

CJ car thefts, burglaries keep deputies busy; arrests made

By STEVE FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

"Here we go again" seemed to be on the tips of several tongues recently after a rash of auto thefts and break-ins plagued residents and Downtown Cave Junction businesses during late October and early November.

Lt. Lee Harman, of the Josephine County Sheriff's Office, said an arrest of two youths allegedly connected with auto thefts seems to have slowed the wave of automotive burglaries.

"We have had a rash of car thefts and we're still recovering vehicles," Harman said. "We solved most of those (auto thefts) by arresting two guys a couple of weeks ago."

Harman said deputies recovered four vehicles previously connected to the crimes of the two young men ages 16 and 18. (Names were not available).

Among them was a stolen vehicle in the 100 block of Watkins Street and a recovered stolen vehicle on Logan Cut Road on Thursday, Nov. 13.

Harman added that auto break-ins have also been occurring at a high rate in Grants Pass. And that despite the two suspects being arrested in Cave Junction, a handful of auto burglaries have continued to occur.

A major break-in at

Robbie's Auto Care Center, in which approximately \$10,000 worth of automotive tools and equipment was stolen, is also closer to being solved, Harman said.

A detective with the major crime division with suspect information is working on those crimes.

The owners of Robbie's are also asking for help catching the perpetrators.

Phone 592-6693 with information. (See related letter to the editor in today's issue on page two).

Additional crimes that have required police attention and sent up red flags with community members recently have included: a prowler at River Valley Village Mobile Home Park that allegedly pushed in the door of a residence and break-ins at homes on Airport Drive.

In addition, another driver of a pickup truck -- this one with large mud tires -- drove on hydroseeded ground behind Lorna Byrne Middle School.

Despite the dent in stopping some criminals, Illinois Valley still is plagued by enough problems to keep deputies busy.

"This week has slowed down," Harman said on Friday, Nov. 21. "We're back to normal: a couple of assaults, criminal mischief and property disputes."

IVCRT Insights By Ron Phillips

Illinois Valley Community Response Team (IVCRT) is considering applying for a grant to construct a business incubator at the IV Airport Light Industrial Park.

As the name suggests, a business incubator provides a supportive environment designed to help start-up businesses through the birthing process, or help small businesses expand.

The ideal candidate is the successful home-based business that is outgrowing its space and ready to make the leap from the garage to a more formal business setting.

The incubator will consist of 12 various size spaces of 300, 500, 750, 1,000 and 1,500 square feet for maximum flexibility. The goal is to match the space with the requirement of a business, while allowing room to expand as a business grows.

In addition to the space itself, tenants would be able to share common business services such as reception, telephone answering, photocopying, fax, and high-speed Internet access. By providing a turn-key operation, the incubator saves the business from having to invest its own funds in equipment

and provides staff services that a single small business could not afford.

The manager of the incubator would also work as a business counselor to provide training and advice as well as refer clients to other organizations for technical assistance.

The incubator is itself a start-up venture purpose to develop other businesses. As a business, it would have to become self-supporting. Its income would be through leasing space and at-cost fees for the business services.

Before proceeding too far, like any business, we need to determine what the demand for the Incubator might be. A small business survey earlier this year revealed that eight of 22 companies contacted would be interested in relocating to an incubator.

Both in terms of assuring demand and in convincing the USDA to fund the proposal, it would be good to have at least four of the 12 tenants identified and signed up.

Tax season is just around the corner. In preparation, the Josephine County Retired Service Volunteer Program is looking for individuals from the valley to volunteer in the Income Tax Assistance

Program.

Those interested should be comfortable with numbers, but do not have to have accounting or tax preparation experience.

Eight days of training will be provided, using a training manual supplied by IRS.

In addition, there are always several preparers on duty should questions arise, as well as a back-up support system. Each volunteer is expected to work one day per week from Feb. 1 until April 15 for five hours per day.

Sixty hours of volunteering can make a big difference for your neighbors, said IVCRT. Phone the office or Gwen Childs in Grants Pass at (541) 955-8951.

The board scheduled its annual meeting on March 30.

