

Religious extremism in county has resulted in violence, murder

By Edith Decker
of the Daily Courier

In the 1980s and '90s, several people with extreme religious views ran afoul of the law — and made headlines.

The Halsteads

In November of 1988, the community was gripped by the unraveling story of the Halstead and Greene families, all members of an Adventist offshoot group in Grants Pass, who believed that angels spoke to certain members of the families.



S. HALSTEAD

After arguments over some of these angelic pronouncements — most of them made by Sharon Halstead's son Leo Shively, then age 9 — Sharon and her younger sister Deborah Halstead, Leo and his 12-year-old brother Michael entered the Greene home on Nov. 5, 1988, planning to kill the entire Greene family.

Sharon shot David Greene, 31, as he ran to neighbors to call for help. She then shot Lynnann Greene, 32, and her 2-year-old son Nathaniel, inside the Greene home.

Lynnann died at the scene. David survived after surgery. Nathaniel was paralyzed from the chest down after long surgeries to save his life.

Investigators discovered that Sharon and Deborah believed that Leo heard directions from an angel sent from God called Naked Truth. He could also talk when items or people were "totalled," which meant they were possessed by evil.

Leo previously directed that the men at a Clackamas County ranch should be killed and Sharon shot ranch hand Marston Lemke, 58. She stole a truck, horse trailer and horse, which were found later in Grants Pass and led the investigators to the Lemke murder.

A few days later, Leo said Naked Truth told him the Greene family was "totalled," according to court testimony.

Sharon, who was always the shooter in the murders, was tried separately from Deborah, who quickly pleaded guilty to conspiracy to murder on May 12, 1989. Her sentence was later extended. She has since been released from prison and is no longer on parole.

Sharon eventually pleaded guilty to aggravated murder for killing Lynnann Greene. She also pleaded guilty to killing Lemke. She was given 75 years to life in total and is currently incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility for women in Wilsonville with no possibility of parole.

Adventist church officials struck the Halstead sisters from membership in the church.

Leo and Michael "Harry" Shively were brought up in various treatment facilities.

David Greene continues to live and work in the community and has remarried.

Nathaniel Greene, now 24, is attending Southern Oregon University. He's had all the operations available to him, his father says, but remains paralyzed.

Shelley Shannon

Rachelle Ranae "Shelley" Shannon of Grants Pass was 37 when she took a plane to Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City, rented a car, and drove it to Wichita, Kan., where George Tiller, a doctor infamous among anti-abortion activists because he performed late-term abortions, had his clinic.



SHANNON

She waited outside with other protesters and, when he drove away at the end of the day, she shot him in both

arms, on Aug. 19, 1993.

She was arrested at the airport as she turned in her rental car.

Shannon had been arrested on other occasions, including in 1988 in Atlanta, Ga., with eight other protesters from Southern Oregon. In 1990, courts ordered 26 protesters, including Shannon, a housewife and mother of two children, to pay \$12 million in damages to a Portland Clinic.

"I didn't think she'd shoot anybody," said her husband, David, who said he didn't know about or support her protest work, at the time. "It was a hell of a thing to wake up to."

Shannon intimidated in one letter sent home from prison that evidence could be found buried somewhere near her house. Investigators found a bag full of evidence, including some linking her to fire bombings in Oregon.

She said in one letter, "I'm not denying I shot Tiller. But I deny that it was wrong. It was the most holy, most righteous thing I've ever done."

At her trial in Kansas in March 1994, she was found guilty of attempted murder and one count of aggravated assault, for threatening a person who pursued her. After that trial, she was brought to Portland to face federal charges of involvement in the fire bombings of several abortion clinics in 1992, including those in Ashland, Eugene and Portland.

She pleaded guilty June 7, 1995, to 10 federal charges.

She received 11 years in the shooting incident and 20 more years for the clinic attacks.

Now 53, she remains in federal prison in Waseca, Minn., 75 miles south of Minneapolis. Her earliest release date is Nov. 7, 2018.

The Murphy bomber

On Jan. 19, 1995, a retired veteran of the U.S. Navy and defense work overseas parked in front of the gas pumps at the Murphy Store and blew his truck up with a Molotov

cocktail.

As the landmark store burned, Paul James Priestley, 58, walked the short distance to Lincoln Savage Middle School carrying a sawed-off shotgun and two pipe bombs. He confronted faculty



PRIESTLEY

as students dove out of his way. He demanded someone drive a school bus to Planned Parenthood's Grants Pass office so he could detonate his bombs.

