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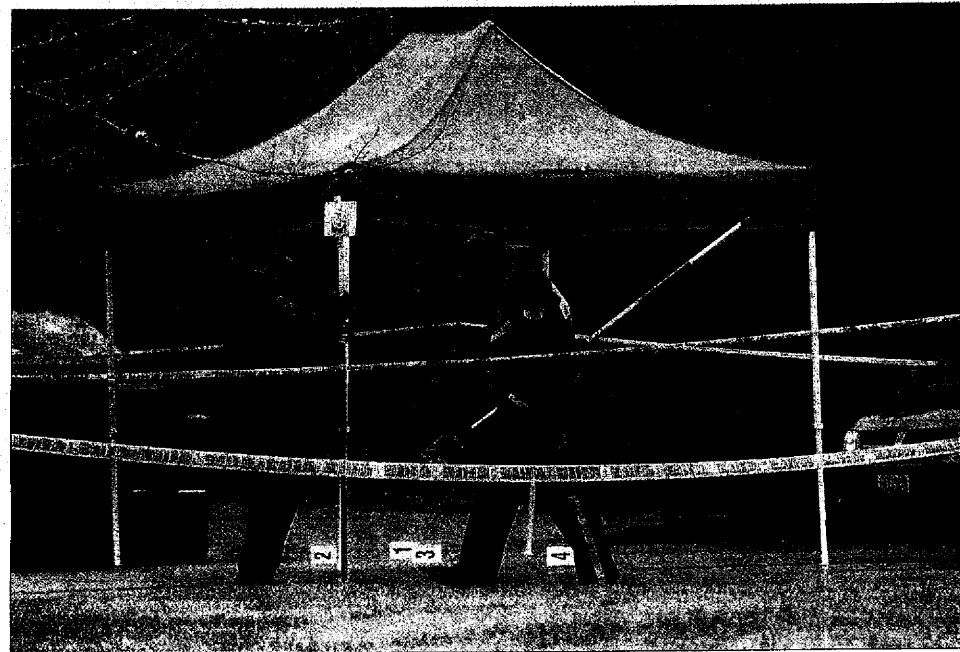


confirms Sen. John Kerry
as new secretary of state



this neighborhood's leaders

Alleged prowler is killed



Photos by TROY WAYRYNEN/The Columbian

Vancouver police investigate the scene of a fatal shooting at 14802 N.E. 33rd St. on Tuesday. A resident fatally shot a man who was reportedly prowling in the northeast Vancouver neighborhood.

By EMILY GILLESPIE
Columbian staff writer

Police arrested a northeast Vancouver man for shooting and killing an alleged prowler outside his house early Tuesday morning.

Vancouver police took a report of suspicious circumstances at 14802 N.E. 33rd St. at 3:53 a.m. Four minutes later, police were called to the same address for a report that the prowler had been shot by a resident, said Kim Kapp, Vancouver police spokeswoman.

Sean H. Doucette, 27, was later booked into the Clark County Jail on suspicion of second-degree murder. Doucette



Sean Doucette
Photo from
MySpace page.

does not have a criminal record, according to the Washington Courts website. He is expected to make a first appearance in Clark County Superior Court this morning.

The identity of the individual shot by Doucette was not available from authorities pending positive identification by the Clark County Medical Examiner's Office, according to a news release from the Vancouver Police Department.

However, KATU-TV reported the man is Iosif Dumitrash, 19, of Portland.

Kapp did not say whether the two 911 calls were made by the same person, but she said no one else is being sought in relation to the incident.

Tax records show the property is owned by Sean and Rach-

SHOOTING, Page A4

Vancouver man faces 2nd-degree murder charge in fatal shooting



A Vancouver police officer lifts the caution tape for police vehicles at the scene of a shooting that occurred early Tuesday at 14802 N.E. 33rd St.

