

Albany Democrat

Albany, Oregon Thursday, August 8, 1996 29 Pages - 50¢

Judge: Suspect's parents can keep kids

BY MARILYN MONTGOMERY Albany Democrat-Herald

A Lane County courtroom erupted in a high of joy and tears Wednesday after a judge ruled that Corneilus 'Key' Davis' five young sons should remain with his parents while he awaits trial for allegedly killing their mother.

The judge's decision was correct and appropriate, Barker said after the ruling. Davis, 34, is accused of shooting Hans stock on May 7 at a friend's duplex in Lebanon. He was arrested May 9 and has been held without bail since.

About a week after the arrest, Hans stock's mother and stepfather, Sharon and Terry Potter, were awarded temporary custody of her children. They took Kenneth, now 7 months old, to their home in Carson City, Nev. J. Saxton, who will be 3 in September, remained in Lebanon with Hans stock's father and stepmother, Tim and Sue Hammock.

Saxton has passed between the Hammocks and Daves and Cora Davis, Key's parents, since the temporary order was signed. All three sets of grandparents eventually asked for custody of both children.

In testimony Wednesday, the Potters assured that they both had good jobs, a nice home in a good neighborhood, and were ready to take both boys. Sharon Potter said Kenneth - who has never had contact since his last brother, Kason, died April 1 - has grown and put on weight and is thriving in her care.

The Davises said they had cared for both boys frequently since they were born, sometimes for days at a time. Each admitted to being convicted of crimes in the past - Davis in assault and robbery, and both requesting a place where controlled substances are used.

Both said they and their children had been victims of racism all their lives. The Davises are black, the Hammocks and Potters white.

Hammock, unemployed and living in his dead daughter's apartment, said he can't care for the children, but he objected to the Potters as guardians because Cora had asked him to take the children if anything ever happened to her.



Boys & Girls club brightened

More than 100 children participated with flowers on the south side of the Albany Boys and Girls Club this week. Above, children under the supervision of Scott Bond prepared to plant one. The children worked from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday planting more than 500 flowers.

State parks to stay open

PORTLAND (AP) - Oregon state parks have won a reprieve. Acting on the advice of state legislators, the state parks commission voted Wednesday to keep open 60 parks that were slated for closure next month due to a lack of funding.

The parks will stay open at least until November, when legislators will meet to try to find more money for the financially strapped Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Key Republicans legislators said earlier this week they will find the money to keep the parks open. Gov. John Kitzhaber told the commission Wednesday that spending the \$30 million to \$40 million to keep the parks open until November was just postponing budget problems.

He promised to create a long-term funding plan for the state's parks within a month. Then, he suggested, the commission could reopen some of the parks.

DMV Internet site is suspended

BY WILLIAM MCCALL Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND (AP) - A computer consultant who put a state list of motor vehicle records on the Internet suspended access to the site today after he was bombarded by complaints the service invaded people's privacy.

Candidate would bar agency from selling lists

Albany Democrat-Herald got them. Oregon should prohibit the DMV from selling lists of drivers or car registrations, a candidate for the Legislature said today.

Nabl, who said he was afraid to let his 6-year-old brother play near the street. He said he grew up in Trappish, Wash., a small town where neighbors knew each other and would quickly report any bad driving, helping keep streets safe.

Scientists can't get DNA from Crawfordville skull

BY MARILYN MONTGOMERY Albany Democrat-Herald

Scientists at Pennsylvania State University were unable to get a DNA sample from the park's bone shell that a dog found near Crawfordville this spring.

Lane County sheriff's detectives sent the skull to Penn State in May after local efforts to identify it failed. Two anthropologists and Lane County medical examiner had all looked at it and could agree only that it might be that of a small to medium dog.

Nabl, 36, had paid the state \$22 for its entire motor vehicle database and posted it on the Web, allowing anybody with a computer, an Internet account and an Oregon license plate number to look up a car or truck owner's name, address, birthdate, driver's license number and title information.

But critics, including Gov. John Kitzhaber and state Rep. Bob Thurman, R-Lake Oswego, said privacy may be more important, despite landmark public disclosure laws the state passed in 1993 allowing access to DMV records.

Kitzhaber, a Democrat, said in court access to DMV records is different than requiring the public to go to a DMV office and make a formal request to look up a vehicle owner's name and address.

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