

**POLICE / VANCOUVER**

**Woman's Car Buying, Fraud Scam Busted**

(AP)—Portland police have cited a 35-year-old woman who was purchasing cars with bogus cashier's checks.

Police said Shari Melton would contact people who were selling their cars through classified ads in newspapers, then purchase the car after a test drive.

After the sale was agreed

upon, police said victims would sign the car title over to Melton, who always paid with a fraudulent cashier's check.

Police said Melton would purchase a check with a value of less than five dollars and then alter its value to purchase the car.

Melton has been cited for forgery, theft, selling stolen property, and identity theft.



Shari Melton

**State to Pay Father for Negligence**

Case stems from toddler's death during state supervised visit

(AP) — The state of Oregon will pay \$750,000 to the father of a toddler who was strangled during a state-supervised visit with her mother.

The settlement ends a \$10 million lawsuit that had accused state officials of negligence and violating the civil rights of Fernando Lopez-Perez and his daughter, Alexis Lopez.

Alexis' mother, Sharon Y. Weston, faces charges of aggravated murder and is in jail.

During the supervised visit last July, Dale A. Kraft, a state human services aide, allowed Weston and Alexis to stroll out of his sight at Gresham's Main City Park.

Weston took the toddler to a remote area and allegedly strangled her with a cord from her jacket. She took the body to a nearby funeral home, where employees called police.

Officers found Kraft reading a newspaper in a state-owned car



Sharon Weston is accused of killing her daughter.

prosecutors criticized the Department of Human Services' State Office for Services to Children and Families for inconsistent procedures and bad communication.

The review found that Kraft wasn't informed by caseworkers about Weston's past threats to herself and the child. He didn't read the file on Weston but wasn't required to. Prosecutors also criticized the agency for not having clear procedures or outlining what level of supervision was required for the visit.

John Coletti, the attorney for Lopez-Perez, said the suit was not about the money.

"This is not about bad people. This is a very difficult job that they have to do," Coletti said. "It's really about a flawed system. Alexis Lopez slipped through the cracks, and hopefully this suit will make the system safer for the next kid."

more than 45 minutes later.

Kraft was fired a month after the killing. After an investigation, prosecutors decided not to file criminal charges against Kraft, saying he did not know about Weston's mental and emotional problems.

But after a five-month review of 3,600 pages of documents,

**Officer Charged With Ecstasy, Cocaine**

(AP) - A Multnomah County Grand Jury indicted a Portland Police Officer last week for first and second degree drug possession.

Gina Hoesly, 33, was in-

dicted for possession of ecstasy, cocaine and methamphetamines.

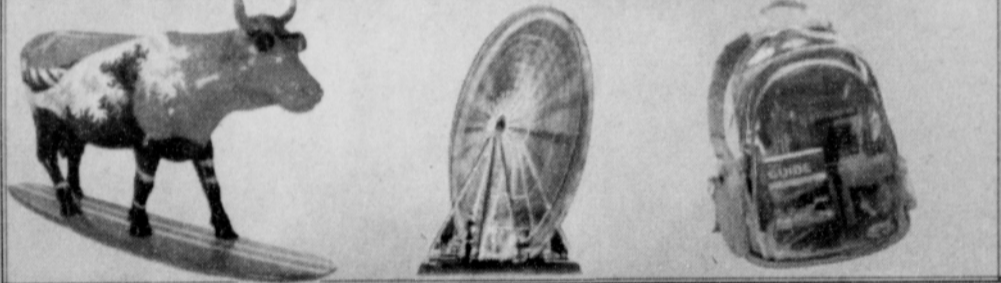
She has worked as a police officer for 12 years.

Portland Police say that in March an informant told them

that Hoesly was possibly using controlled substances.

After a criminal investigation, the information was presented to the grand jury.

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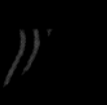


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**Gresham Cracks Down on Curfew**

Gresham police say they hope to reduce teenage crime by rounding up minors violating the city's 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew.

Police say they will place in protective custody minors who are on public streets or in other public places during the curfew hours.

Violators would then be charged with a misdemeanor curfew violation and taken to the city's juvenile detention facility or turned over to their parents. Minors convicted of the infraction could face a fine of up to \$295.

**Teen Admits Role in Escort Murder Case**

(AP) - A 19-year-old Portland man has pleaded guilty to aggravated murder and kidnapping in the shooting death of Portland banker Wayne E. Olson.

Medero Prince Moon agreed to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole in 30 years. He will be sentenced after he testifies against another defendant in the case, Calvin Smith Davis, 24, who is scheduled for trial Aug. 12.

Moon also pleaded guilty to assault on an altercation he had while awaiting trial.

Moon is the second defendant to plead guilty in the case. Prostitute Jessica C. Rydman pleaded guilty to robbery with a firearm, burglary with a firearm and kidnapping with a firearm

and was sentenced to 17 years in prison.

Rydman said Olson was a customer of her private escort service. Police believe she was called to Olson's home Aug. 20, 2000, the day after his wife left for a business trip.

Police suspect Rydman was later joined by her onetime boyfriend, Davis, and Moon, a friend. The three were accused in Olson's murder, as well as ransacking the house and stealing everything from Olson's wedding band to snakeskin cowboy boots and cigars.

Olson, a 53-year-old Bank of America vice president, was found dead by his wife on Aug. 23, 2000. He was bound and gagged and shot in the head.

**Police Review Board Needs Members**

The Independent Police Review Division of the Portland City Auditor's Office is seeking volunteers to serve on the Citizen Review Committee as the cornerstone of police accountability and community policing.

The principal duties include the citizen appeals process for police misconduct investigations; advising on complaint intake, mediation, and management practices; recommending policy changes in the Police Bureau; and gathering

community concerns about police policies and procedures.

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on July 22 at the IPR Office, Room 320, 1221 S.W. Fourth Ave. Questions may be addressed to Dr. Michael Hess, IPR deputy director, at 503-823-4126.

Applications will be evaluated and scored by a selection committee to be appointed by the City Auditor in consultation with the Citizen Review Committee.

The most qualified candidates

will be asked to appear for an interview. Those who are selected will be referred to the City Council.

Officials said every attempt will be made to select qualified persons who represent the demographic and ethnic diversity of Portland.

The application form is available on the auditor's website at [www.ci.portland.or.us/auditor](http://www.ci.portland.or.us/auditor), by visiting the IPR office at Portland City Hall, Room 320 or by calling 503-823-0146.

**Upgrade Coming for Pearson Field**

(AP) - Pearson Field in Vancouver is receiving \$1 million from the Federal Aviation Administration for airport improvements.

The city's municipal airport will get an additional apron

equipped to secure 12 aircraft to the ground, lighting for a parallel taxiway, illuminated signs to guide aircraft through the field, new seal on asphalt surfaces, improvements to asphalt paved areas, security fencing, an elec-

tronic gate, and an airplane washer.

The 140-acre field is off Mill Plain Boulevard and Interstate Five in southern Vancouver.

Work is expected to be completed in October.

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