

Body found in Medford freezer

by Cheryl McDermott

A Medford man is charged with abuse of a corpse following Wednesday's discovery of a body inside a freezer in the garage of his southwest Medford home, reported police.

Construction workers repairing a frozen water pipe found the frozen body shortly after noon and alerted the Medford Police Department, Lt. Tim George said.

Responding investigators and officers interviewed Paul Henry Mahanna, 58, in the residence at 1735 Fiona Lane where he was reported to have been living with an older man. Mahanna was taken into custody and lodged at the Jackson County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bail.

Officers secured and guarded the residence while they obtained a search warrant, said the lieutenant. The warrant was executed at 8 p.m. Jan. 31, and continues in effect as the investigation continues.

The body was removed and transported to the medical examiner's office at the Oregon State Police headquarters in Central Point. An autopsy is planned, Lt. George said, noting that the identity of the deceased has not been confirmed.

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