

JOHNSON COUNTY

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Bevy of break-ins puzzles cops

Police find no link, motives at mobile home community in Franklin

By PAIGE E. WASSEL

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A recent string of break-ins has residents in a Franklin neighborhood concerned.

People living in Countryview Mobile Home Community on Hospital Road have reported three residential entries, six burglaries and one theft since the week before Christmas.

Police are investigating the burglaries and have increased patrols in the area, Franklin Police Chief John Borges said. He added that officers consider this an unusually high number of incidents for one neighborhood.

Investigators are looking for patterns to the crimes and searching for suspects.

Several homeowners reported

having doors forced open or windows broken in the burglaries, according to police reports. Many of the missing items were electronic devices.

Some of the items taken were ceramic dolls, Nintendo, Xbox and PlayStation 2 systems, DVD players, two computer systems and a printer, a surround sound speaker system, a cell phone, two bicycles, a television and an antique shotgun.

Homeowners provided names of possible culprits in a couple of cases, but police officers haven't found physical evidence to link the people to the crimes, Borges said.

Usually, when police get this many reports, he said, officers are able to clearly identify a pattern among the incidents, which

helps them locate the offenders.

In one case, Cathi Wray returned from visiting family over Christmas to find her bedroom window broken and window screens on the porch.

The television set in her bedroom was flipped over, but her computer was untouched, she said. A nonworking cell phone was the only thing that she found missing.

Wray said she was aware of other break-ins at nearby homes and worried if enough was being done to solve the crimes.

A resident who lived down the street from Wray awoke to find two people she didn't know in her home on Dec. 18.

Angela Goodine said she was home with her daughter when she heard noises. She found the

people near the door of the home. They ran away when they saw her.

She called police, but the intruders had already left before officers arrived to check the property.

Goodine told police that she had locked her front door and secured it before she went to bed. She hadn't had any problems like that in the past, according to a Franklin police report.

Some residents said they thought the crimes might be motivated by people wanting items that could easily be sold for drug money.

Borges said investigators haven't found any evidence linking the Countryview crimes to drug dealing, but he said drugs often figure into property crimes.

ON THE RECORD

Police/fire

Franklin Residential entry

• 1500 block of Lochry Road: A man reported that the front door to his home was standing open at 2:10 p.m. Wednesday. He did not discover anything missing from inside the home, but someone had scratched a vehicle parked in the driveway.

Thefts

• Max Merritt Auto Specialties, 235 Terre Haute St.: An employee reported that he was walking away from the business and saw a man driving a truck filled with parts from the business. He confronted the driver and then returned to the business to call police. The driver was gone when police arrived.

• 100 block of Patterson Street: A man reported Wednesday that an acquaintance was supposed to drive his vehicle to his home from Indianapolis about noon Monday. The woman left Indianapolis in the man's vehicle but never arrived at his house.

Criminal mischief

• 2000 block of Franklin Cove Court: A woman reported that someone scratched an obscenity into the side of her vehicle between 6 p.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. Wednesday.

Personal-injury accident

• 8:22 p.m. Wednesday — U.S. 31 and Earlywood Drive: Shawn Michael Smock, 23, Franklin; Megan M. NevenHoven, 22, Franklin. NevenHoven complained of head pain.

Property-damage accidents

• 7:41 a.m. Wednesday — Branigan Road and U.S. 31

• 7:24 a.m. Wednesday — 750 International Drive

Greenwood Burglary

• 1200 block of Barrington Drive: A woman reported that someone entered her home and stole items from her bedroom between 7 and 7:25 a.m. Wednesday. The woman's juvenile son returned to the home at 7:25 a.m. and saw a vehicle in the driveway. When he entered the home through the garage, he heard someone leaving through the front door and noticed that the vehicle in the driveway was gone.

• Atwood Auto Sales, 324 Market Plaza: The owner reported that someone forced open the front door of the business between 6 p.m. Monday and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday. A padlock was cut off of a safe and about 10 sets of vehicle keys were stolen from the safe.

