

POLICE NEWS

CRIME STOPPERS Elderly Theft Scam

The Portland Police Bureau, the Milwaukie Police Department, and the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identifying and apprehending a couple who are victimizing elderly people by means of a theft scam. Since March, in the three jurisdictions, there have been a total of sixteen reported cases. In most cases the victim has been over eighty years of age. It is also believed that as many as three different females may be working with the same male suspect.

The couple's M.O. is to "talk" their way into the victim's home. Sometimes they offer to do repairs, while at other times they claim to

have done repairs on the house in the past. Once inside, the male suspect usually asks to use the bathroom. While the female suspect keeps the victim distracted, the male suspect steals items from anywhere he can get to in the home. Occasionally, if an item of value is in plain view of the victim, one of the suspects will distract the victim while the other steals the item. The most frequently stolen items have been cash, credit cards, and jewelry.

The male suspect is described as white, 30 to 45 years of age, 5'6" to 5'7" tall, 150 to 170 pounds, with short dark hair that is possibly graying.

The female suspects are described as:

1. White, 30 years of age, 5'4 to

5'5" tall, 130 pounds, with a medium build, and light brown or dark blond shoulder length hair.

2. White, 40 years of age, 5'7", 130 pounds, with a thin build and short brown hair.

3. White, 5'7" tall, thin build, very thin face, with red or blond shoulder length hair.

Suspect vehicles have been described as a blue or black small sedan, and a gray 1980's compact or midsize vehicle.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Graffiti-Tagging

Northeast Precinct Officers are seeking the public's assistance in helping to solve a series of graffiti-tagging related incidents. Currently two suspects are under investigation but officers need the following:

1. Additional information on other properties that have been vandalized with the suspect's tags of AMOK, AMUK, ABIDE or ABYDE.

2. Information on the suspects, associates or crew;

3. Additional information on the suspects themselves; and

4. Witnesses to come forward who may have observed them while in the commission of their crimes.

Since April 1999, Officers from Northeast Precinct have been investigating a series of graffiti, or otherwise known as tagging incidents, that have taken place along the area of the Broadway business corridor. These incidents have occurred over the past several months.

The investigation began on April 4 of this year after graveyard shift officers contacted three boys, one age 16 and two age 17 years. Officers were conducting a car prowling mission in the Lloyd Center area after receiving reports on a rash of car break-ins. Officers came upon the youth, who were out past curfew, shortly before 5:00 am in the area of NE 16th Avenue and Broadway Street. Officers questioned the boys and discovered that one of the boys was carrying spray tips. Officer were aware of the recent number of graffiti incidents in the area and that the spray tips the 16 year old boy was carrying are commonly used by graffiti vandals and placed on spray cans to create various designs. Officers took the boys home. Officers told the father of the 17 year old suspect

that they believed the suspect was involved in tagging buildings and other property in the area. Officers were told by the father that his son had been spray painting designs in the basement of his residence but denied any involvement outside the home. Officers suspect that the 17 year old's tag is "ABYDE" or "ABIDE."

Nine days later on April 13, 1999, at 3:35 am at NE 28th Avenue and Wasco Street, Officers once again contacted the 16 year old boy who was accompanied by another boy. Upon attempting to contact both suspects, one of the suspects fled on foot while the other remained at the scene. Officers believe that the suspect who fled was one of the original suspects contacted on April 4th. The 16 year old suspect was taken into custody for curfew violation and the backpack he was carrying was searched. Inside the backpack, officers found spray paint, paint pens, gloves with paint on the fingers and documents with the tag "AMOK" or "AMUK" written several times on the document. It was obvious that the 16 year old suspect had been practicing his tag in an effort to personalize his style. Officers took the suspect home and spoke with his mother. Officers told the mother that they believed that the 16 year old suspect was involved in the tagging of properties in the surrounding neighborhood.

