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Furniture recovery unravels theft ring

by DAN DILLON

The arrest of a Portland man Dec. 1 has given the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department a foot in the door toward solving more than 200 break-ins in the Mt. Hood area during the past two years.

James Dean Graham, 44, was arrested at a North Portland residence, the result of an investigation that began in mid-November. Recovered at the scene was a van filled with antique furniture believed to be among items taken from the mountain area. Value of the furniture has not been determined, according to Neil James, spokesman for the sheriff's office.

The investigation, following information gained through crime analysis, included contact with two suspects in the Mt. Hood area who indicated some knowledge of the burglaries.

Graham was arrested after deputies obtained a search warrant, James said. "They were doing the search warrant and they opened a closet looking for a piece of stolen

property and there was Mr. Graham," he said. He was under a blanket.

Graham was lodged in Multnomah County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bail.

The arrest has led the sheriff's office to an "unusual manhunt," James said. "Now we're looking for victims."

He said the bulk of the break-ins occurred in Brightwood, Wemme, Zigzag and Rhododendron, primarily in summer homes.

"It's something that's difficult. You can't control it. Burglars are looking for an easy target where there's nobody home," James said.

He offered tips for part-time residents and residents who leave their homes unattended during the day. He suggested taking any action to make the residence look lived in such as a light with a timer or a radio left on a talk station, such as KXL.

"The burglar will hear the voices," he said, "but still it is going to create a doubt in the burglar's mind."

"The best thing in the world," he added, "is neighbors looking out for neighbors. That's the bottom line."



Cub Scouts from Pack 663 at Sandy Elementary School, sponsored by the local FFW Post, helped the Sandy Kiwanis Club kick off the annual Christmas Basket drive this weekend. Scouts went door-to-door all over Sandy and col-

lected more than 600 cans of food to help feed the 150 families Kiwanians hope to serve.

City ponders subsidized housing dispersal

by DAN DILLON

The Sandy City Council is reviewing its dispersal policy for local subsidized housing projects.

The dispersal policy is intended to see that no one area develops with an over-concentration of low-income housing, according to the city's comprehensive plan.

The council wants to see whether it will continue with that policy, change it or look at how it's administered, according to City Manager Tom

Reber. That will happen this Monday at a workshop session at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

The review comes in the wake of an earlier decision not to recommend a local site to the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) for a family apartment complex. Three developers had solicited council endorsement of their projects at the Nov. 1 meeting.

Last Monday, Ginny Brewster, owner of one of the three sites, said the council was out of line with its

reasoning that none of the three developers had shown sufficient need in Sandy for such a project.

"Your reasoning seems to be in complete contrast to the comprehensive plan," she said. "(The state Land Conservation and Development Commission) says the reason you have a comprehensive plan is to follow the comprehensive plan."

She cited a plan element that notes, "The city has recognized the need for multi-family needs and attempted to increase the opportunity for this type

of housing. The land use plan allows for an eventual increase in multi-family housing from 24 percent to 37 percent."

She said Steve Graves, a North Bend developer who wants to purchase the Brewster's two-acre site on McCormick Drive for a 30-unit complex, interviewed 186 Sandy residents over a two-day period and 89 indicated they would move into such a project.

"I can't understand how you can say there is no need," she told the

council.

Because of the city's negative input, Brewster claimed FmHA has lost interest in a project locally.

In other action Monday, the council:

• Agreed to a legal arrangement that could lead to sale of the Sandy Women's Club building, 38452 Proctor Blvd., to raise funds for the Sandy Public Library's trust fund.

Librarian Sue Newlands told the council that Georgia Gunderson

Anderson allowed the Women's Club to build the hall, but retained ownership of the property. She has since signed a quitclaim deed to the club in exchange for an agreement that the club will give the trust fund the proceeds from such a sale.

"It should be substantial enough to make an obvious impact on any major building renovation or addition to the library," Newlands said.

The building also houses the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

Students' window garners top honors

Three Sandy art students made their mark in the world of window designing Saturday when they painted their way to first place in a contest at T.J.'s Athletics in Gresham.

The Sandy High team of senior Annie Logan and juniors Jacqui Pullen and Joe Forgey were awarded first prize for their Christmas design with a wreath and three mice.

"We took it off a Christmas card," Forgey joked.

"Since there were three of us and three mice, we decided that it would be a good design," Pullen explained.

The trio used tempera paints on the 5x6 window to render their design freehand, while competitors from Gresham, Barlow, Reynolds and Centennial used



Jacqui Pullen

large pieces of paper to trace their designs. "Something like paint by numbers," Forgey said.

It took "a couple hours" to paint



Annie Logan

the prize-winning entry for which the students were awarded with \$10 gift certificates.

A late start, caused by a shor-



Joe Forgey

tage gas in one of the team members' truck didn't hamper the effort. "We started last," explained Logan, "but we finished first."

Players seek new home to stage performances

After five years performing at the Sandy Community Theater on Proctor Boulevard, the Sandy Community Players are looking for a new home.

