

LOCAL

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Killer flees state hospital program

Authorities consider him dangerous

By Oana Blomstedt The Statesman Journal An Oregon State Hospital patient convicted of two murders in Clackamas County escaped last week while on an escorted outing to a law library in downtown Salem.

Michael P. McCormick would be classified as dangerous, hospital spokeswoman Peggy Sudd said. McCormick ran away from a hospital employer escorting him to the Supreme Court library on State Street about 12:40 p.m. Thursday, Sudd said. The outing was part of his treatment in the hospital's program for criminal patients, she said. State police were notified Thursday that McCormick had escaped, and that he was considered dangerous. Sgt. Curt Curtis in Salem said.

McCormick originally was arrested Sept. 13, 1978, in Clackamas County. He was convicted on two aggravated murder charges, Sudd said. He was sentenced in Clackamas County on Jan. 5, 1979. Sudd said he was found guilty and sent to prison. "It's just one of those things that fell through the cracks," she said. Curtis said state police had received a telephone tip March 16 that McCormick might be in the Austin, Texas, area. The call did not say why McCormick would be there.

He has been serving time for the second murder at the hospital under the authority of the Psychiatric Security Review Board. McCormick would have been up for release review in May 1991, Sudd said. Details of the crimes are part of his medical record and are confidential, she said. Spokesman Andy Gage of the Clackamas County Sheriff Office said the office had no record of McCormick. Bobey Edinger, a spokesman for the Oregon Corrections

Department, said that McCormick was not on the department's computer list, but that his records might be stored in prison archives. McCormick was described as 6 feet, 10 inches, 180 pounds, with shoulder-length gray and brown hair and brown eyes. McCormick, who was born in Ward 187 on the hospital campus, was an active inmate, Sudd said. He operated a work-release to benefit children and a consumer rights group for mental health patients.

Polk dogs seek adoptive homes



Ted Tellefson and Rae Fannulmer are surrounded by the dogs they hope will soon go to adoptive homes.

Suver man's charity will go to the dogs

By Tom Viscay The Statesman Journal SUVER — Ted Tellefson is looking for living homes for two dozen dogs. Tellefson, who operates a sort of orphanage for dogs, says it's time to close his center charity. "The adoption thing is just over," he said. He and his parents, Keith and Nancy Tellefson, and his sister, Yvonne Chambers, have been taking in stray or unwanted dogs for four years. The dogs come from all around the area, he said, including veterinary clinics, nursing homes, neighbors and strangers. Sometimes, Tellefson has come home and found a new dog tied up in the front yard. "It's been a long time, and it's just time for someone else to do it. It's time to get along with my life."

Although the Tellefsons are doing their dog-adoption service, they plan to continue offering free help and information to dog owners. That includes information about low-cost neutering services, tips for people trying to find homes for dogs and a list of newspapers that offer free classified advertising to people who have dogs to adopt. Several sightings of the girl have been reported, but they have proven untrue, he said. Martink refused to discuss whether Lane County investigators have identified any suspects in the case. In the months since her daughter disappeared, Rachanda's disappearance, officers found a pair of black sweat pants that might have been hers but were never positively identified, Martink said. Eleven days after Rachanda's disappearance, officers found a pair of black sweat pants that might have been hers but were never positively identified, Martink said.

Plans to move downtown bus center delayed

Officials want more support

By Christine Decker The Statesman Journal A proposed \$3.4 million bus center in downtown Salem was put on hold Tuesday until transit officials can convince others of its importance. Board members of the Salem Area Mass Transit District tried without success most of last year to garner support for locating the center in the Senator block, which is bounded by Court, Church, Chambers and High streets SE. After numerous meetings with concerned business operators and city planners, too many unanswered questions remained, Casey Campbell, a transit district director, said.

"The goal is to work with the people downtown and the city to sell them on the transit center because we still have people waiting out in the rain for buses," Campbell said. "The goal is to work with the people downtown and the city to sell them on the transit center because we still have people waiting out in the rain for buses," Campbell said. "The goal is to work with the people downtown and the city to sell them on the transit center because we still have people waiting out in the rain for buses," Campbell said.

