

## **Two suspects plead not guilty to arson, bomb charges in truck sales lot fire** *Register Guard, June 24, 2000*

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Two men who police suspect started a fire last week at the Joe Romania truck dealership off of Franklin Road pleaded not guilty in Lane County Circuit Court on Friday. The fire destroyed a 2000 Silverado half-ton pickup and damaged two other trucks causing more than \$40,000 in damages.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Kent Mortimore said after the initial investigation, police and the district attorney's office suspect the two men of building bombs and detonating them to cause fires and damage to buildings and property. Mortimore said the suspects have also been linked to an attempted fire or explosion to cause damage to several fuel trucks at the Tyree Oil Inc., 101 Blair Blvd., on May 27. "When people build bombs, they are designed to destroy things and hurt people," Mortimore said. "That's not Freedom of Speech, and First Amendment rights. That's terrorism, pure and simple, and we're going to treat it that way."

Jeffrey Michael Luers, 21, a self-described anarchist, and Craig Andrew Marshall, 27, are being held at the Lane County Jail on charges of two counts of first-degree arson, first-degree criminal mischief, two counts of both unlawful manufacture and possession of a bomb, two counts of attempted arson, and attempted first-degree criminal mischief, according to court documents. Both men were arrested early June 16, and later that day police obtained a warrant to search a warehouse on Cross Street where Luers had been known to stay. Police searched for bomb-making materials such as sponges, incense, fireworks, matches, gas, paint cans and plastic containers.

Mortimore said additional details were not available and the affidavit from the search had not been returned to court records as of Friday afternoon. Judge Ted Carp told each man to listen to the advice of their court-appointed attorneys. "These are serious charges," he said. To Luers he said, "I will simply tell you, you are no longer playing games or grandstanding for anyone."

"A lot of your life is at stake," he said. "You would be wise to listen to them." The district attorney's office has asked the jail to hold the two men without security until their trials, Mortimore said. A conviction of first-degree arson carries a mandatory Measure 11 sentence of 7 1/2 years in prison. Supporters of the two men are planning to rally at the jail Monday night.