



Two families were displaced after a fire on March 15 in the 300 block of Southeast Mill Street in Dallas.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas families displaced by fire

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Two families, including five adults and eight children, displaced in a duplex fire in Dallas on March 15 are having to start over and are in desperate need of help.

One family of five lost everything to the fire, but have been able to find a temporary home. The other family of eight didn't lose all belongings, but much of its duplex unit suffered heavy smoke damage.

According to their former

landlord, Cheri Jacobsen, the family's living situation is dire. They are in need of housing immediately.

"They have nowhere to go and no income," she said.

Jacobsen said the father of the family is an artist, and selling his work provides the family's only income. He created his art in the garage and would need a similar set up to continue bringing in money for his family.

"The garage is not a want," she said. "It is a need if they are going to make money."

Go Fund Me accounts

have been set up for both families and a list of needs is on Grace Community Church's Facebook page.

The fire was reported at about 5:10 p.m. in the 300 block of Southeast Mill Street.

When Dallas Fire & EMS arrived on the scene, firefighters found an attached garage of one of the duplexes fully involved.

Firefighters had the fire extinguished within approximately 30 minutes of their arrival.

Prior to firefighters arriving, one of the adult occu-

pants attempted to put out the fire with a garden hose, getting injured in the process.

Dallas Fire & EMS transported the victim to the hospital with injuries that were not life threatening.

Also, two cats died in the fire.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by Dallas Fire & EMS and estimated loss is \$150,000.

Dallas Fire & EMS was assisted by Polk County Fire District No. 1, Dallas Police and The American Red Cross.

Investigation shows no proof of burglary

Itemizer-Observer staff report

MONMOUTH — A Monmouth juvenile has been referred to the juvenile department for initiating a false report after Monmouth Police and officers from other agencies, including a canine team, were unable to find evidence to support his claim that he had confronted a burglar.

At about 3:20 p.m. on March 16, officers were dispatched to a burglary in progress in the 1600 block of Berkeley Lane East.

The homeowner said his 16-year-old son, who was home alone, called him and told him that he had just confronted an unknown adult man in their home.

The son also reported that he had fired one round from a gun at the burglar when he confronted him.

The son said the suspect ran out the back door of the house, into an alley and jumped over a fence leading to an open field.

Officers and multiple other law enforcement agencies searched the area, along with a canine track.

The result of the canine track and search were unsuccessful. Officers did not locate a suspect, and the canine was unable to pick up a scent at the scene.

A neighborhood canvass was completed, as well as further scene processing, all with negative results.

Officers found no evidence to corroborate the statements of the son. The investigation revealed that a suspect was never actually seen by the son.

The youth was referred to the juvenile department for initiating a false report.

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