

# POLICE

## Woman Dies from Spider Bite

(AP) — The Clark County medical examiner's office reports the death of a 25-year-old Vancouver woman is likely related to a spider bite. Gretchen Ensign was hospitalized on May 20th and died on May 29th. Ensign died of complications from the bite of what her mother, Julie, described as "just a regular house spider." Julie Ensign said she and her daughter were sensitive to spider bites. Deaths from spider bites are rare. 99 percent of insect-related deaths are due to bees and wasps.

## Suspect Caught with 500 Credit Cards

(AP) — Police found more than 500 stolen credit cards and checkbooks inside the home of a burglary suspect in Southeast Portland.

Officers arrested 31-year-old Tasha Nilsen after finding the evidence in her home.

They got a search warrant and found stacks of receipts and checks that had been stolen from a nearby restaurant.

Officers discovered more than 500 stolen credit card numbers, checks and checkbooks.



Tasha Nilsen

They think they were taken from Sweet Waters Jam House on Southeast Morrison Street — a restaurant that was recently burglarized.

Investigators believe that Nelson and others used the stolen credit card information to order large amounts of property through the Internet.

Investigators are trying to track down customers who may have used a credit card at the restaurant between March 2001 and July 2002.

## Reward Offered in SE Bank Robbery



Sketches from the FBI show two men and a woman wanted for robbing a southeast Portland bank.

The Oregon FBI is offering up to \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the April 9 robbery at the Bank of the West, 8135 S.E. Division.

Three people entered the bank at about 9:50 a.m. One person jumped up onto the counter and shouted that the bank was being robbed. At least one person had a handgun. There were approximately 10 people, including two customers, in the bank at the time of the robbery. No shots were fired and no one was hurt.

The suspects are all African American with medium complexions, in their late 20's to early

30's, with average height and weight. One of the robbers was a woman, and she was wearing a knit hat. All wore dark clothing.

The robbers were seen leaving the bank in what turned out to be a stolen car. Portland Police Officers responding to the scene were able to immediately determine that the car had been taken from an apartment complex a few miles away earlier in the morning. The car was found abandoned a short time after the robbery at SE 76th and Lincoln.

Anyone with information about the robbery or suspects is asked to call the FBI at 503-224-4181.

## Tigard Burglary Suspect Wanted

Tigard Police, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending a Portland man on charges of burglary and menacing.

Luke Alexis Jordan is accused of a May 14 residential burglary on Southwest Ann Street where a man confronted a female victim. In addition, authorities want to question him in connection with an attempted prescription forgery that same day



Luke Alexis Jordan

at Walgreen's on Southwest Pacific Highway.

Jordan is a 27-year-old white male, with a date of birth of Jan. 14, 1976. He is five feet 10 inches tall and weighs 175 pounds with blonde hair and blue eyes.

*Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-4357.*

## Medical Marijuana Leader Faces Prison

(AP) — The founder of a Salem resource center for medical marijuana patients was convicted on drug charges Monday by a Marion County judge.

Robert Gray was convicted of possession, distribution and manufacture of marijuana. Gray, the founder of the Medical Cannabis Resource Center, elected to have Judge Joseph Ochoa hear the case instead of a jury.

Gray will likely be sentenced to nearly 3 1/2 years in jail, Ochoa said. Sentencing was sched-

uled for Aug. 13.

Last March, police found 37 marijuana plants at Gray's distribution center and over one pound of dried marijuana at his home.

Oregon's medical marijuana law allows cardholding patients or designated caregivers to grow as many as seven plants or possess up to seven ounces of dried marijuana.

Gray had contended he was caregiver to five people besides himself, thus was entitled to possess the larger amount.

## Portland Airport Screeners Fired

The Transportation Security Administration has fired 25 federal screeners at Portland International Airport since late last year.

The dismissals followed a variety of offenses, from failing background checks to making up a security breach that forced the closure of two concourses.

Another screener now faces termination and potential criminal charges after he was arrested in

late May and accused of taking \$1,300 dollars in cash from a passenger's purse at a checkpoint.

The Transportation Security Administration's woes at the airport reflect criticism the agency received nationwide. Background checks have not been completed on more than half of its 52,000 screeners. Across the country, the agency has fired one thousand 200 screeners for failing background checks.

## Man Dies Restrained in Jail Chair

(AP) — A man arrested on charges of criminal mischief and disorderly conduct died after he stopped breathing while he was restrained in a chair at the Marion County Jail in Salem, officials said.

John Joseph Courchesne, 39, stopped breathing shortly after 11:10 p.m. May 31 as deputies began booking him into the jail, Sheriff Raul Ramirez said Friday.

At the time, Courchesne was restrained in a chair that is used to hold unruly inmates.

Paramedics revived him and he immediately was taken to Salem Hospital, where he died about 4:40 p.m. Sunday, Ramirez said.

The sheriff called the weeklong delay in releasing news of Courchesne's death "an over-

sight" for which he accepted responsibility.

"There's no hidden agenda," Ramirez said. "We should have gotten the information out earlier."

An autopsy conducted Monday was unable to determine the cause of death. More tests were planned and results were expected within five weeks.

Salem police arrested Courchesne about 10:30 p.m. May 31 for causing a disturbance at a motel. He had been throwing furniture out the window of his second-floor room, said Salem police Lt. Bill Kohlmeier.

"He appeared emotionally disturbed, saying people were waiting in the parking lot for him, people were after him," Kohlmeier said.

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