

POLICE

Break-ins, vehicle theft reported in Central Peoria

PEORIA — A home was burglarized while the residents slept early Saturday in a Central Peoria neighborhood where a vehicle break-in and sport utility vehicle theft also were reported.

Residents of a home in the 11200 block of West Purtscher Drive told police someone entered their home through a locked but unlatched door and grabbed a purse and phone from a kitchen counter.

A phone that was inside the purse was found in a neighbor's yard, but credit cards, a small amount of cash and the second phone were not recovered.

A vehicle in the 100 block of West Westwood Drive also was burglarized in the same time frame. A window was smashed, and a deposit bag with two checks was taken.

A resident in a location between those two addresses also reported a vehicle stolen. The SUV was unlocked and parked in the driveway of a home in the 1100 block of West Northcrest Avenue when it was taken just before 9 a.m. Saturday.

Man says he was stabbed at Peoria house party

PEORIA — A 34-year-old man was stabbed early Saturday but provided little information to police about the incident that led to the injury.

The victim arrived at the OSF Saint Francis Medical Center emergency room about 1 a.m. with a stab wound to his left side, according to a report.

The victim said he had been at a house party near Arcadia and California avenues when he was attacked. He didn't provide additional details.

Police were unable to locate a crime scene.

Vet says he was attacked by man in ankle bracelet

PEORIA — A man who suffers from mental problems related to a military accident told police he was robbed Thursday afternoon by a man who tried to sell him marijuana earlier in the week.

The 31-year-old victim said he was walking about 2:45 p.m. on Reservoir Boulevard when a male with a parole monitoring bracelet on his ankle and wearing red shoes threatened him.

"I got a gun," the robber told the victim, according to a report on the incident. "Give me all your money, or I'll shoot you."

The victim handed over an undisclosed amount of cash, and the assailant fled into the woods.

The suspect had spoken to the victim in the same area one day earlier and tried to sell him marijuana, the victim said.

Police tentatively identified the suspect but had not made any arrests by Saturday.

SCOUTING

Eagle Scout earns 137th, final merit badge



'DANNY' LAKEMPER

MORTON — Eagle Scout Brian Daniel "Danny" LaKemper of Troop 178 in Morton earned his final merit badge on Feb. 5, giving him all 137 offered by the Boy Scouts.

LaKemper, who became an Eagle Scout in May 2013, has served as senior patrol leader of Troop 178. He is the first Scout in W.D. Boyce Council to earn the STEM program Super NOVA awards. He also is a member of Venture Crew 6318 of Morton and an active volunteer with the Illinois Railway Museum in Union.

Brian credits his parents, Daniel and Mary LaKemper, with inspiring and supporting him through the years.

"I've learned to cope over the years, and for that I have to credit my troop's Scoutmaster, Scott Fishel: He has been like a second father to me for the entire time I've been a Boy Scout. He and I may not always see eye to eye, but at the end of the day, I cannot praise him enough," LaKemper said.

"Whenever someone said something about me not being able to earn all the merit badges or get my Eagle Scout, my father was always there to bolster my confidence. Between him and my best friend, any doubts I had were kept well in check."

LaKemper plans to attend Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg and then work in the rail industry.

Samuel Fishel earns Eagle Scout award



SAMUEL FISHEL

MORTON — Samuel Francis Fishel of Troop 178 in Morton earned the rank of Eagle Scout, after leading a crew in constructing an Adirondack shelter for his leadership service project.

A senior at Morton High School, Fishel has been a member of Troop 178 since 2007. Before that, he was in Cub Scout Pack 85, where he earned the Arrow of Light. He is also a member of Venture Crew 318, where he serves as crew secretary.

His other Scout accomplishments include a participating in the 2010 National Scout Jamboree in Virginia; visiting all three of the Boy Scouts of America's national high adventure bases; journeying to Cache Lake Camp, the W.D. Boyce Council's fishing camp in Minnesota; and attending summer camp at Ingersoll Scout Reservation.

