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TO READERS

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Mayor pulls injured driver from bus

The riderless Cherritos bus ends up resting against a wall at a Catholic church.

BY CARA ROBERTS MUREZ
 StatesmanJournal.com

A Salem man helped a semionscious driver out of a Cherritos bus Tuesday morning after it crashed at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

The good Samaritan? Salem Mayor Mike Swaim, who was out walking his puppy, Kaia.

"I thought, my God, he might need CPR."

Mayor Mike Swaim
 First on scene at bus accident



The incident began about 11 a.m. when Swaim saw the bus glide through the intersection at Chemeketa and Cottage streets NE, hit a parked sport utility vehicle, and continue on.

The mayor sprinted to catch the moving bus. Inside, he could see the driver slumped over, apparently suffering a medical emergency.

"I thought, my God, he might need CPR," Swaim said.

He tried to open the doors. They wouldn't budge.

The bus rolled on and hit a parking meter. Finally a concrete wall at the church stopped it.

Swaim again tried to get into the bus without success. Rushing to the driver's window, he roused the driver, who was dizzy. He got the driver to turn off the engine and open the doors. He helped him out and had him sit on the church steps and yelled for someone to call 911.

The driver, Bob Wolf, 59, has worked for Cherritos for more than 20 years, said transit development manager John Whittington.

He was taken to Salem Hospital and discharged later.

The cause of his collapse was not released by officials Tuesday.

He had been driving Route 20, a shuttle between



RESCUE: A Cherritos bus is in front of St. Joseph Church on Chemeketa Street after going off the road Tuesday morning. Mayor Mike Swaim happened to be on the street and pulled the driver, who was having a medical emergency, out of the bus.

the state pool and the Capitol Mall.

There were no passengers aboard at the time.

Cara Roberts Murez can be reached at (503) 399-6750 or cmurez@StatesmanJournal.com

Blaze destroys 115-year-old building



DESTRUCTION: The McCoy Store in northeast Polk County was destroyed by fire Tuesday evening. The building, built in 1886, originally served as a store for the small railroad town. For a story on the blaze, see **Page 1C**.

TIM LABARGE / Statesman Journal

Prostitution sting draws 'johns'

The operation led to 11 arrests in four daylight hours on a recent weekday.

BY JANET DAVIES
 Statesman Journal

Alicia Finch took her spot on a busy section of Broadway NE just before 4 p.m.

The ogling started in seconds. Some of the drivers braked and turned their heads. They circled back around to her, their stares becoming more intense.

Eye contact made, the first conversation began. Six minutes after she'd hit the street, a man had agreed to pay \$30 to have sex with her.

And it wasn't much longer before the man was in handcuffs and his car was being towed away.

That was the way it went on a recent weekday in Salem during a police sting

"It's obvious who's out there trying to pick up a prostitute. They'll do something to attract my attention. They'll make eye contact or they'll wave you over."

Alicia Finch
 Salem Police officer

before the sun went down. The operation attracted about 50 potential customers, often called "johns," in four daylight hours.

A few were on their way home from work. They wore suits and drove nice cars, some with child safety seats in the back. Some were in pickups or vans with company logos.

Some approached the woman on foot or bicycle.

In all, 11 men were arrested, on allegations that they agreed to pay for sex with Finch, a Salem police officer working as a decoy.

Officers targeted the Highland area last Thursday at the request of its

neighborhood association.

Undercover officers go after street walkers when they have time but think they can make a bigger dent by targeting the customers, or johns, said Lt. Dave Okada, a commander of the Marion County Area Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Team, composed of federal, state, county and city agencies.

Salem police say they would conduct more stings but are hampered by budget reductions. By pooling their resources with MAGNET, they can respond anywhere in the county.

Salem Police Sgt. Rick Hubbard, a 33-year veteran,

said Salem's prostitution problem is minor compared to Portland's on streets such as Burnside and 82nd.

