

Reinsch: District attorney said there was not enough evidence

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Police must have probable cause and a search warrant before entering a home to check for underage drinking unless given permission by the occupant.

In August, Reinsch was charged with two counts of furnishing alcohol to a person under 21, with one of the counts involving a different teen. He pleaded no contest to the misdemeanor charges last week and was found guilty.

District Attorney Josh Marquis said there was not enough evidence to legally prove that Reinsch giving Secord alcohol caused his death. If the case did go to trial, the defense was prepared to call witnesses that would have testified that Reinsch was out of state the night of the accident.

Additionally, investigators found that other people besides Reinsch likely gave Secord alcohol, and the exact circumstances of the accident are not fully known.

"As the court knows, my office is considered amongst the most aggressive in the state,

and even our office doesn't make that leap," Marquis said.

Christina Secord, Trevor Secord's mother, said she was disappointed with the plea deal. She asked Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas to reject it and sentence Reinsch "to the fullest extent of the law."

The maximum sentence would be one year in jail for each charge. She also called the \$1,000 fine that Reinsch must pay the Secord family "laughable."

"I hear people say that, 'No one forced him to drink it,' and to that I agree. However, at 15 years old, he was not able to purchase the Everclear on his own, and as an adult, (Reinsch) should have known better," Secord said in a statement read in court Tuesday.

"It needs to be shown that you cannot just provide to the delinquency of a minor that ends up dying because of it and get a slap on the wrist and move on with your life."

Reinsch was convicted of first-degree burglary in 2015. He was sentenced to 40 days in jail and five years of probation. He faces roughly four years in



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
A memorial for Trevor Secord, a Warrenton teenager killed in an accident after a night of drinking in 2017.

prison if he is found in violation of probation.

In the most recent plea deal, the district attorney's office agreed not to pursue a probation violation, which Secord called "ridiculous."

"Mr. Reinsch resolved this pending matter, I think, specifically because he had a high amount of liability hanging over him in his 2015 conviction. If he were to be convicted at a trial, the state would no

doubt file a probation violation, and ultimately he didn't want to take that risk," said Macon Benoit, Reinsch's court-appointed attorney.

Changing the law

Before issuing the sentence, Matyas said she does not have the "luxury" of knowing all the evidence of a criminal case when it does not go to trial. Instead, lawyers on both sides discuss the evidence and decide

on a plea deal.

"It's very difficult to say 'Well, that's not good enough,' or 'That's not severe enough,' or 'That's too harsh,'" Matyas said. "The system would collapse if we didn't trust in that process."

Matyas suggested that the state Legislature look into changing laws surrounding how one criminal act may prove causation of another.

"You certainly have every right to feel outrage that such a thing could happen to a young life," Matyas said. "Nothing I can do could change that."

The district attorney's office typically only allows victim impact statements in homicide or sexual abuse cases. But it made an exception Tuesday.

"I realize how torturous this is for the family and even for the community," Marquis said. "The law doesn't have a criminal sanction for every wrong ever committed."

Reinsch did not offer a statement when asked by Matyas.

"Instead of having compassion and empathy for your part in the whole thing, you have lied, said that we are the ones

that lied and didn't even have the decency to say you are sorry and you never meant for everyone to be harmed," Secord said.

'On and on'

Throughout the sentencing hearing, members of the Secord family repeatedly shook their heads. McKune brought a photo album of her grandson that she had hoped to show Matyas during a statement. Her daughter was the only family member allowed to speak in court.

"He sat down with those kids and he bought kids this alcohol, and it just goes on and on and on," McKune said. "I feel that they're setting a precedent for every other adult that provides."

McKune said more severe punishment should be available for those who commit similar crimes that result in someone's death.

"We're just stuck with trying to hold Trevor's ashes and that's all we have," McKune said. "It's sickening to me, and I think the system does not work."

Sea lions: 'This bill is a 5-cent solution to a \$10 problem'

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The bill, which passed by a vote of 288-116, eases protections on sea lions in place under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. Through these conservation efforts, populations of California sea lions have rebounded to nearly 300,000.

Now, many of them are moving beyond the mouth of the Columbia River and are gorging on salmon farther upstream at Bonneville Dam and Willamette Falls.

"This is what cuddly sea lions do to our iconic salmon in the Columbia River," said Schrader, standing beside a large photo of several salmon that had been slashed to pieces.

Schrader said the legislation would streamline the process to euthanize sea lions, something he said is currently a laborious and bureaucratic process. The bill would allow

federal agencies to issue kill permits to wildlife managers and Northwest tribes. The orders would be limited to no more than 100 California and Steller sea lions.

Both Oregon and Washington state have been using non-lethal methods to try and deter salmon predation. Tribal members use firecracker explosions to haze the animals away from the Bonneville Dam. At Willamette Falls, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife officials also trucked sea lions hundreds of miles away to an area on the Oregon Coast. Those efforts ended up being futile, as the sea lions returned five

days later.

According to the bill, the percentage of spring salmon eaten or killed by sea lions at the Bonneville Dam alone has increased sevenfold since 2002. And in Oregon, the Willamette River steelhead runs are facing a 90 percent chance of extinction due to predation.

"We're not anti-sea lion. We're just for protecting our native fish, a Pacific Northwest icon," Herrera Beutler said. "In order to do that, we've got to make it easier to remove some of the most egregious offenders, these problematic pinnipeds."

The bill has rankled some Democrats and animal-rights

advocates, who believe sea lions are scapegoats for bigger issues. They point to other threats to salmon the bill would not address, including climate change, hydropower dams and fish hatcheries.

"The killing of sea lions is not a silver bullet for a salmon recovery," said U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva, an Arizona Democrat who spoke in opposition of the proposal. "This bill is a 5-cent solution to a \$10 problem."

A companion bill to lethally remove sea lions, introduced by U.S. Sens. Jim Risch, R-Idaho, and Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., is also working its way through the U.S. Senate.

'We're not anti-sea lion. We're just for protecting our native fish, a Pacific Northwest icon.'

Jaime Herrera Beutler

a Republican from Washington state who is co-sponsor of the bill

Grant: Coalition is trying to see if it can be reinstated

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"We don't have anything right now," Hesse said of losing the money.

The coalition is trying to reach the federal government to see if the grant can be reinstated with a new fiscal agent, Hesse said.

Debbie Morrow, the director of Healthy Kids and chairwoman of the Warrenton-Hammond School Board, said the loss of the grant is disappointing.

"It is always disappointing when something like this happens, especially when you have worked for over seven years to get the grant," Morrow said in a text. "But as you can imagine, a federal ... grant is very specific

not only from the compliance reports but to the community engagement and involvement."

Healthy Kids had hired Carly Castaneda as a coordinator of partnerships, wellness campaigns, training and education. Castaneda previously worked as youth coordinator for WellSpring Community Network, a wellness group on the Long Beach Peninsula also funded in part by a federal Drug-Free Communities grant.

Castaneda left Healthy Kids in September and has since returned to WellSpring in a similar role coordinating the implementation of its federal grant. She declined to comment on her departure from Healthy Kids.

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