

Student's therapy records returned

The UO says it has given the rape accuser's confidential files back to the counseling center

**BY JOSEPHINE
WOOLINGTON**
The Register-Guard

University of Oregon Provost Frances Bronet said Friday that the UO has returned a student's confidential therapy records to the UO Counseling and Testing Center.

In an email sent on Friday afternoon, Bronet said that "all records at issue" were returned and are "preserved and secured" by the UO's Counseling and Testing Center on campus.

The 18-year-old student who sought help at the counseling center said she was raped by three UO basketball players last year.

Bronet's announcement followed national criticism and debate about whether universities should be able to access confidential health records under a federal student privacy law.

UO students, professors and other employees lobbied administrators to return the records. The University Senate last week unanimously passed a motion — led by psychology professor Jennifer Freyd — urging the UO to return the records and to strengthen and clarify confidentiality guarantees for students who visit a UO health clinic.

Bronet said she will form a committee made up of licensed therapists, faculty, general counsel and staff to propose new or clarified policies on how medical and psychological records for any university departments are maintained and protected, and when records may be released. The committee will share a draft of these policies with the UO community next month, she said.

"I am grateful for the advice and energy many members of our community have brought and continue to bring to this vital issue, and to our many members of the (Uni-

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Portland man accused in drug overdose death

By DAVE KOLPACK
The Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. — Federal court documents accuse an Oregon man of running a drug pipeline that stretched to Canada and China and led to the January overdose death of a man in North Dakota.

Brandon Hubbard, 40, of Portland sold the powerful synthetic drug powdered fentanyl through an encrypted website that wound up killing 18-year-old Bailey Henke, of Grand Forks, according to a federal affidavit filed earlier this week in Oregon. Hubbard is facing several

charges, including conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances resulting in death. He has not yet appeared in federal court in North Dakota. Hubbard's federal public defender in Oregon, Ruben Iniguez, declined comment, as did federal prosecutors in North Dakota.

Investigators say Hubbard admitted to his involvement in the "large scale distribution" of fentanyl and bought about \$1.5 million worth of the narcotics in November alone. He allegedly sold fentanyl and heroin from that stash to Ryan Jensen, 20, of Grand Forks. Jensen smoked powdered

fentanyl with Henke and two others while playing video games in Jensen's bedroom on the night Henke died, according to the affidavit. Another man who bought fentanyl from Jensen that night required medical attention.

The investigation into Henke's death led agents to the website Evolution, which is only accessible through a router designed to conceal a user's location, Internet usage and identity. The website was configured to appear similar to legitimate online stores, but sold narcotics, drug paraphernalia, stolen credit card information, coun-

terfeit currency and weapons. All transactions were required to be conducted using the Bitcoin virtual currency system, which investigators say was meant to conceal the drug trafficking operation.

Agents say they were able to locate Hubbard's vendor page, which advertised the sale of fentanyl citrate, the salt form of the drug. A search warrant of Hubbard's apartment in Portland yielded 100 grams of fentanyl citrate, scales, packaging materials, mailing envelopes and an undisclosed amount of money, documents show.

The affidavit says Hubbard

told agents that in November he placed an order with a Canadian source for fentanyl citrate and the drugs were delivered in FedEx packages from China. The packages were delivered to Steven Locke Jr. of Woodland, Wash., and then eventually sold by Hubbard to Jensen, according to the affidavit.

Locke has pleaded not guilty to a drug conspiracy charge. His lawyer did not respond to a request for comment.

Investigators say Hubbard told them he knew fentanyl was extremely powerful and could easily cause an overdose or kill someone.

District: 'Accused does not mean guilty'

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information was concerned," Hiestand said about Strong being at the school gym. "Why was he there in the first place?"

Assistant Superintendent Susan Rieke-Smith declined to say whether Koenig was aware that Strong was accused of rape, but she said that "being accused does not mean guilty."

Rieke-Smith said the district has not received a formal complaint against Koenig and cannot investigate her performance until one is filed.

The district has not yet responded to a Register-Guard public records request made earlier this month for documents and emails related to Koenig's performance as principal.

Koenig will keep her salary of \$88,552 but will not supervise any-

one in her new position, Rieke-Smith said. The district will decide whether to keep her human resources position after the end of the school year, Rieke-Smith said.

If the district does keep the position, Rieke-Smith said, it would open the job to other candidates and Koenig would have to reapply.

Former Elizabeth Page Elementary School Principal Whitney McKinley, who now works as the district's curriculum coordinator, has stepped in to serve as Centennial's interim principal.

Rieke-Smith said Koenig's move to human resources was not related to any concerns regarding her performance as principal. She said the district needs to recruit four kindergarten teachers next year.

"We were already behind the eight ball," she said, in terms of recruiting teachers.

