KIDNAPPED: Cooter has priors for kidnapping, aggravated assault

Continued from 1A

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office dispatch center, Heppner, took a 9-1-1 call Saturday at 6:12 a.m., according to the agency's media bulletin, and kept the call open for nine minutes. Undersheriff Steve Myren said the dispatcher heard "unusual noises" and then a woman whisper she had been kidnapped and to send help. A male then took the phone, according to the bulletin, and asked for help fixing a flat tire.

Marion Weatherford, the Gilliam County district attorney, said the attack happened after the woman and her dog stopped to rest during a drive. Cooter broke into the car, punched the woman and bound her with electrical tape, Weatherford said. He then took the wheel, drove to a remote road along the river and raped her.

At some point during the incident, the car got a flat tire. As it was being fixed, the woman used the opportunity to call 9-1-1.

Oregon State Police troopers and deputies from the sheriff's office of Morrow and Gilliam counties found the vehicle more than two hours later on I-84 traveling westbound near milepost 143, about six miles east of Arlington, and made the stop.

Cooter and the female were strangers, according to OSP.

Weatherford declined to discuss the woman's injuries, but said she was not in a hospital and would stay in Gilliam County to testify Wednesday before a grand jury.

Cooter's bail was set at $1.25 million. He remained in the Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility in The Dalles and will be assigned a court-appointed attorney.

Tennessee records show Cooter with prior convictions for kidnapping and aggravated assault. Cooter told investigators that he drifted northwest to Oregon and has no permanent address, Oregon State Police Lt. Bill Fugate told the Associated Press.

MARIJUANA: Banks already receive money from pot enterprises through governments in the form of taxes and other payments

Continued from 1A

ably the most immediate benefit" of de-scheduling marijuana would be that universities could ramp up research on the plant.

As for the current lack of access to banks, Ferrioli said as long as marijuana businesses are still forced to operate on a cash basis without the financial tracking of financial institutions "you still haven't really improved public safety."

Ferrioli is part of a work group organized in conjunction with Gov. Kate Brown's administration to explore solutions to the lack of banking options for cannabis businesses.

The House-Senate committee heard more testimony on the issue Thursday from business, credit union and bank representatives.

Noah Stokes, owner of CannaGuard Security, said his business provides security systems to marijuana businesses that help them comply with regulations. However, Stokes said, a bank closed his accounts for both CannaGuard Security and a separate home security business after bankers learned of Stokes' connection to the cannabis industry.

Banks are supposed to notify federal regulators of suspicious activity, including drug trafficking, and pot businesses operating in compliance with state laws have struggled to find any banks that will accept their deposits.

Although the U.S. Department of the Treasury issued guidance to banks in 2014 that they could do business with state-sanctioned marijuana businesses, financial institutions that work with the cannabis industry could run into trouble if future presidential administrations reverse that policy.

Ferrioli said it does not make sense that banks remain at risk if they deal directly with marijuana businesses, when the same banks already receive money from pot enterprises that has been funneled through local and state governments in the form of taxes and other payments.

"I think the incongruity is delicious," Ferrioli said. "We can do as a government what we won't allow the citizens to do. I think that's a strong argument for us re-thinking the regulations for banks."

This story first appeared in the Oregon Capital Insider newsletter. To subscribe, go to oregoncapitalinsider.com.

HEPPNER: Firefighters didn't go home until 2 a.m.

Continued from 1A

raced through 20,000 acres of private pasture land.

At around the same time, crews responded to two separate air ambulance flights out of Heppner and a vehicle crash on Bombing Range Road near Boardman. That left every fire and law enforcement agency in Morrow County tied up for a period of several hours on Saturday, Myren said.

The fire at Mountain Glen Apartments, 200 N.E. Pioneer Drive, was reported at about 5:30 p.m. Heppner, Lexington and Ione fire departments, as well as Heppner Public Works, arrived on scene to find one of the apartments engulfed in flames.

Firefighters held the blaze to one building, which includes eight apartments. Two units were destroyed, two heavily and damaged and two more received minor damage. The last two appeared to be undamaged.

The American Red Cross and Heppner Neighborhood Center assisted seven adults and three pets who were displaced by the fire. Temperatures reached 105 degrees Saturday in Heppner.

It was nearly dark by the time firefighters could shift gears and respond to the lightning-caused Big Butter Creek fire. Heppner Fire Chief Rusty Estes said they sent four brush trucks and a water tender from Heppner, Lexington and Ione to assist the Pilot Rock Rural Fire District.

It wasn't until 2 a.m. when firefighters could finally go home, Estes said.

"It was pretty exciting," he said. "Of course, we're all volunteers. This is what we do to help our friends and neighbors."

Pilot Rock Fire Chief Ron Neeley said lightning started a second fire in the same area on Sunday afternoon. All together, the two fires burned between 25,000-30,000 acres. No structures were damaged.

