

South Sound briefs

Police seize house alleged to be drug den

LACEY - Narcotics detectives have seized a house off College Street where heroin deals were commonplace and neighbors routinely complained about shady characters going in and out.

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The house at 4704 14th Ave. S.E. was the target last spring of a large drug bust by the Thurston County Narcotics Task Force. Inside, detectives found drugs, blood stains on the walls and ceilings, and boxes of unopened syringes. The house had been known as a "shooting gallery" for addicts to get clean needles and shoot up, police reported.

The home again drew attention in October. The county task force took possession of the home by filing a lawsuit under the state's civil forfeiture law. Residents were served with eviction notices and moved out by the Feb. 3 deadline, task force Lt. Loreli Thompson said.

The task force now is exploring what to do with the property. To be marketed as residential, the property would need significant cleaning and remodeling, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Dominique Jinhong said.

The home's former residents, Joseph J. Demico, 58, and his nephew, Shane M. Demico, 29, both face charges in Thurston County Superior Court of maintaining a drug house.

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