

Police

Massillon

Police reported Thursday that \$750 cash was stolen from a residence in the 200 block of Penn Ave. S.E.

An employee of Taco Bell, 1108 Lincoln Way E., told police Thursday that a leather wallet containing \$60 cash had been stolen from an unsecured locker.

Thieves broke into a vehicle overnight Tuesday at Massillon Marketplace and took a purse left sitting on the front seat, according to police.

Edward Haring, 21, of 133 Harvard Ave. N.E., was arrested Wednesday at his residence on active warrants for felony theft and burglary.

Jackson

Vandals used a rock to smash the windshield of a vehicle parked in the 4700 block of Castlebar St. N.W. No damage estimate was available from the Monday incident.

A bicycle and a suitcase containing hearing aids and miscellaneous items were stolen overnight Tuesday from a residence in the 3100 block of Miles Ave. N.W. The loss was estimated at \$8,200.

Jackson girls for levy effort

By CHRIS PUGH
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Jackson Township residents got a peek at what a planned police levy could look like during an informational meeting Thursday night in the Safety Center.

Police Chief Harley Neftzer told those in attendance he will ask for funds for six new officers and again purchase six new cruisers a year.

To do this, he plans to combine the township's current four police issues into one replacement levy.

Proposed figures are for a five-year 4.2-mill levy that would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$129.60 a year. Currently, the owner of a \$100,000 home pays \$79.60 annually for the police levies.

If passed, the issue would generate \$5.04 million annually.

Neftzer said he will take these figures and write a five-year plan to take to township trustees.

The levy is expected to be placed on November's ballot by August.

"Whoever we get needs to go on patrol," Neftzer said of the officers that would be added. "We have a challenge to keep safe with the growth in the township."

Several residents liked the chief's approach.

"He's not asking for an excessive amount given the growth in the township," said Ann Polen. "It sounds reasonable to me."

But the cost concerned Lou Novak.

"I may have to move because I can't afford living here," he said. "Why do I need to pay more? I'm not getting value."

But Neftzer said police coverage for the township could drop without financial support.

According to numbers provided by the Department of Justice, 1.6 officers are recommended for each 1,000 residents for the Midwest region.

The township has 39 officers for nearly 40,000 residents and continues to add population each year.

So even with passage of the levy, the township will have only one officer per 1,000 residents.

The truth has consequences on the Internet

By LORI WILLIAMS
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No one on the Internet tells the truth. And, Massillon Police detective Bobby Grizzard told Massillon middle school students during assemblies this week, neither should they.

Grizzard's earlier survey of 1,000 students exposed the kinds of cyber danger they're courting. Forty-one students, for example, said they had phone sex with adult men they met on the Internet and 137 men had asked the students to have sex with them.

ONLY ABOUT 30 percent of the kids said their parents supervise their Internet use.

To make a point about Internet safety, Grizzard Sunday night logged on to Instant Messenger as an eighth-grader who planned to transfer from Perry to the Massillon School District. When Grizzard as "Candee" began asking questions of a Lorin Andrews student, the LA girl became suspicious and clicked out of instant messenger.

"I block anyone like that I don't know," she said later.

A Longfellow student, however, was less cautious.

Using the Candee alias, Grizzard ended up with enough information to figure out the student's name, address, phone number and the layout of her house.

"She told me she left for school every morning at 7:35 a.m. and it took her three minutes to walk there," he pointed out. "She even sent me her picture. The next morning I was able to follow her to school, park by her, roll down the window and listen to her conversation with her friends."

GRIZZARD COULD HAVE, he said, followed her home to see if she was alone after school. If he planned to break in at night, he could have predicted where her bedroom is.

"The Internet is not a game," he told the stu-

Web class set for parents

Massillon Police detectives Bobby Grizzard and Nevada Gump have scheduled an Internet class for parents for 6 p.m. June 15 in the Massillon Recreation Center.

But Grizzard said he needs at least 25 parents to call and say they are coming to the evening seminar, which will offer techniques to monitor a student's Internet usage.

If there aren't enough registrations, Grizzard said the class will be canceled.

Call Gump at 330-830-1743 or Grizzard at 330-830-1754 to register.

dents, citing cases he's worked on with the Internet Crimes Against Children task force. Cases like:

- A 15-year-old Massillon girl who got caught up in a New York man's plot to kill a co-worker.
- An Ohio girl found dead after being shot to death by a man she met on the Internet.
- A Massillon man snagged recently by police when he thought he was going to meet a Lorin Andrews student.
- The predator who played checkers in online game rooms to meet children.
- Men who send presents, money, phone cards and digital cameras complete with instructions for the child to send naked photos of himself or herself.
- The man who promised to buy a young girl a fast food lunch, telling her "after the Happy Meal, I'll have a happy feel."
- A man caught coming to town from South Carolina to meet a 12-year-old girl, his car filled with sadistic sexual torture devices, the outcome of an

Internet conversation that started with the "innocent" question requesting ASL - age, sex, location.

"These are not make-believe stories," Grizzard said. "Kids do not realize the dangers lurking on the Internet."

PREDATORS WILL "tell you what you want to hear," he told students, showing them a video clip of Katie, one of the first victims of the Internet in 1995 when she was 13.

"He made me believe I was someone special," Katie said.

