

Jefferson County treasurer found guilty of stealing money

MADRAS (AP) — A jury on Thursday found a local treasurer in Oregon guilty of stealing money from her county.

The *Bulletin* reports Jefferson County Treasurer Deena Goss was convicted of several counts of forgery, official misconduct and theft.

One forgery count is a felony that could carry up to five years in prison. The other 36 charges are misdemeanors.

Goss is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 1, according to court records.

Neither Goss nor her attorney could be reached for comment Thursday, but Goss' mother told The *Bulletin* her daughter was falsely accused.

"We've been through hell," said her mother, Irma Symons. "She's crushed. Devastated."

The state accused treasurer Deena Goss of altering checks paid to various departments and then pocketing cash, though Goss' attorney argued in



This 2011 photo shows Jefferson County Treasurer Deena M. Goss in her office in Madras. A jury found Goss guilty Thursday of 36 charges related to the theft of county money.

court that another employee could have taken the money.

Her attorney, Todd Grover, said county accounting policies offer no way to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the treasurer took any cash.

Goss' term as treasurer runs until December 2016 and the conviction does not require her to resign, according to a news release from Jefferson County.

But it continues to say

that county commissioners "respectfully request that in light of the conviction" Goss resign immediately.

The statement said the failure of an elected official to resign after being convicted of a felony would be "incongruous, repugnant and offensive."

During Goss' four-day trial, Assistant Attorney General Kristen Hoffmeyer said the county officials noticed something was

going on when a resident bought a dog license for \$26 but noticed that \$46 had been deducted from his account.

Grover, Goss' attorney, argued that the money could have been stolen by another employee because the county had no extra protections in place to verify the amount of cash deposited.

Jefferson County commissioners plan to discuss whether they should officially request Goss' resignation at a Wednesday meeting.

The treasurer's financial duties were reassigned to other officials and employees after the Oregon Department of Justice began investigating in April 2014, according to the news release. In May 2014, they removed the treasurer's salary and instituted payment by an hourly stipend.

The news release says Goss hasn't received any compensation since then. If she returns to work, she will be paid \$30.81 an hour.



This remote camera photo taken May 2014 shows the wolf OR-7 on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in southwest Oregon.

GPS collar stops tracking famous wandering wolf

BEND (AP) — The wolf OR-7 became globally famous when he took off from his northeast Oregon pack four years ago and wandered thousands of miles in search of a mate, his movement tracked by a GPS satellite.

His actions now be much harder to track. Wildlife officials say the collar that transmitted his location through satellites and radio signals has stopped working.

"It all finally wore out," said John Stephenson, Oregon wolf coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Bend. "The battery died, basically."

Without the regular information, biologists rely on trail cameras and in-person sightings to monitor him, Stephenson told the *Bend Bulletin*.

Knowing the electronics were close to blinking out, state and federal wildlife managers made three attempts — last summer, last fall and early this spring — to trap OR-7 or another member of his Rogue Pack, said Mark Vargas, district wildlife biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in Medford.

The hope was to replace

the batteries and keep the GPS data coming in and the radio signal going from OR-7 or track the pack by collaring another one of the wolves.

"We'd love to get a collar back on OR-7," Vargas said, "but that didn't happen."

People around the world tracked OR-7 when he set off from the Imnaha Pack four years ago, wandering thousands of miles through Oregon, into Northern California and back. He found a mate, settled in the Cascade Range in southern Oregon and has had five pups. None of the wolves in the pack has a working tracking collar.

Although not able to track and locate OR-7 like before, Stephenson and Vargas know where he and his pack roam. For the past three years, the wolf and his mate have hunted and raised pups around the Sky Lakes Wilderness Area between Prospect and Fort Klamath.

Now 6 years old, OR-7 left his pack when he was 2. His three older pups, born last year, are full-sized yearlings and may set out on their own soon.

"(It) wouldn't be surprising if one of them took off this fall," Stephenson said.

