

Rampage leaves father, two pedestrians dead

By STEVEN DUBOIS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — An Oregon man attacked his parents before torching the home they all shared, stealing their SUV and intentionally running down pedestrians in a rampage that left three people dead, authorities said.

Michael J. Bryant, 31, of Springfield, was arrested Sunday in Eugene after a short pursuit and charged with murder, attempted murder and other crimes in the deaths of his father and two pedestrians, Springfield police Sgt. David Lewis said. Bryant does not yet have an attorney to speak on his behalf.

The chain of events started Sunday afternoon when police responded to a report of an assault at the Springfield home where the unemployed Bryant lived with his parents. They found Bryant's seriously injured mother, Elizabeth Bryant, 62, outside the burning house.



Bryant

She told police that she and her husband, Jefferson Bryant, 64, had been assaulted by their son, and he stole their SUV. Elizabeth Bryant was taken to a hospital and is expected to survive.

After the fire was extinguished, officers found the father's body and two dead dogs. Authorities are waiting to release how Jefferson Bryant died until after an autopsy, but Lewis said it was not from gunfire.

Police then learned that the stolen SUV was suspected of striking and killing a pedestrian, Richard Bates, 58, in a Springfield parking lot. Twenty minutes later, Eugene police responded to a report that a couple had been run down in a crosswalk by the same SUV.

Marc Sanford, 49, died in the crash, and his wife, Lorre Sanford, 48, was taken to a hospital. She was still in critical condition Monday but is expected to live, Lewis said.

Investigators so far believe that "all of the injuries to all of the victims were intentional acts," Lewis said.

The sergeant said he would not release details about a statement Bryant gave to detectives.

"It was a situation that sounded like it had been brewing for a couple weeks," he said.

The suspect was caught after a police car struck the SUV, and a stun gun was used to subdue him, Cynthia Dodds, a restaurant manager who witnessed the arrest, told The Register-Guard.

Bryant also has been charged with aggravated animal abuse and attempt to elude by vehicle. His arraignment was scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

Baker City man charged in wolf shooting

Man had notified authorities; both charges misdemeanors

By ERIC MORTENSON
EO Media Group

A Baker City man who told state police and wildlife officials that he'd shot a wolf while hunting coyotes on private property has been charged with killing an endangered species.

Brennon D. Witty, 25, also was charged with hunting with a centerfire rifle without a big game tag, Harney County District Attorney Tim Colahan said Monday. Both charges are Class A misdemeanors, each punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$6,250 fine. Witty will be arraigned Dec. 2 in Grant County Justice Court in Canyon City.

The shooting happened in Grant County; the neighboring Harney County district attorney handled it as a courtesy because his Grant County counterpart was acquainted with the hunter's



Courtesy of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OR 22, a male wolf that separated from the Umatilla River Pack in February, is pictured walking through a Northeast Oregon forest on Jan. 26. The lone wolf spent several weeks in Malheur County before heading from Grant County. It was shot south of Prairie City by a man hunting coyotes.

family and wanted to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

The incident happened Oct. 6, when Witty voluntarily notified the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State

Police that he'd shot a wolf while hunting coyotes on private property south of Prairie City. Police recovered a wolf's remains on the property.

Oregon's action to remove wolves from the state endan-

gered species list has no apparent bearing on the case. Wolves were listed under the state Endangered Species Act at the time of the shooting; the ODFW Commission on Nov. 9 removed wolves from the state list. Regardless, they remained on the federal endangered species list in the western two-thirds of the state.

The wolf was identified as OR-22, a male that has worn a GPS tracking collar since October 2013 and dispersed from the Umatilla Pack in February 2015. He was in Malheur County for awhile, then traveled into Grant County.

Wildlife biologists don't believe he had a mate of pups. Young or sub-dominant wolves often leave their home packs to establish their own territory and find mates.

OR-22 was the third Oregon wolf known to have died since August, when the Sled Springs pair in Northeast Oregon were found dead of unknown cause. The state now has a minimum of 82 wolves.

Pot use in pregnancy may pose risks; warnings needed

CHICAGO (AP)—Warning: Marijuana use during pregnancy and breast-feeding poses potential harms.

That message would be written on medical and recreational marijuana products and posted wherever they're sold if the nation's most influential doctors group has its way.

The American Medical Association agreed Monday to push for regulations requiring such warnings be written on medical and recreational pot products and posted wherever they're sold. The decision was made based on studies suggesting marijuana use may be linked with low birth weight, premature birth and behavior problems in young children.

Critics say evidence of harm is weak, but while advocates agree that more research is needed, they say erring on the side of caution makes sense.

Some studies have linked marijuana use in pregnancy with childhood attention problems and lower scores on

problem-solving measures. THC, the main active ingredient in marijuana, has been found in the milk of women who use it while breastfeeding, and some data suggests the drug can affect the quality and quantity of breast milk, the AMA's new policy says.

There are similar warnings for alcohol and tobacco, "so why not do the same thing with marijuana since it is the most commonly used illicit drug during pregnancy," said Dr. Diana Ramos, a Los Angeles physician with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, which proposed the warnings at an AMA policy-making meeting in Atlanta.

There's much more scientific evidence of harm from alcohol and tobacco than from marijuana, but marijuana has not been proven safe to use during pregnancy or breast-feeding.

The AMA voted to adopt the proposal, meaning it's now on AMA's lobbying agenda.

In advice issued earlier this

year against marijuana use during pregnancy, the OB-GYN group cited data putting use during pregnancy at about 5 percent nationwide, but as high as 28 percent among some urban low-income women.

Ramos said getting the AMA on board "really gives power" to the proposal. She said the ultimate goal is a federal requirement for warning signs, but because marijuana use is illegal under federal law, the policy seeks local and state measures.

While some women use the drug during or after pregnancy to ease nausea, chronic pain or depression, there are alternatives without the potential risks, said Dr. Judy Chang, an associate OB-GYN professor at the University of Pittsburgh who studies substance abuse in pregnancy.

Medical marijuana is legal in 23 states and Washington, D.C. Recreational use of marijuana also is legal in Washington D.C., as well as in Alaska, Colorado, Oregon and Washington.

Several states require health warnings on cannabis product labels, but Oregon "is the only state that currently requires a point of sale warning at dispensaries regarding cannabis use in pregnant or breast-feeding women," according to background information in the proposal the AMA adopted.

In Colorado, regulators have struggled to spell out guidelines about maternal pot use. Labels warn pregnant and nursing women that "there may be risks" from using marijuana, but there's no ban on pregnant women buying it. Colorado lawmakers this year rejected a ban on selling marijuana to pregnant women, and another measure to post warning signs in pot shops.

Dr. Larry Wolk, Colorado's chief medical officer, said health officials there have created informational material and pamphlets about the risks for doctors to give pregnant women. If the effort raises widespread awareness, "we may not need legislation," Wolk said.

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