Koenig, who speaks multiple languages, has a background in recruiting, Rieke-Smith said.

"It became clear to me, due to the budget cuts, that HR was woefully understaffed," Rieke-Smith said.

Centennial for two years was named a top elementary school in the state. The school has not received that honor since 2013.

Parent Kasey Scott, who has two children at Centennial, alleged that Koenig also demonstrated aggressive behavior and did not listen to her concerns. Scott said that feeling was widespread among parents.

"I think the district office needs to work on making amends," she said.

Follow Josephine on Twitter @jwoolington. Email josephine.woolington@registerguard.com.

Target practice substance suspected in explosion death

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND — A blast that killed one man near U.S. Highway 26 between Portland and Mount Hood is believed to have been caused by a mixture that is used to make exploding targets for firearms practice, authorities said Friday.

The blast occurred in a ditch about 25 feet from the road and left a crater 11 feet wide, said Laura Pramuk, a Mount Hood National Forest spokeswoman.

Authorities have not yet said whether the Thursday blast is believed to have been a suicide or an accident. They have already said they don't suspect a criminal act.

On Friday, officials said evidence from the blast site indicates the substance that detonated is a mixture target shooters use to make targets explode, so they can see whether they hit them.

The man who was killed has not yet been positively identified and that process could take

several weeks, Pramuk said. The Oregon medical examiner determined that the man died of injuries from the blast.

The explosion closed part of the busy highway for most of the day Thursday as officers used a robot to inspect a white car parked near the blast site. The robot and an officer wearing bomb-disposal gear pulled items out of the vehicle and examined them. A backpack was among the items removed from the vehicle.

A spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said no other explosives were found.

Authorities have not yet said what led up to the blast, or what the deceased was doing with the mixture for exploding targets.

Explosive target kits are available at gun stores and on the Internet. They generally consist of an oxidizer and a fuel that are mixed together and put into a container, which explodes when hit by a bullet.

Cherry: Tree's origin, exact age remain a mystery

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stabilize the tree in the winds.

When the winds blow, the minds of city gardeners and foresters go first to the Owen garden tree.

To some, it's simply more than a tree, said one of the four benchmarks, Jeffrey Henshen, who was inspired to poetry.

"Just because there's a pit in your life," he said, "doesn't mean the cherry isn't awesome around it."

With the coming of spring, the city launched a renovation project around the rose garden.

Dean Denny and his son, Jesse, who are part of the family-owned Classic Construction business, are half way through a month-long project to remove and replace the 62 12-foot fence posts that line the garden perimeter and hold the trellis wires for the climbing roses.

Visitors, meanwhile, frequently check the plaque that was placed at the foot of the cherry tree in 1977 —

it says the tree was 130 then. One story is that city founder Eugene Skinner planted the tree.

"He actually had an orchard in that vicinity — and according to his records — he had cherry trees, so it's all kind of plausible," said Doug Card, retired sociology professor, historian and writer. "It's a wonderful romantic story to think Eugene and Mary Skinner planted it. I would love to believe that."

But, he said, it's probably wrong. Without dispute, the Skinners made a land claim in 1846 where the tree grows. But, to make the plaque accurate, he would have had to plant a seed or a seedling in his first full year with his family on the land.

The black cherry cultivar — native to Europe — would have had to be shipped around the horn of Africa to get to the Willamette Valley in that era, which seems unlikely, Lueck said.

On the other hand, some historians connect the tree with Seth

Luelling, an orchardist who brought a wagon load of grafted fruit trees over the Oregon trail in 1847. "Theoretically, this could have been one of those," Card said.

In any case, it's a really old cherry tree, Lueck said.

"The earliest nurseries in the valley dealt in fruit and nut crops," Lueck said.

By the late 20th century, he said, "the south hills and the southeast hills of Eugene were covered with orchards — apples and plums and cherries and pears."

So, likely, the cherry tree took root on the original Skinner claim before 1900, most agree.

In recent decades, nurseries have cloned the beloved cherry tree against some day in the future when the braces and guy wires fail and the big tree succumbs.

"It's a community monument," Lueck said, "and we do everything we can to maintain it as long as we can."

Records: UO says no one read the files

Continued from Page B1

versity Counseling and Testing Center) for their hard work, dedication, and care for our students," Bronet said in the email.

The student whose records were at issue filed a lawsuit in January against the university and head basketball coach Dana Altman for allegedly violating her federal civil rights by recruiting one of the involved players after he had previously been accused of rape at a different college, among other accusations.

The lawsuit claimed that the UO illegally accessed her confidential therapy records in December and that the student did not authorize the release of her records, violating federal and state privacy laws.

The university's retrieval of the therapy records has upset some students and professors, who say some students have questioned going to the Counseling and Testing Center on campus for fear that their records would be accessed.