Estes said everyone in Morrow County did a good job pulling together on what proved to be a hot and difficult weekend.

"In Morrow County, emergency services all play very well together," he said.

Anyone with information about the Mountain Glen Apartments fire should call the Morrow County Sheriff's Office at 541-676-5317.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4547.

SAFEWAY it's just better

SAFEWAY SAVINGS AWARD Valid 6/30/15 thru 7/7/15

$10 OFF $50 or more*

Save on your next grocery purchase of $50 or more* with your Safeway Club Card and this Savings Award.

*Use this Savings Award on any shopping trip you choose at any Oregon Safeway store (except Milton-Freewater) and S.W. Washington stores serving Clark, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Skamania and Klickitat counties by 7/7/15. This $10.00 Savings Award excludes purchases of Alcoholic Beverages, Fluid Dairy Products, Tobacco, US Postage Stamps, Trimet Bus/Commuter Passes, Money Orders, Container Deposits, Lottery, Gift Cards, Gift Certificates Sales, All Pharmacy Prescription Purchases, Safeway Club Savings, Safeway Store Coupons and Sales Tax. One Savings Award redeemable per household. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Online and in-store prices, discounts, and offers may differ.

0 00000 78054 4

SAFEWAY COUPON Valid 7/1/15 thru 7/7/15

Alaskan Sockeye Salmon Fillet
Previously frozen.
4.99 lb
WITH CARD AND COUPON
This coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer Valid with Card and Coupon. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Coupon valid thru 7/7/15.
0 00000 77401 7

SAFEWAY COUPON Valid 7/1/15 thru 7/7/15

Limit 3
Tuscan Cantaloupes
2 for $5
WITH CARD AND COUPON
This coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer Valid with Card and Coupon. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Coupon valid thru 7/7/15.
0 00000 77383 6

SAFEWAY COUPON Valid 7/1/15 thru 7/7/15

Rotisserie Chicken
From the Service Deli.
$6 ea
WITH CARD AND COUPON
This coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer Valid with Card and Coupon. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Coupon valid thru 7/7/15.
0 00000 77220 4

Safeway WATERFRONT BLUES Festival
Presented by FIRST TECH

PROUD SPONSOR

Mission Soft Taco
10-ct. 17.5-oz. Flour or Whole Wheat Tortillas.
Club Price: $1.50 ea.
2 for $3

PROUD SPONSOR

Limit 2
Franz Big Bread
22.5-oz.
Club Price: $1.50 ea.
2 for $3

PROUD SPONSOR

Earth2o
6-pack, 0.5-Liter.
Plus deposit in Oregon.
1.99 ea

PROUD SPONSOR

Umpqua Ice Cream
1.75-qt.
Club Price: $3.50 ea.
2 for $7

PROUD SPONSOR

Pepsi
6-pack, 16.9-oz. bottles.
Club Price: $2.25 ea.
Plus deposit in Oregon.
4 for $9

PROUD SPONSOR

Frito Lay Josefina Tortilla Chips
Club Price: $2.00 ea.
2 for $4

PROUD SPONSOR

Coors or Smith & Forge
18-pack, 12-oz. cans or bottles Coors or 12-pack, 12-oz. cans Smith & Forge.
Plus deposit in Oregon.
13.99 ea

PROUD SPONSOR

14 Hands or Columbia Crest
750-ml. Selected varietals.
8.99 ea

PROUD SPONSOR

Snapple
32-oz. bottles.
Club Price: $1.00 ea.
10 for $10

Portland, Oregon • July 2-5, 2015 • waterfrontbluesfest.com

We Thank our Supporting Sponsors.

Prices in this ad are effective 6 AM Wednesday, July 1, 2015 thru Tuesday, July 7, 2015 (unless otherwise noted) in all Safeway stores in Oregon (except Milton-Freewater) and S.W. Washington stores serving Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties. Items offered for sale are not available to other dealers or wholesalers. Sales of products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine limited by law. Quantity rights reserved. SOME ADVERTISING ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL STORES. Some advertised prices may be even lower in some stores. On Buy One, Get One Free ("BOGO") offers, customer must purchase the first item to receive the second item free. BOGO offers are not 1/2 price sales. If only a single item purchased, the regular price applies. Manufacturers' coupons may be used on purchased items only — not on free items. Limit one coupon per purchased item. Customer will be responsible for tax and deposits as required by law on the purchased and free items. No liquor sales in excess of 52 gallons. No liquor sales for resale. Liquor sales at licensed Safeway stores only. © 2015 Safeway Inc. Availability of items may vary by store. Online and In-store prices, discounts and offers may differ.

PG 1,P1,P2
070115_PendletonEastOregonian_8.725x17_P1