BRIEFLY

Elderly man hit and killed in crosswalk, woman arrested

WALLA WALLA, Wash. (AP) — Officials say a Walla Walla man struck by a vehicle has died from his injuries.

Walla Walla Police Department spokesman Tim Bennett says 77-year-old James A. Kooreny was crossing Isaacs Avenue in a crosswalk Thursday night when he was hit by a vehicle.

He was taken to a local hospital where he died a short time later.

Police say Heather A. Tarnasky was driving the Honda SUV that struck Kooreny.

She was arrested following sobriety tests done at the scene and taken to jail on a vehicular homicide charge. Blood alcohol test results are pending.

Authorities charge Tigard boy, 12, with attempted murder

TIGARD (AP) — Tigard police took a 12-year-old boy into custody after he allegedly strangled a sibling.

The boy faces charges of attempted murder in Washington County Juvenile Court.

Police say the victim told a parent about the incident. The next day, the parent took both children to the boy's school, where staff immediately called the school resource officer.

That officer, along with a detective, conducted an investigation and took the boy into custody on Thursday.

Newport crowned dominant West Coast commercial fishing port

ASTORIA (AP) — Newport is now the dominant West Coast port for commercial fishing, with the highest quantity of fish on the coast.

Newport landed 124 million pounds of commercial fish, the 11th highest quantity in the country. Newport edged out Astoria for the top West Coast spot, with the 12th highest city netting 122 million pounds, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Astoria had been the top West Coast port by quantity — and the 10th highest in the nation — since it overtook Los Angeles in 2012, *The Daily Astorian* reports.

Westport, Washington landed 100 million pounds, making it the third highest

producer on the coast and 13th in the country.

The nation's top commercial fishing port by quantity for the past several years has been Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

In terms of value, New Bedford, Massachusetts is the best commercial port in the country, bringing in \$329 million last year.

In the Pacific Northwest, Astoria and Newport both saw drops in value, with Astoria landing \$43 million, compared to \$50 million in 2013. In Newport the commercial catch was worth \$53 million, down from \$55 million in 2013. Astoria and Newport rank 21st and 23rd in the nation for value, respectively.

Drought helps solve missing person case

EUGENE (AP) — Authorities say an eight-year-old missing person case was resolved in Oregon after the drought exposed a car that had been submerged in a pond.

The *Register-Guard* reports that Lane County sheriff's officials say a driver on Monday spotted the car partially sticking out of a pond near a highway off-ramp.

Detective Carl Wilkerson says investigators confirmed that the car was associated with a 59-year-old Junction City woman who went missing in November 2007. Linda Lee Perry had left her house to go shopping in Springfield and never returned.

He says a dive team found human remains in the pond and identified them as Perry's. Investigators think Perry died in a traffic crash.

Suspected norovirus outbreak closes Eugene school

EUGENE (AP) — A Eugene school was closed for at least two days after 16 staff members called out sick in a suspected norovirus outbreak.

Officials say a number of students at O'Hara Catholic School reported being sick.

Health officials are trying to determine the source of the outbreak as crews scrub the building from top to bottom with a chlorine-bleach mix. Norovirus is a highly contagious pathogen that can cause vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps.

Lane County health department spokesman Jason Davis tells the *Register-Guard* that students are likely to return to school "early next week," most officials decide to settle by paying a fine and attending training.

Ethics board says Josephine county violated public meetings law

GRANTS PASS (AP) — An Oregon ethics commission has ruled that the Josephine County Board of Commissioners violated the state's public meeting laws.

The Daily Courier reports that the Oregon Government Ethics Commission says the Josephine board held closed-door sessions without proper justification.

Former county commissioner Sandi Cassanelli filed a complaint in January.

The ethics commission says county



commissioners Keith Heck, Cheryl Walker and Simon Hare violated state law by discussing general county policies in three closed meetings that month and once in February. Walker was absent from the February meeting.

Commissioners can appeal the findings at a hearing or negotiate Walker and Heck say the commissioners did nothing wrong.

Walker and Heck say a settlement. Ethics Commission Executive Director Ron Bersin says

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