



## Biscuit Fire salvage sales await bidding awards

Issuance of four Records of Decision (RODs) for the Biscuit Fire Recovery Project, to remove 370 million board feet of fire-damaged timber, was announced Thursday, July 8.

Salvage operations could begin soon, as rapidly as sales are awarded.

The announcement was made by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

BLM is issuing one ROD. The U.S. Forest Service is issuing three others, differentiated on the basis of land management objectives and issues.

"Our decisions are an investment," said Scott Conroy, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest supervisor. "We are investing in growing trees, protecting communities and old-growth from wildland fire, and capturing opportunities to provide jobs and wood for America."

"We are pleased to begin implementation of this important work," said Tim Reuwsaat, Medford BLM district manager.

The projects in the RODs, said the agencies, "protect communities and habitats by building 300 miles of fuel management zones; reforesting 31,000

acres; restoring 700 acres of meadows; completing 70 miles of road work including closure, decommissioning, and stabilization; and removing 370 million board feet of fire-killed wood, enough to build 24,000 homes.

Helicopters will be used to minimize effects and reduce temporary road construction (5 miles). No permanent roads will be built, agencies said.

On National Forest System land, Regional Forester Linda Goodman has granted an Emergency Situation Determination for salvage outside of Inventoried Roadless Areas.

This allows salvage harvest to begin immediately after the sales are awarded. The first forest service sales will be sold this week at auction. BLM will offer a salvage timber sale on Aug. 5.

The Biscuit Fire Recovery RODs and FEIS are available at [www.biscuitfire.com](http://www.biscuitfire.com). The BLM ROD is available at [www.or.blm.gov/Medford](http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford). Copies or CDs can be requested by e-mail at: [r6\\_biscuit@fs.fed.us](mailto:r6_biscuit@fs.fed.us), or by phoning (541) 471-6574.

The Biscuit Fire, located in S.W. Oregon and Northern California, began on July 13, 2002 and grew

to 499,965 acres. On approximately half the burned acres, greater than 75 percent of the vegetation was destroyed.

One of Oregon's largest fires in recorded history, the Biscuit Fire burned most of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

Conroy supports consideration of 64,670 acres of lands adjacent to the Kalmiopsis Wilderness for wilderness designation, citing "their outstanding wilderness character and long-held public interest in greater protections for this unique area."

**(Related stories on pages 7 and 8)**

## I.V., RR fight For LL rights

After the third of five games Monday, July 12, I.V.'s Little League team was ahead 2-1 overall against Rogue River.

I.V. swept Saturday's district double-header 13-12, 7-11 in Cave Junction's Jubilee Park. But it lost 17-10 on Monday.

**(Photos on page 16)**

## Suit filed to prevent logging in reserves

By MICHELLE BINKER  
Staff Writer

As anticipated, environmental groups have taken issue with the Biscuit Fire salvage sales -- in the courts and in the woods.

On Monday, July 12, several groups, including Cave Junction-based Siskiyou Regional Education Project (SREP), and the Pacific Rivers Council, filed suit in federal court in Medford to bring a halt to what they call unlawful violation of old-growth reserves and an urgent appeal to stop logging projects in the Fiddler and Berry sales, two areas slated to be sold at auction Wednesday, July 14.

The forest service received some 23,000 comments on the salvage proposal. The vast majority strongly opposed violating areas set aside in the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP), enacted during the Clinton Administration.

Don Smith, SREP executive director, is heading its "Save Our Wild Siskiyou" campaign. He said that this sale is precedent-setting for several reasons.

"This will be the largest timber sale on public land on record," he said.

Besides the project's scale, the plan proposes to go into roadless areas, "so there is potential there for a national precedent re-

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A memorial at crash site. (Shane Welsh photo)

## Young man dead after pickup leaves roadway

A young, engaged-to-be-married Cave Junction man died of injuries on Wednesday, July 7 at approximately 1:25 p.m. when his pickup truck crashed between Selma and Kerby.

Joshua Isaac Allen, 22, a graduate of Illinois Valley High School, was the single occupant of a pickup that crashed on Hwy. 199 near milepost 23, in Gold Canyon at Sis's Gap near Eight Dollar Mountain Road, said Oregon State Police.

