

Court overturns conviction of man who said he was Sasquatch

By STEVEN DUBOIS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — An appeals court overturned the conviction of an Oregon man with bipolar disorder who attacked a hunter while claiming to be a Sasquatch.

A statement Linus Norgren made to a deputy that he “was a Sasquatch and was from a family of Sasquatches” showed he was having a mental break from reality, the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday.

He didn’t knowingly and intelligently waive his Miranda rights, and incriminating statements made during the interview should not have been

allowed at his March 2015 trial, the court said.

Washington County deputies arrested Norgren in October 2013, saying the 20-year-old was naked when he hit a 58-year-old hunter with a rock and tried to choke him in woods west of Portland.

Despite suffering multiple injuries, the hunter, Jeff McDonald, fought back and held his attacker at gunpoint until authorities arrived. Norgren was lying in a fetal position.

McDonald told The Oregonian/OregonLive after the trial that he asked Norgren during their struggle: “Why are you trying to kill me?” He said Norgren replied, “Sasquatch



Norgren

kills the hunter.”

Jurors convicted Norgren of assault and attempted murder, and Washington County Judge Thomas Kohl sentenced him to 10 years in prison.

The case now returns to county court.

Kohl had decided Norgren was properly given his Miranda rights based on the deputy’s assertion that the suspect gave responsive answers and the only unusual statement was the one about Sasquatch.

Defense attorneys told jurors that Norgren believed he was acting in self-defense and his behavior was caused by bipolar disorder.

Norgren was on medical leave from the University of Oregon to address his mental health and had stopped taking his medication, his mother testified.

Oregon Education Association drops tax petition for technical error

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A technical error has prompted the Oregon Education Association to withdraw a petition for a ballot measure to enact a 0.95 percent sales tax on corporations with annual sales of more than \$5 million.

Initiative Petition 27 created a tax framework for corporations with annual sales of more than or less than \$5 million. However, corporations with sales of exactly \$5 million would have had to pay nothing, due to an error in the initiative’s language, said OEA President John Larson.

OEA, the state’s largest teachers’ union plans to

file paperwork for a new initiative after correcting the proposal’s wording.

“We are not abandoning the concept,” Larson said.

Petitioners had already collected more than 1,000 signatures at the time of withdrawal Friday, Aug. 4.

The OEA filed paperwork for the tax measure after it became unlikely that state lawmakers would raise new revenue for schools. The teachers’ union also backed corporate sales tax Measure 97, which failed in the November 2016 election. Union leaders maintain that Oregon corporations fail to contribute their “fair share” to state tax revenue.

The proposal would

levy a 0.95 percent gross receipts tax on corporations with annual sales greater than \$5 million. The initiative’s sponsors want all of the revenue to go toward K-12 and higher education.

Another ballot measure proposal by the OEA — Initiative Petition 26 — is still in play. The initiative would eliminate the constitutional requirement to garner a three-fifths majority vote in both chambers of the Legislature to pass new taxes, when educational funding dips under a certain threshold. The threshold is “a sum of money sufficient to ensure the state system of public education meets quality goals established by law.”

Court finds attack charged by mental illness, not racism

PORTLAND (AP) — A 35-year-old man accused of a racist attack on a woman has been sentenced to mental health counseling and two years of probation.

Joseph Leineweber spent a month in jail after the April attack in Portland and will serve no additional time as part of a plea agreement, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported.

Prosecutors placed great weight on a forensic psychologist’s report that Leineweber’s tirade was driven by mental illness, rather than deeply rooted racism, Senior Deputy District Attorney Brian Davidson said.

Leineweber originally faced hate crime charges and a string of other counts. But he pleaded guilty to first-degree criminal mischief and menacing. He is accused of calling the woman a “dirty Mexican” and yelling “America deserves better” after jumping onto the hood of her car, authorities said.

The victim, 42-year-old Concepcion Salazar, said she remains deeply shaken by the attack. She has spoken publicly about it after being reluctant at first. “What he did is not right, just

because of the color of my skin,” Salazar said. “People need to know it’s not right. I think we’re all the same. We’re all humans.”