Tax funds pay for art, dry cleaning

Benton, Rivers, Moeller
billed expenses to state

By MIKE BAKER
Associated Press

OLYMPIA — A few days after Washington lawmakers approved a budget deal to lower state spending last year, small-government Rep. Gary Alexander got \$40,600 worth of dry cleaning done.

Then he made sure taxpayers paid the bill.

Alexander, the Republican budget writer in the state House, billed more than \$500 worth of dry-cleaning fees to the state over the past two years, according to an Associated Press analysis of thousands of expense reimbursements. He wasn't alone: Seven Democrats and 12 Republicans in the Legislature requested and received compensation totaling more than \$5,600 for dry cleaning since the start of 2011.

Lawmakers are able to get taxpayer-covered compensation for what the Legislature deems legitimate business expenses tied

EXPENSES, Page A4

Dry cleaning bill

Seven Democrats and 12 Republicans in the Legislature requested and received compensation totaling more than \$5,600 for dry cleaning since the start of 2011. Here's a breakdown:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Rep. Ann Rivers, R-La Center | \$519.18 |
| Sen. Curtis King, R-Yakima | \$511.27 |
| Rep. Gary Alexander, R-Olympia | \$509.92 |
| Rep. Brad Klippert, R-Kennecook | \$480.02 |
| Rep. Jim Moeller, D-Vancouver | \$448.40 |
| Rep. Mike Armstrong, R-Wenatchee | \$439.62 |
| Sen. Sharon Nelson, D-Vashon Island | \$407.29 |
| Sen. Val Stevens, R-Arlington | \$323.24 |
| Sen. Brian Hatfield, D-Raymond | \$320.28 |

Expenses

From Page A1

to the job. That includes common costs of being a lawmaker, such as travel around the district to meet with constituents, parking fees for meetings, office supplies and rent for district offices.

It also includes a variety of expenses with less-explicit benefits for taxpayers, including iPhones, picture frames, artwork, expenses for meetings with lobbyists and dues to professional organizations like the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council.

Alexander said he only submits dry-cleaning receipts that are above and beyond the expenses he has outside of his legislative work. He said the job, especially when the Legislature is meeting, requires him to use a lot more dress shirts and sport coats.

"I don't think that's an unreasonable expense to be reimbursed for," Alexander said.

After an AP reporter questioned him about how it aligns with a limited-government message, Alexander said he would explore ways to keep his expenses down.

"I'm always looking for ways that we can do it by example," said Alexander, who is from Olympia.

Stephen Ellis, vice president of the group Taxpay-

ers for Common Sense, said the idea that lawmakers should spend public money to decorate their office or keep their clothes clean is beyond the pale. He said that while the amount of money may be small in comparison to the budget at large, the expenses offer a chance for taxpayers to get a glimpse at how lawmakers operate.

"We see it as a lens into how they approach the budget," Ellis said. "If they're profligate with their own spending in offices, it stands to reason that they're not going to be too frugal with the state or the federal budget."

'This is our uniform'

Rep. Jim Moeller, D-Vancouver, spent nearly \$450 on dry cleaning. He said dry cleaning is similar to other items he can expense, such as food or lodging, while the Legislature is in session.

"While we're here, this is our uniform, basically," Moeller said, adding that he only charges his dry-cleaning bills to the state while he's working as a legislator.

Sens. Ann Rivers, R-La Center, and Don Benton, R-Vancouver, did not immediately return a call from The Columbian on Tuesday.

Democratic Sen. Rodney Tom, who lives in the wealthy enclave of Medina and recently built a coalition with Republicans to install himself as majority leader, purchased various



Files/Associated Press

Rep. Gary Alexander, R-Olympia, talks with Rep. Cathy Dahlquist, R-Enumclaw, at the Capitol in Olympia in April 2012. Alexander billed more than \$500 worth of dry-cleaning fees to the state over the past two years, according to an Associated Press analysis.

books from Amazon.com and got reimbursement for a Bose headset that cost \$164.20. Senate Democratic Leader Ed Murray got coverage for his home Internet (\$50 per month) and home office telephone (\$50 per month), in addition to the cellphone that he and many other lawmakers expense.



