

Accused eco-saboteur expected to enter plea in Redmond meatpacking plant fire

MAXINE BERNSTEIN
The Oregonian

Accused eco-saboteur Joseph Dibee is set to change his plea and accept a negotiated deal to settle charges in a string of attacks that destroyed or damaged environmental targets across the West two decades ago — including intentionally setting fire to the Cavel West horse-meat plant in Redmond in 1997.

Sentencing terms of the final deal aren't public, but Dibee's attorney wrote to the court earlier this month that the settlement may mean no further time behind bars.

On March 29, defense attorney Matthew Schindler and prosecutor Quinn Harrington

confirmed to U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken that Dibee was ready to accept a plea offer.

Dibee was arrested in 2018 in Havana, Cuba after being on the run for 12 years.

Federal investigators have said Dibee was part of "The Family," describing it as a terrorist cell of about 20 people who committed crimes in the name of two groups, the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front.

Dibee was indicted in Oregon in 2006 on federal charges of arson, conspiracy to commit arson and destruction of an energy facility. He's accused of helping destroy the Cavel West Inc. meatpacking plant in Red-

mond in 1997 and destroying a Bonneville Power Administration tower near Bend in 1999. One of Dibee's prior lawyers said Dibee didn't play a role in the tower vandalism.

In Washington, Dibee faces federal charges of conspiracy to commit arson and possession of a destructive stemming from a 1998 fire at a U.S. Department of Agriculture building in Olympia, Washington.

In California, he faces federal charges and conspiracy to commit arson, arson of a government building and possession of a destructive device, accused of helping to destroy the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's wild horse corrals near Litchfield in 2001.

FLASHBACK

Girl makes call to rescue mom in 1997

The Spokesman

100 YEARS AGO

April 6, 1922 — Opens up new auto repair shop

Angus L. Davies has this week opened a new automobile repairing shop in a building owned by F.G. Atkinson at the corner of 7th and F streets.

He operated an automobile stage between Redmond and Prineville until the completion several years ago at the city of Prineville Railway.

75 YEARS AGO

April 10, 1947 — Root Festival at Warm Springs

Warm Springs Indians will hold their annual Root Festival next Sunday, April 13, starting at 8:30 a.m., it has been announced. The celebration will be a two day affair, with a rodeo to be held Saturday, April 12.

All residents of Redmond and Central Oregon are invited to attend. A new building has been constructed for the "Long House," it is stated, and elaborate plans are being made.

50 YEARS AGO

April 5, 1972 — Construction soars

Construction got off to a flying start during the first quarter of 1972, judging by building permits issued by the City of Redmond.

Permits tallied \$314,116.70 for the first three months, nearly half the total figure of \$702,274.61 issued during the entire year of 1971.

Largest single project was the 7,500 square foot commercial building, estimated to cost \$75,000, which will become the home of The Fair Store Shopping Center on Fifth and Cascade Ave. Other commercial structures are a \$33,272 storage and manufacturing building at Whittier Moulding; bases for propane tanks for Pertolane Willamette Gas Service, costing \$10,000 and being erected near Scotty's Feed Store, and the \$16,980 worth of T-hangar at Roberts Field. Remainder of



Photo from Spokesman archives

Trish Campbell shares a kiss with her daughter, Hannah

the tally was for home building and remodeling.

25 YEARS AGO

April 9, 1997 — Girl makes call to rescue mom

Hannah Simpkins remembered being scared, "real, real scared," she says, her dark eyes growing round and somber.

That's why, against her mom's orders, she decided to call 911 early one morning last week.

The 7-year old's disobedience may have saved her mother's life.

After the fact, mother Trish Campbell admits, "it's probably a good thing she called when she did." Campbell has a history of severe asthma attacks, and Hannah has seen her mom taken to the hospital in an ambulance before.

About 2 a.m. Saturday, Campbell began having trouble breathing. By the time Hannah woke at 6 a.m., her mom was unable to complete a sentence.

But Campbell wanted to "ride it out" until clinic offices opened at 9 a.m. before she sought treat-

ment, she said.

Hannah decided that was too long to wait.

Once she made the call, Hannah wasn't sure what to tell the dispatch operator. So she hung up.

The Redmond fire department returned the call. After the dispatch operator, Mike Chambers, talked to Campbell, an ambulance was sent to her home.

But the pint sized heroin wasn't done yet.

Barefoot in her pajamas, Hannah waited in the yard to direct the ambulance to her home.

Kathy Smith, lead medic on the call, said she found Campbell slumped over on the couch, barely able to speak and gasping for air.

"She was in a severe asthma attack," Smith said.

Despite the seriousness of the situation, Hannah remained calm, Smith said.

The girl's decision to call for help definitely was justified, paramedics said.

"Her mom could possibly have died," Smith said.

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