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Fire risks raise level of danger

Because of high fire danger and "a rash of expensive and destructive human-caused wildfires," strict fire rules are in effect, said Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF).

Fire season went into effect on July 1. Under the fire rules, use of fireworks on county, state and private land protected by ODF has been prohibited since June 23, except in cleared areas free of all flammable vegetation.

Also under the public-regulated use closure:

- *Debris burning is prohibited.

- *Chainsaw use is prohibited between 1 and 8 p.m.

- *Non-agricultural mowing of dry or cured grass is prohibited between 1 and 8 p.m.

- *Smoking in areas of flammable vegetation is prohibited.

- *Campfires are prohibited except in improved campgrounds such as state and county parks.

- *Use of vehicles on unimproved roads is prohibited.

- *Cutting, grindings and welding metal is prohibited in areas of flammable vegetation.

- *Non-industrial use of power-driven machinery is prohibited from 1-8 p.m.

Suit ending in city loss

To cut its losses in a lawsuit against the company that built the wastewater treatment plant, the city of Cave Junction wants to end legal action and is paying the company approximately \$237,000.

Mayor Ed Faircloth said that he is extremely unhappy with the attorney who represented the city, Robert A. Graham Jr. of Grants Pass. "I was under the impression that he had his act together," said the mayor, indicating that the city has lost in court several times despite assurances from Graham that the outlook was good.

The council agreed to dispense with further litigation during its meeting in city hall on Monday night, July 14. The 5-0 action followed a five-minute executive (closed to the public) session.

Because of the amount of money involved, the city likely will need to make adjustments in its budget and possibly some of its operations. City Recorder Jim Polk said that the Oregon Secretary of State accepted last year's budget with a minus amount in the wastewater treatment plant fund.

But the city is required to submit a resolution to explain how it is going to



VANDALS CAUSE IVHS FUROR - Illinois Valley firefighters responded at 11:55 p.m. on Saturday, July 12 when fire alarms sounded at Illinois Valley High School. Engines and personnel from Cave Junction, Selma and O'Brien responded, searching for some time for the cause of what appeared to be smoke. An electrical fire was suspected. Subsequently, an open door was found, as well as a discharged fire extinguisher. The latter was determined to be the cause of the alarm, as it activated automatic detection devices. Suspects are sought. I.V. firefighters and Oregon Dept. of Forestry also extinguished a 1/10-acre wildfire on Indian Creek Road at 1:20 p.m. on Saturday, believed caused by a careless smoker. At the same time, I.V. firefighters were faced with an extrication at the bottom of Hay's Hill, and medical emergencies on Waldo Road and Oregon Caves National Monument. All were handled.

Four wrecks cause loss of five lives

Two motorists died of injuries following a head-on collision on Hwy. 199 near Rogue Community College in Grants Pass on Saturday, July 12, said Oregon State Police.

The crash occurred at approximately 10:25 p.m. after OSP had received a call about a wrong-way driver.

The victims, both from Grants Pass, were identified as Dorothy Walters, 71, who was pronounced dead at the scene; and Kristen Johnston, 42, who died in Three Rivers Community Hospital after the wreck.

Both were wearing safety restraints, said OSP.

A third car, a Grants Pass taxi, also was involved, but neither the driver, Ray Miller, nor his passengers, Elizabeth Matthew and Erik Moog, were reported injured, OSP said.

OSP said that Walters was northbound on 199 and for an unknown reason crossed the centerline and struck Johnston's southbound vehicle. Her vehicle then hit the taxi,

which also was southbound.

Three other fatal motor vehicle accidents, in the Klamath Falls/Chiloquin and California border areas on July 12, also were reported by OSP.

At 4 a.m. a vehicle driven by Mandy Taylor of Chiloquin went off Hwy. 97 near milepost 268, struck several large boulders and rolled several times, said OSP.

After the crash, Taylor climbed an embankment, and a car with four teenagers stopped to help. The driver, a 17-year-old girl, was truck by a semitruck and trailer, and died at the scene. The victim was not identified.

At 2:38 p.m., a semitruck and trailer, and a minivan collided near the junction of U.S. 97 and Hwy. 138 with the truck tipping onto its right side and sliding into the Diamond Lake Junction Café.

No one in the café was reported injured, but Jian Pang, 38, a passenger in the van that pulled in front of the truck from a stop

sign, died en route to a hospital. She was ejected from the van.

The driver, Libang Yang, 38, from Portland, was in critical condition. A girl, about 14, and an elderly woman also were in critical condition. A toddler was listed in good condition.

The truck driver, Thomas Mead, 60, from Tucson, Ariz., suffered minor injuries.

In a third fatal crash, on Interstate 5, 12 miles into Oregon from California, a minivan driven by Porsche Bowdre from Longview, Wash. went out of control and rolled several times due to a blown tire at 4:55 p.m., said OSP.

A passenger, Gloria Collins, 38, from San Bernardino, Calif., was pinned under the van and pronounced dead at the scene.

Ten children passengers were taken to Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford. All were released, said OSP, with minor scrapes except for one child, who underwent surgery for facial lacerations.

Free meals noted by Three Rivers School Dist.

Vacationing children living in the Cave Junction area may go to Evergreen Elementary School, Rough and Ready Park or Cave Junction Pool for free

breakfast and lunch.

Three Rivers School District is offering the meals to those 18 and younger through the Summer Food Program:

- *Evergreen Elementary, 520 W. River St., through Aug. 22, Mondays through Fridays, 8 to 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to noon.

From ashes, stumps: rebirth of burned site

By PENNY NIEMI
Special to 'I.V. News'

Last week, a year after the Biscuit Fire began, 11 young people from Illinois Valley with several adults entered the Kalmiopsis Wilderness to document the rebirth of the forest.

Their tools were cameras, and their guide was Romain Cooper of the

Cooper pointed out the fire-proof pine tree and invited the young people to sniff the bark. "It smells like crème soda," was one comment. Another member reported that he "learned a lot about the serpentine that she didn't know before." All could see the specialness of the valley.



Students made notes of observations

Siskiyou Project. The idea is the brainchild of members of Illinois River Valley Arts Council with the focus, "Learning Through the Arts."

Organizers included Kathy Ratiu-Kelley and Penny Niemi. The council said that Shop Smart Food Warehouse provided the cameras and processing for the project. After photos are developed, the young people will choose one to be enlarged and matted.

The enlargements and a statement by each photographer will be displayed at Taylor's Sausage Country Store in Cave Junction during the Second Friday Art Walk on Aug. 8, and throughout the month.

The group's first stop on Illinois River Road was an overlook of the fault line that ends the serpentine eco-area. Cooper discussed some unique qualities of the serpentine environment, one of Illinois Valley's unusual aspects.

Trees and bushes especially equipped to survive fire were pointed out, as well as the Mariposa lily that grows only in Illinois Valley. The group discovered the unique lily, and photographed it.

Man kills self after stop

After being stopped on suspicion of a traffic infraction, a motorist from California shot himself to death near Grants Pass, reported Oregon State Police.

OSP troopers stopped a pickup truck -- driven by David Chris Jensen, 64, from Chico, Calif. -- on Tuesday, July 8 on Interstate 5 at the north end of Grants Pass.

OSP said that it had received a call from another motorist reporting that the pickup truck was

"all over the road." A trooper determined that Jensen was not intoxicated, but that his driving privileges were suspended in Oregon.

As a trooper was preparing a citation, Jensen went to his vehicle and a single gunshot was heard, said OSP. He was pronounced dead at the scene, and a .357-caliber handgun was found on his lap.

One lane of I-5 was closed for approximately two hours while troopers conducted an investigation.

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