Police estimated more than \$1,000 in damage was done to Salazar’s car.

Salazar said Leineweber walked toward where she was sitting in her car and began taking pictures of her, and then he jumped on her car’s hood.

He is accused of then denting the car while going on a profanity-laced racist tirade.

Salazar said she dialed 911. She’s thankful that the driver of a truck stopped and intervened, telling Leineweber to stop. Leineweber eventually drove off before police arrived, she said.

Man accused of biting girl, 14, during Green Day concert

PORTLAND (AP) — Police arrested a Canadian man accused of biting a 14-year-old girl on the right breast during a Green Day concert in Portland, Oregon.

Joel Dauncey pleaded not guilty Thursday to misdemeanor charges of assault and sexual abuse.

According to court documents, the teen told police she was dancing next to her mother Wednesday night when the stranger leaned over and bit her. She rated

the pain a “3” on a 1-10 scale.

A woman working the concert told police that Dauncey had been cut off from buying alcohol because of his behavior. The worker said she kept an eye on him and witnessed the bite.

The arresting officer said Dauncey denied biting the girl after initially saying he knew why he was being arrested.

Dauncey lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, and traveled to Portland for the concert. He remains in jail.

Man accused of trying to flood Portland basements

PORTLAND (AP) — Police arrested a man accused of trying to flood basements in a southeast Portland neighborhood.

Sgt. Chris Burley says officers arrested 30-year-old Moyhijah Widger-Chongo early Friday after responding to a complaint of a naked man turning on a water faucet.

Over the past month, a vandal has caused thousands of dollars in damage by flooding basements in the Ladd’s Addition neighborhood. The vandal turns on exterior faucets and leaves the water running. More than 40 homes have been targeted.

Widger-Chongo has been booked into the Multnomah County Jail on 14 felony and misdemeanor crimes. Officers have asked for him to be assessed by mental health professionals.

Widger’s booking information was not yet available, and it’s unknown if he has a lawyer.

Wildfire scorches more than 80 square miles in southeast Oregon

PORTLAND (AP) — A wildfire has charred more than 80 square miles of grass and juniper in sparsely populated southeast Oregon.

The Cinder Butte fire began Wednesday afternoon and quickly spread. Fire officials said it was about 10 percent contained Friday afternoon.

The blaze started by humans is by far the largest fire burning in what’s traditionally the peak month of Oregon’s annual wildfire season.

A blaze east of Salem in the Jefferson Wilderness has prompted hiker evacuations and road and

trail closures. A wildfire spreading toward the rim of the caldera at Crater Lake National Park led officials to close the West Rim Road and additional trails.

Oregon woman charged in fatal stabbing of husband

GRANTS PASS (AP) — Oregon State Police say a 58-year-old woman told a detective she stabbed her husband with a knife because he was calling her names.

The disclosure was included in a probable cause affidavit filed in the arrest of Valerie Atcher. The woman from Cave Junction in southern Oregon is charged with first-degree manslaughter.

The affidavit says 55-year-old Eric Atcher died from a stab wound to his left inner bicep. His body was found Wednesday night in the couple’s backyard.

The Grants Pass Daily Courier reports Valerie Atcher was arraigned Thursday. The judge set bail at \$50,000 and granted her a court-appointed attorney

BRIEFLY

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Dimmed sunshine, hot and smoky	Partly sunny and hot	Partly sunny and hot	Sunshine and hot	Very hot with blazing sunshine
96° 62°	98° 63°	99° 66°	101° 66°	101° 71°

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

96°	62°	98°	63°	99°	66°	101°	66°	101°	71°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

100°	60°	102°	62°	104°	64°	104°	61°	106°	72°
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PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	97°	69°
Normals	89°	60°
Records	113° (1961)	40° (1911)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.04"
Year to date 11.30"
Last year to date 7.27"
Normal year to date 7.99"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	102°	60°
Normals	90°	59°
Records	105° (1961)	42° (1934)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.03"
Year to date 6.59"
Last year to date 4.94"
Normal year to date 5.95"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:43 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:18 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:02 p.m.
Moonset today	3:47 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 29

