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## ARSON SUSPECT CHARGED AGAIN MAPS TIE HIM TO BOAT THAT ESCAPED TORCHING

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Police say Richard Sarvis torched at least two boats in a yearlong string of arsons in Harrison Township, but they say the evidence he left behind at a failed attempt may contribute to his undoing.

In a boat spared from arson Oct. 21 at a North River Road home, police discovered a map like one they'd found earlier that evening, in a partially burned boat in a marina. Witnesses said they saw Sarvis toss something into that boat.

Macomb County Sheriff's Department Inspector Mark Hackel, while declining to be specific, said Friday that Michigan State Police lab tests help tie the maps to Sarvis. On Friday, Sarvis was charged with one count of preparation to burn, a felony that carries a 10-year sentence on conviction.

"With the other fires, pretty much all the evidence was burned," Hackel said.

In October, Sarvis, a 38-year-old Clinton Township resident, was charged with two counts of felony arson. He's a trucker who is on leave for mental problems.

Police say a marina worker and two Sheriff's Department volunteers reported seeing Sarvis setting two boats ablaze Oct. 21 -- the one-year anniversary of the first spate of boat arsons.

Scott Weinberg, Sarvis' attorney, said the case against his client is circumstantial.

"They don't have any fingerprints from him," Weinberg said Friday outside the courtroom in Mt. Clemens. "They can't tie the maps or any materials to Mr. Sarvis."

Sarvis is being held in the Macomb County Jail. Next week, he'll be tested for competency.

Weinberg said his client is mentally ill, on medication and hasn't been able to work for two years.

Sarvis' preliminary examination is tentatively set for Dec. 21.

More than two dozen boats, valued between \$50,000 and \$200,000 each, were destroyed during the string of arsons.

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RICHARD SARVIS

ARSON

BOAT

HARRISON TOWNSHIP

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