Rep. Jim Moeller
D-Vancouver

House Republican Leader Richard DeBolt, of Che-

halis, filed for only about \$100 in total expenses over two years — all tied to travel. House Speaker Frank Chopp, D-Seattle, used his account mostly to expense costs related to his district office.

Rep. Larry Haler, R-Richland, expensed more than \$600 in membership dues for business organizations in the Tri Cities. Rep. Jamie Pedersen, D-Seattle, purchased \$383.25 in artwork for his office in March of last year, also when lawmakers were struggling to balance the budget.

Pedersen said the art — a painting of the Montlake

Bridge done by a Seattle artist — was like other furniture that lawmakers need to make their offices comfortable and inviting. He noted that he doesn't typically use his full allotment for reimbursable expenses, which has been \$6,500 in recent years.

Murray, the top Democrat in the state Senate, said he uses his own money to cover a number of expenses related to his legislative work. He bemoaned the focus on reimbursements.

"It's why we have trouble recruiting candidates who aren't rich, old and retired," said Murray, who is from Seattle.

Haler said he wouldn't be part of the business organization if it wasn't for his work in the Legislature. Tom said his expenses were all important to his legislative work, such as books on policy and a headset for phone conversations.

Each lawmaker typically totals between \$10,000 and \$25,000 in expenses each year, including per diems during the session, postage, printing, travel and the more generic category of office expenses. Legislators earn a salary of between about \$42,000 and \$50,000, and many maintain external jobs.

Washington lawmakers are currently looking to fill a roughly \$1 billion shortfall and looking to add another \$1 billion to education in the coming legislative session.

Shooting

From Page A1

elle Doucette.

Patricia Newstrom works the graveyard shift as a caregiver in a house near the shooting. As she sat drinking coffee on the couch around 4 a.m., she said she heard four loud "booms" of a gun in a row. Soon after, she heard the screeching tires of police cars.

"It startled me," she said. "What if he had broken in here? That is scary."

The Vancouver Police Department's Major Crimes Team is investigating. Northeast 33rd Street was blocked from 148th Place to 150th Avenue while police investigated the area.

A similar incident occurred in Vancouver last year. In that case, a man who shot an intruder in his bedroom did not face any criminal charges.

Doucette has been employed for about four years as a patrol officer with First Response Inc. in Portland, said First Response owner David Foglio. He is licensed as an armed security officer by the state of Oregon. Doucette's MySpace page says he's an Evergreen High School graduate and a Marine.

EMILY GILLESPIE: 360-735-4522; http://www.twitter.com/col_cops; emilygillespie@columbian.com.

LaHood

From Page A1

and federal funding for the project, which would also rebuild five miles of freeway and extend light rail from Portland into Vancouver.

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., also praised LaHood for his "record of making smart transportation investments that support our

it an "honor" to work with LaHood on key Washington projects including the CRC.

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Camas, has been more critical of the CRC, recently calling for a retooling of the megaproject without light rail. Her office took a different view of LaHood's departure and eventual replacement.

Herrera Beutler spokesman Casey Bowman said in an email that if the next transportation secretary

or she will reach a very different conclusion about the project than Secretary LaHood.

"Considering the challenges with the current design that includes light rail, the warts should be visible even from 3,000 miles away in Washington, D.C.," Bowman said. "Jaime plans to share the facts on the current light rail design with the next secretary of transportation, with the goal of revising the project until it

In November, voters rejected a sales tax increase that would have helped pay for the operations cost of light rail in Vancouver.

During his four-year tenure, LaHood raised the profile of distracted driving as a national safety concern.

The former congressman from Illinois and one of only two Republicans who served in Obama's Cabinet, LaHood also worked for more safety in the air and on the ground and pushed for

the department demanded tougher fuel efficiency requirements for automakers and took steps to address airline pilot fatigue.

