

Man accused of attempting to murder cellmate

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

A 57-year-old man is accused of attempting to murder his cellmate while he was booked in Clatsop County Jail.

Police initially made contact with Steven Wayne Campbell after receiving a report of an extremely intoxicated man going through the drive-thru at Burger King in October. Astoria police arrived and found him passed out over

his steering wheel with the car still running in the parking lot, District Attorney Ron Brown said.

After failing a field sobriety test, Campbell was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants and was booked into jail later that night. When the officer returned the next day, Campbell allegedly was making strange statements about some people deserving to die, Brown said.

Concerned, the officer

went to review video footage of Campbell's cell and found that he was pinching the air tube of his cellmate's CPAP machine, a device used to treat sleep apnea. Brown was unaware of any motivation the man might have had or if he knew the man before the incident.

The officer arrested Campbell for attempted murder. Judge Dawn McIntosh initially decided there wasn't probable cause to charge Campbell with

attempted murder, but his reckless endangerment charge stuck.

The grand jury later reviewed the case and voted to charge him with attempted murder.

"When that happens, it's kind of an odd thing," Brown said. "We like to think we are looking at the case as conservatively as anyone would, but sometimes people on the grand jury take an even more conservative view."

Despite the fact it is

physically impossible to kill someone by pinching a tube on a CPAP machine, the grand jury found there was enough evidence to suggest Campbell made a substantial step toward killing another human being. The fact that it is impossible is not defense to an attempted crime.

"Basically it was a very oddball set of facts," Brown said.

Without Campbell making statements about wanting to kill people, it's possible no one at the jail would

have known about the incident, Brown said.

"Nobody probably would have been the wiser ... the guy woke up and didn't know what the heck woke him up," Brown said. "If Campbell hadn't started talking about his weird thoughts, probably nothing would have happened."

Campbell has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder and the felony DUI and is being held on \$250,000 bail. His next hearing is in March.

Portland official: texts show police-extremist collusion

Associated Press

PORTLAND — A member of the Portland City Council said Thursday a newspaper's report that the commander for the police rapid response team exchanged friendly text messages with a leader of far-right protests that have rocked the city confirms collusion exists between some police and right-wing extremists.

"I am not shocked, and I am not surprised at today's reporting of Lt. Jeff Niiya's collaboration with Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson over text to provide aid and support for their hate marches," Councilwoman Jo Ann Hardesty said in a statement.

Willamette Week obtained text messages through a public records request between Niiya and Gibson. The texts purportedly show Niiya had a friendly rapport with Gibson,

frequently discussing Gibson's plans to demonstrate.

In one text reported by the newspaper, Niiya tells Gibson that he doesn't see a need to arrest his assistant, Tusitala Toese, who often brawls with antifascist protesters, even if he has a warrant, unless Toese commits a new crime.

"Just make sure he doesn't do anything which may draw our attention," Niiya texted Gibson on Dec. 9, 2017, Willamette Week reported. "If he still has the warrant in the system (I don't run you guys so I don't personally know) the officers could arrest him. I don't see a need to arrest on the warrant unless there is a reason."

A police spokeswoman said it is not unusual for officers to suggest people turn themselves in to avoid being arrested on a warrant, Willamette Week reported.

"In crowd management

situations, it may not be safe or prudent to arrest a person right at that time, so the arrest may be delayed or followed up on later. It is not uncommon for officers to provide guidance for someone to turn themselves in on a warrant if the subject is not present," Lt. Tina Jones said.

Portland police were accused at a protest last August of being heavy-handed against people, injuring some, who were protesting a rally of extreme-right demonstrators organized by Gibson.

Hardesty said the "broken policing system in Portland" must be addressed.

"This story, like many that have come before it, simply confirms what many in the community have already known — there are members of the Portland police force who work in collusion with right-wing extremists," she said.



AP Photo/Manuel Valdes

Counterprotesters tear a Nazi flag at a demonstration in Portland in August.

Boone: 'It might've looked to you like I asked for a favor and got it'

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utility lobbyist who wanted her help on the state's climate change bill.

Senate Bill 609 was introduced by state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, on Boone's behalf. It would require Oregonians requesting public records like police reports, public contracts and workplace safety inspections to first provide a good reason why they want the documents. Oregon records law currently does not require people to justify their requests.

Boone has since said she's asked Johnson to let the bill die in the face of vocal opposition.

Boone, a Democrat who represented Cannon Beach and the North Coast until January, told The Daily Astorian she wanted only "legitimate" requests to advance. She didn't say what would constitute a legitimate request or who would decide.