He did not get a ride, so he crossed New Hope Road to the Three Rivers School District Office, where high school wrestling coach Damian McLean tackled him, causing the shotgun to go off, injuring Priestley in the hip and sending pellets into the wall of a computer lab filled with students, who were uninjured.

McLean and sheriff's deputies subdued Priestley, who told investigators that he destroyed the store because he believed the owner had vandalized his church, Murphy Chapel, and because he believed pornography and drugs were sold there.

He admitted he also planned to shoot any health care providers at the Planned Parenthood office, because he mistakenly believed abortions were being provided there, and then kill himself.

Priestley, who grew up in Josephine County, had returned to live with his aging mother, who said at the time the family was extremely religious, but that she didn't know he felt so strongly about the store or abortion.

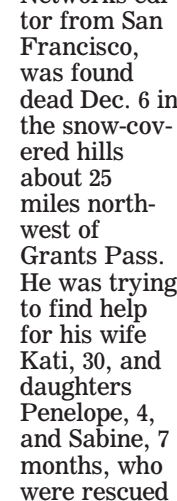
Priestley pleaded guilty to firearms violations and was sentenced to 13 years and 10 months in federal prison. He hanged himself in his cell on June 23, 1996.

Story of Kim family lost in the hills riveted nation

By Jim Moore
of the Daily Courier

A wrong turn became the top local story of 2006 and the focus of national and international news outlets.

James Kim, 35, a CNET Networks editor from San Francisco, was found dead Dec. 6 in the snow-covered hills about 25 miles northwest of Grants Pass. He was trying to find help for his wife Kati, 30, and daughters Penelope, 4, and Sabine, 7 months, who were rescued after being spotted near their car by a helicopter pilot.



FILE/Daily Courier

Kati Kim holds her infant daughter, Sabine, in helicopter after their rescue.

It took nine days for search and rescue crews including about 100 people, four helicopters and aircraft to find the woman and her daughters.

The family became lost on Nov. 25, when they mistakenly tried to traverse rugged Bear Camp Road to get to Gold Beach. On Nov. 30, Portland police and the Oregon State Police issued alerts about the missing family.

After becoming lost and stuck, the family used their car heater until they ran out of gas, then burned tires to stay warm and attract attention. Kati Kim nursed her children because they had only a few jars of baby food and scant other supplies.

James Kim left his family to seek help wearing only tennis shoes on his feet. It was later determined he walked 17 miles before succumbing to exposure and

hypothermia.

The family was on a holiday and was en route home after visiting friends in Portland. While in Salem they made telephone reservations at Tu Tu Tun Lodge near Gold Beach. However, they missed an exit off

Interstate 5 to Highway 42.

They referred to an Internet map service directing them to Bear Camp Road, which can be treacherous and closed by snow in the winter.

In the black November night, they took a wrong turn and found themselves stuck on a side road off Bear Camp leading to Black Bar Lodge, which is not open in the winter.

The incident sparked criticism of the search techniques, led to the posting of warning signs and two independent reviews of the episode.

The conclusions of the reviews were that there were gaps in communication between the searching agencies and possibly a delay in responding to information concerning a cell phone call in the area, but there was no conclusion that James Kim could have been saved had those not occurred.

There have been other incidents of people getting stuck on Bear Camp Road, including some after the new signs were posted.

Sparked by the Kim incident, the Oregon Legislature later passed a bill requiring search and rescue units to team up over regions to improve performance.

Birthday Business Review

1857

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1885

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Southern Oregon Sanitation
D.B.A. Pat's Sanitary
Founded by Harold (Pat) Fahey in 1948.
541-479-5335

1942

Southern Oregon Real Estate, LLC
Serving the Rogue Valley Professionally Since 1942.
southernoregonrealestate.com
735 SE 7th Street
541-476-8228

Published February 19, 1931

EUREKA FRUIT STAND
6 miles out on Redwood Highway
J. R. Robinson, Prop.
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY SPECIAL
Blu-Green Gas 25c gallon
with purchase of box of apples
Apples are 35c to 85c per box.
—Watch each week for Eureka—

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Published February 19, 1931

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Published February 19, 1931

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Demaray's Drug Store

Published February 18, 1931

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