This will allow enough

time to complete the organizational development process and develop a total package of changes to bring before the general members.

Given the new strategic direction of social entrepreneurship to fulfill the CRT mission and sustain the organization, new committee structures, policies and procedures will be reviewed.

There may even be by-law changes.

It should be noted that any by-law change that "would alter the qualification, selection, removal, obligations, rights or powers of the General Members" would be voted on at the annual meeting.

In any case, as ideas are forming, we will find ways to get member thoughts and reaction as part of the formulation process before the meeting.

Stevereno's Family Restaurant



Homestyle Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday, Nov. 27
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. (while it lasts)

We are also offering our full menu on Thanksgiving Day!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

We will be closed Christmas Day to be with our families on this holiday.
We will be open New Years Day
(Restaurant - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Lounge - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

'Pray for our troops'

GRAND OPENING!

Tuesday - Saturday
11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
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Meals are served in the
CJ County Bldg.
FRIDAY, NOV. 28
*Closed for
Thanksgiving Holiday
MONDAY, DEC. 1

*Chicken pot pie over a
biscuit, winter mix
vegetables, pickled
beets, frosted
yellow cake
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

*California casserole,
green peas, tossed
salad, sunflower seed
roll, rhubarb cobbler

IVHS Activities Calendar
Brought to you by the folks at



592-3556
Cave Jct.
469-7545
Brookings/
Harbor

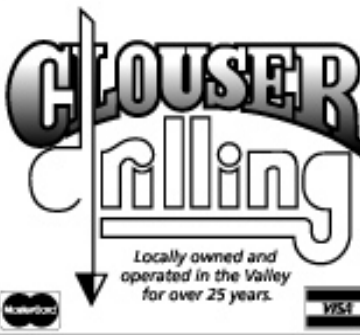
Blame us if your life goes to Pizzas!

THURSDAY, NOV. 27
*Happy Thanksgiving
*No classes
FRIDAY, NOV. 28
*No classes
SATURDAY, NOV. 29
*College Prep for
parents
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
MONDAY, DEC. 1
*All conference
selections at Phoenix
10 a.m.

*Winter sports practice
begins
TUESDAY, DEC. 2
*Sportsmanship
Committee at Phoenix
10 a.m.

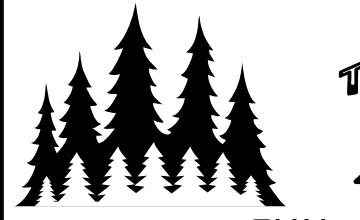
A public service announcement from the
U.S. Postal Service and 'Illinois Valley News'

Well-meaning Americans are clogging the military postal system by sending many holiday items to individuals for redistribution. People are urged to send material to service members they know, but not to send large volumes for them to give to others. Programs that allowed people to send mail addressed to 'any service member' were suspended after the 9-11-01 anthrax attacks. However, some have circumvented the ban by obtaining the names of individual service members and sending them dozens of items to hand off to other military members. This clogs the mail system and delays delivery of material to other service members. Citizens are urged to support service members by helping their families at home through local programs. People also can support service members by visiting the Defense Dept.'s 'Support Our Troops' web page, or the VFW Operations uplink; or phone (800) 810-6098.



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FREE pool all day Sunday & Thursday

Timber Room Lounge Events

Wednesday, Nov. 26: Pool Tournament/Ladies Night 7 - 10 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 27: Karaoke Night with April Fisher 8 p.m. - midnight

Friday, Nov. 28: Live music with Tim Mitchell 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 29: Live music with Wally Aiken featuring Jake Thompson 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

(Tim Mitchell & Walley Aiken both were reported by 'Sneak Preview Magazine' as 'Best Local Musicians/Singers,' October 2003)

Sunday, Nov. 29: Big TV screen to watch football and open 'mic' with Wally Aiken & Jake Thompson

Friday, Dec. 5: The 'Elvis Experience' with Jerry Hurley - \$5 cover charge

Saturday, Dec. 6: Illinois Valley Bikers 21st annual Toy Run, Broadway Phil & the Shouters performing

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