

# Boy Scout council accused of inflating troop numbers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEDFORD — A Wyoming man has filed a lawsuit against a Boy Scout council in southern Oregon, alleging it forced him to resign when he uncovered that troop totals were inflated to boost executive salaries.

John Mangan, 62, is seeking a \$296,000 judgment for lost wages and emotional distress.

Mangan's case is the first reported instance of "phantom" Boy Scout troops in the state, said Victoria Cox, spokeswoman for the Oregon Department of Justice. The FBI has opened investigations around the country into similar allegations against the Boy Scouts of America.

Mangan discovered numerous Scouts who did not exist but had been identified on the council's books, according to his suit, filed in December in Jackson County Circuit Court.

"I was shocked," he said Wednesday. "After I found out about all this stuff, I was really disheartened to go out and raise money for that council."

The Crater Lake Council serves 10 counties in Southern Oregon and Northern California and lists a membership of 5,300. Mangan said seven phantom troops of about eight to 24 scouts each were on the books in Jackson, Josephine and Siskiyou counties.

Mangan says the district manager previously in charge of scouting membership acknowledged to him that the records were doctored because annual salary increases were determined by scouting participation.

After Boy Scout officials heard his allegation, the council's membership records showed a reduction of more than 600 scouts between 2001 and 2002, Mangan said. The biggest drop was in Josephine County, he added,

from 942 youth to 703.

Mangan alleges that his investigation rubbed executives the wrong way, and he was told to quit or be fired in September 2003.

Mangan now works for the Boy Scouts in Wyoming. But he said he failed to find employment with the organization until January of this year because local Boy Scout Executive Director Ed Weiseth falsely characterized him as an unsatisfactory employee.

Weiseth told the Medford Mail Tribune he would not respond to Mangan's allegations.

United Way of Jackson County Executive Director Dee Anne Everson, whose organization funds the Boy Scouts, said she called the local council office Wednesday after being contacted by the Mail Tribune. She said Scout officials denied keeping ghost troops on the books.

# Victims of terrorism congregate, pledge to defeat attackers

BY ANDREW SELSKY  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOGOTA, Colombia — From Oklahoma City and New York to Beslan, Russia, men and women who were wounded or lost loved ones in terrorist attacks met Thursday at a victims' congress, where they mourned their losses but vowed to defeat terrorism and not be passive victims.

"I think if we join together and say 'We are still here. You may have taken our loved ones, but you can't break our spirit,' that the terrorists will know they can't win," said Ken Thompson, whose mother was killed in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

Hundreds of people, some in wheelchairs after being paralyzed in terrorist attacks, packed a large meeting room in a downtown Bogota hotel for the two-day International Congress on Victims of Terrorism that began Wednesday.

To speak at the conference, Robert McIlvaine stepped onto a plane for the first time since his 26-year-old son Bobby was killed in one of the World Trade Center towers that was hit by a hijacked airliner in the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I'm petrified of flying. I think about death all the time," McIlvaine said. But he came to Bogota to describe the unceasing pain he and his wife suffer from losing their son.

"Why was that beautiful human

being snuffed out like that?" he asked, his voice cracking. Members of the audience dabbed at their eyes with handkerchiefs as he spoke.

Retired U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Tony Rose told how one of the hijacked planes plowed into the Pentagon, hitting just 30 feet from where he was standing. A fireball incinerated troops near him.

"The only way we knew a pile of ash was one of my soldiers was from a watch or ring in the ash," he said. He told of retrieving body parts from water and jet fuel that was flowing into a drain. Rose's hands were full when the severed hand of a child appeared, but he managed to grab it and put it in his pocket.

"We can allow ourselves to continue to be victims, but we can rise one step higher and take charge and kick butt if we need to," Rose told the audience.

Juan Pablo Letelier — whose father, former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, was killed by Chile's military dictatorship with a bomb in Washington in 1976 — said all terrorism must be condemned, no matter who is carrying it out.

