

METRO

B | THE PLAIN DEALER | BREAKING NORTHEAST OHIO NEWS AT CLEVELAND.COM/METRO

Amish hate-crime defendants seek trial ban of words like 'cult'

BRANDON BLACKWELL
Plain Dealer Reporter

Members of a fringe Amish group charged with committing hate crimes against fellow Amish have requested that words including "cult," "splinter" and "rogue" be banned from their upcoming trial in U.S. District Court, according to documents filed Monday.

They also requested that any Amish called to testify "affirm the truthfulness" of their testimony rather than swear an oath.

Swearing an oath "would offend the witness' religious outlook," their law-

yers wrote in a filing.

Samuel Mullet, 66, of Jefferson County, and 15 of his male and female followers are charged with hate crimes and cover-ups.

Prosecutors accuse them of forcibly cutting the beards and hair of fellow Amish members.

The attacks were designed to settle scores with people with whom Mullet and his followers had disputes, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors accused Mullet of orchestrating the attacks. The trial is scheduled for Aug. 27. U.S. District Judge Dan Aaron Polster had ordered

that all trial motions were to have been filed by Monday.

Hair length and the beards worn by Amish men have religious significance, and to have hair or beards cut is considered degrading.

Eight-inch horse mane shears, photographs from a disposable camera and hair collected from a home are among items on the government's exhibit list.

Federal authorities say the attacks were motivated by revenge after a group of Amish bishops refused to accept Mullet's excommunication of eight families who had left his Jefferson County community because they dis-

agreed with his authoritarian leadership.

According to the trial brief filed Monday by prosecutors, Mullet forced women to have sex with him so they could learn to please their husbands better.

Community members would sleep for days at a time in filthy chicken coops and were supposed to obey not only his interpretation of the Bible but also all of his orders and directives.

Mullet is also accused of allowing "the community to engage in practices of self-deprivation and corporal punishment" to prove their loyalty to him.

Nothing like a fresh coat of paint



MARVIN FONG | THE PLAIN DEALER

Jay Reynolds carefully paints the name on the USS Cod Submarine Memorial, berthed on the lakefront near East Ninth Street, to help ready it for the upcoming Navy Week. Volunteers have spent more than 212 hours applying more than 100 gallons of gray and black paint supplied by the Sherwin-Williams Co. The Cod, launched on March 21, 1943, became a floating memorial in May 1976. It will fire up its engines for visiting sailors during Navy Week, Aug. 27 to Sept. 4. Information on the week's activities is at navyweek.org/cleveland2012.

Dive team to help Ohio law enforcement find evidence

JOE GUILLEN
Plain Dealer Reporter

CIRCLEVILLE — The attorney general's office on Monday unveiled a forensic dive team to help law enforcement agencies across Ohio find underwater evidence such as guns and human remains.

The dive team will provide a new level of expertise to smaller counties in particular that typically do not have trained authorities available to help with underwater investigations, Attorney General Mike DeWine said.

"Now, we will be able to complement what we do at the normal crime scene — to extend that if there's something underwater or if we think there is something underwater," DeWine said at a news conference Monday.

DeWine introduced the dive team at a training exercise at the Circleville Twin Quarries, about 25 miles south of Columbus.

The team has eight divers. It is an extension of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation's crime scene unit. Any of the state's 88 counties could call for help with a criminal case, but the team is not available for search and rescue missions or for the recovery of suicide victims.

The forensic dive team also will work with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to help investigate illegal dumping that could involve pollutants.

SEE DIVE | B2

FitzGerald pulls back contract for \$2M on county real estate

Office consolidation studies could cost as little as \$370,000

LAURA JOHNSTON
Plain Dealer Reporter

Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald pulled a \$2 million real-estate consulting contract Monday from today's County Council agenda.

FitzGerald said the contract had not been properly vetted. The contract — which FitzGerald said could cost as little as \$370,000 — calls for

URS Corp. to analyze prospective office space and develop plans to consolidate county workers.

FitzGerald recommended San Francisco-based URS ahead of four other firms. All five submitted architecture and engineering qualifications to move county departments into a new administration building and storage facility.

The county has already hired CBRE Group Inc. for \$268,000, plus a 3 percent commission, to market 13 existing county buildings, evaluate new offices and negotiate sales or leases.

"CBRE is like when you're selling

or buying a home. They're the Realtor," said county Public Works Director Bonnie Teeuwen. "URS is the person helping you with the remodel, preparing the plans."

As proposed, URS could be paid up to \$2 million for the work, \$1 million less than the county paid Staubach Co. in 2005 to recommend the Ameritrust complex as a new government headquarters. The county later abandoned plans for the complex, but not before taxpayers had spent more than \$45 million on the rotunda and surrounding buildings.

