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Three juveniles summonsed after Wong Dynasty vandalism Incidents on the rise this summer BY MELISSA MCKEON MMCKEON@HOLDENLANDMARK.COM

Three Holden juveniles are being summonsed on charges ranging from attempting to commit a crime (breaking and entering in the daytime), malicious destruction of property over \$250 and breaking and entering for a misdemeanor after police were called to the vacant Wong Dynasty by a burglar alarm on Tuesday, July 22.

Holden Police officers Jonathan Bourget and Michael Joslyn responded to a burglar alarm phoned in regarding a motion alarm in the bar area on the lower level of the Reservoir Street restaurant.

Police found an open window and broken glass and requested additional help from a K9 state police unit.

Three juveniles were tracked and found in the area. Holden Police Chief George Sherrill said a follow-up investigation resulted in the three being summonsed, not arrested, a decision of the investigating officer, he

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Sherrill has seen an increase in reports of vandalism downtown. A Main Street property manager filed a report recently regarding a broken railing on a rental property downtown, and the town's senior center has also reported some vandalism. The bandstand in front of the senior center has also seen several incidents of intentional damage.

"I don't know whether fewer families are vacationing and staying in town more, or whether it's a spike in an age group, or good weather," he said. "It could be just all of the above."

Sherrill said there was evidence of skateboard activity in the area of the Wong Dynasty, and at least one Main Street businessowner hasn't hesitated to lay the blame on the youths who use vacant parking lots for skateboarding, but Sherrill said he doesn't want to target a particular group or activity as the culprit.

He said the incidents of vandalism that have been reported may just be the tip of the iceberg. Property owners sometimes don't even report vandalism or other incidents, he said, noting he'd received a call from a Main Street businessowner reporting verbal harassment by youths that had been going on for some time.

"People are very hesitant to contact us," Sherrill said. "I think that's just human nature."

Vandalism is a particular worry when it comes to vacant properties on Main Street and in the downtown area, especially businesses where even neighbors might not notice something suspicious going on.

In that instance, as in the case of the Wong Dynasty, a burglar alarm is handy, though Sherrill stops short of advising everyone to get one — the town's crime rate may not justify the expense, he said.

The department has stepped up patrols in response, but the key is the observant eyes of residents who should call whenever they see anything suspicious, the chief said.

In the meantime, perhaps the experience of three young people caught at the Wong Dynasty will act as a

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