Boone said in an interview this week that she had already asked for the bill to be drafted before receiving The Oregonian's records request. But she said the newsroom's request concerned her, questioning "the cost and necessity" of producing the emails.

"The taxpayers had to pay a Legislative Counsel employee to sift through them all," Boone said.

Corporate campaign donors

A reporter requested Boone's emails during a soon-to-be-released 18-month investigation examining the role that corporate campaign donors play in shaping environmental policy statewide.

At the time of the request, Boone had declined to comment about why she raised money in 2018 after announcing her retirement from the Legislature. With no active campaign to pay for, the donations appeared to be attempts to influence or reward her votes.

The newsroom requested Boone's emails with the campaign donors. Boone now says any checks that arrived were not a result of active fundraising on her part or had not been deposited yet when she announced her retirement in January 2018.

The content of the former representative's emails

underscores why Oregon's public records law exists. The law allows the public to see what their elected officials are doing, even when it's not what those officials would choose to reveal.

Last January, Boone asked Ted Case, executive director of Oregon's association of rural electricity providers, for input on the state's emerging legislation to cap greenhouse gas emissions.

The 2018 legislative session was about to begin, and there was a push to get the bill through. (The cap-and-trade legislation ultimately died and is now before the 2019 Legislature.) Lobbyists were rushing to secure loopholes for their members.

Case told Boone he wanted to ensure an exemption for the West Oregon Electric Cooperative, which provides power in Boone's district, including to her home in rural Hamlet.

"My board meets next week to discuss the bills," Case told Boone. "We'll come by and see you!"

Thirteen days later, Boone's campaign account recorded a \$500 donation from Case's association.

A month later, Boone ran into trouble transferring her name onto her late husband's account with West Oregon.

She turned to Case, the utility lobbyist. "You have been a marvelous legislator and a great friend. I'm on it," Case responded.

A utility board member soon gave Boone an apology — "We do our best not to screw things up, but sometimes it seems otherwise" — and asked whether Boone would be interested in a seat on West Oregon's board. She did not pursue the position.

In a written statement, Case said his inquiry on Boone's behalf was "a service I provide to any Oregonian who has questions about their electric co-op."

The keywords that the newsroom used in its request for Boone's emails inadvertently turned up exchanges with people who were not campaign donors.

Boone's daughter, Wendy, asked for her mom's help in 2017 when the Oregon Health Plan was slow to pay for prescriptions at the Rinehart Clinic, a small nonprofit medical clinic in Wheeler where she is chief financial officer.

"Hello Rep Boone:)," her daughter wrote in her email to Boone's state account. "Rinehart is having issues getting OHP to pay ... Can you assist us?"

Boone told The Oregonian she had an aide call the state health authority to find out what was happening. "I never pushed it, never," she said. The issue was on its way to being resolved before the call, Boone said. But she acknowledged, "It might've looked to you like I asked for a favor and got it."

Wendy Boone also asked for her mother's help when her daughter was rejected by Oregon Promise, a state financial aid program for community college. The lawmaker's legislative aide sent an email to the state Department of Education, noting that the issue affected a member of Boone's family.

"Rep. Boone would like to know why the student did not qualify," her aide wrote. "Rep. Boone has also heard from others who are having the same problem. Could you please let us know as

soon as possible what, if anything, can be done about this?"

The legislative director for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission explained that the student had missed a deadline and could reapply the next year. But the agency official also wanted to know: What other problems had the representative heard about?

Boone's aide didn't say.

Routine inquiries

Both the lawmaker and her daughter told The Oregonian that their emails were routine inquiries from a state representative on behalf of a constituent. "That's not asking for a favor," Deborah Boone said. "That's what we do: We contact state agencies and people in them."

"The information received provided the clarification I was seeking,

and that was the end of it," Wendy Boone said.

In Deborah Boone's comments to The Daily Astorian, she said she was aware of media requests to lawmakers taking time and money to fulfill. The process could go easier if reporters "would just be honest and say, 'This is what I'm trying to get at.' I get that they want to be vague to capture everything, but maybe they don't have to."

After a media outcry, including a harshly worded editorial in the Astorian, Boone's records bill appears dead. She says she told Johnson the bill wasn't worth it.

"I said, 'If it's going to be like this, I don't want to do it,'" Boone told the newsroom. "I don't want to cause more stress and strain on her office. I said, 'I'm not going to die on my sword for this one.'"

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