"Some of them work in packs of eight at a time," he said.

In the mid-80s, Salem had a "horrific" problem with drugs and prostitutes on Portland Road NE, he said.

That's when the city established its street crime unit, which merged with MAGNET six months ago.

The reverse stings become evident in Salem's crime statistics. In 1998, there were 36 prostitution arrests, but they dropped to 22 in 2000.

Hubbard said the street crimes officers conducted reverse stings in 1999 but didn't last year because they were involved in a major drug investigation with narcotics officers.

He wasn't surprised by

SEE STING / 2A

Blazers' Dunleavy dumped

Bob Whitsitt refuses to say why he fired the second-winning coach in franchise history.

BY CAPI LYNN
 Statesman Journal

The Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday fired coach Mike Dunleavy, the second-winning coach in franchise history.

Team president and general manager Bob Whitsitt, who hired Dunleavy almost four years ago to the day, made the announcement at a 7 p.m. press conference at the Rose Garden.

"I felt it was the right thing to do and the right direction to go," said Whitsitt.

Dunleavy, 45, as expected, took the fall for a disappointing season in which the Blazers were swept out of the first round of the NBA playoffs by the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I'm not up here blaming Mike for anything," Whitsitt said. "We had a lot of successes over the four years, and certainly Mike shares in all the successes or the failures that we had."

Dunleavy was 190-106 in four seasons with the Blazers, twice leading them to the Western Conference finals. Each time they lost to the eventual NBA champions, the San Antonio Spurs in 1999 and the Lakers in 2000. Dunleavy's 642 winning percentage ranks second in franchise history behind Rick Adelman's 654.

"On behalf of my family, I would like to thank Paul Allen, Bob Whitsitt, the Blazers organization and the fans for four great years in Portland," Dunleavy said in a prepared statement. "We had a great opportunity here, and my only regret is that we did not bring a championship to Portland during my tenure."

Whitsitt refused to say why he fired Dunleavy, who was voted NBA Coach of the Year in 1999.

"I don't think there was a deciding factor," Whitsitt said. "Obviously we had high expectations, and it didn't work out."

The Blazers will honor the final year of Dunleavy's contract, worth more than \$2 million.

Whitsitt said he would begin his search today for a new coach but has no timetable for finding a replacement.

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Inside

FUTURE: More on the decision.

NEWS: Fans react.

STORIES / 1B



Dunleavy

Family of victim: Prisoner not killer

Although DNA tests have failed to help, the Franckes say Frank Gable is not the killer.

BY ALAN GUSTAFSON
 Statesman Journal

Even as his hopes flicker for a blockbuster DNA discovery, Pat Franckewon't stop trying to prove that the wrong man is behind bars for the 1989 slaying of his brother, Oregon prisons chief Michael Francke.

"I'm still convinced Frank Gable wasn't the guy," said Pat Francke, a Kansas City, Mo., businessman, on Tuesday.

Another brother, Kevin Francke, Salem, and their mother, Helen Francke, who lives in Missouri, also don't believe Gable committed the crime. Family members are developing a Web site to present information about the case.

So far, though, long-sought DNA testing has turned up no evidence pointing to a different assailant.

Testing of Michael Francke's blood-saturated clothing and fingernail scrapings showed only his DNA. And so-called "mystery" DNA, detected on the suit coat Francke was

SEE FRANCKE / 2A

SALEM OREGON

The spirit of Oregon is always captured on a Spring day.
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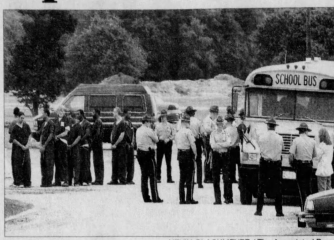
Alabama prisons face crowding

Jails send inmates to prison cells that are already packed.

The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama's troubled corrections system was thrown into crisis Tuesday when two sheriffs sent more than 200 inmates from their overcrowded jails to state prisons where cellblocks are already packed.

