



Yavapai County Sheriff's Office
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Media Release

August 21, 2009 - Updated

YCSO Seeking Suspects in Cottonwood Church Vandalism

Officials with the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints have calculated a damage cost estimate of \$7,000 resulting from the vandalism reported on August 14.

Additional details regarding damage include phallic symbols spray painted on some of the religious artwork and interior walls. Most of the plaques had been removed from walls throughout the church and many were damaged. Fire extinguisher contents were sprayed throughout the building. Damage to chapel includes broken music stands and plant pots. Paint was also sprayed on wall dividers in the chapel. Locks had been pried off some of the interior doors.

The motive for the damage to this particular church remains unclear and still under investigation.

YCSO detectives are still seeking information on suspects in this case as no substantial leads have been provided. Many times suspects in these types of crimes will boast about their deeds, so anyone hearing suspicious comments regarding this incident is encouraged to call the Sheriff's Office or Yavapai Silent Witness at 1800-932-3232. With Silent Witness, you do not have to give your name and become eligible for a cash reward if an arrest is made in this case.

August 14, 2009 - On August 13, 2009, at approximately 6:30 A.M., Yavapai County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to reported Criminal Damage at the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints located in the 1300 block of East Hombre Drive, Cottonwood.

Church officials told deputies that unknown suspects entered the building and damaged church property. The suspects spray painted walls, furniture, artwork and photos throughout the building. They also sprayed fire extinguisher contents in various rooms of the church and smashed flower pots and other displays.

Detectives and Evidence Technicians were called to the scene and collected evidence as part of the investigation. As of yesterday, the motive for the vandalism was unclear. Detectives are attempting to determine exactly how and where the suspects entered the

church. The damage most likely occurred during the overnight hours between 12th and 13th of August. .

Church officials have not yet provided a cost estimate of the damage.

YCSO is encouraging anyone with information about the church vandalism incident to contact the Sheriff's Office at 928-771-3260, or you may report the information anonymously to Yavapai Silent Witness at 1800-932-3232. Callers to Silent Witness are subject to a cash reward if an arrest is made in this case. Refer to file number 09-031308.

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at (928) 771-3260 or the YCSO website: www.ycsoaz.gov