

Ex-local man charged with murder in Oregon

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A man convicted of shaking his infant son to death in Chesapeake six years ago has been jailed in Oregon on charges he killed a woman and set fire to her home.

Frank Hoyt Pike, 29, of Tillamook, Ore. , was arrested Friday night at a hospital where he was being treated for unspecified injuries, authorities said. He is charged with aggravated murder, arson, robbery and burglary.

Pike, a construction worker who was serving in the Navy at the time of his son's death, is being held without bail in Tillamook County Jail pending an arraignment hearing today.

Tillamook County Sheriff Todd Anderson identified the victim as Julie Herman, 60, of the 500 block of Birch St. in the town of Oceanside.

Her body was found Thursday amid the charred wreckage of the first floor of her three-story home where she has lived alone since her husband died.

Anderson told The Oregonian in Portland that an autopsy Saturday confirmed she died before the fire.

In January 2001, Pike was sentenced to 3½ years in prison after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter for shaking to death 3-month-old Kyle Pike on Feb. 28, 2000.

Pike maintained the death was an accident. He testified that the boy had stopped breathing just as he had several times before and that the boy's face had turned blue.

Pike said he shook the baby three or four times, enough to get him to open his eyes a bit and let out a shrill cry while he rushed him to the hospital.

"I tried everything I could," Pike said. "I just hate myself for it. I have to live with it every day."

The slaying of Herman has stunned the small, close-knit coastal community where she lived.

"We have not had a crime like this in 21-plus years," Anderson told KGW-TV.

Friends of the victim described her as a well-known member of the small town, an active community volunteer and a tutor for children.

Neighbors told KATU-TV that Pike had been working next door, remodeling a home, and had sometimes come to Herman's home to use her telephone.

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