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Low clouds and fog, then perhaps some sun today. Partly cloudy tonight.	Eastern Washington: Dimmed sunshine and smoky today. Clear and moonlit tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.
Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly sunny and hot today; smoky across the north and near the Cascades.	Cascades: Mostly sunny today; very warm. Patchy clouds tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow.
Western Washington: Low clouds and fog, then perhaps some sun today, except mostly sunny in central parts.	Northern California: Partly sunny today. Cooler in the interior mountains; hot in central parts.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	73	56	c	74	56	c
Baker City	92	47	s	91	50	pc
Bend	93	54	s	92	57	pc
Brookings	65	52	c	64	54	pc
Burns	92	51	s	89	52	pc
Enterprise	90	54	s	90	55	pc
Eugene	88	52	pc	93	57	pc
Heppner	94	62	s	95	62	pc
Hermiston	100	60	s	102	62	pc
John Day	94	60	s	93	61	pc
Klamath Falls	90	55	pc	89	54	pc
La Grande	93	56	s	94	55	pc
Meacham	91	52	s	91	53	pc
Medford	97	65	pc	99	67	s
Newport	64	52	c	66	51	pc
North Bend	66	54	c	69	53	c
Ontario	98	65	s	97	64	pc
Pasco	99	61	s	101	61	pc
Pendleton	96	62	s	98	63	pc
Portland	90	63	s	94	66	pc
Redmond	95	50	s	94	52	pc
Salem	91	59	s	96	63	s
Spokane	90	63	s	92	64	s
Ukiah	89	49	s	90	51	pc
Vancouver	89	61	pc	95	65	pc
Walla Walla	97	69	s	98	68	pc
Yakima	99	63	s	100	64	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	94	74	t	94	74	s
Hong Kong	92	81	t	92	84	t
Jerusalem	86	67	s	88	68	s
London	68	52	c	69	56	pc
Mexico City	78	56	pc	78	57	pc
Moscow	73	57	pc	74	61	s
Paris	75	53	pc	75	53	pc
Rome	93	70	pc	91	72	pc
Seoul	95	81	t	93	79	t
Sydney	68	52	s	71	54	s
Tokyo	86	79	pc	87	80	pc

WINDS

	Today	Sunday
(in mph)		
Boardman	NW 4-8	NNE 4-8
Pendleton	WNW 6-12	NNW 6-12

UV INDEX TODAY

1	4	7	7	4	1
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index® number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary:

Storms will fire in New England and drench parts of the Deep South, Rockies, central Plains and interior Southwest today. Much cooler air will settle over the Midwest as heat continues in the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes:

(for the 48 contiguous states)
High 107° in Palm Springs, Calif. Low 35° in Leadville, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	87	67	t	90	65	t
Atlanta	87	71	pc	88	73	t
Atlantic City	82	62	pc	79	68	s
Baltimore	79	58	pc	81	66	s
Billings	76	55	s	74	53	pc
Birmingham	87	71	pc	86	74	pc
Boise	95	64	s	94	65	s
Boston	77	62	t	80	63	pc
Charleston, SC	85	72	t	89	75	pc
Charleston, WV	76	56	s	80	65	pc
Chicago	79	63	pc	70	62	c
Cleveland	76	60	pc	80	63	pc
Dallas	96	79	pc	97	76	t
Denver	89	57	t	77	57	t
Detroit	78	59	pc	77	62	pc
El Paso	95	76	pc	98	73	t
Fairbanks	78	57	s	82	60	pc
Fargo	80	53	pc	76	50	pc
Honolulu	89	74	pc	89	75	pc
Houston	90	78	t	92	77	t
Indianapolis	77	63	pc	70	62	t
Jacksonville	89	73	t	89	75	t
Kansas City	69	64	r	74	62	c
Las Vegas	101	82	pc	98	81	pc
Little Rock	87	72	pc	85	71	t
Los Angeles	84	68	pc	83	67	pc

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Louisville	82	64	s	76	68	t
Memphis	87	70	s	89	73	t
Miami						