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Lumber probe turns up drugs

BY MARILYN MONTGOMERY
Albany Democrat-Herald

Police looking for a stack of stolen lumber have discovered a methamphetamine laboratory on rural property southwest of Lebanon.

No one was arrested, but a suspect has been identified, said Lt. Dean Freeman, field supervisor for the Valley Interagency Narcotics Team.

The pressure-treated lumber had been reported stolen from the U.S. Forest Service in November 1993, Linn County Sheriff's Detective Bernie Brown said.

The wood had been set aside to build an observation platform for disabled people at Yukwah Campground, Brown said.

Brown said he got information recently that the lumber was at 31501 Stoltz Hill Road. Brown and other officers searched four buildings on the property Tuesday afternoon, found the lumber and, in one of the buildings, a methamphetamine-manufacturing lab, Freeman said.

Brown, who also is assigned to the Valley Interagency Narcotics Team, notified Freeman and other members of the team came to help with the search. They found chemicals, laboratory glassware and drug paraphernalia in a barn, trailer, shop and office buildings, Freeman said.

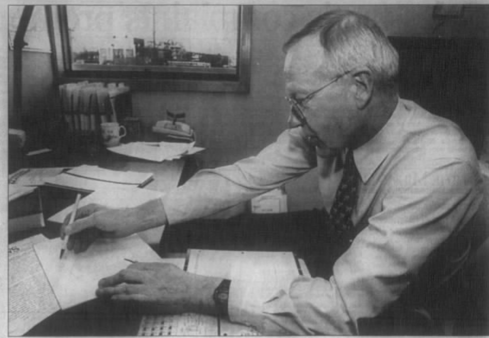
The chemicals were in liquid and solid form, and included suspected iodine crystals, red phosphorus, ether and several acids.

Three gallons of the contraband was suspected methamphetamine in the stage of manufacture where the solid drug settles out of a liquid chemical mixture.

"It's the largest quantity we've got this year so far," Brown said Wednesday.

The narcotics officers contacted Oregon State Police, Lebanon Police and the Lebanon Fire District hazardous materials team to remove the chemicals from the buildings. The state Department of Environmental Quality arranged for site cleanup.

Brown said some of the Forest Service wood had been used as supports for a cedar fence being built around the property.



MARK YLEN/Democrat-Herald
John Haygarth, a Teledyne Wah Chang scientist, draws a graph showing temperature ranges and reaction of zirconium tungstate.

Shrinking material, growing market?

❑ *Scientists at OSU, with help from Teledyne Wah Chang, have developed a compound that defies a common principle of physics.*

BY M. CRISTINA MEDINA
Albany Democrat-Herald

Oregon State University researchers, with financial support from Teledyne Wah Chang Albany, have discovered a new compound that shrinks rather than expands when heated.

Their findings will be published Friday in the journal Science.

"From a science point of view it is an exciting breakthrough," Professor Arthur Sleight said. Sleight, along with a team of two OSU students, has been working on researching the material since the early 1990s and made the discovery recently.

"Materials normally expand," Sleight said. "There's only a few exceptions known that behave the opposite way."

The new substance, zirconium tungstate, is a combination of zirconium, tungsten and oxygen. In its finished form it is a white powdery substance.

As of yet there are no applications for it, but Albany-based Teledyne Wah Chang has been granted the option to exclusively license and market the material.

"Its discovery is a result of industry and government supporting research, a good move that helped all that were involved," Sleight said.

He was referring to the Oregon Metals Initiative, started under the administration of Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, which provided funding support for the research. Under the initiative, government matches funds contributed by industries that are looking for innovative ways of using materials.

Teledyne Wah Chang Albany contributed more than $100,000 to the project over the past five years.

A U.S. patent for zirconium tungstate has been approved. Wah Chang has started making the compound and is offering small amounts to companies for researching its possible applications.

"We know what it does but can only speculate how it can be actually used," said John Haygarth, a Wah Chang scientist responsible for seeking out new technology of interest to the company.

"We might be able to use it to improve existing products," Haygarth said.

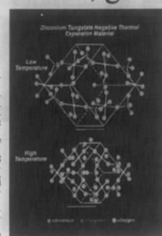
He explained that the substance might be added to ceramics to minimize expansion while they are being heated.

Haygarth and Sleight speculate that zirconium tungstate may find its way into a polymer-based material, such as an epoxy resin-type substance used in making circuit boards.

"If they can add 10 to 20 percent, it would bring thermal expansion of the composite to a lower level," Sleight said.

Sleight has been at OSU for the past six years. He is Milton Harris Professor of Material Science in the Department of Chemistry. He made other discoveries in materials and processes while working for DuPont for 25 years.

The new material is different because it shrinks uniformly along all dimensions over a wide range of temperatures, from near absolute zero to 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit.



When it is heated, zirconium tungstate contracts equally in each dimension.

