

Fool's gold dust costs men \$306,000

Three men in Westborough, Mass., are out \$306,000 after falling victim to a scam, MassLive.com reported on Aug. 29. Joseph Boakye, 31, of Worcester is one of two suspects wanted by Westborough police for allegedly selling 15 kilograms of counterfeit gold dust. In July, the victims met Boakye and his accomplice at an Extended Stay America hotel and tested the gold dust for authenticity.

Apparently satisfied, they paid \$26,000 in cash and transferred \$280,000 into a Bank of America account, after which they received a locked Sentry safe that supposedly held the gold dust. Boakye told them they would get the combination to the safe after the transfer cleared. But two days later, when they were unable to

open the safe, the victims called a locksmith. Inside – shocking! – was counterfeit gold.

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

– Thieves in Roanoke County, Va., hit the same shoe store twice in July and August, according to the Roanoke Times, stealing shirts, hoodies, jackets – and right shoes. Thirteen shoes meant for a right foot were taken from Clean Soles, where store operator Rob Wickham said he typically displays right shoes and keeps the mates behind the counter. They're "not much good unless you have two right feet," said Wickham. A 17-year-old suspect has been charged with the July break-in.

– A homeowner in Toluca

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Lake, Calif., looked at video from his surveillance camera late on Aug. 29 and saw a person on the property, but it wasn't until the next day, when he looked around for any damage, that a man was discovered stuck between a wall and a garage. KCAL TV reported it took firefighters more than an hour to free the unnamed man, a suspect wanted in connection with a burglary the night before. Los Angeles police arrested him for trespassing as he was transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

OVERREACTIONS

– Bryan Tucker of Sandston, Va., was FED UP TO HERE! with kids litter-

ing his lawn as they waited at the Henrico County school bus stop adjacent to his property. So on Sept. 4, he installed a battery-powered electric fence. "They don't respect other people's land," Tucker told WTVR TV. "I pick up trash every day." Officials informed him later that day that the fence was placed on county property, not his own, so Tucker took it down. But he still thinks the point was made: "The message has gotten across," Tucker said. "Parents are posting and talking about it."

FOOLED YA!

University of Houston student Jehv M. looked at a

blank wall in his local McDonald's and saw opportunity. Hoping to boost Asian representation in the burger chain's advertising, Jehv created a poster featuring himself and a friend touting McDonald's french fries.

They bought used McDonald's uniforms at a thrift store as disguises, then boldly hung the poster in a Pearland, Texas, location as customers ordered and ate around them. United Press International reported that 51 days later, the poster still hung on the wall unnoticed, as shown in a photo on Jehv's Twitter feed.

As of Sept. 4, it was not clear whether management at McDonald's knew of the poster's origins.

INEXPLICABLE

On Sept. 3, as an unnamed woman drove through Columbia Park, Wash., she witnessed a beaver being struck by a car. She stopped and tried to help the animal, wrapping it in a towel before going home to find a container to put it in. When she returned to the scene about 30 minutes later, YakTriNews reported, she found 35-year-old Richard Delp sexually assaulting the dying beaver. Unsurprisingly, Delp was also found to be in possession of methamphetamine; police charged him with possession and animal cruelty. The beaver didn't survive.

Send your weird news items with subject line WEIRD NEWS to WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com.

Fender bender



Lacy Garrison photo

James Rhea, driver of the red Nissan Versa, loads a piece of his fender after rear-ending a Toyota Camry driven by Janice Hopkins, sending her to Saint Thomas River Park with neck pain. The fender-bender took place on Beersheba Highway in front of the Dollar General in Mt. Leo on Thursday afternoon. Rhea was cited for driving too closely by McMinnville policeman Justin Caldwell.

Sunday in the Bible Belt

Continued from page 1A

According to a member of the Amish community located in Morrison, they are a private people. They don't believe in being quoted or photographed for the paper because they consider it an unacceptable act of pride. As an explanation, the Amish man asked, "Do you know what the middle letter is in the word pride?"

As for Sundays, he explained the Amish hold religious services in homes rather than in churches. During the services, their sermons and songs are in German. These were just a few facts gleaned from my trip to Rose Lane to interact with Warren County's friendly Amish community.

Another religious group a lot of Warren County citizens don't know much about is McMinnville Seventh-day Adventist Church located on 215 Bluff Springs Road. According to the church's website, they share several beliefs of mainstream Christians including the belief the Bible is the infallible word of God and sinful humanity can be saved by Jesus.

Unlike other Christians, Adventists worship on Saturday, the "seventh day" instead of Sunday. According to the church's website, Adventists keep the Sabbath holy by resting – as God did on the seventh day, according to the Bible. For more information on their beliefs, visit www.adventist.org. Lastly, there is one

Catholic Church in McMinnville – St. Catherine's Catholic Church, 1024 Faulkner Springs Road. With the church being in between priests, the administrative staff said they would be unable to participate in the series. For more information about their service times, visit catholicmasstime.org.

One last caveat: Not all of the denominations presented throughout this series ascribe to all of the same religious beliefs and practices. Like schools, each church has its own personality and own way of doing things.

If you have questions, reach out to church leadership. The majority are more than willing to discuss their doctrine and guide you to additional resources.

Investigation continues in White County shooting

A joint investigation by special agents with the TBI, the office of the 13th District Attorney General, and the White County Sheriff's Department has resulted in the arrest of a male juvenile who is charged in connection with a shooting death Thursday night.

At the request of 13th District Attorney General Bryant Dunaway, on Sept. 13, TBI agents joined deputies with the White County Sheriff's Department in investigating a shooting death that occurred at a residence on Crossville Highway in Sparta.

When deputies responding to a 911 call arrived at the

home, they found a 47-year-old deceased male with a gunshot wound. During the course of the investigation, it was determined a male juvenile who lived in the home was the individual responsible for the death.

On Thursday night, a 14-year-old male was charged with voluntary manslaughter via a juvenile petition.

He is currently being held in juvenile detention. Due to the juvenile's age, he is not being identified at this time.

A hearing on this incident is scheduled to go before a Juvenile Court judge Monday.

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