

Man kills mum, takes head to shop and stabs clerk

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ESTACADA (Oregon): A man killed his mother on Mother's Day at a rural Oregon home, then showed up at a grocery store in a nearby town carrying a decapitated human head and began stabbing a checkout clerk before being subdued, authorities said.

Officers determined the head was carrying Joshua Lee Webb (pic) er, Tina Marie Webb, 59, the Sandy Police Department said.

The gruesome chain of events unfolded in two tiny rural towns once known for logging 48km south

of Portland and sent shock waves through Estacada, where most people knew the white-haired checkout clerk identified as 66-year-old Michael Wagner for his warmth and quick sense of humour.

David Webb, the father of Joshua, sobbed as he struggled to process his wife's death and his son's arrest in one horrible day.

Joshua had vision problems and lived at home so his parents could care for him. His mother had said she believed her son was depressed, but David said he never saw any indication of that.

"I just can't believe I lost my wife and son in one day. I wish I had some answers, but I don't."

"I waited all my life to retire with my wife, and now I can't. That's all I know," David said, before bursting into sobs during a phone interview.

The bizarre sequence began Sunday afternoon - Mother's Day - in Colton, a once-significant logging town 64km southeast of Portland.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office said Joshua killed his mother at their rural home, but it did not provide more details.

Joshua then showed up at a

Thriftway in downtown Estacada carrying a large "kitchen-type" knife and a severed human head.

He began stabbing a store employee, but he was quickly overwhelmed by other employees, who held him until police arrived, authorities said.

"He was in like a catatonic state, wasn't speaking to anybody," Ernie Roberts, interim police chief in nearby Sandy, Oregon, said on Monday.

Wagner, the grocery store checkout clerk, was hospitalised and was expected to survive. — AP