Skull site searched

BY MARILYN MONTGOMERY
Albany Democrat-Herald

About a dozen members of the Linn County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Explorer Post, their advisers and some sheriff's detectives have searched the site near Crawfordsville where part of a human skull was found last week.

Sheriff Dave Burright said Wednesday that the day before, searchers found some fragments of what might be bone.

"But we have no idea if it's in any way connected" with the earlier find, the sheriff said.

The 2½-acre property is primarily pastureland with a stream on it and the Calapooia River at the back, Burright said. Much of the property was under water during the flood in early February.

The dog of the family living on the property found the skull March 27. The dog's owner called the sheriff's office the next evening when he realized it was bone and not a ball with which the dog had been playing.

Two anthropologists and the Linn County medical examiner looked at the skull last week. The prevailing opinion now is that the skull is human and belonged to a young or small female.

Deputies have speculated that the skull might belong to 13-year-old Rachanda Lea Pickle, who disappeared from her home at the Santiam Junction east of Sweet Home in July 1990.

Ann Ellinwood's name has also come up in discussions, Burright said. Ellinwood was about 1 when she disappeared during a March of Dimes fund-raising walk in Corvallis in the mid-1970s.

Virginia Ackley Erickson of Sweet Home also is missing. Mrs. Erickson was 33 in October 1973 when she went hunting with her husband and he came back alone.

"We don't have any reason to believe it was her more than anyone else," Burright said Wednesday. "Probably, it's still most likely an Indian grave or a settler. We just don't know."

NEWS FROM OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

OSU employees double donations

CORVALLIS – Donations by employees of Oregon State University to the State Employees' Food Drive went from a healthy stream in past years to a torrent of donations in 1996.

OSU employees gave the equivalent of 74 tons, or 148,000 pounds, of food in money, raffle tickets and groceries. The university's usual contribution to the drive weighs in at about 30 tons.

Overall, state employees in Oregon donated $234,966 and 417,164 pounds of food, for a total donation equivalent to nearly 914 tons.

Biology colloquium

CORVALLIS – Oregon State University's 57th annual Biology Colloquium Thursday, April 18, will bring prominent scientists to the campus to discuss what is known about diet and cancer prevention.

The colloquium, "Diet and Cancer: From Basic Science to Clinical Trials," will be held in OSU's LaSells Stewart Center. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. The program starts at 9 a.m. with a presentation by Dr. Lee W. Wattenberg of the University of Minnesota titled "Chemoprevention of Cancer: An Overview."

There will be no admission charge. For more information contact Sandy Segna in OSU's Department of Food Science and Technology at 541-737-6530.

Keg roll benefit

CORVALLIS – Oregon State University fraternity members will spend their Easter weekend raising cash for the Kidney Association of Oregon with Delta Tau Delta's 24th annual Keg Roll.

Seventy members of OSU's chapter of Delta Tau Delta hope to raise $10,000 for the Kidney Association as they roll an empty 15.5-gallon keg from Corvallis to Portland's Pioneer Square, said Jeff McCoy, fraternity philanthropy chair.

The roll starts about 10 a.m. Friday along Highway 99W at Corvallis' northern city limits.

Fraternity members will collect donations from spectators. Make checks payable to the Kidney Association of Oregon and mail to Delta Tau Delta Philanthropy, 527 N.W. 23rd St., Corvallis, 97330.

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Steve Martin — SGT. BILKO (PG) (ET 5:10) 7:15 9:25
Kurt Russell — EXECUTIVE DECISION (R) (ET 4:20) 7:00 9:40
Sharon Stone — DIABOLIQUE (R) 7:30 9:50
Richard Dreyfuss — MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS (PG) (ET 4:45) 7:45
Robert Redford — UP CLOSE & PERSONAL (PG-13) (ET 4:35) 7:10 9:45
Kelsey Grammer — ★DOWN PERISCOPE (PG-13) (ET 5:20) 7:25 9:30
Disney's — OLIVER & COMPANY (G) (No Passes) (ET 5:15) 7:05 8:50
The Voice of Charlie Sheen — ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN 2 (G) (ET 5:30)

9TH ST. CINEMAS
Richard Gere — ★PRIMAL FEAR (R) (ET 4:30) 7:00 9:30
Robert Duvall — FAMILY THING (PG-13) (ET 4:50) 7:20 9:30
Frances McDormand — FARGO (R) (ET 5:00) 7:30 9:40
Walt Disney Pictures' — HOMEWARD BOUND II (G) (ET 5:10)
John Travolta — ★BROKEN ARROW (R) 7:10 9:20

WHITESIDE THEATRE
Robin Williams — THE BIRDCAGE (R) (ET 4:30) 7:00 9:30

STATE THEATRE
Robin Williams — JUMANJI (PG) 5:15 9:30
James Cromwell — BABE (G) 7:30

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