Officers pursued additional leads and located the following properties with the tag AMOK sprayed painted or marked on the buildings:

- 1) Vocational Village, 8020 NE Tillamook Street
- 2) Colosso Pub 19332 NE Broadway Street
- 3) Marc's on Broadway, 2019 NE

Broadway Street

Officers have also located the tag ABIDE on a phone booth in the area of NE 46th Avenue and Thompson Street and on properties in the 2000 block N. Vancouver Avenue.

On April 26, 1999, as a result of this follow up, officers were able to obtain search warrants and served them on the two suspects' homes, seizing other items believed to have been used in tagging incidents. These items include spray paint, markers, etching instruments, respirators, documents with the suspects' tag marked on them and other personal effects.

The suspects' names and addresses have not been released pending further investigation and pending charges.

Again, we are asking anyone with information that can provide assistance in helping to solve these series of graffiti tagging incidents to call Northeast Precinct at (503) 823-5700. In addition, a reward of up to \$1000 is being offered through the Crime Stoppers program for information that leads to the arrest of these subjects. The Crime Stoppers hotline number is 423-HELP. We need information on:

1. Additional information on other properties that have been vandalized with their tags;
2. Information on their associates or crew;
3. Additional information on the suspects themselves; and
4. Anyone who may have witnessed them while in the commission of their crimes, to please come forward.

For further information, please contact Commander Derrick Foxworth at (503) 823-5757.

Crime Doesn't Pay, But Fighting Crime Can

PGE offers \$100 grants to organizers of National Night Out block parties

Residents interested in fighting crime in their neighborhood have a chance to win one of 10, \$100 grants from Portland General Electric (PGE) to be used toward hosting a National Night Out block party on Tuesday, August 3, 1999.

It's simple to enter-write a short essay (100 words or less) about why it's important to fight crime based on the theme: "Recipe for a Safe Neighborhood" by June 11, 1999. Send it to PGE mail at 121 SW Salmon, Portland, Oregon 97204. Attn: Steve Cox, IWTC0902, or by

email to steve_cox@pgn.com.

One hundred-dollar grants will be given to writers of the ten most compelling entries. Just for entering, all applicants will receive an official National Night Out Block Party goodie bag courtesy of PGE, the main sponsor of National Night Out in the Portland area.

National Night Out Against Crime, always the first Tuesday in August, provides a safe and fun way for neighbors to have block parties, celebrate summer, get to know each other, and

learn about crime prevention.

Having a block party is easy and can ultimately help neighborhoods reduce crime. Those interested in holding National Night Out parties should contact their local neighborhood office or crime prevention specialist, who can suggest ideas for National Night Out block parties contact:

- City of Portland office of Neighborhood Associations at 503-823-4519
- Salem Police Department at 503-588-6499
- City of Vancouver at 360-696-8222

Observing Vancouver

Promus to Reinvigorate and Expand Red Lion Hotels & Inns

VANCOUVER, Wash.—Red Lion Hotel Brand Brought Back by Popular Demand

Promus Hotel Corporation today announced that it plans to reinvigorate and expand its Red Lion Hotels & Inns brand.

Promus will relaunch the two/three-star brand in the fall with approximately 30 hotels in eight northwestern and western states—20 existing Red Lion hotels and 10 to 15 converted properties. Promus expects to have 100 Red Lion Hotels & Inns in operation by 2003, concentrating expansion in the western U.S. and Pacific Northwest. "While growth will continue via new management contracts the focus will be on franchising the well established Red Lion name to owners of existing mid-priced full-service hotels, which will be a first for the Red Lion Chain," said James Dina, Red Lion Hotels & Inns chief operating officer, who will be responsible for the brand's expansion. Promus acquired the brand in its merger with Doubletree Hotels in 1997.

"Red Lion is one of the most popular and recognized hotel brands in the West and Pacific Northwest, and has a highly enthusiastic and loyal guest following," said Dina. "We currently have 20 hotels operating under the Red Lion flag, including the newly added Red Lion Hotel - Denver. Promus has targeted 10 to 15 Doubletree properties for conversion to the Red Lion brand by this fall. These hotels will be better suited as mid-priced, Red Lion properties."

