

# 10 minutes with...

## Mike White

Lifeguard at Cave Junction Pool

Age: 20  
Lived in valley: 10 years  
Junior at Western Oregon University, Monmouth



### How has pool attendance been this summer?

There's not as many people as last year. It's been quite low. I'm surprised to see there are not as many kids here as last year especially with the hot weather.

### Have you had to make any pool rescues this year?

I had to do a few. Nothing major. A few kids were afraid to swim. I'm usually very astute and can see all the kids. It's an easy job, but it's not for everybody. You need a good eye.

### What does your job entail that most people don't know about?

Our job doesn't end until we cover up the pool. We scrub the toilets everyday and get everything shipshape for the next day.

### Are there any big swimming events this summer?

We have a calendar here where we post everything. We have a few parties. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will have a pool party, and the Cub Scouts are coming up. But there are no competitions this year. There's no swim team.

### How long have you been a lifeguard and how did you get into it?

Two years here. I've always been a swimmer at heart. I needed a job to pay for college and I'm a lifeguard at college.

### Did you swim competitively?

There was no swim club here in high school. That's the unfortunate thing about outdoor pools, you can't have winter swim club like other schools. I joined a swim club in college and that helped with my lifeguard skills.

### How do you keep yourself alert on the job?

I count the number of kids in the pool and do a scan. I talk to myself and look at the kids and think if any of them need attention. I look for signs. It keeps me going and keeps me on the edge. I also like to talk to the kids and keep a dialogue going. It helps.

### What do you like best about the job?

I love the kids. During my breaks I talk to the kids and mingle. It's a really good job for that, especially if you want to know how the community is doing.

### If you weren't a lifeguard, what would you be doing?

I would probably be working in the U.S. Forest Service like my brother. He has a great job as a firefighter.

### What do you like about living in I.V.?

I enjoy coming back and seeing new faces. I like the small town atmosphere. It is much different than the big cities like Salem and Portland.

### What do you do when you're not at the pool?

I have another job at Taylor's Sausage. I go to school at Rogue Community College and I enjoy running at the Caves. That's how I keep in shape.

### What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Actually, I would have to say 'very berry strawberry.' I just had it at Baskin Robbins and it's good.

— Interview by Steve Fairchild

## Growing crime ring annoys CJ merchants

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pects were able to disarm the alarm system and even take it after they left the business.

"Even though they might be young, they are led by somebody intelligent," Talley said. "They totally know what they are doing. In my opinion they sent somebody in with a list."

Talley offered a reward to find more information about the burglaries and quickly received several names of those involved. She even has confronted some of them.

"I know who it is," she said. "I've been holding down the little punks. I would like our police department to be a little more involved in the community."

She is concerned about not enough police protection between 5 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Talley also said that the business owners don't communicate with each other about the break-ins. She said it's time for the mayor, city council and the I.V. Community Response Team to get involved.

"I love this town," she said. "I want to protect it."

"They're (the thieves) are young," she added. "We're talking about a bunch of spun-out little cranksters."

Some business owners have noted that their alarm systems sounded, but that no one phoned 911 even though they heard the alarms.

"That's pretty sad," said one business owner. "People need to be aware of what they're hearing, and not hesitate to phone for help."

Donna Pernicka of Puff 'N' Stuff is another business owner who has had enough. She has announced that a meeting will be held for Cave Junction business owners on Friday, Aug. 8 at Jubilee Park Pavilion at 7 p.m. to discuss what to do about the problem.

Puff 'N' Stuff was reported burglarized on May 7. Stolen merchandise and damage to the business totaled \$14,000, Pernicka said.

She doesn't like the idea of vigilantism, but would like business owners to take turns patrolling the streets. A volunteer citizens patrol was used to good effect several years ago when budget cuts decimated the sheriff's office.

"I'm not rich," said Pernicka. "I can't hire a private security guard."

Chris Coultas, co-owner of CJ Radio Shack & Video Mart, has been sleeping at her business with her dog in hopes of deterring thieves.

"I can't afford to come here in the morning and find everything gone," she said.

Her business was burglarized on May 1 and June 2. The thefts cost her more than \$3,000 in lost merchandise and damage. Thieves used VCRs to break through glass displays and steal her merchandise.

One of the break-ins occurred at 9:30 p.m.

"It's pretty pathetic that on the main strip of town at 9:30 p.m. people can break my front window and fill a bag," she said.

