

Local News

Spate of burglaries strikes downtown businesses

Sapphire necklace, Halloween costumes, candy among stolen items

BY NICK ROSENBERGER
Redmond Spokesman

A string of break-ins hit nine downtown Redmond businesses over five consecutive days, from Oct. 15-20.

The break-ins targeted BrightSide Thrift Store, the Redmond Bazaar and Spirit Halloween, in addition to Fiesta Mazatlan, Big O Bagels, Jody's Diner, Choice Car Wash and Salon Bliss.

Owners and store managers estimate the burglar stole about \$5,000 from BrightSide and \$14 in change from the Redmond Bazaar. Spirit Halloween store manager Jesse Newton said the burglar stole a couple Halloween costumes, candy, \$15 in change and broke all but one of their cash registers. Newton estimated the total cost of the damages to be about \$4,000.

Newton said they put in a request from corporate for new registers, but wasn't sure they'd be able to get them in time for Halloween.

According to Newtown, the burglar bent some metal in the back of the store and



Jacob Powell, the manager of BrightSide Thrift Store, points at a safe that was destroyed and emptied by burglars on Oct. 19 in Redmond.

broke through the drywall to get inside.

According to Jacob Powell, the manager of BrightSide Thrift Store, about 11:40 p.m. the burglar broke a window and boosted themselves into the store.

They stayed there until about 3:10 a.m., trying to break into the safe with power tools.

The thrift store raises funds for the nonprofit BrightSide Animal Shelter, which tries to help pets find new homes.

"It kind of hits you," he said. "It's shocking."

BrightSide had recently acquired a vintage sapphire necklace that Powell was about to get appraised. He estimated it was worth at least \$4,000.

Powell said that when they sold the necklace they were going to treat staff.

"It would've been nice to have a good pizza party," he said. Now, the necklace is gone. Powell, who has worked at

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— Doug Elek, owner of Redmond Bazaar

the store on and off for about six years, said they deal with people jumping over their fence to steal donated items on an almost daily basis. But he said this was the first time someone had broken into the building itself.

Doug Elek, the owner of Redmond Bazaar, said he's owned the business for 11 years and never been broken into before.

"My cash box was gone, a couple of books on the floor," Elek said. "They got away with a whole whopping \$14 in change."

RPD is asking for your help in identifying and locating the suspects responsible. If you witnessed or have information about these burglaries, please contact RPD through non-emergency dispatch, 541-693-6911.

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