Obama, who at one point served with LaHood in the Illinois congressional delegation, said they were "drawn together by a shared belief that those of us in public service owe an allegiance not to party or faction, but to the people we were elected to represent. And Ray has never wavered in that belief."

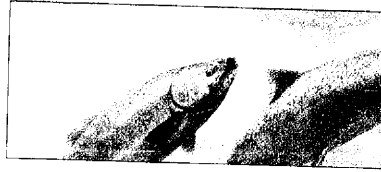
ed Press that he told Obama a week after the November election that he needed to move on. But he also said he was still "conflicted" by his decision because he liked working for the president and considered it the "best job I've ever had in public service."

He said he plans to remain at the department until his successor is confirmed by the Senate, which he expects in about two months.

The Columbian

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SPORTS, B1
State officials
forecast short spring
salmon season



CLARK COUNTY, C1
Security guard makes
court appearance
on suspicion of murder

Lawmakers urge 'full study' of CRC



U.S. Rep. Jaime
Herrera Beutler
R-Camas

Herrera Beutler and
others worry about
economic impacts

By ERIC FLORIP
Columbian staff writer

U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Camas, and three other House Republicans on Wednesday called for a

full study of the economic impacts of Columbia River Crossing, citing "continued concerns" with the \$3.5 billion megaproject.

In a letter to the U.S. Coast Guard, the lawmakers highlighted navigation and commerce worries for river users upstream of the proposed Interstate 5 Bridge replacement. Squeezing

those operations would mean millions of dollars in lost revenue for Columbia River manufacturers, they wrote, plus extra costs for mitigation.

"We cannot cavalierly dismiss the impacts to the businesses, current and future, which depend upon the free flow of river commerce to survive," the letter reads.

"Neither can we dismiss the impacts to our local economy, nor the jobs that would cease, should these companies be forced to relocate or close their doors."

In addition to Herrera Beutler, the letter was signed by Eastern Washington Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Doc Hastings, plus Idaho Congressman

Raul Labrador.

The Coast Guard must approve a bridge permit for the CRC to move forward. Project leaders expected to finalize a permit application for a 116-foot-high fixed span this week. The current I-5 drawbridge allows for as much as 178 feet of clearance when

CROSSING, Page A2

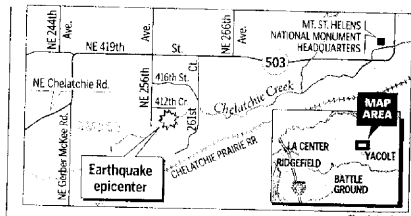


Read the letter
from
lawmakers at:
<http://www.columbian.com/documents>

"I think we just did what any good person would do."

Jon Fowler, inmate who helped rescue young kayakers

INMATES HELP RESCUE BOYS



Homeowner faces murder charge

Attorney says man killed car prowler in self-defense

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Columbian staff writer

A 27-year-old Vancouver man appeared Wednesday in Clark County Superior Court on an accusation that he shot and killed an alleged prowler.

Sean H. Doucette faces a charge of second-degree murder at his Feb. 12 arraignment.

Judge Barbara Johnson set bail at \$250,000, about half of what the Prosecuting Attorney's Office requested.

Defense attorney Steven Thayer said Doucette should be released from jail because he acted lawfully.

Vancouver police on Wednesday identified the dead man as Iosif Dumitrash, 19, of Portland. The cause of death is gunshot wounds and the manner of death is homicide, according to a Vancouver police news release.

Doucette arrived home Tuesday from his job as a security guard, heard a car alarm and saw a prowler trying to break into a car across the street, Thayer said. Doucette confronted

SHOOTING, Page C2



TROY WAYRYNEN/The Columbian

Security guard Sean H. Doucette, 27, of Vancouver appears in Clark County Superior Court on suspicion of second-degree murder in the killing of a man outside Doucette's home. The former Marine's defense attorney claims he acted in self-defense after the man attacked him.

