



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Friday, December 14, 2007
Date/Time of Occurrence: Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007
Nature of Event: Juvenile Arson Suspect Arrested
Location of Call: Loomis
Released by: Dena Erwin, PIO (530) 889-6901

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

A 15-year-old Loomis boy has been arrested for the Nov. 6 arson fire of the United Church of Christ in Loomis following a joint investigation between the Placer County Sheriff's Department and federal, state and local agencies.

The youth was arrested Dec. 6 and remains in custody in the Placer County Juvenile Hall on charges of arson and burglary. The fire damaged a recreation hall/childcare center but did not damage the sanctuary.

The fire was determined to be caused by arson early in the investigation, according to detectives. An anonymous tip led to the arrest of the male suspect. He was also charged with burglary since the church building was burglarized.

The investigation, which is still ongoing, was conducted by the Sheriff Department's arson investigator, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Loomis Fire Department and Calfire.

"ATF is committed in the fight against violent crime; and arson is a crime of violence. A house of worship is sacred to many people and they deserve answers when their church suffers damage due to an incendiary fire," said ATF's Special Agent-in-Charge Stephen Martin. "We are pleased that justice will be served and questions will be answered through a complete investigation with our law enforcement and fire protection partners."