

## Copper pipe thief caught

*by Cheryl McDermott*

Bend Police have arrested a 26-year old transient in connection with the theft of copper pipe from a Bend plumbing company after a nearby resident phoned in a tip when he saw the suspect throwing twenty-foot-long pieces over a fence.

Jeffrey Scott Sernett - DCJ photo About 2:45 a.m. Wednesday, a resident who lives across the railroad tracks saw someone tossing lengths of pipe over the rear fence of Pine Valley Plumbing at 375 SE Logsdon Street, Sergeant Ron Taylor said. When officers arrived, they found Jeffrey Scott Sernett walking south on the train tracks away from the business, and a hole cut into the fencing surrounding the area.

Several lengths of pipe were found outside the plumbing company's fenced compound and along the train tracks. Taylor said additional pipe was found in a back yard where Sernett had been staying at 696 SE Centennial Street.

Sernett was taken into custody and lodged in the Deschutes County Jail, the sergeant said. He is charged with first-degree theft of copper pipe valued at about \$800, in addition to second-degree criminal mischief and criminal trespass.

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