A YouTube video shows a Portland Police officer asking a man not to film officers outside the North Precinct earlier this summer. The photographer was arrested last fall for filming police during a Ferguson solidarity rally and protest, downtown.

Police Filmer Files Federal Lawsuit

Man was arrested during Ferguson rally

A man who films the police has filed a federal lawsuit against the Portland Police Bureau and the city alleging that he was unfairly arrested for filming officers during a protest last fall at a Ferguson solidarity rally.

Robert Lee West, a Portland activist known for filming police and running filmthepolice911.com, argues that Portland police violated his First Amendment rights protecting the freedom of the press and freedom of assembly, assaulted him through the use of a flash bang grenade thrown in his direction, and falsely arrested him for disorderly conduct and deprived him of water upon his arrest.

The demonstration occurred last November when a grand jury decided not to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teen in Ferguson, Mo.

West claims his camera was focused on police actions, and while doing so, officers threw the "flash bang" grenade within inches of him, dispersing a large crowd. West was then arrested along with other protesters and accused of disorderly conduct, but had the charges dismissed in December.

When he was arrested, West alleges that he informed officers of pre-existing health problems and requested water as he felt light-headed and had a headache. When he was taken to the East Precinct, West claims he suffered dizziness and an elevated pulse and blood pressure.

After two hours in custody, police gave West a citation, after which he was transported by ambulance and received medical care at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center. The suit reports that West was then diagnosed with hypertension, dehydration, and dizziness. West wants the city of Portland to cover his $4,823 in medical bills and $5,178 in non-economic damages for his pain and emotional suffering.

The Week in Review

Seattle School Strike Ends

Striking teachers and the Seattle public school district reached a tentative agreement on Tuesday to end a nearly week-long walkout that has idled the city's 53,000 students, both sides in the labor dispute said.

Rape Kits to be Tested

On Thursday the Portland Police Bureau won $2 million in grant funding to go through a backlog of nearly 2,000 rape kits going back as far as 1985. The monies would also pay for investigative follow-up costs. Rape kits are important in collecting evidence and prosecuting rape cases and ensuring repeated sex offenders are tracked.

Man Jailed in Exposure Case

Authorities arrested a 29-year-old man Monday after two reported incidents of a male who rode his bicycle up to young girls and exposed himself in the Kenton Neighborhood of north Portland. Authorities said Eric Garcia, matched the description of the suspect. Officers believe there might be at least one more victim in the area who has not made a report.

Murder Trial Begins

The aggravated murder trial of Joda Cain, 19, charged with killing his great-grandmother Jacqueline Bell in her Cedar Hills home, began Tuesday. Bell was 71 when she was found bludgeoned to death on her bedroom floor in early October 2013. Cain's trial, which is taking place in Washington County, is expected to last at least two weeks.

Hillsboro Shooting

Officials have identified the victim of a fatal shooting that took place early Sunday in Hillsboro as Alonzo S. Gregg, 34. Gregg was found dead shorting after 2:20 a.m. Sunday morning in front of a strip mall that uses the same parking as the Hillsboro police station. No arrests have been made.

Drowning in Willamette

A body found floating in the Willamette River Sunday has been identified as Nathaniel Torion, 32, of Portland. Torion had been reported missing and was last seen Sept. 1. Officials say the circumstances of the drowning have not been determined.

West Side Power Outage

A downed power line cut electricity to over 3,300 Portland residents early Monday morning. By 11 a.m., workers helped bring back electricity to over half of the affected customers, including Wilson High School, which was able to power through classes with use of back-up generators. Most power was restored by the end of the day.

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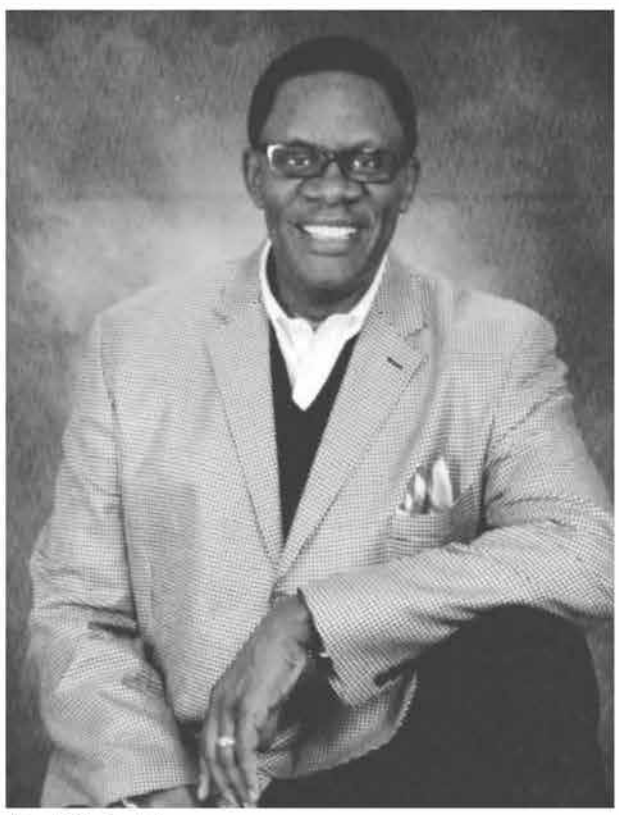

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