Armed with a court ruling, sheriffs in Jefferson and Houston counties delivered inmates who were supposed to be in state lockups — not in crowded county jails where prisoners have little choice but to sleep on floors and tables.



KEVIN GLACKMEYER / The Associated Press

OVERCROWDED: Inmates from Jefferson County stand in line outside the Kilby Correctional Facility in Mount Meigs, Ala., after Jefferson County Sheriff Jim Woodward ordered the transfer. The state in 1998 agreed to accept inmates who have been in county jails for more than 30 days after being sentenced to a state prison term, but backlogs have continued to build up in many counties, including Jefferson.

"This is not a situation where counties, quite frankly, should be doing what they're doing today," Siegelman said. They should look for alternatives and not "simply wash their hands of the situation."

"We're all in this together — as a state and not as individual counties," Siegelman said.

Three years ago, the state agreed to accept inmates who had been in county jails more than 30 days after being sentenced to a state prison term. But backlogs have built up: In Jefferson County, a jail built in 1986 holds inmates at a cost of \$20 million, but it is now holding 620 inmates, a 200-bed jail has 300 prisoners.

U.S. District Judge U.W. Clemon last month described jail conditions in Morgan County as "medieval," with inmates squeezed into quarters so cramped they resembled a "slave ship." He ordered 104 moved to state prisons, a court order completed Monday.

While more inclined than other states to lock up offenders, Alabama has been slow to build new prisons to hold them. Prison system spokesman John Hamm said an old canning plant at a prison in Elmore County is being turned into a dormitory with 300 beds, but after it opens later this month, no other building projects are planned.

Corrections officials have also complained to legislators about

a critical shortage of guards. Six inmates, including three murderers, escaped from a prison in January, partly because no one was watching a large section of the fence.

Even as the situation worsens, the biggest corrections issue at the Legislature is the governor's push to make violent criminals serve 85 percent of their sentences. If enacted, it would result in even more stress on the prison system, critics say.

Corrections experts and prison officials say the solution includes more community corrections programs, drug courts and parole for inmates with convictions for nonviolent offenses. But these alternatives are a tough sell in a political environment that favors jail time for even nonviolent crimes.

In county jails, some 2,000 state prisoners have been locked up longer than the 30-day court-approved maximum.

While they languish, the state pays county governments \$1.75 per inmate for food, though officials say it costs counties about \$30 a day to house a prisoner.

The situation came to a head in Houston County last December, when judges ordered state inmates removed from the jail in Dothan. The judge threatened to leave the inmates handcuffed to a prison fence if the state did not accept them.

The Alabama Supreme Court blocked that order until Monday, when it lifted the stay — and the sheriff promptly sent his inmates to a state lockup in Montgomery.

FRANKE

CONTINUED FROM 1A

wearing the night he was killed, was from his young son, according to a laboratory report made public this week.

Trey Franke, now a teenager living in California, was 15 months old when his father was killed outside the Salem headquarters of the state Corrections Department.

"That seems to be wrapped up. The lab has confirmed it was indeed from his son," said Kevin Neely, a spokesman for the Oregon Attorney General's office.

"No surprises."

Additional testing remains to be done on a hair sample found on Franke's pants.

Pat Franke said he was not discouraged by the outcome of the latest DNA results. "It was pretty cut-and-dried it was Trey, but we had to make sure," he said.

Despite the lack of a DNA breakthrough, Pat Franke said the family won't stop pursuing the case until, "we've exhausted all possibilities."

He said a Web site devoted to the case is being designed and should be accessible within a month or two. "We're going to post the facts and let people

draw their own conclusions."

Following the murder, family members fueled intense media coverage by saying Franke told them shortly before he was killed that he was about to root out criminal activities in the Corrections Department. An investigation ordered by then-Gov. Neil Goldschmidt uncovered some prison system problems but drew no connections to Franke's murder.

