also outlawed free black people from living in the state, under the threat of up to 39 lashes.

"I was just astounded to ever come across this," Nokes said. "That Oregon ever had such a law on the books was just amazing to me."

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Local historian digs into city's storied past

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The story of Warrenton is a kind of microcosm of United States history, for the city encompasses communities old enough to be shaped by the same sweeping forces that shaped the nation — from railroads to Prohibition, world wars to economic crises.

Susan Glen, a local author who penned the book "Images of America: Warrenton-Hammond" in 2009, spoke of Warrenton's origins, growth and maturation to a full house Sunday at Fort Clatsop in Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

Her presentation, "The Towns that

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

An audience member reads through Arcadia Publishings "Images of America: Warrenton-Hammond" book during the speaker event Sunday. Susan Glen compiled photos and text for the book.

'Doing a story of what happened and how Warrenton came to be sort of goes along with my own history.'

Susan Glen

local author who penned the book 'Images of America: Warrenton-Hammond'

Midwife apprentice finds her passion in Astoria

'Every woman could use a doula,' Silva says

While growing up in small-town Southern Idaho, Libby Silva came across the book, "Spiritual Midwifery," a classic book on home birth with stories about the experiences of parents and midwives.

The empowering book resonated with Silva, and after reading it in high school, it propelled her on a career path as a birthing professional. Silva, who moved to Astoria a year ago, works as a doula and is apprenticing to become a midwife.

EVERYDAY
people

"I had always thought it was a scary thing," she said. "You see stuff on TV and people are screaming and lying on their backs. I just read these stories and was amazed."

After high school, Silva studied at Seattle Pacific University to become a nurse midwife. She decided to switch from nursing and focus on becoming a certified professional midwife, which specializes in home births.

She also completed an

eight-week training in Seattle to become a doula. The training program she took is considered one of the most extensive in the country.

After a stint back in Idaho, she made the move to Astoria.

"I just go where I feel led," she said. "It wasn't a job or any big thing. I could see myself over there. I started calling doulas and midwives."

She contacted Jennifer Childress, a certified professional midwife who has been in practice along the coast from Astoria to Tillamook since 2010. Childress brought her on as an apprentice.

So far, Silva has helped Childress with a dozen births. Midwives help preg-

nant women from about 12 weeks of pregnancy to about two months after the baby is born.

"It's the majority of a year that you are getting to know this person and you are watching them go through this crazy, beautiful life transition," Silva said. "It's such a privilege to watch it and be able to support them through it."

Along with apprenticing, Silva is a student midwife online at the Midwives College of Utah. She is in the first year of the three-year program. Through the online program, she is taking anatomy classes, learning how to take vital



Libby Silva

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