SEE CONTRACT | B3

Free Clinic stressing HIV testing

Opt-out strategy on consent-to-treat form may boost identifications

CASEY CAPACHI
Plain Dealer Reporter

Starting in late September, patients going to the Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland for an annual physical will be asked to mark one of two new boxes on their consent-to-treat form: "Yes" or "No" for HIV testing.

The move is in an effort to identify those infected with HIV early, when treatment is most effective.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended all health care settings institute opt-out testing for patients ages 13-64 and all pregnant women in 2006.

Adriana Whelan, a nurse practitioner at the Free Clinic, said adopting opt-out testing has been "a long time coming." "HIV is still leaking out into the community," said Whelan of new cases being diagnosed at the Free Clinic, especially in high-risk groups such as

the homeless and black men who have had sex with men.

Whelan added that patients come to the clinic all the time believing they're not at a high risk of contracting HIV. "You can't see HIV. You don't know who's positive or who isn't. A woman could be in a monogamous relationship and have a partner with high-risk sexual activity and she doesn't know it," said Whelan.

SEE HIV | B6

Road Rant

JOHN HORTON



New traffic camera along Woodland

Another photo opportunity awaits travelers on Cleveland's Woodland Avenue.

Plans are under way to add a traffic camera along Woodland between East 45th and East 47th streets, according to the city. The speed camera would be the second on the avenue to focus on eastbound traffic, joining one less than a mile away at Woodland and East 69th Street. (That lens clicked out 3,179 tickets in 2011, by the way — the sixth-highest total among Cleveland's 36 cameras.)

The new camera location sits just a few blocks from Woodland and East 55th Street, which ranks as one of the region's most crash-prone intersections. The hope is that the camera slows approaching traffic and reduces the number of collisions, Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland said. "It's worth doing to see if it helps," said Cleveland, whose ward includes the spot.

Site engineering for the installation is under way, and the camera system operator — ACS Public Safety Solutions — should be pulling construction permits soon, officials said. A debut date has yet to be set. Watch here for updates.

The speed camera bound for Woodland previously stood on Broadway near East 88th Street, where it ranked as one of the city's busiest lenses.

Workers removed the device from Broadway last summer after Councilman Zack Reed asked that it be removed from his ward. Reed equated the camera with a speed trap.

Overlooked facts: Douglas Drive connects to Lake Road in Bay Village.

For travelers heading east on Lake, that's an unexpected surprise.

Low-hanging tree branches prevent eastbound traffic from easily spotting the green-and-white Douglas sign posted at the intersection, according to a Road Rant watchdog. "You can't find Douglas," she said. But you *can* find a good reason to use clippers.

SEE RANT | B6



COLUMNIST
MARK NAYMIK
IS OFF TODAY.

THE PLAIN DEALER
PolitiFact Ohio

Investment no bet on U.S. default



Says Josh Mandel bet against Ohio families

Workers' Voice

STEPHEN KOFF
Plain Dealer Washington Bureau Chief

It is time for some basic finance: When interest rates rise, Treasury bond prices fall.

We could go on (buy low, sell high, etc.) but there is only one more financial fact you really need to know for purposes of understanding a new ad attacking Ohio Treasurer and U.S. Senate candidate Josh Mandel. That fact is that at some point during 2011, a trust that invests for the benefit of his wife, Ilana Shafraan Mandel, held shares in an exchange traded fund that deals in Treasury bonds.

That investment now is being used by a group called Workers' Voice, affiliated with the AFL-CIO, to claim that Josh Mandel was "betting against Ohio families."

To understand the attack, you must understand the investment.

This fund, or ETF, is not a traditional ETF (a fund that in many ways is similar to a mutual fund) that buys and sells stocks and bonds and performs with the ups and downs of the market. Rather, this ETF, called ProShares Ultra 20+ Year Treasury, deals in long-term Treasury bonds in a manner that acts as a hedge against falling Treasury bond prices. It is a "short" fund, in financial parlance, and it performs inversely to the regular market for Treasuries. When prices on Treasuries fall, the value of this ETF goes up.

You could say that it bets on falling Treasury prices. Put another way, it is betting on rising interest rates. But if you wanted to criticize a politician, you might say, as Workers' Voice did in an ad appearing on cleveland.com (the website affiliated with The Plain Dealer) and other newspaper websites, that this ETF was betting on a government default. After all, if the government couldn't pay its bills, the value of its bonds would dive and this ETF could soar.

That, however, is an extreme and hypothetical example.

Workers' Voice didn't put it exactly that way, but it made clear that is what it meant. Its ad said that "The more your family struggles, the more money Josh Mandel stands to make."

SEE POLITIFACT | B3