



# Police News/Vancouver

## Mother Kills Baby in Park

A mother is facing charges of aggravated murder for killing her 20-month-old baby in a Gresham park. The mother is identified as 32-year-old Sharon Weston. Her daughter is Alexis Mariah Lopez.

Detectives explained that Weston was on a supervised visit on Wednesday, July 11, when she

ran away from the state case-worker to strangle her own child with a shoelace. The mother later explained that she committed the murder because she wanted her daughter out of pain.

Weston later interrupted a funeral at the Gresham Funeral Chapel, saying that she had killed her child in a park to a group of

about 25 eyewitnesses. Among those attending a funeral was a Clackamas County sheriff's deputy.

A secretary at the funeral home noted that Weston appeared upset and crying.

Weston was held at the Multnomah County Jail and arraigned on Thursday afternoon.

## Transient Injured, Suspect Unkown

Portland Police Bureau Homicide Investigators, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for help in locating witnesses to an altercation between two men that resulted in one of the men's death.

On Wednesday, May 9, at approximately 6 p.m. in the evening, on S.E. 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Hawthorne Blvd., near the Express Grocery, 45-year-old Joseph Nesby, who was transient, was seriously injured in an altercation with another man.



Joseph Nesby

Nesby was transported to a local hospital and later to a care facility, where he eventually died from the injuries received in the altercation thirty days prior.

Investigators believe there were several people in the area at the time that witnessed the altercation. Investigators are asking for anyone who witnessed the altercation to call either Sergeant Paul Larson at 503/823-0835, Sergeant John Brooks at 503/823-0757, or Crime Stoppers at 503/823-4357 (HELP).

## Police Shootings, New Survey Draw Concern

STORY CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE instance, 16 police shootings included five fatalities, according to Portland Police Bureau figures.

Regardless of the statistics, officers are finding themselves on the defensive.

"There is a concern... that they are being prejudged for their actions," Police Chief Mark Kroeker said. "That their motives are being misperceived."

Jack Levin, a criminologist at Northeastern University, said a force will often be perceived as trigger-happy when several incidents happen in a short time.

"The problem is these kinds of encounters do not spread evenly over 12 months," Levin said. "They can easily occur randomly in a short period of time, making it appear that police are shooting everything in sight and that Jesse James has joined the force. But the truth is, if these episodes had happened with greater intervals in between, no one would see a pattern."

State law says officers can use deadly force to protect themselves or others from what they reasonably believe to be an immediate threat of death or serious physical injury.

City officers receive about 80 hours of firearms training in the basic academy and eight additional hours of firearms training during their annual in-service refresher training. They are trained on the importance of maintaining distance and cover from an armed threat and are put through scenarios with turning targets to learn how to recognize what's a threat and what is not.

"Not everything we do is train to shoot," said Portland Sgt. Steve Buchtel, a firearms training supervisor who was shot in the left hand in 1996 during a standoff outside a convenience store.

"We ask people to justify their actions in training and articulate why they did or did not shoot. We haven't just thrown these policies together. We're not just winging it

out there."

That training didn't help Bruce Browne, 40, of Vancouver. Police shot Browne twice last week after he wrestled a semiautomatic handgun away from a teen-age assailant at a Northeast Portland gas station. The officer who responded ordered Browne to get down and fired six shots at him, unaware that Browne was not the aggressor.

James Fyfe, a retired New York City police lieutenant and criminal justice professor at Temple University in Philadelphia, believes the most important training police agencies can provide officers is tactical training in how to approach potentially deadly situations with the least threat of injury.

"The military and fire service don't commit themselves to life-threatening situations until they know everything possible about the situation. That's what we try to get the police to do," Fyfe said. "They should try to anticipate what the other individual might do."

## Grant to Target Violent and Drug-Related Crime

Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden announced that the Oregon State Police has been awarded a grant of \$6.3 million. This grant will assist the state police in implementing specific programs that enhance and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Oregon criminal justice system. Special emphasis is placed on controlling violent

and drug-related crime and fostering multi-jurisdictional efforts to support national drug control policies.

"The State Police work hard to protect Oregon's citizens, but they need more resources to effectively target the pervasive problems of violent and drug-related crime," Smith said. "This funding will go a long way toward assisting the

state police in their diligent efforts to keep our citizens safe and to improve the quality of life for all Oregonians."

"There is no more important task for law enforcement than staying one step ahead of the violent drug trade in our state," Wyden said. "I am proud to support the Oregon Department of State police plan to make Oregon safer."

## Portland Police Fire at Wrong Suspect

PORTLAND (AP) - It appears that a man who was shot by Portland police at a gas station and convenience store last week, was the victim of unlucky circumstance.

Police wounded 40-year-old Bruce Browne of Vancouver at Fast Trip gas station and convenience store on 5829 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. after he apparently managed to take a gun from a man who was threatening him.

Browne told police later that 19-year-old Lamar Harris began to harass him inside the store, calling him names and cursing at him for no apparent reason.

As Browne returned to his car, Harris

allegedly pulled out a pistol. After a struggle, Browne managed to take the gun from Harris.

Browne was holding the gun when police arrived, and Officer Ken Duilio, 28, fired six rounds, hitting Browne in the right arm and right thigh. It is not yet clear why the officer fired.

However, police say Browne refused to drop the gun and lay down. Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker says he is investigating and that there is videotape from the convenience store that shows what happened.

"We have substantial videotape from the convenience store which captured

the entire incident right there in the store," Kroeker said. "I have not seen this videotape, but I understand it's quite definitive as to what happened."

He expressed the concerns of a number of officers he said he has talked to in the past few weeks in regards to the public's perceptions of police actions.

Browne is listed in fair condition at Emanuel Hospital and will not be charged with any crime.

Kroeker visited him in the hospital last week. Harris was acting "irrationally" when he was arrested for unlawful possession of a firearm, menacing and unlawful use of a weapon, Kroeker said.

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The mini-mart guy does not  
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