The corporate staff of Red Lion Hotels Inc. will be located in its former headquarters city, Vancouver, Washington, at the Western Promus National Reservation Center. "We couldn't be happier about returning to our home in Vancouver," said Dina.

Typical Red Lion hotels will be mid-sized, full-service properties, averaging 150 to 250 rooms, and generally will offer food and beverage service, meeting space and catering. The properties will be well-located, existing properties with comfortable, home-style decor and styling. Average daily rate, depending on location,

will be approximately \$65. As part of the conversion process the reflagged Doubletree hotels will undergo an approximate \$5 million renovation program to meet new standards and are expected to open under the Red Lion flag by late September.

"Our mantra is Care, Comfort and Value," said Dina. "We are focusing on the values and amenities that made Red Lion famous. We will provide distinctive, clean, crisp mid-priced hotels with a level of service and friendliness not usually associated with this price-point. Virtually anyone can provide a room, but it is extremely difficult to provide warm, friendly service. Our major point of differentiation will be friendliness, a trait for which Red Lion is legendary."

Red Lion will launch a new frequent guest program and provide frequent flyer points. "We have nearly 150,000 members in our database and will upgrade our best customers to the Premier Level when we reintroduce the brand this fall. Our frequent guest programs were immensely popular, and we intend to give our guests what they want." Dina noted that the company currently is negotiating with airline companies and will kick off the programs later this year.

Dina said that popularity, practicality and profitability were the primary considerations in reinvigorating the brand. "Our guests kept asking us to keep the brand alive, and we listened," he commented. "In some cases, we found that it is not practical for some of our owners to undertake expensive upgrades to meet Doubletree's new four-star standards," he said. "Red Lion will provide Doubletree and other hotel brand owners with a well-regarded franchise alternative with lower capital requirements that provides them with an opportunity to increase asset value."

Red Lion, a wholly-owned affiliate, will have access to all of Promus' functional departments, such as accounting, property management systems, human resources, purchasing, information technology and development. The brand will use Promus'

industry leading reservation systems and Global Distribution System links on a private-label basis. "Although we initially will be a small brand, we will have all the systems and synergies that only a major hotel company can provide," Dina said. "This support will aid us in providing comprehensive support to the hotel owners of our brand."

Founded in the early 1970s, Red Lion quickly became a popular family and business hotel brand in the Pacific Northwest with the majority of its properties located along the Interstate 5 corridor. The current portfolio of Red Lions include 20 properties with over 3,000 rooms located in: Glendale and Sacramento, California; Denver, Colorado; Lewiston, Idaho; Elko and Winnemucca, Nevada; Kalispell and Missoula, Montana; Astoria, Bend (two hotels), Coos Bay, Eugene, Klamath Falls and Portland, Oregon; Austin and Houston, Texas; Aberdeen and Yakima, Washington; and Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Promus will convert approximately 10 company-owned hotels, currently branded as Doubletrees, to the Red Lion brand. Red Lion is discussing with various other owners the possibility of converting 3 to 5 additional Doubletree hotels in the region. "At this time, our strength will be in converting existing hotels, rather than in new construction," Dina said. "We have a great name to build upon. Our goal is to maintain the brand's standards and reputation as we grow."

Promus Hotel Corporation is one of the world's premier lodging companies with system-wide annual revenues of approximately \$5 billion. The company owns, operates or franchises more than 1,300 hotels with more than 192,000 rooms throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and Latin America. Promus is the franchisor and operator of the Doubletree Hotels and Guests Suites, Embassy Suites, Homewood Suites, Club Hotels by Doubletree, Hampton Inn, Hampton Inn and Suites, Embassy Vacation Resorts, Hampton Vacation Resorts and Red Lion Hotels & Inns brands

Drug Use In Prison Drops

A report from the Oregon Department of Corrections says drug use by inmates in prison has dropped to below one percent for a year for the first time. More than 400 in-

mates were tested in March and all tested negative according to Les Dolecal of the state prison system. Each month five percent of the 85-hundred inmates in the prison sys-

tem are tested. Three years ago the prison system instituted a no-smoking ban on tobacco and since that time it has become the hottest item on the prison black market.

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