Bronet urged students to "use our counseling and mental health services without fear that their counseling records will be disclosed to other parties or UO departments."

The student's records were transferred, scanned and downloaded to computers in the UO general counsel's office. The UO contends that no one read the records.

Interim General Counsel Doug Park told a UO

Senate committee last week that the UO accessed the records in response to a legal demand sent to him in August from the student's attorneys. The demand ordered the UO to "preserve" all potentially relevant documents related to the then-pending lawsuit against the UO. The demand specified a number of "key players" who would have such information — such as certain students, basketball coaches, campus police and athletic department employees — but did not name employees at the Counseling and Testing Center.

Park said last week that, in hindsight, he should have clarified with the student's attorneys whether her therapy records were considered relevant to the lawsuit.

The university previously asserted that it legally accessed, but did not actually review, the student's records — stored at the UO Counseling and Test-

ing Center — after she told the university in September that she planned to sue.

In her email, Bronet said that students who seek help at any UO clinic would not have their records released unless the student signs a written release, a court orders release, the therapist needs to coordinate treatment with others, the therapist needs to prevent harm to the student or others, or the therapist needs to provide anonymous, aggregate information for compiling sexual assault statistics.

Thaddest Marzeial Reynolds 1955 - 2015

Thaddest was born in Eugene, Oregon to Sam Sr. and Mattie Reynolds on May 2, 1955 and passed away at age 59 on March 16, 2015. He is survived by his loving wife Elizabeth, son Taurean, daughter Joselyn, 8 brothers & sisters & a multitude of family and friends. Memorial service will be held at New Song Church on March 23, 2015 at 11am. Please visit the Terry Family Funeral Home website for further details.

Please sign the guest book at www.registerguard.com/legacy

Susan "Suzie" Ma're O'Keefe Culley 1938 - 2015

Susan was one of those special people with a kind adventurous personality that when you meet you never forget. A real "People Person" always quick to lighten the mood with her sweet smile and quick sense of humor. Susan loved to sing and was the life of any party. A true friend who always helped and counseled those in need. She was a classic matriarch, said what she meant and did what she said touching many hearts and lives in a very special way. As Suzie always said, "Try to be more like me." She will be deeply missed and always remembered with infinite love.



Susan was born in Chicago, IL. August 27, 1938 to Marian and John O'Keefe. Her family moved to California when Suzie was 5. She is survived by her husband of 43 years LeRoy Culley of Fall Creek, OR, her daughter Victoria Lister of Lowell, OR, three sons, Richard, Michael and Danny Estrada all of Eugene, two brothers, John and Donald O'Keefe both of California, nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Please sign the guest book at www.registerguard.com/legacy



Martha Elizabeth Bronson 1919 - 2015

Martha Elizabeth (Archibald) Bronson passed away peacefully on March 10, 2015. She was born on July 17, 1919 in Tangent, OR, daughter of Robert and Martha (Mattie) Archibald. She grew up on the family farm in Tangent, attending school in Shedd and Albany High School. After high school she attended Linfield College two years, transferred to Oregon State University where she completed her degree in the School of Home Economics. She married her college sweetheart, Verne D. Bronson on Sept. 13, 1942. He preceded her in death in 1970. The couple settled in Eugene where Verne was building his business, Tree Farm Management Services, and Martha was busy raising their children. In June 1959 they moved to their farm on Highpass Road west of Junction City.

Martha was mother to 13 children. Her son George (Roseanne) preceded her in death in November 2014. Her surviving children are: Robert (Lynne) of Harrisburg, Linda (George) of Shoshone ID, Barbara (Don) of Hillsboro, Willie (Kathy) of Eugene, David of LaGrande, Martha "Bunny" of Junction City, Richard (Sandy) of Princeton MN, Joann (Benj) of Eugene, Ken of Sweet Home, Nancy (Mike) of Joliet MT, Stephen (Christina) of Wallowa, Janet of Tigard. She also has 22 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. 2 of the great grandchildren preceded her in death.

Martha was active supporter of her children's activities and a tireless volunteer for several organizations: Women for Agriculture, Cattle Women, Women for Timber, Agriculture in the Classroom, & Long Tom Grange where she was a member for over 50 years. In 2009 she received special recognition as a recipient of the Diamond Pioneer Award from OSU Agriculture in the Classroom program. In 1993 she was honored with the Woman of Distinction Award from Soroptimist International of Junction City.

A celebration of her life was held on March 16, 2015 at First Christian Church in Junction City. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made in her name to Agriculture in the Classroom, 305 Strand Agriculture Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis OR 97331. AITC@oregonstate.edu. Arrangements entrusted to Murphy-Musgrove Funeral Home. Please access the obituary and you are invited to sign the guestbook at musgroves.com

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