The 23-year-old "Mark" she met in a chat room turned out to be scrawny 41-year-old Frank with one thing on his mind.

The hotel police found out more truth about him in five minutes than Katie had in six months of cyber conversation, she said.

"There are people doing nothing all day except looking for children like you," Grizzard told students. "The average pervert has 41 victims before he's caught."

In his recent survey of Internet use among Massillon middle schoolers, he pointed out, "only one-third of parents cared enough to monitor what you do on the Internet, so you have to do everything you can not to become a victim."

IF YOU'RE USING real information in your instant messenger profile or sending photos, he said, "cease immediately." If you don't know someone, click off. If you've been a victim, fill out the form that school officials will distribute and return it in the sealed envelope to the Massillon Police Department.

Awareness and action, Grizzard said, can help stop cyber predators.

He has, for instance, been posing as a young girl in communicating with one suspect for the past nine months.

"He wants to come visit," Grizzard said. "I told him I'll give him a hug and never let him go."

Striking up a new friendship sparks fund-raiser

By MATTHEW RINK
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Who knew an ear infection would change Cassidy McMahan's life.

When she went to Akron Children's Hospital Medical Center with her mom, the 8-year-old never expected to make a new friend.

"I was in the hospital for a check-up," Cassidy McMahan said this week. "And my mom said 'why don't we go visit my friend's son whose in the hospital.'"

"I met him and I became good friends with him," she said.

That's when Cassidy, a second-grader at St. Barbara's School, met 3-year-old Joey Tubo.

Tubo was diagnosed with stage IV neuroblastoma in February through a biopsy and other tests. Neuroblastoma, one of the most common solid tumors of early childhood, originates in the sympathetic nervous tissue. The boy will undergo a series of six chemotherapy treatments in order to stop the cancer.

As Tubo has endured a disease that's life threatening, those around him have experienced a gift that's life changing.

"I used to be really, really selfish," Cassidy said. "But I want to do anything to keep him alive."

And she will.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW RINK/THE INDEPENDENT

From left, Lance Priest, Brandon Priest, Cassidy McMahan and Riley McMahan hope to have a strong turnout for a garage sale that will benefit 3-year-old North Canton resident Joey Tubo, shown in the photograph.

Even if it means giving up some of the toys she's cherished during her childhood.

This weekend, Cassidy, her 11-year-old brother, Riley, and their friends, Lance and Brandon Priest, will gather used clothes, dishes, video games, board games and anything else they can find to raise money for Tubo's treatment.

"I absolutely hate garage sales, I'd rather go to one," said Brandon and Lance's mother, Sylvia Priest. "But when they got this idea, it really went to my heart."

Cassidy's mother, Rhonda McMahan, didn't expect her daughter to take the initiative

to hold the sale.

"I kind of blew it off like it wasn't going to happen," Rhonda McMahan said. "But they just kept working and pushing ahead."

The idea of a garage sale began circulating around the Priest home weeks ago by 11-year-old Brandon, with the intention of getting rid of a few old toys and making a bit of money.

But Cassidy came up with a better idea.

Why not gather old toys and clothes and give the money raised to Joey, she said.

That's when 8-year-old Lance, a classmate of Cas-

sidy's at St. Barbara's School, decided he wanted to help.

Though Lance has never met Joey, a North Canton resident, he understands that Joey's cancer may keep Joey from leading the life that he lives.

"I want him to have a good life," Lance said.

Since meeting Joey in March, Cassidy has stayed in contact through letters, e-mail and an occasional phone call or visit.

"I talk to him a lot on the computer and through letters," Cassidy said. "He's more of a pen pal to me."

Tubo, a Spider-Man fan, has reached beyond those letters and into the hearts of those around the 8-year-old.

"Lance feels like he knows them in person just from talking to Cassidy," Sylvia Priest said of her son.

Much of Joey's treatment thus far has been at the Akron Children's Hospital Medical Center, but Joey and his parents, Jeff and Laura Tubo, have made other trips for treatment. This week, Joey received a stem cell transplant at Cincinnati Children's Hospital to counter the healthy blood cells destroyed by chemotherapy.

"We draw our strength and support from our family and friends," Jeff Tubo said. "Even though the numbers don't look good, we still hope to beat the odds."

Neuroblastoma has a high relapse rate, but because intense chemotherapy is needed

to treat the cancer, should it return, the therapy cannot be used.

Jeff Tubo said Joey's cancer has made him, his wife Laura and their 6-year-old daughter, Gina, see the best of all situations.

"We see the good in the world," he said. "We wouldn't be able to handle this if it weren't for our family and for our friends."

Friends and family members of the Priests and McMahans have donated items to sell this weekend. The kids admitted that it was tough giving up toys they'd grown attached to.

"I used to really like that toy dog," said Cassidy, pointing to a fluffy, white, stuffed animal. "I won it from my school for fund-raising. But Joey needed it more than I did."

The children have done most of the work without the help of their parents, spending hours sorting through the items. Though they'll spend much of the day today placing price tags on the board games, clothes, and other knick knacks that are stacked in the Priest's garage, they understand that no price tag can be placed on human life.

For information, visit Joey's Web site, www.joeytubo.com.

The garage sale to benefit Joey Tubo will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. over the next two weekends and on Memorial Day at 2650 Manchester Ave. N.W., Tuscarawas Township, across from Tuslaw Junior-Senior High.

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