

RECORDS

DNA match leads to arrest in 2007 rape case

On May 17, 2007, the Lane County Sheriff's Office received a report that a 41-year-old female had been forcibly raped by a stranger.

The female reportedly had car trouble in the Eugene area and a man who was unknown to her offered her a ride so she could get assistance with her vehicle.

Investigation indicates the male drove the female to the Crow area and forced her to have sex with him after assaulting her and threatening her if she fled. The male left the female on the side of the road in Crow where she



Jesse Lee Clark

flagged down a concerned community member who took her to the Sheriff's Office and the hospital.

The victim consented to have evidence collect-

ed during a sexual assault exam at the hospital in 2007, which was sent to the Oregon State Police Crime Lab for comparison to DNA samples on file.

At the time, the kit did not yield any matches in CODIS (Combined DNA Index System).

The Oregon State Police Crime Lab recently notified the Lane County Sheriff's Office that the DNA submitted in 2007 in connection with the 2007 rape report appeared to match that of 37-year-old Jesse Lee Clark of Junction City.

Clark was located in the

Eugene area on Aug. 2, 2018, and was interviewed and subsequently arrested and lodged in the Lane County Jail on Rape in the First Degree.

This case has been referred to the Lane County District Attorney's Office for prosecution. The identity of the female victim is not being released at this time.

New technology in place assists law enforcement in identifying suspects, even years after the initial crime.

In this case, Clark's DNA was submitted to CODIS recently due to an unrelated case.



**Irene D. Bridwell
1929-2018**

Irene D. Bridwell, 89 of Harrisburg, Oregon passed away August 4, 2018. She was born April 25, 1929, in Rugby, N. Dakota to Rolland and Daisy (Geisinger) Northway. Irene had a business degree and was a legal secretary for 30 years. She enjoyed sewing, embroidering, knitting, crocheting, reading,

watching movies and enjoyed spending time with her family and loved her pets. Irene married Earl Bridwell on September 7, 1947 in Cottage Grove, OR and was with her domestic partner, Bobby Miller for 20 plus years. She is survived by her partner Bobby Miller, Harrisburg, OR, son Gary (Darcy) Bridwell, daughter Judy (Eugene) Kephart, daughter Joyce (Rod) Bunner, daughter Janette (Daniel) Ferguson, daughter Pam (Stan) Werth, daughter Linda (Dave) Slocum, son Mike (Wanda) Miller, brother Ron (Raean) Northway, sister-in-law Glenda Northway, 15 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Irene was preceded in death by her husband Earl Bridwell in 1984 and brother Fred Northway. A Celebration of Life will be held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, September 29, 2018 at Brownsville Pioneer Park. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

City water meter upgrade proposal deadline is today

Ameresco recently released the request for proposals (RFP) for the Cottage Grove city water meter upgrade project, with proposals due at the close of day today.

Last Tuesday, city staff gave a tour of possible tower sites for data collector locations throughout the city. A total of six companies toured the sites and asked questions in preparation of their RFP submission.

On Wednesday, public works and development director Faye Stewart at-

tended the Oregon Department of Transportation's 2018 Safe Routes to School Grant Program Workshop in Springfield and then, on Thursday, the city manager Richard Meyers, along with Stewart along with city representatives, participated in a conference call with representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency regarding grant and loan programs for the water meter project.

City and Ameresco staff will be working together to

submit a project funding application by the first week of September. It is possible for the city to receive up to 45 percent of the project costs from grant funds and the remainder from a loan at a rate of 3.15 percent over 40 years.

City staff will be submitting a grant request to fund pedestrian improvements along Harrison and Fourth streets.

ODOT has \$16 million available for improving pedestrian and bicycle access to schools during the 2019-

20 grant cycle.

A letter of intent is due Aug. 31 and the grant application is due Oct. 15.

Grant awards will be announced in January of 2019.

If the grant request is awarded, the city could receive up to 80 percent of the improvement costs for eligible pedestrian related improvements. This will reduce the contributions from adjacent land owners for the new sidewalks.

Pacific-Source grant helping South Lane Mental Health to continue reduced-price services

South Lane Mental Health has received a three-year, \$30,000 per-year grant from the Pacific-Source Foundation for health improvement to ensure access to free or sliding-scale-fee mental health services for a range of Cottage Grove area residents.

The grant will support services for area children, adolescents and adults experiencing a mental health crisis; seniors with Medi-care-only coverage; undocumented community members; and any youth seeking mental health assistance.

As part of its mission, South Lane Mental Health provides more than \$350,000 per year of mental health care at no charge to community members in need.

The nonprofit also provides services to mem-

bers of the Oregon Health Plan.

South Lane Mental Health, established in 1988, offers counseling, crisis response, case management, prescription services and a recovery program for about 2,200 Cottage Grove area adults and children each year.

South Lane Mental Health also provides housing and support for adults

with persistent and severe mental illness.

To learn more about South Lane Mental Health, visit www.slmh.org or call 541-942-3939.

The PacificSource Foundation for Health Improvement is part of Springfield-based Pacific-Source Health Plans, a not-for-profit regional health insurance provider.

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