Thefts

• 1200 block of Carson Way: A man reported Wednesday that someone stole several pieces of jewelry with a total value of \$3,000 from his residence about a month ago. He suspected a home health-care provider who had quit her job about the same time the jewelry was discovered missing.

• 100 block of West Main Street: A man reported that someone broke a window out of his truck Tuesday night and stole a portable DVD player.

Personal-injury accident

• 11:18 a.m. Sunday — County Line Road and Emerson Avenue: Lester G. Walls, 57, Bargersville; Tammy S. Haggood, 42, Indianapolis. Haggood complained of neck pain.

Property-damage accidents

• 8 a.m. Wednesday — Main and Meridian streets

• 1 p.m. Tuesday — U.S. 31, south of Carr Street

Jail bookings

The following people recently were arrested and booked into the Johnson County jail:

Stacie S. Martinez, 25, 1822 S. East St., Indianapolis; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; released on \$300 bond.

Edward Eugene Proctor, 21, 114 Brentwood Lane, New Whiteland; arrested on a charge of probation revocation; held on \$1,000 bond.

Stephen Walter Carter, 47, 2945 Andrew Drive, Columbus; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; released on \$250 bond.

William E. Glesing, 24, 342 Watson Lane, Apt. B, Greenwood; arrested on a Hancock County warrant and charges of controlled substance registration violation and possession of a controlled substance; held without bond.

John R. Allison, 46, 1170 Stonehedge Drive, Apt. D, Greenwood; arrested on a

Marion County warrant; held without bond.

Staci Lee Frisk, 21, 1506 S. East St., Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of bond forfeiture; held without bond.

Patsy Joann Mays, 44, 6911 S. County Road 300W, Trafalgar; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court and charges of possession of marijuana/hashish and possession of paraphernalia; held without bond.

Donna M. Reed, 31, 931 N. Parker St., Indianapolis; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held on \$7,500 bond.

Anthony M. Allseit, 20, 5236 Chisolm Trail, Indianapolis; arrested on a charge of driving while suspended with a prior conviction; released on \$2,000 bond.

Phillip Hadley, 43, 7775 Parkland Drive, Columbus; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held on \$10,000 bond.

Donna M. Golder, 51, 818 N. Drexel St., Indianapolis; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held without bond.

Gordon Matthew Hancock, 33, 5612 W. County Road 700N, Columbus; arrested on a charge of invasion of privacy; held on \$100,000 bond.

Kevin J. Ford, 20, 5950 W. County Road 800N, Scipio; arrested on a warrant for failure to appear in court; held on \$300 bond.

Brian Edward Snyder, 21, 1910 Lakeside Drive, Apt. G, Franklin; arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and public intoxication; held on \$2,000 bond.

Brett Eugene Reigel, 33, 6246 W. State Road 135, Trafalgar; arrested on a charge of contempt; released on \$1,000 bond.

Andrew P. Spalding, 26, 3090 N. Morton St., Franklin; arrested on a charge of public intoxication; released on \$1,000 bond.

The following people recently were arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated and booked into jail:

Glen D. Murphy, 28, 505 W. Smith Valley Road, Apt. 112, Greenwood; also arrested on a charge of driving while suspended with a prior conviction; held on \$3,000 bond.

Samantha K. Walker, 25, 7840 Waverly Road, Martinsville; held on \$2,000 bond.

Robert D. Legg, 25, 564 Pebble Way, Greenwood; released on \$1,000 bond.

Eugene J. Collins, 48, 1040 S. Mount St., Indianapolis; held on \$2,000 bond.

Births

Johnson Memorial Hospital

James and Nicole Rush, girl born Jan. 25

St. Francis Hospital Indianapolis

Andrew and Vicki Cooper, Greenwood, girl born Jan. 20.

