

POLICE

Tre Arrow Wanted FBI posts \$25,000 reward arson

(AP) — The FBI has posted a \$25,000 award for information leading to the arrest of Michael Scarpitti, who is charged with starting two arson fires in Oregon last year.

The FBI believes that Scarpitti, also known as Tre Arrow, started fires at the Ross Island Sand and Gravel in Portland on April 15, 2001. The fires caused \$200,000 in damage.

The Earth Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the blaze in a written message.

The agency also said that Scarpitti started a fire at Ray Schoppert Logging Company in Estacada on June 1, 2001, that damaged two logging trucks and a front loader. No one has claimed responsibility for that fire.

The FBI is also featuring Scarpitti on its "most wanted" Web site.

The U.S. Department of Justice considers the Earth Liberation Front to be a terrorist organization.

Officer Sentenced in Domestic Violence Case

(AP) — A Portland police officer accused of domestic violence was sentenced to three years' probation and 300 hours of community service under a plea agreement that also called for his resignation.

Michael Pimentel, who had already resigned, pleaded guilty last month to a single count of coercion. He was ordered to take anger management counseling by Multnomah County

Judge Nely Johnson on Tuesday.

Pimentel, a 10-year veteran, was arrested on July 2 after an alleged assault on his girlfriend. He was later indicted by a grand jury on more than a dozen charges, including harassment and assault.

His girlfriend did not cooperate in the prosecution of the case.

Airline Fraud Busted

Vancouver police served a search warrant at the Timbers Apartments at 2519 E. Mill Plain Dec. 3 and arrested Tony Edward Heiman, 31, on multiple charges of theft and identity theft.

Detectives recovered several items of stolen property, including

a high number of airline tickets purchased on stolen credit cards.

Police said Heiman is accused of booking multiple overseas flights for himself and associates, using stolen credit cards. People from Vancouver to Salem were allegedly victimized.



Violence reached the schoolyard of Harriet Tubman Middle School in north Portland Dec. 16 when gunfire erupted as school was being let out.
PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tubman Gunfire Called Isolated Incident

Police say a shooting last week outside Harriet Tubman Middle School in north Portland was an isolated incident that probably will not be re-

peated. Neighbors, parents and school officials were troubled Dec. 16 when gunfire erupted outside the school, just north

of the Rose Quarter. Police believe several teens that do not attend Tubman came looking for somebody and got into a confrontation with some

other students. School officials said four shell casings were discovered near the main entrance of the school, but no one was shot or injured.

Mall Reopens After Power Outage

Holiday shopping came to an abrupt halt at Washington Square Mall Monday when the shopping center lost power to half of its stores for over two hours.

A transformer failure that services half of the mall was suspected as the cause of the failure, a mall representative said.

It took PGE crews around 2 hours to restore power to the mall.



The FBI says this store at 5626-A N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd was one of two stores in Portland that took goods stolen by professional shoplifters and shipped them to Florida to be resold.
PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Million Dollar Theft Ring Busted

The FBI says it has broken a suspected Portland theft ring that allegedly bought goods stolen by professional shoplifters and shipped them to Florida to be resold.

The ring allegedly stole about \$1.3 million worth of over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, film, batteries, health and beauty aids, pregnancy test kits, diabetic test kits, stop-smoking aids, hair-growth formulas, CDs, DVDs and other items over the past year.

Ninh Van Vuong, 37, and his wife, Thao Phuong Vuong, 33, were arrested at their Vancouver home; Khung Van Vuong, 44, was arrested at his Washington County home; and

Hoa Lam, 44, was arrested at his Portland home. Investigators in Davie, Fla., also arrested Ilan Amar, 32, who allegedly bought the goods through his company, SMP Wholesale.

Since April, investigators say they tracked 23 shipments weighing more than seven tons sent from the Portland suspects to SMP Wholesale.

A federal grand jury indicted all five on charges that they conspired to ship and receive stolen goods at two Portland stores.

The FBI identified the stores as the Happy Deal at 14037 S.E. Start St. and the Good Deal, located at 5626-A N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Jogger Case Convictions Thrown Out Councilman calls to investigate 'miscarriage of justice'

(AP) — A New York judge dismissed the convictions Thursday of all five men who served years in prison for the 1989 rape and beating of a jogger in Central Park, a crime that exposed the city's racial tensions and made national headlines.

The primary evidence in the case had been confessions that the five, all black and Hispanic boys ranging in age from 14 to 16 at the time, had made to detectives.

Supporters argued that the statements were coerced. Prosecutors also had no forensic evidence to link any of them to the crime scene.

New York City Councilman Bill Perkins and defense attorney Michael Warren has called for an investigation to determine who was responsible for what the councilman called "this miscarriage of justice."

Authorities a year ago began investigating claims by a serial rapist who said he alone attacked the 28-year-old woman as she jogged in Central Park on April 19, 1989. DNA testing

showed semen samples from the scene belonged to Matias Reyes and new forensic tests, more precise than those used a decade ago, failed to link the five convicted men to the rape.

Two weeks ago, District Attorney Robert Morgenthau cited that evidence in recommending that all convictions in the case be dropped.

Prosecutors have said they have no plans to retry any of the five.

The five, now ages 28 to 30, completed prison sentences ranging from 5½ to 13 years on their convictions. Their lawyers have said they are considering lawsuits.

At the time of the attack, authorities said a roaming gang of youths was in the park for a night of "wilding" - randomly attacking anyone who came into their path.


The jogger, a white investment banker, was found near death in a puddle of mud and blood in the north end of the park. She was in coma for 12 days but eventually recovered.

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