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## Stolen guns found in Dungannon home

By DEANNE JOHNSON Journal Staff Writer

DUNGANNON — Guns taken from Salem homes recently were located by Salem Detective Dave Talbert and members of the Columbiana County Drug Task Force at a home on Laughlin Mill Road, along with several potted marijuana plants.

Talbert said he was investigating two burglaries at Salem homes where the only items taken were rifles and guns. The first was reported on July 16 at a Franklin Avenue home, where two rifles and a Glock handgun were taken, along with ammunition.

The second burglary was reported at a Mullins Street home on July 22, where a handgun was taken and the remainder of the home appeared untouched.

The investigation led to the search at the property on Laughlin Mill Road near Dungannon, where police uncovered the two rifles and the second handgun behind the backseat in a trunk compartment of a vehicle. Talbert said it is believed the Glock semiautomatic handgun may have been exchanged for drugs in the Youngstown area.

Also found were several potted marijuana plants, four inside the vehicle and five additional ones in the home.

In conjunction with the investigation, police arrested Craig Cross, East Pershing Street, on a parole violation. No one has yet been charged for the drugs found or thefts of the weapons.

Police are continuing to check whether other items found were stolen. The case remains under investigation.

Talbert called the case a reminder of the correlation between the drug problem and increases in property crime in the area. Once traded into the drug scene, the stolen firearms could have led to even more violent crimes.

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