Marriage licenses

Christopher Joseph Calo and Amy Dee R. Richardson, both of Greenwood

Ronnie Dale Beasley of Greenwood and Cheryl Ann Warren of Indianapolis

Josh E. Skaggs and Melyssa Crystal Rigney, both of Greenwood

Richard R. Hattery and Ella J. Rollins, both of Greenwood

Christopher A. DeRossett and Pamela A. Petrino, both of Franklin

Jody Lynn Repass and Kristina Marie Repass, both of Franklin

Adam Joseph Howell of Morgantown and Dayna Renee Smart of Nineveh

Vernon A. Anderson of Indianapolis and Karen D. Thompson of Greenwood

Daniel E. Cain and Jessi Beatrice Burba, both of Franklin

Chester Joel Stakamp and Sarah Marie Bernstein, both of New Whiteland

Robert M. Albertson and Carla Marie Monroe, both of Greenwood

John Stanton Tittle and Janet Lynn Speicher, both of Greenwood

Clayton C. Richard of Lafayette and Ashley K. Buckingham of Greenwood

Roy Dean Myers and Maxine G. Eggers, both of Greenwood

Joseph R. Ciaramitaro and Leah Ann Harmon, both of New Whiteland

John W. Walker and Stephanie S. Scrogam, both of Trafalgar

John W. Bailey Jr. and Andrea J. Bridges, both of Greenwood

Greg W. Cuppett and Anita K. Burks, both of Greenwood

Indiana scales back tree pest fight

State says it doesn't have funds to continue paying for cutting down trees

The Associated Press

FORT WAYNE

The state no longer will require, or pay for, the removal of trees in areas infested by the emerald ash borer.

The announcement came days after the Indiana Department of Natural Resources said the tree-killing beetle had spread as far south as suburban Indianapolis.

"The state just doesn't have enough money to do the program where we cut down all the ash trees in one half-mile," said Larry Axlen, a DNR forester. "We can't afford to keep chasing the insect. It's just too hard to find."

More than 100,000 ash trees have been cut and burned in In-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The emerald ash borer has been chomping through ash trees throughout the state. Indiana officials said the state would no longer pay for the removal of damaged trees.

diana since April 2004, when the beetle was first spotted in the state at a campground in Steuben County, north of Fort Wayne.

The ash borer also has been found in Steuben, LaGrange, Randolph, Adams and Hamilton counties.

The DNR last week ordered restrictions on the movement of ash products in Hamilton County, which includes Carmel, and neighboring Marion County, which includes Indianapolis, to try to slow the beetle's spread.

Cutting down ash trees surrounding infested areas has not proved effective because the infestations are difficult to find, state entomologist Bob Waltz said in a statement Wednesday.

The tiny green insect lays eggs within ash wood and is spread when people move infested wood, such as firewood. Signs of a fatal infestation can take up to five years to show.

The DNR said it will shift its emphasis to monitoring the infestation. Homeowners now will be responsible for paying to remove infested ash trees on their property.

In Decatur in Adams County, about 20 miles south of Fort

Wayne, officials had hoped for state help in getting rid of the pest.

The city has about 500 ash trees in its parks and easements, and officials had hoped to begin removing all of them in April.

"We're kind of taking a problem and putting it on the back burner," said the city's forester, Dwight Pierce.

Indiana could do more to fight the borer if the federal government would provide more money, Axlen said.

Officials in Ohio said last month they also would be forced to limit the battle against the ash borer without additional federal funds. Congress so far has approved only \$10 million to be shared by Ohio, Michigan and Indiana.

The ash pest has killed or infested 15 million trees in Michigan, with some 200,000 more trees destroyed in Ohio.

Child support payments on rise in county

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Stepped-up efforts by the county to collect child support payments netted a 3.6 percent increase in payments in 2005, according to the Johnson County Prosecutor's Office.

Last year, the office collected \$6,796,744 owed to custodial parents and guardians.

The money also helps to reimburse state funds, like Medicaid and temporary assistance to needy families, that would go to the children in absence of parental support.

The office has been able to increase collections during the



"Our job is to make sure that children get the support that is owed to them."

Lance Hamner

Johnson County prosecutor on increased efforts to collect child support payments in the county

past few years, recouping \$144,023 more in 2004 than in 2003.

