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Operation 'sting' nabs two area men

by DAN DILLON

A joint effort by the Multnomah and Clackamas counties sheriffs' departments resulted in the arrests of two area men during "Operation Sting," the massive raid on organized fencing operations.

Brad Kubitz, 22, of 44220 SE Marmot Road, Sandy, and Vincent Glenn Motz, 28, of Eagle Creek, were both arrested by Clackamas county authorities and charged with one count of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and one count of theft in the first degree.

The arrests were the result of a year-long anti-fencing operation during which authorities from the U.S. Customs Service and the two county departments went undercover to break the ring.

A storefront operation in a northwest Portland neighborhood, known as Columbia Salvage and Sales, was operated by the sheriffs' offices and the Portland branch of the U.S. Customs Service. During the course of the year more than 280 purchases of stolen property were made and recorded by videotape cameras, according to the Multnomah County office.

Property included a trailer containing 200 Michelin tires, valued at \$114,000 and purchased for \$1,500; a Porsche Targa, valued at \$28,000 and purchased for \$400; guns and major appliances, clothing, jewelry, computers and microwave ovens.

The operation was financed by a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. The grant was worth \$430,000.

Clackamas County's biggest contribution in the operation, according to Sheriff John Renfro, was allowing Deputy Nancy Blumhagen to work full-time on the sting.

Renfro said the role of Clackamas County was "lesser" but sheriff's deputies managed to make one large raid during an arrest. When they arrested Motz, they discovered more than \$80,000 in property, stolen from Bend, La Pine and Clackamas County. The property was being stored in his barn, according to Renfro.

The arrests were only "a small part" of the entire operation Renfro said.

Multnomah county authorities estimated that approximately 98 percent of the stolen merchandise would be returned to its original owners.

Foul play suspected

The woman whose body was found buried in two feet of snow near Timothy Lake last week died from head injuries and the incident is being considered a homicide, the state medical examiner said Monday.

"She'd been up there for probably a month or two," said Dr. William Brady. The woman remains unidentified, he said, describing her in her mid-20s,

about 5 feet-6 inches tall, thin and with straight brown hair.

The Clackamas County sheriff's office won't release details of the investigation, but Brady said "some people are talking. Obviously the sheriff's office doesn't drive 40 miles outside Estacada and dig down in two feet of snow and just happen to find a body."

Wreck results in suit

A Troutdale man whose legs were amputated as a result of a pedestrian-automobile accident last spring at Dodge Park has filed a suit seeking \$8 million in damages.

Robert F. Thomsen filed the personal injury complaint last week in Clackamas County Circuit Court. The complaint was filed against Charles C. Leathers Jr., his wife, Drenda Leathers and their son, Charles C. Leathers III. In the suit, Thomsen said he was

walking to his parked pickup truck on SE Marsh Road when a car driven by the younger Leathers swerved and hit him, immediately severing one leg. The other later had to be amputated because of the injuries, Thomsen said.

The complaint said the driver of the car was partially in the oncoming lane, driving at a high rate of speed and was "grossly negligent, careless, reckless and unlawful."

Police seek victim's friend

A composite sketch of a man called "Jim" is being distributed by Gresham Police Department in an attempt to solve the mystery of Bob Scott's murder.

Scott, 49, business manager of Mt. Hood Community College, was discovered slain Nov. 20 in his 3185 SW Wallula Ave. residence. The state deputy medical examiner said Scott died of head injuries caused by multiple blows with a blunt instrument.

Interviews with friends and business associates, however, turned up a description of the last person seen with Scott before his death.

Police say "Jim" is described as a white male, 23-25 years old, 6 feet tall, 175-185 pounds, with brown hair and eyes, moderately long hair not covering the ears, slightly pock-marked lower cheeks and possibly a light mustache. He was wearing a black leather jacket with zippered sleeves.

Clackamas eyes countywide 911 system start

Clackamas County officials plan to form a task force next week to study alternatives for a countywide 911 emergency telephone system.

Following on the heels of Multnomah County's progress toward 911, the Clackamas County task force will face questions on how to handle telephone exchanges that cross into both counties and how to deal with municipalities that want to separate 911 systems.

A 911 system allows individuals in the included area to receive emergency fire, police or medical assistance by dialing 911 on the telephone. The call is received, and services dispatched,

from a central receiving point.

But Dick Bass, Clackamas County's director of communications and emergency services, said the concept is far more complicated than it sounds, especially for Clackamas County.

"We have eight different telephone companies in the county, which present some problems," he said. "We have all kinds of farmer lines with 2,000 or so subscribers... You have to get all those to interconnect and cooperate."

In urban areas, like around Oregon City, numerous emergency departments must be coordinated. "The 656 exchange (including much of Oregon City) has 14 different police and fire agencies serving it," Bass said.