Dead man's kin: 'We just think it's unfair'

By **EMILY GILLESPIE**
Columbian staff writer

Still in shock after learning that her 19-year-old brother was shot and killed early Tuesday morning by a Vancouver man, Natalya Lemeza is trying to piece together what led up to his death.

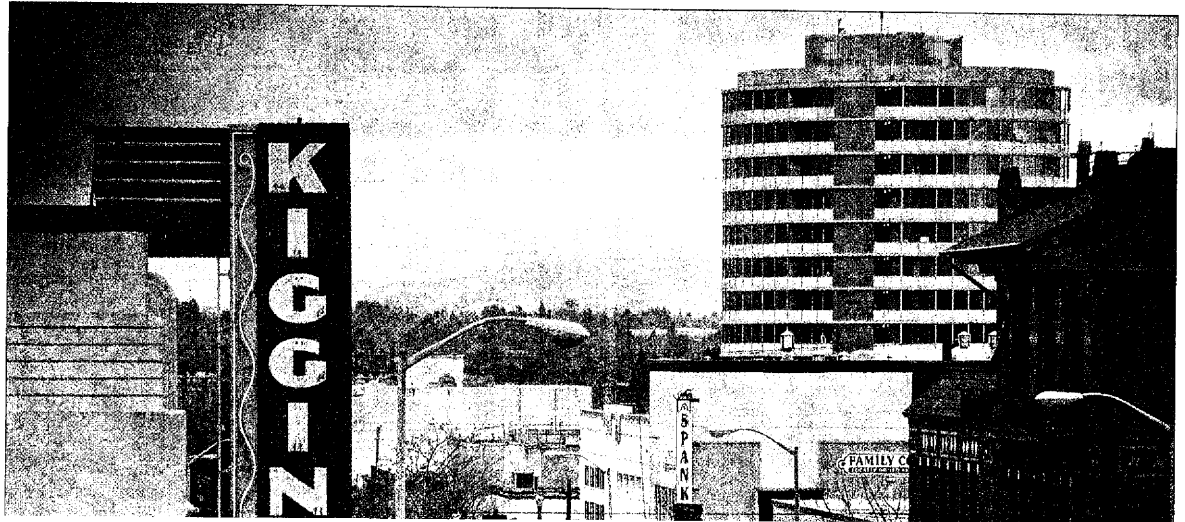
She knows that the last time she saw her brother, Iosif Dumitrash, was Monday afternoon at their Portland home, where the two sat and ate together. Dumitrash was making jokes before he left



Iosif Dumitrash, 19, of Portland died of gunshot wounds early Tuesday.

DEATH, Page C2

CLOUDS OVER KIGGINS





Our daily offering
of meetings and events
in and around Clark County
Compiled by Stover E. Harger III

Clubs

FRIDAY

VANCOUVER SUNRISE ROTARY, 7 a.m., Heathman Lodge, 7801 N.E. Greenwood Drive. Guests welcome. Breakfast available. Program: "Paps in Paradise." Kathleen Hensch-Fleming, Pacific Midwifery Rotary Service trip to Fiji. ♦ Richela Grantz, 360-254-8892.

FORT VANCOUVER LIONS

CLUB, noon, Bill's Chicken and Steak House, 2200 St. Johns Blvd. Speaker: Delena Meyer, InvestED. ♦ 360-608-3043.

FATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

AUXILIARY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, 6 to 8 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 107 E. Seventh St. Roast pork dinner to celebrate 75th year anniversary of auxiliary. \$7. Karaoke to follow.

Health

FRIDAY

FOOD ADDICTS IN RECOVERY

ANONYMOUS, 7 a.m., PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center Health Education Center, 400 N.E. Mother Joseph Place. Free self-help program for those addicted to food or who have any eating disorder. ♦ Denny, 360-326-5757, or Mike, 360-772-4475.

