



**MOTORCYCLE RIDER DOWN --** Brad Paul Stryker, 47, of Gladstone was injured in a motorcycle accident Thursday, Oct. 2 on Redwood Hwy. near Reeves Creek Road just before 3 p.m. when a motor home driver slammed on his brakes too fast while driving in front of Stryker, said Josephine County Sheriff's Office.

Stryker and his bike slid to a stop in the middle of the roadway. He was transported to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass by American Medical Response., which responded to the scene with I.V. Fire District, the sheriff's office and Oregon State Police. (Photo by Steve Fairchild)

## Funding for helicopters pays off in fire season

After two severe fire seasons in a row and weather conditions lining up for a third, the Oregon Legislature last spring took preventative action. It earmarked \$5.7 million to bolster the Oregon Dept. of Forestry's (ODF) fire-fighting capability. On Sept. 27, a fire near Molalla underscored the benefits to the forest of the additional funds.

"Having a severity helicopter on standby allowed us to keep the acres burned on the Pine Creek Fire relatively small," the department's Molalla Unit manager, Ken Cushman said. "Without the quick access to this standby ship we could easily have seen a fire size of a few 100 acres to even a few 1,000 acres."

But with the aid of the water bucket-toting helicopter, firefighters were able to control the blaze at 13 acres. ODF typically contracts with private aviation firms to have helicopters available on a "call when needed" basis, an arrangement that reduces

cost but is contingent on availability. The extra dollars allocated by the Legislature in 2003 enabled fire managers to place helicopters on standby, which meant they were available to respond immediately to a dispatch order, often arriving at a fire in only a few minutes.

The rapid response time made a crucial difference on the Pine Creek Fire. That day, soaring temperatures and a dry easterly wind propelled the blaze through a young conifer plantation, brush, and hardwood trees. Cushman made the call to Terra Helicopters, Inc. in McMinnville.

ODF dispatched the Terra helicopter and other contract helicopters to numerous wildfires this summer.

In addition, the dept. put the legislatively earmarked funds to use by retaining a large air tanker on contract. Based in Medford, the airplane made dozens of flights throughout the state to drop liquid fire retardant on wildfires.

## Time to purge underage drinking, study says

### OLCC determined to eradicate teenage alcohol consumption and its consequences

A new national study says it's time to get tougher on underage drinking, and recommends a number of law enforcement steps that are already practiced by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC).

These include compliance checks of merchants for liquor sales violations, putting the lid on teen drinking parties and certifying the training of alcohol servers and sellers.

The report by the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council says the social costs of underage drinking are \$53 billion a year, including \$19 billion for alcohol-related auto accidents and \$29 billion for alcohol-fueled violent crime. Underage drinking is the No. 1 drug problem in Oregon and the primary enforcement focus of the OLCC.

The agency uses a va-

riety of strategies to accomplish this mission in its balancing enforcement program, said Teresa Kaiser, OLCC director.

The OLCC works with other police agencies, liquor licensees, educators, youth and parents on other proven methods to deter drinking by youth. This includes detecting and breaking up under-21 drinking activities at school dances, hotels or private homes, or in isolated rural areas, such as mountain, ocean or river-side recreation areas.

OLCC inspectors also work on underage drinking during college football games, especially at tailgate parties. The athletic departments at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University pay for the OLCC patrols from donated funds and no tax dollars are used.

"The main focus of

these programs is on preventing minors from obtaining alcohol and the many problems associated with that activity," said Pete O'Rourke, regional manager at the OLCC's Eugene office. "That includes drunken driving, traffic accidents, assaults, fights, vandalism, sexual assaults, poor academic performance and more."

"Minor" posting signs at restaurants, dance halls and other businesses that serve alcohol will soon be more user friendly, under an administrative rule amended recently by OLCC.

Some licensees said the agency's red-bordered minor warning signs are confusing to customers and their tone is negative and forbidding.

The new signs will accentuate the positive when listing the hours that minors may enter an area where food and alcohol are served. Instead of proclaiming "No minors permitted" in big red letters and "except during meal hours..." in small letters the new signs will say "Minors permitted during these hours..." in a more welcoming green color.

The changes only effect signs that allow mi-

nors into appropriate areas of licensed premises for eating. The more restrictive "No minors permitted" signs are for areas where drinking is the predominant activity. These signs will not be changed.

OLCC inspectors also have a new tool to combat drinking-related violations in the field -- a flashlight that sniffs the air for the presence of alcohol.

The Oregon Beer and Wine Distributors Association donated 10 passive alcohol sensor units to beef up the OLCC's underage drinking prevention program.

The alcohol sensing devices are designed to sample a person's breath, open containers, or enclosed spaces such as vehicles or party rooms, for traces of alcohol. They are attached to 12-inch, police-style flashlights and may be used without a subject's direct participation.

The battery-powered sensor has a small silent pump that draws an air sample through an electrochemical fuel cell, which generates a small electrical current when alcohol vapor is present.

## Firefighters hesitate to extinguish house fire

Illinois Valley Fire District and Oregon Dept. of Forestry firefighters had to put on the brakes before rushing in to fight a night fire near Selma on Wednesday, Oct. 1.

The fire occurred at a mobile home owned by Dip Daggett Mulch at 113 Forest Creek Road, a house which is on a list of the fire district's possible drug sites, according to ODF.

It was the same site at which Josephine County Sheriff's Office deputies raided and discovered a small methamphetamine lab and more than a dozen

marijuana plants in 1996, said the sheriff's office.

In 1999 a house on the site owned by George Mulch also was destroyed by fire.

Firefighters on Wednesday were ordered to delay fighting the fire until the site was declared safe. The single-wide 40-foot trailer was quickly engulfed in flames due to an electrical fire possibly caused by a generator.

Firefighters reported that between 75 and 100 junk cars made fighting the fire difficult, and firefighters stayed on scene for two hours mopping up the site.

**Honesty, a great policy!**  
*Jack & Vicki France would like to thank the employees of Giant Burger in Cave Junction for their honesty and the return of my wife's purse that we left behind. After arriving at our home in Smith River, Calif. we received a phone call informing us that they had the purse.*  
**A BIG THANK YOU to Giant Burger The France Family, Smith River, Calif.**

**2003 Flu Shot Clinic**  
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**THURSDAY, OCT. 9**  
 \*Frosh/Soph football at Henley - 4:30 p.m.  
 \*JV/Varsity volleyball At Lakeview 5:15/6:30 p.m.  
 \*Twin Day  
 \*Pep Assembly end of day  
**FRIDAY, OCT. 10**  
 \*Statewide In Service Day - No classes  
 \*Girls soccer at Hidden Valley - 10 a.m.  
**SATURDAY, OCT 11**  
 \*Varsity football vs. Henley - here - 1 p.m.  
 \*Boys soccer vs. Rogue River - here - 10 a.m.  
 \*Homecoming Dance 8 p.m. to midnight  
 \*Cross country at Rogue River - to be announced  
**TUESDAY, OCT 14**  
 \*JV/Varsity volleyball at North Valley 5:15/6:30 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15**  
 \*School board meeting at Fruitdale - 7 p.m.

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