

6 indicted for fires including Glendale arson

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Oregon; John McKay, U.S. attorney for the Western District of Washington; Robert Jordan, special agent in charge, FBI, Portland; and Kelvin N. Crenshaw, special agent in charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Seattle.

Stanislas Gregory Meyerhoff, 28, was arrested in Charlottesville, Va., where he was attending Piedmont Community College, on an Oregon federal indictment charging him with the commission of arsons at Superior Lumber Co. in Glendale, on Jan. 2, 2001, and Jefferson Poplar Farms in Clatskanie on May 21, 2001.

Damages in the two fires each exceeded \$1 million.

Also charged for the same arsons was Daniel Gerard McGowan, 31. He was arrested in New York City, where he resides.

Meyerhoff and McGowan face maximum penalties of life imprisonment for these charges. In addition, Meyerhoff is separately indicted for destruction of a Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) electrical transmission tower on Dec. 30,

1999, which carries a maximum punishment of 20 years imprisonment.

Kevin M. Tubbs, 36, was arrested in Springfield, Ore., where he currently lives, on a state of Washington federal indictment charging him with commission of the arson at the Animal and Plant and Health Inspection Services (APHIS) facility in Olympia on June 21, 1998.

The damage caused by this arson was estimated at \$1.2 million.

Also arrested and charged for the same arson was William C. Rodgers, 40, a resident of Prescott, Ariz. Tubbs and Rodgers each face a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment for this arson.

Sarah Kendall Harvey, 28, was arrested in Flagstaff, Ariz., where she was a student at Northern Arizona University, on an Oregon federal indictment charging her with the arson at U.S. Forest Industries in Medford on Dec. 27, 1998.

The U.S. Forest Industries fire caused an estimated \$500,000 in damages. Harvey faces a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment.

Chelsea Dawn Gerlach, 28, was arrested in

Portland on an Oregon federal indictment charging her with destruction of an energy facility, relating to a BPA electrical transmission tower in Bend on Dec. 30, 1999.

Gerlach faces a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment.

Participating in this extensive investigation were the Joint Terrorism Taskforce (JTT), assisted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Eugene Police Dept., the Portland Police Bureau, the U.S. Forest Service, the Oregon Dept. of Justice, and the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

JTT is an FBI-led taskforce of state, local and federal agencies, including the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Marshal's Service,

Drug Enforcement Administration, IRS, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Defense Criminal Investigative Agency, Federal Protective Services, Oregon State Police, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Beaverton Police Dept., Port of Portland Police Dept., Defense Intelligence Agency, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Washington County Sheriff's Office, and the Vancouver Police Dept.

A criminal indictment is only an allegation and not evidence of guilt. Defendants are presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty.



TWO VALLEY CRASHES kept Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD), American Medical Response, and Josephine County Sheriff's Office busy last weekend. On Saturday, Dec. 10 a motorcyclist was reported injured (above) on Illinois River Road at 1:42 p.m. On Sunday, Dec. 11 emergency personnel responded to the 5500 block of Caves Hwy. and found a wrecked vehicle (below) which apparently had gone off the road and struck a tree. No one was around. Details about either incident were unavailable in time for this issue. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD)



Suspended teacher gets backing from girls team

"We know in our hearts that the accusations (against suspended teacher and coach Steve Morton) are false," directors of Three Rivers School District (TRSD) were told Monday night, Dec. 12.

Meeting at Illinois Valley High School, the board heard an impassioned statement from Sheena Cole, co-captain of the IVHS girls varsity basketball team. The team had left practice in the gym to attend the public-comment portion of the hour-long meeting.

Morton was placed on administrative leave by TRSD Nov. 29 pending an investigation into an undisclosed complaint. He has taught social studies and history for five years, and coached the girls basketball team, which in March earned its way to the second round of the state high

school playoff competition. Cole, surrounded by her seated teammates, some whom displayed effects of the situation's emotional toll, stood to address the board in a strong yet quavering voice.

"The team has been very successful the past two years," she began, "with a great program because of our excellent coach. We know in our hearts that the accusations are false."

Cole stated that whatever the complaint is, it is based on rumor, not fact. "There is no solid evidence," she said, "and his suspension is simply wrong."

"As a team we probably spend 1,000 hours a year together with our coach. We know him very well. We can judge his character."

"We're like a second family," Cole added. "He loves us like his daughters."

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