In addition, "some smaller departments would just rather the county didn't get involved with their departments," he said.

Bass said Beaver Creek has been operating its own 911 system since last February, and Colton and Sandy are expected to begin separate systems next month.

But he said he thinks 911 is best approached countywide. "If people go off on their own and try to start it, it will create some hard feelings," Bass said.

He has recommended to the County Board of Commissioners that the task force include one emergency medical representative, one fire services

representative, one public service representative and four residents from around the county.

The group would study management, funding and alternative 911 systems, and make a recommendation to the county board, he said.

Some of the county's police, fire and medical officials met two weeks ago to discuss 911. Francis Hiland, assistant fire chief for Fire District 1, said some were concerned about delays in service for telephone exchanges that cross into Multnomah County.

Because of the overlap, a person in Clackamas County with a telephone exchange mostly in Multnomah County will dial 911 and get Kelly Butte, the

central dispatch for Multnomah County's 911. The caller's information then will have to be relayed to Clackamas County's central dispatch, causing a delay in sending help to the caller, Hiland said.

The same type of situation would occur for a Multnomah County resident with a phone exchange mostly in Clackamas County.

But Hiland said if both counties implement an "enhanced system," using computers to directly relay calls to the proper dispatch, the delay will be avoided.

He acknowledged that an "enhanced system is more expensive than

a basic one, but said "even if it takes two years to plan it and fund it, they (Clackamas County) should take the extra time and go with the enhanced. Why put in a basic system if it's confusing and inadequate?"

Hiland listed statistics that show 5,507 Clackamas County residents have exchanges mostly in Multnomah County, and 1,774 Multnomah County residents have exchanges mostly in Clackamas County.

The 5,507 Clackamas County residents have phone numbers starting with 760, 761, 775, 777, 771, 774, or 375, and the Multnomah County residents have exchanges starting 636, 635, 653, 654, 659, 663, or 383.



Students who will attend Kelso School kicked off the Christmas program season Tuesday night with a presentation of "The Night Before Christmas" complete with dancing princesses and little drummer boys.

Photo by Mark Floyd

Student songs bring holiday cheer

The halls are alive with the sound of music as youngsters from Boring to Bull Run and Welches to Cottrell warm up for annual Christmas pageants.

The menu this year will take audiences around the world and into Santa's own workshop. The quest for the meaning of happiness and a trip with Santa to the land of Oz will also greet viewers.

The festivities got under way Tuesday with the first Kelso School program at the Firwood gymnasium and a musical presentation at Eagle Creek School.

Tonight, Sandy Elementary School, featuring grades 2 to 6, will present its program at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Grade gymnasium. The traditional Christmas rabbit will be present and the program will feature singing and a visit to Santa's toy shop where dolls and toys play musical instruments.

The Man from Mars will also be on hand to see how Earthlings celebrate the holiday season.

At Firwood School tonight, the program will feature grades 1 to 6. The show is called "Santa Claus in the Land of Oz" and will have students playing and singing with the band. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium.

Friday, "People Look East" is the Advent theme of the Hoodview Jr. Academy band and choir concert. The concert will be given at 7 p.m. in the school's gymnasium on SE Kelso Road in Boring.

Listeners will step into a Christmas card built of churches from all centuries and cultures. Its pages will be painted with Judean Hills and crowned with the Advent Star.

The annual band and choir Christmas concert for Sandy Union High School will be Monday, Dec. 17, in the gymnasium at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 18, Sandy Upper Grade School will feature the concert band and symphonic winds band in a concert of serious concert music and Christmas selections. The symphonic winds will feature the trombones in a rendition of "Rockslide" and will play pop holiday tunes.

The concert band will feature the trumpets in "Battling Trumpets" and will also play a Christmas Fantasy.

The 7th and 8th grade choruses will sing a variety of holiday favorites including "Jingle Bell Rock." The time is 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Cottrell School students will present an all-school program, "Christmas Around the World." There will be singing and a Christmas play in the West Building gymnasium.

Welches School's annual program will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the gym

next Thursday. There will be singing from all classes, kindergarten through 8th. The school choir will also perform.

Bull Run School will present "Happiness is..." an operetta with a few 8th graders acting, discussing what happiness is.

Primary grade students will dress up as gingerbread men and candy canes as part of the candy store scene of the operetta.

The show will end with a visit from Santa who will distribute nuts, oranges and candy. It is scheduled for Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Boring School's program is also Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Grade Building. Students will present "Where is Santa's Hat?", a play with singing.

Tonight, 5th through 8th grade students will present a vocal and instrumental program in the Naas Building cafeteria at 7:30 p.m.

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