

Deputies Arrest former Police Officer on New Burglary Charge

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Joseph Harrison, the former Clatskanie Police Officer, is in custody tonight in the Columbia County Jail on a new burglary charge. Columbia County Sheriff's deputies arrested Harrison at his residence following an investigation into a burglary that occurred at 80183 Kalunki Rd. outside of Clatskanie in February.

Harrison, 36, Clatskanie was working for the Clatskanie Police Department in August 2009 when he was arrested for Burglary and Official Misconduct charges stemming from break-ins to local residences at that time. He was later convicted on two counts of Burglary First Degree and one count of Official Misconduct First Degree. Harrison is currently on probation for those convictions, and it is unclear at this time if prosecutors will seek to enforce the terms of the probation, charge the new crimes, or both.

While the burglary occurred in February and Harrison had been identified as the suspect in March, the former police officer had left the state to receive rehabilitative services under the terms of his probation.

"We have been looking at this investigation since March, waiting for the suspect to return to the area following his stay in rehab," said Sheriff Jeff Dickerson. "We knew a number of people in the Clatskanie area were aware of the positive identification of Mr. Harrison as our suspect, and decided to make an arrest as soon as practicable, to avoid any flight risk, if possible."

Harrison was observed by a neighbor of the residence on Kalunki Rd. back in February, and reported the break-in to the Clatskanie Police Department on March 7. Clatskanie Police referred the victim and witness to the Sheriff's Office. The witness picked out the suspect from a photo lineup, and other evidence also pointed to the former officer.

Deputies took Harrison into custody without further incident at 8:10 p.m. Tuesday night. He is being held in the Columbia County Jail on \$60,000 bail.