In June 1991, a Marion County jury decided Gable acted alone in the slaying. No motive was established. Prosecutors theorized that Gable, a methamphetamine user and dealer, stabbed

the 42-year-old corrections director in the heart when Franke caught him burglarizing his car.

Gable, now serving a life sentence at a prison in Southern California, requested DNA testing last spring as part of his bid for a new trial. Although a judge denied Gable's request for a new trial, he granted the inmate's request for scientific testing.

Gable, now 41, is appealing the decision to deny him a new trial to the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Alan Gustafson can be reached at (503) 399-6709 or agustaf@statesmanjournal.com.

STING

CONTINUED FROM 1A

the number of men who came looking for sex on Broadway. The area has become so well known that they wanted to target it first.

Since most of the activity is in the spring and summer, the sting was intended to send a signal.

"We don't intend to lay off," Hubbard said.

Finch was working as a decoy prostitute for the fifth time in her eight years with the department.

Her clothes weren't glamorous — just a T-shirt and jeans. She tried to alter her appearance to give the more hardened look of a heroin user who has led herself to get money for her habit.

After the streets crimed their deals for sex, they were arrested by other suspect crimes officers working the sting.

Business was so brisk that deals were made within minutes of when Finch returned to her spot on the street. The record for the day was two minutes,

What suspects face

Each man arrested in last Thursday's sting faces a charge of prostitution, a Class A misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Depending on the defendant's criminal history, however, probation is a likely sentence.

Those who had their vehicles seized under a Salem municipal ordinance cannot get them back for five days, while the city checks for prior convictions.

Who was arrested

Michael Thomas Bowman, 31, of 735 Church St. NE, No. 3, Salem. He is a registered sex offender for forcible rape, police said.

Angel Martinez-Sanchez, 32, of 806 Moore St., Gervais, who was arrested for the same thing in 1993 and 1995.

Miguel Brito, 28, 4331 Center St. NE, No. 24, Salem.

Oscar Barajas-Bahena, 3404 Liberty Road S. No. 5, Salem.

Stephen Craig Magaran, 42, 13650 Wildwood Road, Philomath.

Then they have to go to the city attorney's office and sign an agreement promising not to repeat the crime. Each must pay a \$60 fee to get their vehicle released.

The next step is the towing company's yard to retrieve the impounded vehicle. Fees for towing and storage run about \$200.

A follow-up letter from the city to each suspect also includes a brochure from the county health department about sexually transmitted diseases.

Robert Franklin Gibbs, 36, 2091 Robins Lane SE, Salem.

Jose Luz Flores-Garcia, 47, 3678 Fisher Road NE, No. 269, Salem.

Allen Raymond Evenhuis, 72, 1525 Seattle Slew Drive SE, Salem.

Juan Raya-Garcia, 30, 1174 37th St. NW, Salem.

Martin Martinez Ortiz, 34, Denver, Colo.

Misael Castro-Sabino, 31, 4025 LaPalms Lane NE, No. 212, Salem.

An older man who moseyed up to Finch with his cup of coffee had a man talked about the weather and then got down to

business.

He was specific about what he wanted and complained mightily about the extra \$10 a would cost him to get that prostitution. "I'm on Social Security," he said.

Many drivers spent several minutes eyeing Finch, driving away and then returning. Some men who had conversations with her but made no deals balked because her face was not familiar, and they were wary that she may be a cop.

"It's obvious who's out there trying to pick up a prostitute," Finch said. "They'll do something to attract my attention. They'll make eye contact or they'll wave you over. One guy moved his tongue up and down."

The attention didn't make Finch feel any better.

"I feel dirty, horrible," she said.

Her voice trailed off as she thought aloud about the women who do it every day.

She held her thumb and index finger about an inch apart: "You feel like you're this tall."

Janet Davies can be reached at (503) 399-6719 or jdavies@statesmanjournal.com.

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