Mental Illness Training Required for Police

Search for Suspect in Holgate Robbery

Police officers in Oregon will get training to spot mental illness and learn the skills necessary to tap down the potential for violence thanks to a new law promoted by State Sen. Avel Gordly, an African-American leader from Portland. Gov. Ted Kulongoski signed the bill into law last month.

Co-sponsored by Reps. John Lim and Andy Olson, the legislation requires the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to include at least 24 hours of training on mental illness for police offic- Sen. Avel Gordly

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime

Stoppers, is asking for your

help identifying a robbery sus-

Holgate Gas and Grocery lo-

cated at 4525 Southeast 28th Avenue. The suspect entered

the store, made small talk with

the clerk and then left. She

returned a short time later, and as she talked on her cell phone walked to the counter, raised her shirt and exposed a gun tucked in her waistband. The suspect fled the store on

foot, northbound across

Holgate on Southeast 27th Avenue. She may be associated with a black SUV that was seen in the area prior to

The suspect is described as

a black female, approximately sweatshirt with a distinctive

20 years old, 5'5" tall with a logo that could possibly be a

stocky build. In the surveil- backwards "F," which may be

lance video, the suspect is associated with the skater

come necessary

help them communicate.

partnership with the Develop-

mental Disabilities Advisory

ity Accommodation Registry

(DAR). Individuals, or their le-

wearing a black hooded clothing brand "Famous."

the robbery.

Voluntary

program helps

communication

The Portland Police Bureau

has a voluntary program for

people with developmental or

mental health disabilities, pro-

viding officers with vital information about individuals' dis-

ability should police contact be-

On June 5, 2007, at 11:36 p.m., a lone female robbed the

pect caught on tape.



ers in the state.

October."

Chasse died after a confrontation with Portland po- ports that the number of calls lice last year. It was later re- involving people suffering from ported that Chasse suffered mental illness is growing. In from schizophrenia.

on any law enforcement officer," said Lim, "I just want to prevent losing more lives as a major advancement in the incidences of mental illness administration of justice in the increase."

According to a study re-"This is a good bill," said leased by the U.S. Justice De-Rep. Lim on the House floor, partment, 56 percent of jail "This subject became dear to inmates in state prisons and 64 my heart as I followed the percent of inmates across the story of James Chasse last country reported mental health problems within the past year.

Portland Police Bureau re-2005, there were 2,078 calls, "I do not want to put blame up from 1,999 in 2004 and 1,907 in 2003.

> "This mandatory training is State of Oregon," said Gordly.

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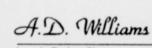
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Law Widens Access to Birth Control

A new Oregon law requires employee health insurance plans to provide prescription drug coverage of birth control and emergency contraception, and to be made available by hospital emergency rooms to victims of sexual assault.

"This fight is fundamentally about women being able to make the best health care decisions for themselves and their families," said Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

The law, which will go into effect Jan. 1, means health insurance plans would be obligated to offer the same level of coverage for birth control as they do for other prescription drugs.

Nearly half of all indemnity health insurance plans provide no coverage for prescription birth control even when there is coverage for other medications. Women on av- assault, information about and ac-



Police Provide Remedy for Disability Issues

In 1996, the Police Bureau in of mental illness and any other

Committee created the Disabil- officer if they become lost or

gal guardians, can participate in for officers to communicate with

this voluntary program by com- those who may be unable to do so

pleting a DAR registration form. in times of crisis, it is also helpful

The emergency contraceptive Plan B.

erage spend \$573 out-of-pocket cess to emergency contraception. each year on birth control.

In addition, the new law requires hospital emergency rooms in Orvictims of sexual assault, or that they believe have been a victim of sexual

Emergency contraception can prevent pregnancy if administered within 72 hours of the assault. It egon to offer women who have been contains the same hormones as those used in common birth control pills, though at different dosage

City Hall Makes Restrooms Available

tive to increase downtown livabil-

to be in place by Aug. 2.

are open to the public from 7 a.m. to nity.

Restrooms located on the first 6 p.m. The additional hours will floor of City Hall will soon be open increase the City's public restroom shelters for the homeless during overnight as part of the Mayor's capacity during hours when no hours when most shelters are Street Access for Everyone Initia- other public restrooms are avail-

The 24-hour access is expected launched last year to make tion ordinance that prohibits sit-Portland's streets open and acces- ting or lying on sidewalks in the Currently, City Hall restrooms sible for all members of the commu-

The plan includes providing day closed, increasing the number of benches, opening public restrooms The SAFE Initiative was and enacting a sidewalk obstrucdowntown and Lloyd District during business hours.

To Place Your Classified Advertisement

or mental health issues, who are

significantly impaired, are also

the DAR or to obtain a registra-

form,

www.portlandpolicebureau.com or contact the Portland Police

Bureau's Strategic Services

Division at 503-823-0283.

For more information about

visit

using the DAR.

The suspect should be con- Stoppers, that leads to an arrest sidered armed and dangerous. in this case, or any unsolved

Crime Stoppers is offering a felony, and you remain anonycash reward of up to \$1,000 for mous. Call Crime Stoppers at

Registration in the DAR is en- in making officers aware of any

The information gives offic- couraged for citizens who have behavioral issues that may exist. ers an additional resource to severe developmental disabili- People with Alzheimer's disease

ties, brain injuries, some types

condition where they might not

be able to communicate with an

DAR not only provides a way

involved in a police action.

information, reported to Crime 503-823-HELP (4357).

Contact: Kathy Linder Phone: 503-288-0033 Fax: 503-288-0015 e-mail: classifieds@ portlandobserver.com

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Mendelssohn's Elijah - Bruce Browne conducting First Congregational Church 1126 SW Park

7 pm all nights - \$5 at door only - Scores provided. Call 503-223-1217 or visit www.pschoir.org for information

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