POLICE DESK

April 11

AN Ellison Ave resident in Te Kuiti caught a man looking through his ranch slider door saying he was "looking for his goats". He was described as a male Maori, 6ft tall wearing mustard coloured pants with one leg rolled up. A police search of the area found no-one matching the description.

TWO cars parked at a car sales yard at the northern end of Maniapoto St in Otorohanga were smashed.

April 12

A 31-year-old Benneydale man was warned about his erratic driving in a paddock opposite

Benneydale Primary School.

April 13

CHILD Youth and Welfare Services have been notified following an incident where two unaccompanied children aged 3 and 5 entered The Warehouse in Te Kuiti and tried to walk out with a backpack full of toys. The children's mother was later found at a nearby camping ground and her excuse was "they were told to play outside". Police say they are a transient family from the South Island passing through Te Kuiti.

TWO cars parked on Stainton Tce in Te Kuiti were entered and "rifled through".

Nothing was reported missing

BURGLAR(S) entered a shed on Colin Brook Pl in Te Kuiti and made off with several items including meat, alcohol, a gas burner and two butcher's knives. It is also believed that a large amount of beer (nine boxes) was taken away from the property by using the homeowner's wheelie bin.

April 14

Chilean Green Seedless Grapes 500g

POLICE attended a motor vehicle accident on Ouruwhero Rd in Otorohanga where the driver lost control and went over a bank. There were no reported injuries.

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April 16

A HILLCREST Ave resident in Otorohanga reported seeing a European woman wearing a green cap attempting to open her back door at 1pm.

POLICE are looking for a man who allegedly whipped a woman with earphone cords and slapped her face at a Karaka Ave home in Otorohanga.

The woman suffered a welt to her back and swelling to her face.

• North King Country police attended five family violence incidents from April 11-17.

Key issues to growth

GROWING tourism and strengthening internet connectivity are key issues facing the Waitomo district highlighted in Local Government New Zealand's (LGNZ's) research, as part of its campaign to encourage more Kiwis to get involved in the October Local Authority elections.

The Vote2016 Campaign is engaging with residents about the issues that matter most in their communities.

It is also focusing on encouraging candidates to stand and inspiring more residents to vote.

LGNZ has surveyed local body representatives nationwide about the importance of local government and what they see as key issues facing their communities.

LGNZ president Lawrence Yule says: "Local government has an important role to play in delivering strong local economies and building vibrant communities.

"Working closely with communities is vital to shaping the places where people want to live, work and play."

GROWTH AREA

Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna says creating a more vibrant place to live and work is a major part of increasing work opportunities and tourism in the district.

"Tourism is our most exciting growth area at present – not only does it offer more prosperity to our businesses that service these visitors, but it offers exciting job prospects as well," says Mr Hanna.

Increasingly essential resources such as mobile phone coverage and internet connectivity are also an issue for the district says councillor Phil Brodie, with the majority of quality services targeting the schools.

"Research tells us it's the visible, tangible services that matter most to communities," says Mr Yule.

"With this in mind, local government is enhancing its engagement with communities on local issues and others throughout the campaign and beyond-all key to building stronger, more resilientcommunities.

"Ultimately, how well local government performs impacts on how well communities, citizens and businesses prosper both now and into the future."

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