Some of the increase in collections is due to more families being added to the rolls. But mostly, the county was able to get more negligent parents to pay their support, Johnson County Prosecutor Lance Hamner said.

When parents intentionally withhold court-ordered support, it is considered a felony.

Hamner said that while the negligent parents are in the minority, they have to be prosecuted to make sure their children don't have a meager standard of living.

Police say woman fabricated claim teacher touched student

By ANNIE GOELLER

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A Clark-Pleasant woman made up an accusation that her daughter was touched inappropriately by a substitute teacher last week, police said.

The woman told police the teacher touched her 14-year-old daughter inappropriately during a class at Clark-Pleasant Inter-

mediate School She also told police the man was a convicted sex offender, Greenwood police detective Patti Cummings said.

Detectives interviewed the student, teachers and officials at the school and have no reason to believe the information is true, she said.

The student told detectives that no incident took place.

The woman told police she reported the incident to the

school and didn't get a response. School officials told police they were unaware of the allegations.

The principal and vice principal talked to the woman more than once since Jan. 20, when she said the incident happened, and were not told of any inappropriate contact, Cummings said.

The man who the mother reported touched the girl is listed on the sex offender registry but

was never employed by the school. The substitute who was in the classroom Jan. 20 is more than 40 years younger than the man the mother described, Cummings said.

Police are deciding if they will forward the information to the prosecutor, who would decide whether to file false informing charges against the mother, Greenwood Police Chief Joe Pitcher said.

BRIEFS

LOCAL

GREENWOOD

Father, daughter dance planned for tonight

Mount Pleasant Christian Church will host a father/daughter luau and dance, featuring hula hoop and limbo contests at 7 tonight.

Tickets are \$6 per person or \$15 maximum per family and may be purchased at the door. Dress is tropical casual.

The public is welcome. Information: 881-6727, Ext. 298, or visit www.mount.org.

GREENWOOD

Masonic lodge serving breakfast Saturday

The public is invited to breakfast Saturday at Greenwood Masonic Lodge 514, located at 592 N. Meridian St. in Greenwood.

The menu will include bacon, sausage, eggs cooked to order,

pancakes, biscuits and gravy, orange juice and coffee.

Serving hours are 7 to 10 a.m. Carry out service is available. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children age 6 and younger.

Information: 881-0303

WHITELAND

Class of 1981 needs help planning 25th reunion

A committee is forming to plan the Whiteland High School Class of 1981 reunion.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Brenda Hakes at 535-8164 or b.hakes@insightbb.com by Jan. 31. The reunion will be conducted Aug. 12 at Valle Vista in Greenwood.

GREENFIELD

Couples planning wedding invited to expo

A bridal expo sponsored by The Daily Reporter of Greenfield

will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at J.B. Stephens Elementary School in Greenfield.

A bridal show will be at noon. The expo will feature more than 50 vendors of cakes, gowns, tuxes, honeymoon travel, jewelry, flowers, receptions and more.

Admission: \$1

INDIANAPOLIS

Group plans fund-raiser for children's hospital

The Indiana District of Kiwanis International will present a benefit for Riley Hospital for Children in February.

"Riley Showcase: Hope, Trust and Believe" will begin at 6 p.m. Feb. 4 at Primo South Banquet Center in Indianapolis.

Tickets are \$50 person or \$350 for a table of eight with all of the proceeds benefiting the Indianapolis hospital.

Information or tickets: (877) 833-5974

FRANKLIN

College conducting swinging lessons

Kids who want to become sul-tans of swat or develop perfect pitch are invited to seminars at Franklin College.

The school will host eight winter baseball clinics for players ages 7 to 18.

Hitting clinics will be from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, 12 and 19. Cost for hitting clinic is \$35 per player.

Pitching clinics will be from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, 12 and 19. Cost for the pitching clinic is \$25 per player.

All clinics will be in the Franklin College Fitness Center and will be directed by Franklin College Grizzlies head coach Lance Marshall.

Information: 738-8121; www.franklincollege.edu/athletics/baseball.



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