

LAW & JUSTICE

Gang Member Charged

(AP)—A man described by King County prosecutors as a Portland gang member bent on revenge has been charged with killing a rival gang member in suburban Kent, Wash.

Nicholas Everette Adams, 23, remained in jail with bail set at \$1 million after being charged Tuesday with second-degree murder.

Adams is accused of shooting Charles Edward McCleoud Jr., 24, in the back of the head on Feb. 4. At the time McCleoud was being sought for investigation in a homicide and drive-by shooting of members of Adams' gang in Portland, prosecutors wrote in documents filed in Superior Court.

McCleoud "had been promoting prostitutes along Pacific Highway" and was last seen alive with Adams leaving the Sunset Motel in Kent, prosecutors wrote. His body was found about a block away.

Same-Sex Marriages Annulled

Court finds county lacked proper authority

(AP)—The Oregon Supreme Court on Thursday nullified nearly 3,000 marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples by Multnomah County a year ago, saying a single county couldn't take such action on its own.

The court said that, while the county can question the constitutionality of laws governing marriage, they are a matter of statewide concern so the county had no authority to issue licenses to gay couples.

The court noted that last November, Oregonians approved a constitutional amendment that limits marriages to a man and a woman. The court also said

state law had already set the same limitation on marriages — a law dating back to the 19th century.

"Today, marriage in Oregon — an institution once limited to opposite-sex couples only by statute — now is so limited by the state Constitution as well," the court ruling said.

The court left the door open for state legislators to craft an alternative to gay marriages, such as civil unions — even though it did not specifically mention civil unions.

"We conclude that Oregon law currently places the regulation of marriage exclusively within the province of the state's legislative power," the court said.

A day earlier, Gov. Ted Kulongoski said he will push for a law allowing gay couples in Oregon to form civil unions that

would give them many of the rights available to married couples.

Vermont is the first and still the only state to offer civil unions to gays, passing a law in 2000. Massachusetts has allowed gay marriage since May.

Multnomah County began issuing marriages to gay couples last March, arguing that not doing so violated the state Constitution. A judge halted the practice about six weeks later, but not before nearly 3,000 same-sex couples had wed.

Marte Sheehan, who married Linda Duchek last March, said she was disappointed with the ruling but had hopes the Legislature would pass a bill allowing civil unions.

"I believe that ultimately the Legislature will do the right thing," she said.



An archive photograph from the Portland Observer shows Abby Haywood and Jamie Bolyard moments after being legally married at the Multnomah County building in southeast Portland last March. The county commission had just issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples based on equal rights provisions in the Oregon Constitution.

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Elderly Fall Victim to Contractor Scams

Burglars gain entry to examine water pipes

Portland's elderly have been falling victim to leaky scams involving solicitors knocking on doors, asking to check out water pipes, and then demanding money or stealing items from their homes.

The first occurred on April 3 near Southeast 79th and Main when two white males knocked on the door of an elderly female and identified themselves as Water Bureau employees. The suspects convinced the victim to allow them into her home to inspect the water pipes in the basement. They tinkered with the pipes for a short time and then asked the victim for \$75 in cash. The victim did not

have cash and offered to pay with a check. The suspects left without obtaining any money.

The second incident occurred on April 12, when a white male knocked on the door of an elderly man in the 3400 block of Southeast 43rd Avenue. The suspect identified himself as a construction worker associated with the road construction occurring in the neighborhood. He stated that there was concern that the construction had damaged the water pipes in the victim's home. The suspect convinced the victim to allow him to inspect the pipes in the victim's basement. The suspect and victim went down to the basement and looked around for awhile. The suspect then left. When the victim's wife returned home she realized that several items had been stolen from the upstairs portion

of the home.

Officers believe that a second suspect entered the home while the homeowner was in the basement with the first suspect. Witnesses describe seeing two clean cut white males leaving the area in a white pickup with yellow striping on the tailgate and possibly some construction type orange cones in the bed of the pickup.

The Police Bureau reminds citizens to never allow anyone into your home if you are not certain they are a legitimate contractor. Simple steps such as taking a business card and calling their business or asking for their photo identification may save you from becoming the victim of a crime. If you become concerned or believe someone is involved in criminal behavior in your neighborhood call 911.

