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## IN BRIEF

### Teen sent to Oregon Youth Authority after arson trial

A teenager charged with using Molotov cocktails to set fire to the car of a school administrator who disciplined him for smoking marijuana will serve up to eight years in a youth prison.

A judge on Monday ordered Bruno Gartner Jr., 17, into the custody of MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility in Woodburn. He could be there until he is 25.

Gartner was also ordered to pay \$8,700 in restitution to retired Sheldon High School Assistant Principal John Lindsley, who awoke May 1 to find his vehicle burning in his driveway.

The fire burned within 5 feet of the home where Lindsley and his wife, Cathy, were sleeping.

Gartner's family and defense attorney Dan Koenig had tried to paint 17-year-old Joseph Robert Gentile, who was ordered last month into a residential reform program for up to a year, as the orchestrator of the plot and Gartner as his unknowing accomplice.

But in handing down his decision, Lane County Juvenile Court Judge Kip Leonard cited past police reports, including one about an incident in which Gartner tried to assault a Valley River Center security guard who stopped him for shoplifting.

When it was his turn to speak, Gartner apologized to Lindsley, who had described the fear he felt for his own safety and that of his family.

"I'd like to apologize to Mr. Lindsley for what I did — it's sincere," he said. "I'm going to pay you back. I don't know how easy it will be to get a job with arson one on my record, but I will pay you back."

### Woman convicted on drunk-driving charges

CORVALLIS — The woman accused of seriously injuring an Oregon State gymnast in a drunken driving accident has pleaded guilty to several charges stemming from the incident.

Myrna Taylor, 46, pleaded guilty Thursday in Benton County Circuit Court to driving under the influence of an intoxicant, assault, reckless endangering and failure to appear in court.

Taylor fled while on pretrial release and was arrested in June in Georgiana, Ala., after failing to appear in Benton County court on March 22.

She was extradited to Oregon in mid-August and has since been held in the Benton County jail. Her sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 27.

Taylor was the driver of a minivan that struck Meghan Jones, 22, of Medford, and two other Oregon State students on Sept. 20 of last year.

Jones was critically injured, suffering head trauma and a pelvic fracture in the accident. She underwent two brain surgeries before undergoing surgery to repair her pelvis.

At the time of the accident,

Taylor's blood-alcohol level was 0.19, more than twice the legal limit to drive in Oregon.

### Parties watch ballot sorting carefully

PORTLAND — Observers from both major political parties are crowding into county election headquarters across the state to keep a close eye on ballot collecting and counting, watching for any evidence that could be used to challenge the results.

Their presence can be traced directly to the disputed 2000 presidential election. After vote counting in Florida was challenged, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled George W. Bush had won the state, giving him the presidency.

Democrats have charged that Republicans are out to suppress turnout in the state, pointing to a nine-page GOP instruction manual that calls on volunteers to show up at ballot drop-off sites at 7:45 p.m. on election night, 15 minutes before the voting deadline, armed with video cameras and cell phones.

That could cause voter intimidation, Adam Green, spokesman for the state Democratic Party, told The Oregonian.

### Yudhoyono set to take power in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Security forces around Indonesia's parliament building were on high alert Wednesday for the inauguration of President-elect Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Police have warned that Islamic militants blamed for the 2002 Bali bombings and last month's suicide attack on the Australian Embassy might launch an attack to coincide with Yudhoyono's swearing in as Indonesia's sixth president.

The prime ministers of Australia, Malaysia, East Timor and Singapore were scheduled to attend the ceremony in a regional show of support for the 55-year-old retired general.

Yudhoyono begins his five-year term amid high expectations he can fix the many problems that saddle the world's most populous Muslim nation, among them rising Islamic militancy, massive poverty and widespread corruption.

But Yudhoyono will face problems pushing through reforms against deeply entrenched vested interests in the business, government and legal elite. Moreover, his tiny Democratic Party only holds 10 percent of the seats in parliament, and his opponents could easily block new legislation.

Voters impressed with Yudhoyono's honesty and grasp of the issues handed him an easy win over outgoing President Megawati Sukarnoputri, the daughter of Indonesia's founding father Sukarno, in last month's elections. Megawati was seen as a lackluster and aloof leader.

The polls were the first in which Indonesians voted for their leader directly, and were seen as a milestone in its transition to democracy after the downfall of longtime dictator Suharto in 1998.

— The Associated Press

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