"We must be consistent in the battle against terrorism," Letelier said Thursday, adding that he believes the treatment of prisoners at the U.S. base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, also amounts to terrorism.

# Doctor loses suit over former lover's alleged theft of sperm

BY CARLA K. JOHNSON  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — A man who says his former lover deceived him by getting pregnant using semen obtained through oral sex can sue for emotional distress, but not theft, an appeals court ruled.

Dr. Richard O. Phillips accuses Dr. Sharon Irons of a "calculated, profound personal betrayal" six years ago, but she says they had the baby through sexual intercourse.

The Illinois Appeals Court said Wednesday that Phillips can press a claim for emotional distress after alleging Irons had used his sperm to have a baby, but agreed that however the baby was conceived, Irons didn't steal the sperm.

"She asserts that when plaintiff 'delivered' his sperm, it was a gift," the decision said. "There was no agreement that the original deposit would be returned upon request."

The ruling sends the case back to Cook County Circuit Court.

Phillips, a Chicago family doctor, alleges he and Irons never had intercourse during their four-month tryst, but they had oral sex three times. His suit contends that Irons, without his knowledge, kept some of his semen.

The appeals court ruling following a decision by a lower court judge who dismissed Phillips' suit in 2003.

## IN BRIEF

### School board member arrested a second time

HILLSBORO — A Portland School Board member has been arrested a second time for allegedly violating a restraining order taken out by his estranged wife.

Derry Jackson, 42, was arrested Wednesday afternoon after deputies received a call from Bernel Jackson. He was arrested without incident a short distance from her home. Bail was set at \$200,000.

The restraining order requires Jackson to come no closer than 50 feet from his wife.

Jackson has rejected demands that he resign from the school board and says he may run for re-election. His term ends in June.

### Two Oregonians honored for aiding fire victim

SALEM — A woman and her grandson have been honored with an award from firefighters after they came to the aid of a house fire victim.

Patricia Bradshaw, 57, and her 13-year-old grandson, Treven Johnson, were driving to a fast-food restaurant on Jan. 2 when they saw a fire at a manufactured-home park in Keizer.

Instead of calling the fire department, Bradshaw jumped out of her van to see whether anyone was hurt.

Bradshaw said she saw people with cell phones stopped alongside the road calling 911. When she got closer to the burning home, Bradshaw saw Patricia Wilson, 52, the owner of the house, standing near a dumpster with a thick rug wrapped over her skin.

Wilson had been severely burned. She said something about going back inside the house to save her pet cats, Bradshaw said.

"I told her 'You can't go in there now. You need to stay away.' I was either going to drag her or pick her up, but I wasn't going to let her go back in there," Bradshaw said.

Bradshaw stayed calm and tried to soothe Wilson until fire trucks arrived, said Keizer Fire District spokesman Jim Trett.

By taking control of the situation, Bradshaw and her grandson likely saved Wilson's life, Trett said.

For their efforts, the fire district honored Bradshaw and her grandson with the Bob Wickman Lifesaving Award.

### Lindsay Lohan's dad says he hasn't hurt her career

NEW YORK — Lindsay Lohan's father says his headline-grabbing problems have helped, not hurt, his teenage daughter's film career.

"She's got more offers than ever now. ... Don't they say any publicity is good publicity?" Michael Lohan asked ABC's "Primetime Live" in an interview to be broadcast Thursday night.

"People don't want the good things, they want the dirt."

The interview was conducted two weeks ago, before Michael Lohan was arrested following a fiery car crash in the Long Island town of Syosset and charged with driving while intoxicated.

Michael Lohan, 44, was the only occupant of the vehicle, which left the road and struck a utility pole shortly after midnight Saturday. He got out before it burst into flames and was not injured.

In December, he pleaded guilty to several charges, including assaulting a brother-in-law at his son's communion party, and was ordered into drug and alcohol treatment and therapy. He also was arrested in June for allegedly skipping out on a \$3,800 bill for several suites at a hotel.

— The Associated Press

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