ONGOING

YOGA FOR CAREGIVERS

WORKSHOP, 1 to 3 p.m., Fridays until Feb. 8, Marshall Community Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. Family Caregiver Support Program presents yoga workshop. All props provided, no experience necessary. Pre-registration required. Free. ♦ 360-694-8144.

Miscellany

FRIDAY

WINE AND CHOCOLATE AFFAIR

FIRST FRIDAY, 5 to 8 p.m., Caffè Piccolo, 307 N.E. Birch St. Camas Wine and chocolate-themed First Friday hosted by Downtown Camas Association and local businesses. Downtown shops will be selling Valentine's Day gifts.

VANCOUVER ART WALK AT SWEET SPOT SPORTS, 5 to 9 p.m., Sweet Spot Sports, 105 W. 6th St. Cash donations.

Dems push abortion insurance bill

They want to ensure health law doesn't affect coverage

By JONATHAN KAMINSKY
Associated Press

OLYMPIA — Democratic state lawmakers are renewing a push that fell short a year ago that would require Washington insurers to pay for abortions, in addition to the maternity care they're already mandated to provide.

They are championing House Bill 1044, better known as the Reproductive Parity Act, which is meant to ensure that existing abortion coverage be preserved once new health insurance

rules come into effect in 2014 under national health care reform.

"What we're doing is ensuring that women in Washington state can continue to enjoy the full range of reproductive rights, so they can have the freedom of choice to make decisions with their families and their doctors," said Rep. Eileen Cody, D-West Seattle, the bill's sponsor.

Opponents said the measure is a waste of time because all insurers in the state already cover abortion.

"The bill is completely unnecessary," said Sen. Don Benton, R-Vancouver. "It was only introduced for political fodder."

The bill will receive a

public hearing on Thursday in the Health Care and Wellness Committee of the Democratic-controlled House, which passed a similar measure a year ago.

It stands in contrast to Senate Bill 5156, a Republican-sponsored bill to require minors to notify a parent before becoming eligible to receive an abortion. That measure, which originally included language threatening long-standing abortion protections in the state, will receive a hearing in the Senate's Law and Justice Committee on Feb. 6.

Voicing a concern raised by opponents of the abortion insurance bill, Majority Leader Rodney Tom, D-Medina, said he feared

Legislature

it could run afoul of federal law prohibiting the use federal Medicaid money to pay for abortions, possibly jeopardizing billions of federal health care dollars slated for the state.

Included in the bill is a clause nullifying any portion of it found to interfere with the state's receipt of that federal money. Sen. Andy Hill, R-Redmond, who chairs the Senate's Ways and Means Committee, said he was focused on crafting the budget.

Last year's version of the measure never made it to

the Senate floor for a vote, failing to pass out of the gate-keeping Rules Committee and then falling short in a dramatic attempt to bring it to a floor vote during a Republican-led, budget-focused takeover of the Senate floor. This year, 13 of the 22 Rules Committee members belong to the Republican-dominated majority, several of whom said they would not vote for it to come to the floor under any circumstance.

Cody said the bill is needed because under looming federal health care reforms, insurance carriers will face red tape associated with covering abortion that may tempt them to drop it from their plans.

Death

From Page C1

to run an errand with their father and then to hang out with his friends in Vancouver.

The rest, she said, she has learned from police.

Vancouver police received a call just before 4 a.m. Tuesday of a person prowling at 14802 N.E. 33rd St. Four minutes later, they got another call that the person, Dumitrash, had been shot by Sean Doucette, who lives at the address.

www.columbian.com

On the Web

To see a video of the arraignment, visit

Shooting

From Page C1

the man, and the man attacked him, Thayer said. The shooting was in self-defense, Thayer said.

The incident occurred at about 4 a.m. outside Doucette's home, 14802 N.E. 33rd St.

