Astoria man indicted after allegedly attempting to run over a deputy

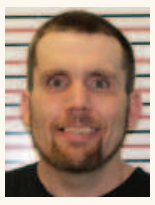
Morehouse also faces drug charges

By BRENNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

A 37-year-old Astoria man was indicted on first-degree attempted assault and several drug-related charges after allegedly trying to hit a Clatsop County Sheriff's Office deputy with his car.

In December, the sheriff's office received a tip that a man, Tyler Morehouse, had a firearm and was looking for another man allegedly holding a woman against her will somewhere near the Twilight Mainline.

When the deputy arrived, he saw Morehouse sitting in the driver's seat of a black Honda Civic parked in the logging road. After the deputy apparently left the vehicle to approach him, Morehouse started his car and started to drive in the direction of the deputy, according to court documents.


Tyler Morehouse

The deputy allegedly drew his weapon and shouted at Morehouse to stop.

Morehouse continued to drive until the officer was forced to step out of the way to avoid getting hit, according to court documents. The deputy followed Morehouse for about a half mile before he got out of the car and fled into the forest.

A search of his vehicle found about 28 grams of methamphetamine, a little under 10 grams of heroin and various packaging materials.

Morehouse pleaded not guilty to first-degree attempted assault, unlawful delivery of heroin and methamphetamine, two counts of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, reckless driving, and escape in the first degree.

Morehouse has been arrested in Clatsop County more than 15 times, including for charges related to drugs and attempting to elude police. His bail was set at $500,000.

Oregon wants to make it easier to build affordable housing

Incentives for apartments

By SARAH ZIMMERMAN
Associated Press

SALEM — Democrats want to design their way out of Oregon's housing crisis and are considering a proposal clearing the path for developers to build more apartments and townhouses.

The move comes on the heels of a landmark rent control measure and is meant to be part of a multipronged approach to combat the state's housing shortage.

House Speaker Tina Kotek said Monday the effort will "increase housing choice and the supply of more affordable housing."

The bill would end single-family zoning. Cities with more than 10,000 people would be required to offer, in addition to single-family homes, what's known as "middle" housing options. That means building more residential structures with multiple dwelling units, like duplexes and triplexes.

Proponents hope the idea will give residents more affordable housing options in cities and suburban neighborhoods, while allowing for more development. If passed, Oregon would become the first state to eliminate single-family zoning. Minneapolis voted to restrict the practice last December.

The Oregon measure also responds to criticism from the state's recent rent control law, which broadens tenant protections and limits the amount landlords can increase rent per year. Economists have warned that the state needs to focus on housing supply, and that rent control could dissuade developers — making the housing crisis worse.

Builders in Oregon have not been able to construct enough houses and apartments to meet the demands of the thousands of people moving to the state for jobs and in some cases, for a lower cost of living. Many people move to the state from California.

The plan is meant to alleviate a rental market that's reaching capacity. A study from the economic consulting firm ECONorthwest found that only 63 new housing units were created for every 100 new families in Oregon from 2010 to 2016.

And that's made it near impossible to find housing in the state's major cities. In Portland, 95 percent of all apartments were occupied in 2018, according to RealPage, which provides data to the real estate industry. Salem and Eugene also had occupancy rates over 95 percent.

Economists say the high housing demand has caused rents to skyrocket.

Brown wants appointee to keep eye on election

A replacement for Richardson

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

Gov. Kate Brown wants to select a new secretary of state who does not plan to seek re-election in 2020, saying that person should be focused on running elections and not running for office.

Brown said that when she was elevated from secretary of state to governor in 2015 with the resignation of Gov. John Kitzhaber over an ethics scandal, she named a secretary of state to replace her who would not run for re-election the following year.

Jeanne Atkins was appointed secretary of state in 2015, and said she would not be running in 2016 after completing Brown's term in the state's second-highest office.

"I didn't want someone who was both running for the office and overseeing a presidential election, because it would have been the first time they would have overseen an election," Brown said. She said that by coincidence, the same situation exists now, since she must appoint someone to fill the remainder of a term with another presidential election coming up.

Brown said she also wants to avoid a situation like the one in Georgia in 2018, when Secretary of State Brian Kemp ran for governor while overseeing the vote. Kemp, a Republican, narrowly beat Democrat Stacey Abrams.

She is also looking for a candidate with management skills to fill the remaining term of Dennis Richardson, a Republican who was elected to a four-year term in 2016 and died from brain cancer in February. Oregon statute calls for Brown to name a Republican.

The governor noted that several editorials had criticized her stance.

The Pamplin Media Group of newspapers recently urged Brown to choose someone with ambitions of remaining in office.

"What Oregon needs is a secretary of state who can carry out Richardson's vision of a less partisan and more transparent state government and, if he or she so chooses, advance his or her own agenda with an eye toward keeping the job beyond 2020," the media group's editorial said.

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The Chinese in Astoria

ENCORE, in conjunction with the Clatsop County Historical Society (CCHS), presents a public program on the subject of the Chinese in Astoria. The program will start with an overview by Dr. Jennifer Fang of Chinese immigration on the West Coast, followed by Erhard Gross's depiction of the same in Oregon. Mac Burns of CCHS will then present the history of the Chinese in Astoria and moderate a panel discussion involving community members of Chinese heritage.

Sunday, March 24, 2:30 to 4:00 pm
Performing Arts Center, 588 16th St, Astoria, OR
Doors will open at 2:00 pm.

For additional information, call Erhard Gross at 503-468-0752.

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