



Federal Way officers receive Medal of Honor awards

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Mayor Jim Ferrell answers a question at the Federal Way Mirror forum on Oct. 13.

HENRY STEWART-WOOD/SOUND PUBLISHING

Couple kidnapped while camping at Dash Point State Park

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN
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A couple was kidnapped from Dash Point State Park after they were robbed at gunpoint while camping Sept. 30, according to the Federal Way Police Department.

The couple was camping at Dash Point State Park near the 5700 block of SW Dash Point Road on Sept. 30, according to police.

They were sleeping in their vehicle because of the rain when an unknown man approached the vehicle, pointed a gun at them and robbed them of their cash and belongings, according to police.

One of the victims, who contacted the Mirror on Oct. 13, said there were two suspects — a man and a woman — involved.

Between 3-4 a.m., the suspects approached the couple sleeping in their vehicle and pointed a gun at them through the car window, demanding the couple open up the doors and give them cash, the victim said.

"We gave them our cash and they started going through the vehicle, pulling out items like backpacks containing camping equipment, computer and electronics and a purse," the victim told the Mirror. "Then they decided to have the male suspect get into the vehicle with the gun and force us to drive to an ATM machine. We left the campground around 5-6 a.m."

The suspect sat in the rear passenger seat pointing a gun at the male victim seated next to him as the female victim drove, the victim said. The female suspect followed in another vehicle.

They drove around Federal Way for a half-hour before finding an ATM. The victim said they sat in the parking lot for over an hour getting money out.

Then the female suspect used the victims' cards at Walmart and Home Depot "while the male suspect sat in the vehicle pointing the gun at us and demanding we unlock my phone so that he could approve the fraud alerts off the phone."

After unsuccessful attempts using the victims' cards, the suspects had the victim drive and park behind Frugals in Auburn to wait for their banks to open for business.

The couple convinced the suspects to go eat breakfast and drove to a nearby Denny's. The female victim convinced the suspect to let her use the bathroom inside where she wrote a note to Denny's staff about being kidnapped by the man in the SUV. The gunman expressed concern that she would tell the police, so the male victim said he would go in and make sure she doesn't, the

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Federal Way candidates take the stage

Mirror's forum features mayoral, city council and school board candidates.

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN
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Fourteen candidates vying for elected positions discussed homelessness, police accountability and crime at the Federal Way Mirror's Oct. 13 forum.

About 70 people attend the in-person event, which is also available for viewing on the Mirror's Facebook page, in a return from last year's virtual event.

Moderated by Dr. T.M. Sell, the two mayoral, eight city council and four school board candidates were present at the Thursday night event. Here are some of the highlights.

Mayoral candidates

Incumbent Jim Ferrell faced Mark Greene in the mayor's race, answering questions about crime rates, economic

development and police accountability.

Greene, a Marine Corps veteran, said he does not support any variation of defunding the police and instead would rather see efforts made to reverse the recent policing reform bills. He also does not support a police oversight board as they are often politically one sided, he said.

"In Federal Way, we're beginning to see the same policies that Seattle has," Greene said. "Under my mayoralty, there will be no encampments." Instead, he said, there will be voluntary drug rehabilitation and shelter programs.

Ferrell outlined his vision for Federal Way's future, which includes further developing Federal Way's downtown core and its vitality, and expanding the police force. Ferrell said he does not support a police oversight board, but is pushing to add 13 officers to a force that is struggling to fill the vacancies.

"I don't think accountability boards are the way to go,"

Ferrell said.

City council candidates

In the city council races, candidates were asked who they feel is responsible for helping those experiencing homelessness and what accomplishing that task would look like in Federal Way.

Incumbent Leandra Craft, position 5, said the responsibility is on local government, along with state and county government, too. She said the city council should advocate to have at least 85% of the space in King County's Health Through Housing hotel in Federal Way reserved for local residents, coupled with resources, law enforcement and programming.

Position 5 challenger Jack Walsh, a small business owner, said those who are seen sleeping in the streets or staying in the woods are there because of drug addictions.

"We need to recognize it for what it is," he said, adding that

the compassionate thing to do would be to enforce drug usage and shoplifting laws.

Jack Dovey, position 6 candidate and former Federal Way mayor, said the problem is not homelessness, but instead is the people who abuse drugs, don't stay within the law and have mental health issues.

