

AROUND
THE
REGION

EUGENE

Woman approached
by man in car

Police are on the lookout for a man in a dark green sedan who tried to coax a woman into his car Wednesday evening near East 24th Avenue and Patterson Street.

At 5:20 p.m., the woman called 911 to report that a man had pulled his vehicle out of a day care parking lot and had driven up next to her to offer her a ride, police said.

The woman told police she refused the ride because she didn't know the man, but that the man then became aggressive and started yelling at her before driving away.

The man is described as in his late 20s or early 30s, 6 feet tall with a thin build and shaved head.

SPRINGFIELD

Authorities seek
suspect's extradition

Police are working to extradite a sexual abuse suspect from a jail in Refugio, Texas, authorities said Thursday.

Jimmy Lopez Jr., 37, was identified as a suspect in the sexual abuse of a girl in Springfield before fleeing the state, police said.

A nationwide arrest warrant was issued for Lopez on two counts of first-degree sexual abuse and two counts of third-degree sexual abuse, after Springfield Detective Matt Neiwert went to the Lane County District Attorney's Office with the case, police said.

Lopez was found in Refugio and arrested by officers there.

He is in custody, pending extradition back to Oregon to face the charges.

LANE COUNTY

Charity gathering
winter clothing

Catholic Community Services of Lane County is seeking donations of winter clothing for homeless and low-income families.

The agency is seeking new and used winter coats, socks, gloves, hats, blankets and shoes.

Its winter clothing drives runs through Feb. 16.

The donated items are given away at the agency's two community service centers: 1464 W. Sixth Ave. in Eugene and 1025 G St. in Springfield.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Residents can drop off their donations at 12 businesses and 15 churches.

They can visit www.CCSLC.org for a complete list of drop-off locations.

Last year's drive collected and distributed more than 6,000 clothing items.

For more information, contact outreach coordinator Sarah McNutt at 541-345-3628, Ext. 330, or smcnutt@ccslc.org.

— Register-Guard and news service reports

UO could skip violence study

The university has committed \$87,500 to take part in the criticized national survey on campus sexual assault

By JOSEPHINE WOOLINGTON
The Register-Guard

To ease concerns from some University of Oregon professors, interim UO President Scott Coltrane has said the university still could back out of a nationalized sexual violence survey that has been criticized by dozens of scientists.

The UO, however, would

most likely be out \$87,500 if Coltrane made that decision.

Coltrane announced in December that the university would develop its own campus "climate" survey in addition to using the national one overseen by the Association of American Universities, a nonprofit higher education trade group whose members include some of the nation's top public and private

universities, including the UO.

The UO agreed to pay for the AAU's survey before an advisory committee appointed by Coltrane reviewed it and before the UO's independent institutional review board evaluated it.

UO spokeswoman Julie Brown said Thursday that the UO is waiting to make its first nonrefundable payment to the private Maryland-based research firm Westat, which will administer the survey.

The survey initially was estimated to cost \$85,000. But more

than half of the AAU's 62 members are not participating in the nonprofit group's sexual violence survey, which has driven up the cost slightly for the 28 universities that have signed on to conduct the survey on their campuses this spring.

Climate surveys seek to measure how often sexual violence occurs on college campuses and how students perceive such violence. Results from climate surveys may help universities craft

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KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR PREY

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY NELSON/The Register-Guard



A northern pygmy owl rests on a tree near the summit of Spencer Butte in Eugene earlier this week. The owl, which is active during the day, dines on a variety of animals, including rodents and songbirds.

Strebendt grand jury offer debated

Attorneys argue over admissibility of the murder defendant's willingness to testify before he was indicted

By JACK MORAN
The Register-Guard

A series of pretrial hearings that began in earnest this week in Springfield resident Gerald Strebendt's murder case will resume briefly next week, and then kick back into a higher gear in mid-February.

Lane County Circuit Judge Debra Vogt met in private Thursday afternoon with prosecution and defense attorneys to discuss a pretrial motion that's believed to relate to the admissi-

bility of polygraph evidence during Strebendt's upcoming trial.

Strebendt, a former professional mixed-martial arts fighter and military sniper, fatally shot a man after a minor traffic collision in Springfield one year ago. He claims to have acted in self-defense.

Attorneys in the case appeared in open court for just a few minutes on Thursday morning to argue whether Vogt should allow jurors to learn that Strebendt had made a conditional offer to testify be-



Gerald Strebendt

fore a grand jury that indicted him in March.

Prosecutors declined to accept Strebendt's conditions, and he ultimately did not give any grand jury testimony before being charged with murder.

Strebendt's attorney wants the jury to know that his client sought to testify in grand jury, but prosecutors object to that proposition.

Vogt will send out written rulings on each motion at a later date. A pretrial hearing on

one of the unresolved issues is scheduled for Tuesday, with the remaining hearings and arguments set to happen beginning Feb. 18.

The hearings had been scheduled to resume today and continue through next week. Vogt heard a significant amount of witness testimony during two full days of hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday.

A newly filed scheduling order shows that the postponement is needed to give prosecutors time to file court documents explaining why the trial jury should hear evidence

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Low- and moderate-income
people can get free tax help

The program sponsored by AARP and the IRS is run by volunteers and continues through April 15

What's better than getting an IRS-trained person to help you with your taxes? A trained person at no charge.

The no-cost Tax-Aide program for low- and moderate-income taxpayers of all ages will be made available at 12 locations in Lane County beginning next week.

The program, in its 45th year, is sponsored by the AARP in conjunction with the IRS. Last year in Lane County, more than 6,000 tax returns were completed by 100 Tax-Aide volunteers, all of whom were trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service.

The free program will be offered through April 15. Free electronic filing is available at all the sites.

Clients need to bring a pic-

ture ID and their Social Security card, along with their W2s, 1099s and other pertinent information for completing their federal and state taxes.

This year's sites and hours of operation include:

Eugene: Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., Fridays 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., call for appointment at 541-682-5318; Eugene Public Library, 100 W. 10th Ave., 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, walk-in; Goodwill Industries, 855 Seneca Road, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays and Saturdays, walk-in; Lane Community College, Building 10, 4000 E. 30th Ave., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays,

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Smoke alarm campaign
volunteers sought

The American Red Cross plans to send out teams to deliver the detectors and educate residents

By CHRISTIAN HILL
The Register-Guard

SPRINGFIELD — The American Red Cross is seeking volunteers to install smoke alarms at no cost and to educate residents on fire safety in Springfield's 97477 ZIP code on Saturday.

Teams of three volunteers will knock on doors in the area to check whether residents need a smoke alarm. They will discuss fire safety, check to make sure a household has a fire evacuation plan, and provide a free resource guide, whether a smoke alarm is needed or not.

The teams will install the alarms only in owner-occupied dwellings. Under Oregon law,

landlords are supposed to provide smoke alarms in rentals.

The State Fire Marshal's Office has provided the smoke alarms. A smoke alarm costs about \$20.

The Red Cross estimates that nationwide, six people a day die in house fires. The agency notes that 60 percent of these deaths happen in homes without working smoke alarms.

Red Cross disaster response teams provide temporary shelter, food, clothing and other services to families displaced by fire in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Volunteers hope to contact 1,500 to 2,000 households dur-

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