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NEWS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Thursday, May 21, 11:00 a.m.

From: Alex Gardner, District Attorney

Details:

Today Gerald Strebendt entered a guilty plea to Criminally Negligent Homicide with a Firearm.

Mr. Strebendt's guilty plea represents his acceptance of criminal responsibility for causing the death of David Crofut on January 29, 2014. The State's acceptance of a lesser criminal homicide charge reflects an acknowledgement that continuing investigation by Springfield Police and the Oregon State Police Crime Lab established some mitigating evidence favoring Mr. Strebendt.

The Lane County District Attorney's Office and Mr. Strebendt have jointly agreed to a sentence of 58 months in prison with 36 months of post-prison supervision (parole), forfeiture of the involved firearm, permanent forfeiture of Mr. Strebendt's right to possess *any* firearm, loss of Mr. Strebendt's right to seek expunction of his criminal homicide conviction, and a joint recommendation for a comprehensive mental health evaluation with such care and treatment as the evaluating mental health team considers necessary and prudent.

The entry of this guilty plea and sentencing agreement represents a compromise facilitated by Lane County Presiding Circuit Court Judge Karsten Rasmussen which followed a thorough investigation into this matter. While the investigation clearly established the role of Mr. Strebendt's aggression in causing the initial vehicle collision with Mr. Crofut, it also showed that Mr. Crofut continued to approach Mr. Strebendt even though he knew Mr. Strebendt was agitated and armed with a firearm. The victim's behavior did not justify Mr. Strebendt's actions but, together with Mr. Strebendt's mental condition, it contributed to the tragic end result.