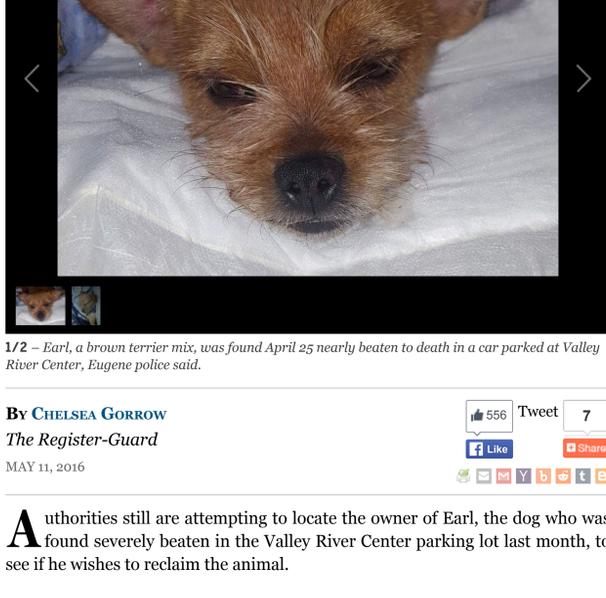




ANIMALS

Authorities seeking owner of Earl, brown terrier mix who was badly beaten last month

The dog continues to recover from a severe beating



1/2 - Earl, a brown terrier mix, was found April 25 nearly beaten to death in a car parked at Valley River Center, Eugene police said.

By **CHELSEA GORROW**
The Register-Guard

MAY 11, 2016

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Authorities still are attempting to locate the owner of Earl, the dog who was severely beaten in the Valley River Center parking lot last month, to see if he wishes to reclaim the animal.

Earl continues to recover from his protracted injuries, according to Lane County Chief Deputy District Attorney Erik Hasselman.

Zachary Ralston, 24, of Cottage Grove, who was arrested in connection with the beating, told police that the dog does not belong to him. Ralston told police that he had been watching Earl for a friend named Jordan Woody.

Now, the Lane County District Attorney's Office has placed a legal advertisement in The Register-Guard, asking for the owner to come forward or lose custody of Earl forever.

"If you have any interest in the seized and impounded animal described," the ad reads, "you must claim that interest or you will automatically lose that interest."

The advertisement, placed Friday, says the owner has 21 days from the publication date to make claim to the dog.

The claim must be in writing, the advertisement reads, and advises the owner — identified in the ad as Woody — that if he has questions he should see an attorney immediately.

Hasselman said Monday that the public notice is a legal requirement in order to determine Earl's future, since the dog is owned by someone other than the person who is accused of having abused it.

"Often, victim animals are abused by nonowners, and return to the owner is appropriate," Hasselman said. "In cases such as this, where the owner or possessor has the only known apparent interest in the animal, we will initiate proceedings under (the Oregon) statute at the outset of the case, in an effort to get a pet we feel should be adopted to its new home as soon as possible."

Hasselman said he wouldn't speculate on the outcome of Earl's future — or if he will be returned to the owner if Woody comes forward — until the forfeiture proceedings are completed.

The dog was seized April 26 by Eugene police, one day after it was found nearly beaten to death by a mall security guard who called police. The guard told police a man in a red Ford Mustang was choking, kicking, punching and throwing a dog.

Earl, a brown terrier mix, is estimated to be between 1 and 1½ years old. He was taken to the Emergency Veterinary Hospital in Springfield, where he remained for four days. Community members have donated all of the money to pay for Earl's care. He is now in foster care, where he continues to recover from a traumatic brain injury and other injuries, Eugene police have said.

Ralston was arrested on charges of aggravated animal abuse, as well as possession of methamphetamine and heroin. According to Lane County Jail records, he is still in custody.

A man by the name of Jordan Woody, according to the Lane County Jail log, was arrested April 28, two days after the assault on Earl. He was held until May 4 on several warrants, including methamphetamine possession and theft.

Woody's Facebook public profile contains photos from January of a puppy named Earl. A message seeking comment and sent to Woody through the social networking site was not immediately answered.

Follow Chelsea on Twitter @chelseagorrow. Email chelsea.gorrow@register-guard.com.

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12:35 p.m.

Cottage Grove may be among the first Oregon cities to impose local marijuana tax



MALHEUR STANDOFF

10:12 a.m.

Recall petition against Harney County official validated



OREGON

9:36 a.m.

Forest Grove student apologizes for 'build a wall' banner at Oregon high school



EUGENE POLICE

Sprinkler used to keep transients out of resident's yard targeted twice this week, police say



CRIME

12:05 p.m.

Lane County jury refuses to put murderer on death row



OREGON

10:10 a.m.

Portland buys bus tickets for homeless to leave town



EUGENE GOVERNMENT

9:33 a.m.

Oregon engineering board reduces fine against former Eugene traffic engineer over unlicensed work



COURTS

Man charged with beating Earl the dog pleads guilty, gets 40 days in jail



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

University of Oregon President Schill brings in new deans to rebuild his team



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

6:57 p.m.

University of Oregon: debate and mock trial students are climbing the national ranks in growing program



OREGON

State orders Willamette River boaters to move on



RETAIL

PANDORA and White Barn to open at Valley River Center in Eugene



MARIJUANA

Real estate broker sues Coburg mayor, City Council for mixing marijuana store



LANE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Lane County budget committee votes unanimously to reduce jail levy tax burden by 30 percent



COURTS

Murderer A.J. Nelson tells jurors in sentencing trial: "I did not want to kill him"



EUGENE

U.S. Census Bureau: Eugene's population passed 163,000 last year, but trails Salem



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

President Obama honors UO chemist Geri Richmond with Medal of Science



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Officer charged with using excessive force



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Superdelegates choose between Sanders, Clinton



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All-Star mentor



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Sports

OREGON SOFTBALL

Oregon Ducks softball: Jenna Lilley survives a scare to star for the Ducks

Call it a sophomore scare. Oregon softball star Jenna Lilley, coming off an all-America season as a freshman, had her soaring career violently interrupted on March 26 when she was hit in the face by ...



- Oregon Ducks rake in Pac-12 softball awards as they prepare for Fordham
- Bandon Tigers' Sailor Hutton takes home another Class 2A girls 3,000 meters title
- La Pine Hawks' Justin Petz wins fourth consecutive pole vault title

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Entertainment

MUSIC

Blues icon Guy sticking with the (radio) program

The guitarist hasn't given up on recording another hit for the airwaves

It's been many years since blues was a regular part of commercial radio playlists, and the days when individual DJs could play any song they wanted went away somewhere around the demise of cassette tapes. ...



- Celtic Woman serves as ambassador for Ireland musically
- Tainia Asili and Evan Greer headline OUT/Loud: Queer and Trans Womxn's Music Festival
- Cuthbert Amphitheater kicks off season May 21 with Foam Wonderland

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Weekend

GOOD WALKS

Ridge with a view

Remote trail to Horse Rock offers natural beauty in delicate balance

At some point on the drive up to the trailhead of the Horse Rock Ridge Research Natural Area in the Coburg Hills, we had the feeling that we were really far off the beaten path. ...



- Weekend events in Lane County, beyond for May 21-22
- Home-grown eggplant
- Roast leg of lamb sure to please a crowd

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