

Multnomah County Settles Chasse Lawsuit

Man died in violent arrest

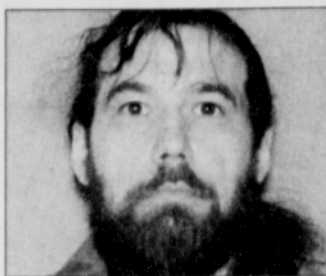
(AP) - Multnomah County commissioners have approved a \$925,000 settlement with relatives of a mentally ill man who died in police custody.

The payment will be a partial settlement of a federal lawsuit filed by the family of James

Chasse. The suit also names the city of Portland and Portland police.

Chasse, 42, who had schizophrenia, was arrested following a foot chase in the Pearl District in September 2006. Officers said they thought he had urinated outside and was on drugs.

In an interview with investigators a few days after the incident, an officer said he



James Chasse

shoved Chasse down and then fell onto the sidewalk, past Chasse. But a video of

officers talking at the jail after they brought Chasse in captures the officer telling a sheriff's deputy that "we tackled him."

The 13-minute video ends with police and jail sheriff's deputies hauling Chasse out of jail. Chasse, who can be heard moaning, died while police were driving him to a hospital. According to autopsy results, Chasse suf-

fered more than a dozen broken ribs, including some that punctured a lung and caused massive internal bleeding.

The death angered advocates for the mentally ill, but a Multnomah County grand jury found no criminal wrongdoing.

Chasse's death led Portland Police Chief Rosie Sizer to make sure officers consider the severity of the crime before giving chase.

Besides a request for damages, a lawsuit filed in 2007 by attorney Tom Steenson seeks to make changes to limit the use of deadly force and foot pursuits.

It also seeks the establishment an independent oversight panel for reviewing deaths in custody, along with an intervention system to monitor officers who use excessive force.

Umoja joins LifeWorks NW Group has long history addressing gang issues

Portland's House of Umoja, a group with a long history of working on gang issues in north and northeast Portland, is now part of LifeWorks NW, a long-time local mental health and addiction services provider.

The two community organizations have been working together for more than a year under a management contract. Now the boards of directors have decided it is in the best interest of Umoja to merge with LifeWorks NW.

"The Umoja board performed extensive due diligence and came to the conclusion that the best option to keep the program viable and maintain a strong array of services to the community is for Umoja to become a program of LifeWorks NW," said John Kyle, former Umoja board president. "The new organizational structure is a real opportunity to strengthen Umoja and restore its long-term vitality."

Both nonprofit organizations see the move as a positive step for the betterment of each organization. Their joint vision is built on the strong foundation that Umoja has created - uniting the community in combatting gang violence - and expands it to include an array of additional service offerings that will create a stronger hub of recovery and promise in the community. Space will remain available on site for community activities.

"At LifeWorks NW, we are proud to be able to continue to provide gang prevention services that are tailored to African American young men and women vulnerable to gang activity," said Mary Monnat, president and CEO of LifeWorks NW. "We expect that the youth served by Umoja will benefit from access to our other culturally specific programs and vice versa."

The Umoja program will con-

tinue under the leadership of Ebony Sloan-Clarke, LifeWorks NW director of culturally specific services, who currently oversees an array of culturally specific mental health and addiction services including alcohol and drug abuse treatment for African Americans, mothers, and youth; and smoking cessation education to the African American community.

Michelle Harper formerly of the Umoja Board of Directors joined the LifeWorks NW Board effective July 1, 2009. Raised in Portland, and currently Citywide Collaborative Services Manager for Portland Parks & Recreation, Michelle has been a long-time community activist in north and northeast Portland advocating for the needs of the African American community.

LifeWorks NW was founded in 1961 and promotes a healthy community by providing quality and culturally responsive mental health and addiction services across the lifespan.



Mary Monnat

Green Jobs Expand

A new report paints a fairly optimistic picture for green jobs in Oregon.

The Oregon Employment Department surveyed employers and found that Oregon has 51,402 green jobs, or about 3 percent of the workforce, spread across 226 occupations ranging from construction to retail trade.

A green job is defined as work that increases energy efficiency, creates renewable energy, reduces environmental degradation, cleans up the environment, or assists with any of these services.

On average, the wage for a green job in 2008 was \$22.61 per hour. Two-thirds of the jobs paid \$15 per hour or more.

Thirty two percent of green jobs inventoried did not have minimum education requirements, but the better-paying positions required specialized training or a college degree.

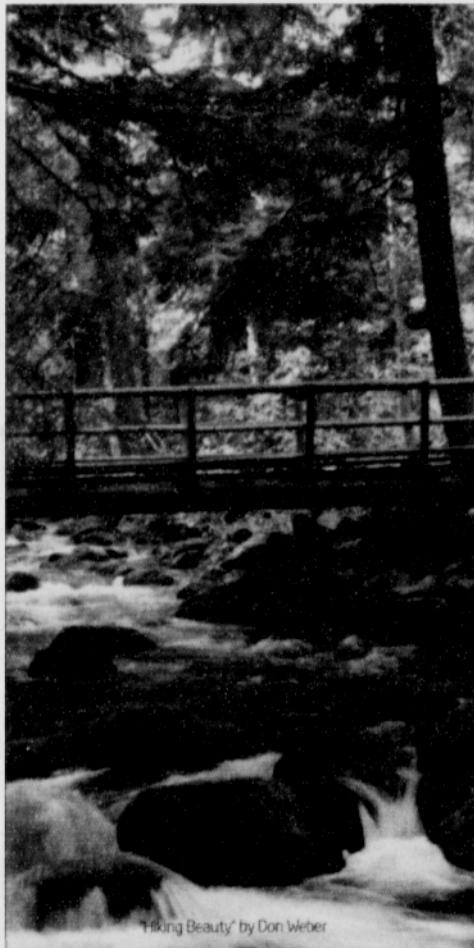
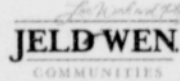
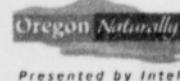
The report found that employers anticipated green jobs growing by 14 percent between 2008 and 2010. Most of this growth will be in farming, fishing, forestry, transportation, and production.



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