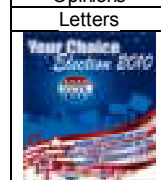


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Question of the Week

What would you like to see happen to Roger Clemens?

- He deserves to go to prison
- He deserves a spot in the Baseball Hall of Fame
- I don't care about celebrities' and athletes' personal lives

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Thieves steal copper from substation

BY MELISSA MCKEON MMCKEON@HOLDENLANDMARK.COM

Police responding to a call from the Holden Municipal Light Department's Chaffins substation behind the Blue Plate on Main Street discovered that savvy thieves had stolen more than half a dozen copper breaker blades.

The scrap metal was being stored at the substation. HMLD Director James Robinson said the copper blades had been removed from their assemblies, which weigh more than 20 pounds each.

"These folks knew what they were doing," Robinson said. "Whoever did it knew exactly what they were looking for."

What they were looking for was copper; the thieves are among many worldwide who steal not just copper, but all metals, for resale to scrap dealers. The increase in the price for scrap metal has made it a lucrative target for thieves. Other copper thefts have occurred nearby in the Holden Industrial Park as well.

Thieves entered the Chaffins substation by cutting their way through a tenfoot high chain link fence.

The area of the fence that was cut faces away from Main Street and is not part of the substation generally in use.

Robinson said he's unable to put a value on the stolen materials, which were no longer used for their original purpose due to wear. The town generally sells scrap material. The remaining blades, which were left at the site by the thieves, have been moved, he said.

The Chaffins substation is one of two in town; the other is on Bullard Street.

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