



Rod Underhill, District Attorney

1021 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 600
Portland, OR 97204-1193
Phone: 503-988-3162 Fax: 503-988-3643
www.mcda.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 20, 2019

'Sketchy' comment results in random assault, assailant receives a 70 month prison sentence

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 55-year-old Kory Thomle received a 70 month prison sentence for randomly attacking a man who was buying snacks for his family.

On February 19, 2019, a jury was seated in this case, opening statements had been presented and the victim had testified. During the first day of trial, it was revealed that the victim suffered a skull fracture, a brain bleed and other lasting assault-related injuries, which include a permanent loss of hearing in one ear and what may be permanent loss of smell.

On February 20, 2019, Thomle notified the District Attorney's Office that after hearing the victim's testimony, he decided to change his plea. Thomle pleaded guilty to one count of assault in the second degree, the sole count on the indictment.

This investigation started on August 12, 2018 when Portland Police responded to a business in the 7100 block of Southeast Powell Boulevard in response to a 9-1-1 call about an unconscious male on the ground bleeding from the head.

"This was a sunny summer Sunday afternoon that the victim had planned to spend with his family enjoying their swimming pool," said Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Todd Jackson. "Instead, he woke up at 2 a.m. the next day in the intensive care unit with no idea what happened to him or how he got there."

During the investigation, law enforcement learned that after the victim returned home from participating in a community event, he went to a nearby convenience store to purchase some snacks for his family.

"This was a total stranger-on-stranger attack," DDA Jackson said.

Thomle approached the victim and asked him to buy some beer, according to court documents. The victim said no and something to the effect of "that's sketchy," and told Thomle that he would not buy him any beer.

Thomle later told law enforcement that after being called "sketchy," he decided to stand and wait, with a baseball bat in hand, for the victim to come out of the store.

When the victim exited, Thomle approached the man with the bat, dropped it, grabbed the victim by the throat, choked him and then punched him in the face with a closed fist, according to information provided to law enforcement.

The victim, after being punched, was knocked unconscious, fell to the ground and struck his head on the asphalt.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office recognizes the efforts of the Portland Police Bureau for their dedicated efforts investigating this case.

#MCDA#

Contact: Brent Weisberg, Communications Director
Phone: 503.988.6567
Email: Brent.Weisberg@mcda.us