Doucette's wife, Rachelle, called 911 to report that her husband had shot a man, according to court records. She told investigators that her husband and the man had a physical altercation, records state. Then, Doucette allegedly shot Dumitrash with a pistol.

Another witness, unnamed in

court records, told investigators that Doucette and Dumitrash had fallen to the ground during the altercation. Then, the two separated, and Dumitrash began to walk away, according to records. While he walked away, Doucette shot him, the records state.

Senior Deputy Prosecutor Camara Banfield said during Wednesday's hearing that Doucette shot Dumitrash four times. Both the prosecutor and Vancouver police declined to disclose the location of the gunshot wounds on Dumitrash's body.

Banfield said the shooting shows a disregard for life. She requested \$500,000 bail.

Doucette is a former Marine and served as a combat engineer in a logistics battalion in Afghanistan,

Thayer said. He served in the Marine Corps for four years and was honorably discharged. He receives disability payments from the U.S. Veterans Benefits Administration for an injury sustained during service. He has been married for seven years and has lived in Clark County for 15 years. He graduated from Evergreen High School in 2004, according to The Columbian's archives.

His wife, Rachelle, did not return a phone call from The Columbian. He was still in jail Wednesday night.

PARIS ACHEN: 360-735-4551; http://twitter.com/Col_Courts; <http://facebook.com/ColTrends>; paris.achen@columbian.com.

his GED with a goal of attending Slavic Bible School in Florida in June, Lemeza said.

"He wanted to dedicate his life to God," she said. He enjoyed working on cars in his spare time and spent time recently traveling to see his relatives around the country.

"He was a great person, and everybody loved him. He had no enemies," she said. "It's just such a big shock that he had to go so

soon."

Dumitrash is the youngest of 11 children. Lemeza said that his parents, three brothers, seven sisters and 23 nieces and nephews are all grieving the loss.

The large family moved to the United States from Moldova when Iosif was a baby.

"It's really hard for the family; he was a big part of our lives," she said. At first, Lemeza said, "we didn't want to believe it. We

prayed and hoped that it was not him."

Now Lemeza said her family is trying to cope with the loss and look forward to getting justice.

"We're in a lot of pain because Iosif was very precious to us," she said. "We just think it's unfair. He did not deserve that. ... It's just really sad to see something bad happen to a good person."

Doucette is due to be arraigned Feb. 12.

Man guilty in 2012 shooting, kidnapping

He shot Oregon man five times near Vancouver Lake

By PARIS ACHEN
Columbian staff writer

A Clark County jury Wednesday found a Vancouver man guilty in the kidnapping, robbery and shooting of a Beaverton, Ore., man in November 2012 near Vancouver Lake.

The jury of seven women and five men convicted Pedro "Junior"

Godinez Jr., 20, of first-degree attempted murder with a firearm enhancement and aggravating factors. The jury also found him guilty of kidnapping, robbery and unlawful possession of a firearm. He is scheduled to be sentenced March 26.

Godinez kidnapped, robbed and repeatedly shot Freddie Landstrom, 39, on Nov. 28, 2012, after Godinez's then-girlfriend, Joanna Speaks, lured Landstrom to her apartment in east Vancouver.

"I appreciate the jury coming out and making justice swiftly,"

Landstrom said in a phone interview Wednesday. "I look forward to the opportunity to see that the judge does something that puts something evil away."

The jury found that Godinez committed crimes with deliberate cruelty and lack of remorse, both aggravating factors, either of which could bring a potential sentence above the state's standard range. The firearm enhancement adds a mandatory five years to any sentence.

Jurors began deliberations about 9 a.m. Wednesday, after a six-day



Pedro "Junior" Godinez Jr.