Position 6 candidate Renae Seam, who has a business and data analytics background, said investments should be made in addressing the root causes such as mental health issues and chemical dependency. In doing so, people transition to stability and the chronic loop of homelessness will come to an end, she said.

Incumbent Greg Baruso, who serves on the city's public safety committee and is vying to retain position 2, said not enough focus is being placed on the children and families in Federal Way who are homeless. In these instances, the city must help families who are experiencing

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9 Federal Way businesses vandalized in one week

By OLIVIA SULLIVAN
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Over the course of one week, nine Federal Way businesses had their glass windows or doors shattered by an unknown suspect.

The most recent incident occurred at Biscuits Cafe in Federal Way. Eleven windows of the restaurant were smashed sometime overnight between Sunday, Oct. 10, and Monday, Oct. 11.

Police do not have any suspect information.

The police department is looking into several vandalism incidents and crimes along Pacific Highway, said Cmdr. Casey Jones.

"We know situations like this have significant impacts on business owners, employees, and community members," Jones said.

The department has altered officers' hours and have brought in additional officers to stop these crimes from happening, Jones added.

While the vandalism incidents in the area have the same circumstances, police have not fully linked them yet, Jones said.

"We do not yet have a suspect identified, but we are still investigating and making attempts to find the person responsible," he said.

According to police records, the first incident of the shattering series took place around 11 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Advanced Auto Parts store. Police responded to the store, at 33530 Pacific Highway South, to find windows broken, but no entry was made into the building.

In the next day, six more



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH SOUND NEWS

Biscuits Cafe in Federal Way.

businesses reported similar vandalism: their glass doors or windows were shattered by large rocks or other objects,

but no entry was made into the businesses.

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PARK

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victim said.
 “Surprisingly, he let me go in to tell her while he got out and into the drivers seat to pull the SUV around to the front of the Denny’s,” the victim said.
 Fearing the gunman would walk into the restaurant, the couple went back out to the car with menus and asked the suspect what he would like to eat to buy time until the police showed up, the victim said.
 The suspect ordered two T-bone steaks and six scrambled eggs, the victim said, and the female victim went back into the restaurant to place the order while the male victim remained outside.
 Minutes later, the Auburn police showed up and the male suspect fled in the rental. Kolby Crossley, spokesperson for Auburn

Police, said responding officers did not pursue the suspect because they had no information on the case upon arrival.
 Neither of the victims were injured during the incident.
 The victim said police from both the Auburn and the Federal Way departments went above and beyond treating them with care and compassion. He also credits the two hosts at Denny’s with saving their lives.
 “We take the safety of our visitors very seriously,” said Amanda McCarthy, communications manager for Washington State Parks. “Our rangers worked quickly to respond to the initial report and contacted additional law enforcement immediately.”
 Federal Way police are actively investigating the incident.
 Dash Point State Park has 114 standard campsites and 27 utility campsites.

Vandalism

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Jeremy Olsen, store manager of Greg’s Japanese Auto Repair, said he was sitting in his office doing paperwork when he heard a loud noise.
 “I thought someone shot the building,” he said. He walked into the lobby and waiting area of the auto store and “the window exploded in front of me.”
 Olsen attempted to talk to the suspect who threw a metal water meter cap into the window, but he was “acting disturbed” and ran into the street when told to leave, Olsen said.
 The auto repair shop has been vandalized twice in the last month, he said, and repairing the damage costs about \$2,000 for each incident. In addition, the shop has had its fence cut, building burglarized, and fires started by people outside the building.
 “It’s a common occurrence,” Olsen said.
 The vandalized businesses include:
 Oct 6: Advanced Auto Parts store, 33530 Pacific Highway South, around 11 p.m.
 Gravity Coffee, 33510 Pacific Highway South, around 11:30 p.m.



Biscuits Cafe in Federal Way.

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Oct. 7: Banner Bank, 34600 Pacific Highway South, around 12:39 a.m.
 All Right Auto Sales, 33333 Pacific Highway South, around 1:42 a.m.
 Greg’s Japanese Auto Repair, 1506 S. 348th Street, around 6:33 a.m.
 Franciscan Medical Clinic, 34616 11th Place S., reported around 7:30 a.m.
 Blooming Dental, 33838 Pacific Highway South, around 8:40 a.m.
 Oct. 10: Office Depot, 1407 S. 348th Street, reported around 9:50 a.m.
 Oct. 11: Biscuits Cafe, 35100 Enchanted Parkway South, around 4:38 a.m.

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