Linn County seeks FBI help in finding teen-ager

From staff and wire reports ALBANY — The FBI has joined the search for a Linn County teen-ager missing from her home for eight months. Linn County authorities asked the FBI's Criminal Investigative Analysis Team, based in Portland, to join the case after local investigators failed to find Rachanda Lee Pickett. Sheriff Art Martink said he asked the FBI to develop a suspect profile in the case. The county made its application two months ago.

Rachanda was last seen at her home at Denton Junction last July 10. The girl's 14th birthday was March 18. Rachanda's mother, a crime investigator, Martink said. "This case was picked up by a Portland FBI agent to be taken to an FBI center in Quantico, Va., Martink said. Eleven days after Rachanda's disappearance, officers found a pair of black sweat pants that might have been hers but were never positively identified, Martink said.

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Spring begins tonight despite rain, clouds

Spring, the season of warmer weather and growing plants, starts at 7:01 tonight. That's the official time of the vernal equinox, when the sun's light crosses the equator on its journey northward. "That's the whole ballgame there," Jay Sumpter, forecaster for the National Weather Service in Salem, said. With the movement of sunlight across the Earth's surface comes longer daylight hours and higher temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere. For those expecting an immediate, major change in the weather — forget it. Sumpter said the first few days of spring won't be too different from the last few days

of winter — some sunshine and scattered showers. Instead, showers are expected today with a high temperature of 50 to 65 degrees. The chance of rain will lessen Thursday, Sumpter said. A greater chance of showers is likely Friday and Saturday, to be followed by drier weather Sunday, Sumpter said. "Temperatures will remain fairly steady, he said. "So far, we're looking at a fairly normal spring," Sumpter said. The next 30 days are projected to be fairly normal, with a mixture of rain and sunshine and gradually warming temperatures.

Salem

Whale watchers urged to keep eyes on safety High tides and storms could cause hazardous conditions for people who take to the beaches to watch the spring migration of whales. People should do their whale watching from points that are well above the surf, said Pete Bred, the beach and trails coordinator for the state Parks and Recreation Department. He cautioned visitors to take care on rocks and cliffs, avoid driftwood logs in the surf and be aware of incoming high tides.

Portland

Motorcyclist, rider die in collision with truck A head-on collision between a motorcycle and a truck in north Portland has killed two people. Hilary Hammond, 19, a University of Portland student, died Tuesday at Hammond Hospital & Health Center. She was a passenger on the motorcycle. The cycle operator, Craig A. Wilmore, 20, of Washington County, was dead at the scene of the Monday night crash. The truck driver, Kelly J. Huff, 30, was not injured. No citations were issued.

Oregon

Arlington may allow medical waste burner ARLINGTON — The Arlington City Council has endorsed a proposal to build a medical waste incinerator near the city's airport. The project by Thern The Destruction of Sherwood is contingent on the approval of city residents, but Mayor Dennis Gonzalez sees no problem. The incinerator would be on a three-acre site. It initially would accept six or seven people and would serve Portland, the Willamette Valley and northeastern Oregon.

Lane jury indicts woman in son's strangling

EVANS — A Lane County grand jury on Tuesday returned a murder indictment against Tami Bird, a Cottage Grove woman accused of strangling her 6-year-old son. Bird, 27, will be arraigned Wednesday in Lane County Circuit Court. Prosecutors said they wouldn't reveal any details of the indictment until then. Bird's son, Ryan, was found dead March 11 in an outbuilding at a boat landing 50 miles west of Elkton, nearly 50 miles from the family's home. Bird called police March 10 to report that her son had not returned from an afternoon bicycle ride. Bird, her son and her

Morning Salute

Club Scout Pack No. 27, Salem L.D.S. 30th Ward, would like to give a special thanks to the South Salem Sheraton's staff for donating the beautiful cases for the Blue and Gold Banquet. Jeff DeWayne Editor