

IN BRIEF

Vandals burn straw Christmas goat, again

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Vandals set light to a giant straw goat Saturday night in a central Swedish town, police said — an event that has happened so frequently it has almost become a Christmas tradition.

It was the 22nd time that the goat had gone up in smoke since merchants in Gavle, 90 miles north of Stockholm, began erecting it to mark the holiday season.

Police spokeswoman Margareta Olander said officers received a call just after 9 p.m. to report that the goat was ablaze.

"In just a couple of minutes only a sooty wooden skeleton remained," she said. There were no

immediate suspects, but Olander said that one of two men seen running from the scene was wearing a Father Christmas mask.

Since 1966, just 10 of the 43-foot-high goats have survived beyond Christmas Day. Most were burned — sometimes within hours of being built during the first week of December. The 1976 goat was hit by a car, while in 1997, it was damaged by fireworks.

—The Associated Press

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN EUGENE

Committed Partners for Youth

1840 Willamette St.

Contact Anne Bortland

(541) 344-0833

Mentor a youth between the ages of 4 and 17 by spending three to four hours three times per month with a youth matched through a simple application process. Go to concerts, hike, swim, play sports or play video games.

Elder Help Volunteer

1015 Willamette St.

Contact Amy Raven

(541) 682-3793

Visit and spend two to three hours a week with a low-income senior living in his or her own home or apartment, providing such services as companionship, help with shopping and errands, reading and letter-writing, household tasks or yard work. Volunteers have a 3-hour training session.

Literacy Council of Eugene-Springfield

51 W. Broadway

Contact Gail Weathers

(541) 344-3949

Help to tutor a young mother in reading, writing and math by spending at least three hours a week for at least six months tutoring her to aid her in improving hers and her child's life. Volunteers are needed on evenings, weekends and weekdays.

Kids Club Volunteer

P.O. Box 5848

Contact Nancy Hafner

(541) 683-1751

Volunteers are wanted to work with our Resident Services Coordinator in planning and implementing Kids Club, an after-school program, at Greenleaf and Oakleaf villages. Kids Club activities will include arts and crafts, games, music, reading, outdoor activities, help with homework, field trips, special events and snacks.

Womenspace

Contact Margo Schaefer

(541) 485-8232

Womenspace is training volunteers in January in advocacy and resource skills. Do phone or in-person advocacy or education and outreach in the community. There are no specific qualifications, and training is provided. Volunteers need to be open to working with people from diverse backgrounds. Multicultural and bilingual women and men are encouraged to apply.

Educational Curriculum

299 E. 19th Ave.

Contact Cheryl Henderson

(541) 346-0717

Volunteers are needed to put together totes from the tote bag curriculum used in a lending library. The curriculum contains great theme-based activities that can be prepared and contained in a tote bag. Tote bags are assembled by discipline (speech, motor, aug.com, autism, ESSE, and EI) to add any modified or adapted materials to the totes.

Birth to Three

86 Centennial Loop

Contact Sarah Peroutka

(541) 349-7793

Under the supervision of an on-site teacher, provide childcare and assist with children's activities while parents are participating in parenting groups. Help supervise and play with children.

To find out more about local volunteer opportunities contact the United Way of Lane County at www.unitedwaylane.org or call (541) 741-6000.

Source: www.volunteersolutions.org

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- 705 S. Seneca, 345-8036
(lots of clothes and misc. household items)
- 1880 W. 11th, 683-8284
(great selection of appliances and new furniture)
- 201 Division Ave, 762-7837
(clothes, books, furniture, beds, appliances)
- 1175 Highway 99, 607-454
(our huge car lot)

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