Coultas also did some of her own police work.

She discovered empty boxes from stolen merchandise at Jubilee Park after receiving a tip. She then went and took photos of some people hanging out at the park whom she thought were involved.

She said it doesn't deter thieves to place bars on windows because her back door has been broken through three times, and thieves have even tried to use sledgehammers to get through the walls.

"I'm doing my best to make it look like we're not in East L.A.," she said.

Pernicka is also concerned about keeping downtown looking good for customers.

"Who is going to stop in a town with businesses with bars on the doors and windows," she said. "The next thing you know we will have to move our businesses to Grants Pass or Medford."

"Cave Junction will be a ghost town."

Sheriff Dave Daniel said his force is aware of the crimes and follows up on all the leads they receive. It takes time to catch the thieves because they have to follow the laws of search-and-seizure, and need probable cause to make arrests, Daniel said.

"Our officers certainly do the follow-up," he said. "There is a good chance it is the same people doing these crimes."

Daniel said he will work with Lt. Lee

Harmon, the officer in charge of the I.V. Substation, to try to find some solutions for the valley businesses, like a Neighborhood Watch program or business association that could hire extra security.

Coultas, who has owned her Radio Shack business since 1995, said some business owners got together to hire a security company, but that it didn't work due to problems.

Now, she is concerned that if something isn't done soon someone may be injured.

"Somebody," she said, "is going to get hurt,

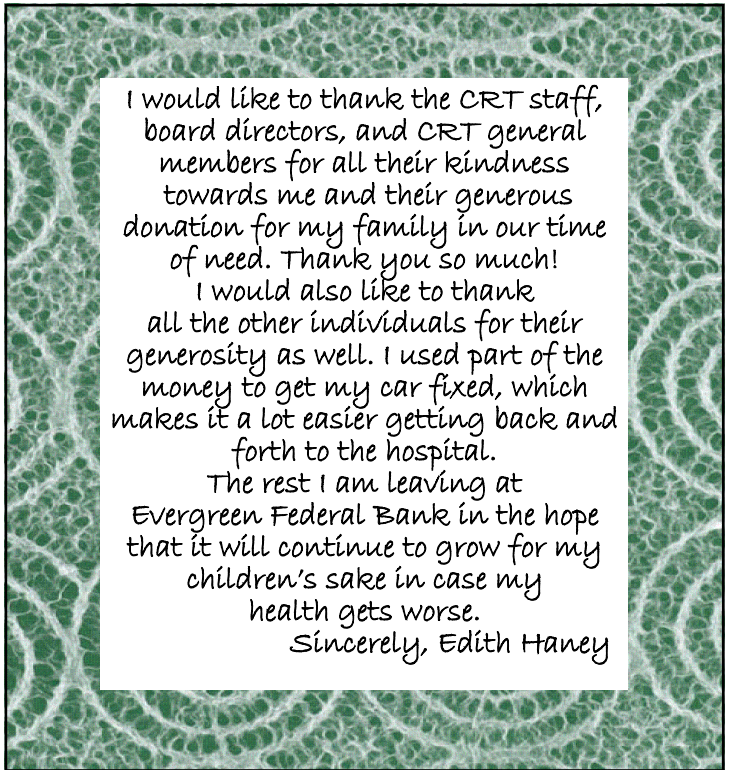
whether it's somebody (like me) sleeping on the floor (of a business) or somebody coming through the door."

Daniel said he understands the frustration business owners are feeling about the crimes.

"I don't blame them," he said. "It's unfortunate. If we catch them we will certainly prosecute them."

He said it all boils down to resources. The city of CJ contracts out for one 40-hour-a-week patrol position. But he said there are 168 hours in a week that need to be covered.

"That's the problem," said the sheriff.



I would like to thank the CRT staff, board directors, and CRT general members for all their kindness towards me and their generous donation for my family in our time of need. Thank you so much! I would also like to thank all the other individuals for their generosity as well. I used part of the money to get my car fixed, which makes it a lot easier getting back and forth to the hospital. The rest I am leaving at Evergreen Federal Bank in the hope that it will continue to grow for my children's sake in case my health gets worse.  
Sincerely, Edith Haney

**Attend the Blackberry Festival this weekend in Downtown Cave Junction. Organizers said they will have several locations providing free cold water. Many food, merchandise and arts & crafts booths will be part of the event.**

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presented by the I.V. Library

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