Fishel is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and serves on the Lodge Executive Committee as drum and dance chairman. He also is an active member of the Golden Eagles Drum and Dance Team, which performs crossover ceremonies throughout the W.D. Boyce Council.

Fishel plans to attend Eastern Illinois University in the fall, where he will study education.

He is the son of Scott Fishel of Morton and Cathy Lane of East Peoria. His brothers, Alex and Andrew, also are Eagle Scouts.

SCOUTS

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the service projects. They're pretty fun and different every year."

One of the water mitigation projects fell to Scoutmaster Roberto Avina's Creve Coeur Troop 4. Avina said the goal was to dig a trench around a cabin to contain flowing water down the hill — a project he forecast to take most of the day. The trench was completed in two hours, before the group even took a lunch break.

Avina said plenty of jobs were left on the list before the Crossover ceremonies Saturday night, where Cubs Scouts become Boy Scouts. The Cubs Scouts' presence at the One Day of Service event gives them an inside look at the next level of Scouting.

"We got the packs that are affiliated with us, and I'm looking for the new Scouters," Avina said. "That way they can become my troop and we can start all over again with new guys."

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SHOW

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"That's really one of the coolest parts about the show — for kids to visualize and see being behind the wheel of a car," Brede-man said.

And the different tastes of the public are palpable by the traffic at each dealer. Bishop, a 15-year-old from Tremont who took advan-

tage of the free admission but is nearing the age of acquiring a driver's license, preferred a more upscale vehicle than Bertke's preference of the Dodge Charger.

"The Audis are really nice," Bishop said. "Just real comfortable and sleek."

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ILLINOIS REPORT

Illinois House OKs lower-cost hunting bill

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — A proposal that would lower the cost of fishing and hunting licenses for seniors is moving through the Illinois Legislature.

The House passed a measure on Friday that would lower the cost of licenses by \$1 for those 75 and older who are enrolled in the Benefits Access Program with the Illinois Department on Aging.

The proposal eliminates the fee to receive pheasant, furbearer, and habitat or migratory fowl stamps for hunters. For fishermen, the fees for inland trout and salmon stamps are eliminated.

State Rep. Jack Franks, D-Marengo, is sponsoring the legislation that he says will ensure seniors can enjoy the state's outdoors.

The proposal now moves to the Senate for consideration.

The bill is HB4329.

U.S. Senate to take up Illinois judgeship nominee

BENTON (AP) — A nominee for a federal judgeship in southern Illinois has cleared one hurdle toward confirmation.

Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois said the Senate Judiciary Committee on which he sits has approved Staci Yandle for a U.S. District Court seat in Benton.

Her nomination now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

Yandle of Carlyle has had her own private practice in O'Fallon since 2007, after having worked at two other law firms for a combined 20 years. She serves on the Illinois Bar Foundation's board and has been an adjunct professor at St. Louis University's law school.

She's a University of Illinois graduate, with a law degree from Vanderbilt University.

Illinois wetland project gets federal grant

CHICAGO (AP) — An environmental group is getting a \$50,000 grant to help restore habitat for waterfowl and marsh birds near Hennepin.

The funding for the Putnam County project comes from the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The grant was approved March 26 and announced on Friday.

The Wetlands Initiative applied for the grant for the Oak Ridge Wetland Restoration at Hennepin and Hopper lakes. Its project involves restoring 70 acres of wetlands and surrounding savanna and prairie.

within the Sue and Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge.

Crews will re-establish native wetlands plants to increase nesting and foraging habitat.

Air Force: Illinois air base to lose 99 jobs

MASCOUTAH (AP) — The Air Force said 99 jobs are being phased out in a unit that provides technical services at Scott Air Force Base.

Air Force spokesman Andy Roake said the cuts are expected to take place through 2015.

The jobs include middle-level management, staff and policy consultation positions.

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