The theater group, which began as a class at the former Sandy Community School, has decided to abandon the 40-year-old theater at the end of this month.

The reason is two-fold, according to SCP board chairman Mark Kuntz. "The two are kind of inter-related," he explained. "It's definitely financial."

"And we're working so hard to make the building run, it's just wearing us out. Emotionally, we're worn out group."

Local actors, backstage help and behind-the-scenes volunteers have been staging six to eight plays annually for the past couple years trying to meet the overhead of nearly

\$1,000 a month. Rent for the building is \$525 of that cost, Kuntz said.

"We just can't afford it."

So, without a new site to move into, SCP members have been scouring the area looking for storage sites, rehearsal halls and a place to put on their productions.

The first site the Players will try is the Collins Retreat Center, just south of Sandy on Highway 211.

The SCP production, "Star-Spangled Girl" by Neil Simon, will open the weekend of Jan. 14 at the center in two dinner theater performances. After the initial weekend, however, the actors are up in the air about the play's succeeding performances.

"The next two weekends, we're not sure where we're going to be," Kuntz said. "There's only three members in the cast, so we're really flexible."

Area schools seek to identify handicapped

by DAN DILLON

Children with handicapping conditions need to be identified at an early age so they can begin receiving help.

The longer they wait, the harder it is to offset their conditions so they can lead a life as close to their classmates as possible.

To help identify children with such conditions, area school districts are now engaged in Operation Childfind.

The program, mandated by federal legislation, helps schools identify children with handicapping conditions from birth and lend assistance by beginning early treatment.

Persons in the Cottrell, Bull Run, Boring, Welches, Sandy Elementary and Sandy Union High School districts who know of children with handicapping conditions are asked to contact local school officials, so assistance may be given.

According to Ralph Branson, director of special education in the Sandy Elementary School District, the signs can be spotted early.

"A handicapped child is generally a child who's development and behavior seem to be lagging behind

what you would consider normal for his age," Branson said.

Examples include a 4- to 5-year-old who is not talking, a 2- to 3-year-old who isn't toilet trained or an infant who doesn't track sounds.

The law mandates that each child is entitled to a free, appropriate education, as close to normal as their handicap will allow.

Area districts have established programs internally, as well as with the Clackamas County Educational Service District (ESD), Portland Public Schools and Western Oregon State College to identify handicapping conditions and work to help children overcome them in their educational goals.

Sandy Elementary District
The Sandy district offers a speech therapist who covers all four schools, Sandy Elementary, Cedar Ridge, Kelso and Firwood. That person is trained in screening for hearing tests.

A resource room teacher is available in each school. A child attends school in his regular classroom, but goes to the resource room for what his needs demand.

The director of special education coordinates where testing occurs and supervises within the district. After testing, an Individualized Educational Plan is developed with the parents as equal partners on the Child Study Team.

The district contracts with surrounding educational facilities to accommodate students it is not equipped to handle.

If a student cannot attend school because of his handicapping condition, the Sandy district sends teachers to the home.

For information on Sandy Elementary District offerings, contact Branson at 668-5541.

Sandy High School
Sandy Union High School offers a learning center with a full-time teacher, full-time aide and part-time aide. A full-time speech pathologist and part-time hearing impairment teacher are also available.

Most students are mainstreamed with all students during the day, according to Sue Chambers, but are brought into the learning center for individualized help.

That help ranges from special

science, biology and English tutoring to help through the Chapter I reading program. Special credits are available so students can pass science classes with one-to-one tutoring.

The district contracts with ESD for trainable mentally retarded students. Special transportation for handicapped students is also available.

For information on the SUHS program, contact Chambers at 668-8011.

Cottrell School
Cottrell School offers a resource room, a speech therapist and contracts with the Child Evaluation Center at ESD.

If a handicapping problem is beyond the capabilities of the school's personnel, the district will pay to place the student in the right school.

For information on Cottrell School special education offerings, call Jean Lundy at 668-5521.

Boring School
Boring School offers a resource room for grades kindergarten through 8, speech counseling,

Chapter I reading, diagnostic services and transportation for all special needs.

Boring School houses a regional classroom for hearing-impaired children which is used by surrounding districts.

A preventive measure for kindergarten and first graders is a reading disabled program to help students maintain a level similar to classmates.

For information on the Boring School program, call Carolyn Fones at 663-5909 or 658-3876.

Bull Run School
Bull Run School also offers a resource room and Chapter I reading program taught by Andy Schmitz. A part-time speech therapist is available as well as services offered by ESD.

For information on the Bull Run program, contact Schmitz at 668-4411.

Welches School
Welches School employs a resource room concept, according to Shirley Schwartz, that is "probably more comprehensive than a lot of others."

Emphasis is placed on individual needs for a child.

Whether it is vocabulary to reading or individualized spelling lessons, the services are available for students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

"We try to have kids take part in all social activities," Schwartz said. "We try to arrange it so they don't miss out being with their class."

For information on the Welches program, call Schwartz at 622-3166.

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