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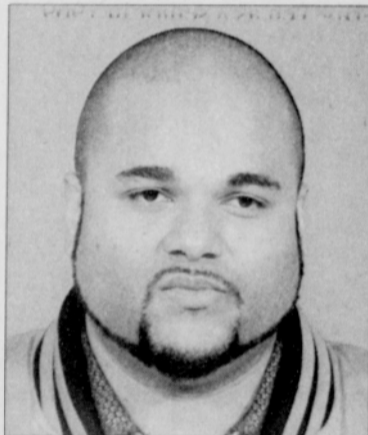
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Joshua Fowler

Sex Offender Needs to be Found

A registered sex offender is on the loose and is wanted for a parole violation.

Joshua James Fowler has a statewide, no bail, felony warrant out for his arrest.

Fowler, 33, is a registered sex offender who was recently released from prison. He may have been seen recently driving a stolen white Jeep Cherokee in the Portland area.

Fowler is associated with addresses in southeast and northeast Portland as well as in Oregon City. He may be violent and should not be approached.

Fowler is described as a black male, 5'8", 225 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. He wears his hair closely shaven and has a thin goatee and beard. He also has tattoos on his shoulders and hands.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Fowler is strongly urged to contact authorities. Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information reported that would lead to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony. Those who contact Crime Stoppers can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-4357.

Racial Discrimination Found in New Orleans Bars

Study reveals unbalanced patron treatment

(AP)—If you're black and belly up to a bar on Bourbon Street, be forewarned: You run a 50-50 chance of either being charged more or being forced to order a minimum number of drinks.

Those are the findings of a study done for the city in the wake of the death of a black college student who died in a scuffle with white

bouncers outside a bar on the famous French Quarter thoroughfare in New Orleans.

The study, conducted by the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, paired black and white men of similar body type, dress and manner, and sent them into bars within minutes of each other.

Of the 28 bars visited, 40 percent charged the black customers more for drinks. A white man, for example, bought a Long Island iced tea for \$7.50, while the black man was charged \$9, according to James Perry, executive director of the private,

nonprofit housing center.

Ten percent of the bars informed the blacks — but not the whites — that there was a drink minimum, and 7 percent told their black customers that they would have to meet a dress code.

The report recommended the city take several steps, including investigating discrimination at bars and enforcing civil rights laws through litigation.

"This is 2005, not 1964, and this will not be tolerated," said Larry Bagneris, executive director of the New Orleans Human

Relations Commission.

Levon Jones together with a friend were in New Orleans on New Year's Eve and went to Razzo Bar and Patio, a popular French Quarter club. The friend was allegedly denied admission because he did not meet the club's dress code.

A scuffle ensued and Jones, 25, died after one bouncer held him in a headlock for 12 minutes, while another pushed down on his back and a third held his legs. The bouncers were later charged with negligent homicide. The coroner said Jones suffocated.

Portland Observer Auto Review 2005 Subaru Outback 2.5 XT Limited Wagon

Tested Vehicle Information:
Price: \$32,851; Engine: 2.5 Liter;
Transmission: 5-Speed Automatic with Sport shift

The Subaru Outback has been redesigned for 2005. Exteriors are sharper, more stylish, and less boxy. More important, the new models are larger outside, and roomier in many attractive, more comfortable and more luxurious than before. An upgrade in the mechanical hardware provides a responsive ride quality. The base price of the XT starts at \$27,995 or the limited at \$30,795.

The XT is new in the Outback lineup, powered by a new, 250-horse-



power turbocharged inter-cooled four-cylinder engine. Both wagons the XT and XT limited have the same engine and a beefed up five-speed manual transmission with the option to upgrade to a five-speed sport shift for \$1,200. The engine offers plenty

of power making it a fun experience on winding roads.

The XT limited was built for those who like to drive. It has front seats that provide a comfortable ride for it passengers. The Momo-brand steering wheel has integrated Sport

shift control buttons, if you have ordered the optional five-speed automatic transmission with sport shift. An all weather package includes heated front seats, heated mirrors, and windshield wiper deicers.

The Outback ground clearance is slightly higher than the legacy models. It may take some time to adjust to the height difference when stepping out of the vehicle. Improving the handling and safety Subaru lowered the center of gravity. The Outback wagon provides the driver with a sense of stability while maneuvering corners or lane changes.