

Possible Freedom for Marijuana Offenders

Frederick proposes law to align with new legalization

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

At this point everyone knows that recreational marijuana will soon be legal in the state of Oregon. But what will become of the scores of men and women serving time for marijuana-affiliated crimes in the state or those with criminal records related to marijuana use or sale that prevent them from getting housing, jobs, and sometimes even an education.

Rep. Lew Frederick, who represents north and northeast Port-



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land in the state Legislature, is pushing forward a new bill that could mean people jailed for non-violent marijuana crimes would no longer be kept behind bars.

The proposed legislation would reduce sentences for people sent to prison for marijuana-related crimes for a drug that becomes legal in Oregon come July 1. His bill could also help people convicted of non-violent marijuana crimes to expunge their records.

"There are two aspects of the bill, for folks who are currently serving," Frederick said. "I believe it's like less than 100 people who are presently in jail in Oregon for this, but there are several thousand people who were arrested in the past and now have records based solely on marijuana. You are told you can't get housing or certain jobs, or even sometimes an education, due to these previous records."

Gunned Down Near School

Fatal shooting shatters peaceful afternoon

Police were called to a broad daylight shooting at North Blandena Street and Commercial Avenue Monday where they found the body of a 29-year-old male, identified as Marquis "Odie" Delon Chaney, a black resident of the neighborhood who appeared to have been fatally shot at least once.

Friends and family gathered at the site immediately following the shooting, which occurred around 2:30 p.m. and was only two blocks

north of Jefferson High School. Homicide detectives and gang enforcement officers responded and later escorted Chaney's mother to the scene.

Authorities said the killing marked the 26th time that the Portland Police Bureau's Gang Violence Response Team has come out to a shooting or stabbing since the New Year. The numbers have more than doubled since this time last year.

Anyone with information about Monday's murder, including information learned on social media, should contact investigators on the case, Detective Mark Sponhauer at 503-823-0416 or Detective Kristina Coffey at 503-823-0696.

Week in The Review

Kersey Memorial Held

Jerome Kersey was remembered as a gifted athlete who made himself a solid NBA player through hard work during a public memorial service Monday at Memorial Coliseum. Former Trail Blazer Coach Rick Aldelman, ex-teammate Terry Porter, current coach Terry Stotts and Kersey's widow, Teri, were also on hand. Kersey died suddenly on Feb. 18 from a blood clot to his lungs. He was 52.



image had a countdown clock to March 11 at 11 a.m. which caused many students to become distraught by the implications. A social media post said it was the first clue to a Portland puzzle. The FBI said there was no threat, but police are investigating.

Targeting E-Cigarettes

Lawmakers in the Oregon House voted Monday to tighten restrictions on electronic cigarettes, including banning indoor use and sales to minors. The proposal would also outlaw the use of e-cigarettes and other vaporizing devices in workplaces and bars.

Boyfriend Pleads Not Guilty

Nicholas R. Estrada, 22, pleaded not guilty to murder Monday in the Feb. 18 death of his girlfriend, whose body was found the next day in the Willamette River off Kelly Point Park. Elyesicia C. Payton died of blunt force trauma and drowned, according to an autopsy.

More Time to Transfer

On Sunday, TriMet officially extended transfer times for single-ride tickets to 2.5 hours from 2 hours. This is expected to create relief for long-distance commuters coming into the central city for work or school from the surrounding suburbs.

Man Breaks Into Courthouse

A 27-year-old man was jailed after his arrest Monday for breaking into the Multnomah County Courthouse overnight. Michael Hernandez is accused of burglary, disorderly conduct and criminal mischief.

Ferguson Racial Bias Report

A Justice Department investigation will allege sweeping patterns of discrimination within the Ferguson, Mo., police department, jail and municipal court, a law enforcement official familiar with the report said Tuesday. The report will charge that police disproportionately use excessive force against blacks and that black drivers are stopped and searched far more often than white motorists, even though they're less likely to be carrying contraband.

Puzzling Image Causes Stir

A mysterious symbol plastered across three Portland high schools shook students, parents and school officials Monday. The

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