Landstrom while Landstrom was being transported in an ambulance to a hospital emergency room. Deputy Prosecutor Dan Gasperino presented the recording on the

trial in Superior Court Judge Barbara Johnson's courtroom. They reached a verdict just after noon. During deliberations, jurors asked to review audio of a Vancouver police interview with Landstrom while Landstrom was being transported in an ambulance to a hospital emergency room. Deputy Prosecutor Dan Gasperino presented the recording on the

first day of testimony in the trial. Landstrom testified that Godinez's then-girlfriend, Joanna Speaks, lured him to her apartment in east Vancouver early Nov. 28, 2012. After he arrived, he said, Godinez entered the residence with a gun and demanded that Landstrom give up his wallet and cellphone. Landstrom said he'd never met Godinez before that night. Godinez allegedly forced Landstrom to get into Landstrom's 2012 black Nissan Sentra

GODINEZ, Page C4



Sean Doucette of Vancouver, left, with his attorney, Steven Thayer, leaves Clark County Superior Court on Wednesday after Judge Daniel Stahnke dismissed charges against him related to the Jan. 29, 2013, shooting death of Iosif Dumitrash, 19.

Charges dismissed in shooting

Ridgefield pares superintendent field to three

By JUSTIN RUNQUIST
Columbian staff writer

The Ridgefield school board has narrowed its field of superintendent candidates to three finalists, including one from Vancouver.

Superintendent Art Edgerly plans to retire in June after more than three decades in public education. He's spent the past seven years at the helm of Ridgefield's four schools. Thirty people applied for the job of leading the district of about 2,200 students. The finalists are:



■ Craig Hoppes, the superintendent of the Astoria School District in Oregon. Hoppes oversees a slightly smaller district, with nearly 1,900 students. Before his days as the top administrator, he taught in three other districts.

■ Nathan McCann, the superintendent of Altamonte Valley School District in Tucson, Ariz. The district is about a third the

Commissioners
Room, 1300 Franklin St.,
sixth floor. The hearings
examiner's decision can
be appealed for reconsid-
eration; it can also be chal-
lenged in Superior Court.

SCOTT HEWITT: 360-735-
4525; http://www.twitter.com/col_nonprofits; scott.hewitt@columbian.com.

Doucette

From Page C1

"I just called 911 about a guy trying to break into a car, and he just attacked my husband, and my hus-

band had to shoot him," she said in a panicked voice, according to a recording of the call. "My husband was talking to him in the street and the guy, he just charged at my husband. ... My husband said, 'Get down on the ground. Stop.' And the guy just charged at him."

Thayer said his private investigator, Gary Rice, also located another neighbor who claimed a man with an Eastern European accent had attempted to break into his home just moments before the shooting. (Dumitrash was the youngest in a family of 11 children that immigrated from the Eastern European country of Moldova when he was a baby, according to Dumitrash's family members.) Dumitrash's family has

said he was visiting friends in Vancouver that night. They were not present at Wednesday's court hearing. Dumitrash had no criminal history in Clark County. However, The Oregonian reported on April 13 that Dumitrash was an "associate" of a burglary ring in Portland that "single-handedly drove up crime statistics" in the city. The ring was made up mostly of Eastern European immigrants, the newspaper reported. Thayer

er pointed out the article in a court memorandum Wednesday in support of the dismissal of charges.

Portland police spokesman Sgt. Greg Stewart said he isn't familiar with the burglary ring case. However, generally, "associate" doesn't mean a suspect or person of interest, Stewart said.

Doucette's case languished in the justice system for 14 months before it was dismissed.

Thayer said the case took time because he couldn't begin his investigation until the state had filed the case. The investigation took time, particularly because of long waits for test results from the state crime laboratory, he said.

After charges were dismissed, Doucette left the courtroom with his wife and other family members. One relative was sobbing in apparent relief. Doucette said he was feeling "OK" but did not have additional comment at this time. His wife, Rachel, did not return a follow-up phone call from The Columbian on Wednesday afternoon.

Doucette has been out of jail since Jan. 31, 2013, after posting \$250,000 bail.

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to Esther Short Park in Downtown Vancouver
www.vancouverfarmersmarket.com

The Columbian