

## La Pine conservator of seniors, disabled pleads guilty to theft

*by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources*

LA PINE, Ore. -- A La Pine man who was assigned by State court, Social Security Administration, and Senior & Disabled services to act as a conservator of finances for numerous senior and disabled citizens throughout Central Oregon who was arrested in July of last year has pleaded guilty to 32 counts of theft.

Oliver Lee Trussell - DCJ photo Originally charged with three counts of first-degree aggravated theft, 14 counts of first-degree theft, 13 counts of second-degree theft, 3 counts of third-degree theft, and 32 counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment, an agreement was made wherein Oliver Lee Trussell, 59, would enter Alford pleas to 32 counts of theft.

An Alford plea is a guilty plea where the defendant does not admit guilt, but acknowledges sufficient evidence exists with which the prosecution could likely convince a judge or jury to find the defendant guilty.

Trussell was arrested July 4, 2007, and had been under investigation since November of 2005, Deschutes County Sheriff's Sgt. Scott Beard reported. He pleaded guilty late Friday afternoon, March 28.

Notifications are being made to Trussell's victims, the sergeant said, adding that any victim that has questions should contact him at 541.617.3388.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 19.

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