Allen was southbound on in a 1999 Ford F-350 pickup truck, owned by his employer, Hansen Logging, of Grants Pass. As he approached milepost 23.5, he veered off the road on the westbound side; went down an embankment and crashed into a tree, according to OSP.

The vehicle ended up

on its left side and was severely damaged.

A witness, who was northbound, said that Allen appeared to be at or near the speed limit when he veered off the road. Allen was pronounced dead at the scene and was extricated from the vehicle by Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) firefighters.

Assisting OSP at the crash scene were Oregon Dept. of Transportation, Josephine County Sheriff's Office, and IVFD. Hwy. 199 was closed to a single lane for approximately three hours for recovery and investigation.

An exact cause of the crash is unknown, but alcohol or drugs do not appear to be a factor, said OSP.

There was speculation that Allen fell asleep at the wheel.

**(Obituary on page 5)**

## I.V. Airport directors solicited

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications from volunteers to fill vacancies on the Illinois Valley Airport Advisory Board.

Its purpose is to advise and assist the county commissioners on all matters

affecting aviation and airport facilities at Illinois Valley Airport.

The deadline for applications is Aug. 1.

Applications are available in the commissioners office, Room 154, Josephine County Courthouse, Grants Pass.

## 'Buzziness' on list for Selma site

By SHANE WELSH  
Staff Writer

"What's the buzz?" may soon be answered at the Selma mill, under administration of Selma Community & Education Center (SCEC).

Selma Wood Products has been for sale for a while now; opposite SCEC on Redwood Hwy. Recently, Bill Hunt, director of the center, decided to present the idea to purchase the mill to SCEC board members; and it was approved unanimously.

SCEC is spearheading the project to purchase the mill in order to retain the historic value that Berle McTimmonds started when he bought the mill in 1955 from Lou Hammer.

According to Hunt, Deer Creek Valley Association is working on a stewardship program with Bureau of Land Management to help manage 7,400 acres of forestland within Illinois Valley, which includes wildland fire prevention management.

"We have a lot of property, private and public, that needs to have some fire thinning and small woods forestry work done; this is the only mill close enough to do it," said Hunt.

"Another thing we need in Selma is jobs," he said. "By purchasing the mill, not only could we create work, but we could help increase tourism in this area by giving people a historic place to stop and visit," Hunt said.

The large mill is still in operation. The intention of SCEC is to use that facility to demonstrate milling specialty wood such as molding or flooring.

"We would basically make it an interpretive museum dealing with the history of logging and millwork in Illinois Valley," said Hunt. "We also intend to use alternate sources of energy such as solar power to operate the mill."

**(Continued on page 3)**

## Project places R&R on notice

Cave Junction-based Siskiyou Project has advised Rough & Ready Lumber Co. about "education" that could occur because of its potential involvement in Biscuit Fire timber salvage.

In a July 6 letter to the Cave Junction lumber company, Siskiyou Project's Rolf Skar wrote:

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## Weapons, drugs seized

Fully loaded weapons, including a machine gun, were seized in a drug raid in rural Cave Junction that netted an operational methamphetamine lab, 6 pounds of processed psilocybin mushrooms, and 200 growing, mature marijuana plants.

Josephine Interagency Narcotics Team (JOINT) also said that three people were arrested.

They were identified as David J. Camarato, 29; Merissa L. Biggs, 22; and Thaleda L. Prater, 45.

JOINT said it is continuing to investigate leads indicating that Camarato, an Oregon Medical Marijuana card holder, is an affiliate of an outlaw motorcycle gang. It may be trying to re-establish itself in Josephine County and S.W. Oregon, said JOINT.

It added that investigators also are working on leads "which suggest that others in the Illinois Valley area were involved in this illegal drug operation."

The search warrant service at 2910 Caves Hwy. occurred at 9:44 a.m. on Thursday, July 8. There was a report that at least seven patrol cars converged on the scene.

JOINT said that Camarato fled out a back door, but was subdued after fighting with officers. Biggs also fled and eluded officers in woods, but later was captured.

Prater and a man identified as Jerry Owens also were in the house, said JOINT. Owens was not charged.

Camarato was charged with manufacturing, delivery and possession of controlled substances: methamphetamine, marijuana and psilocybin

"As a potential bidder, we feel it is important for you to know that if your company is involved, directly or indirectly, with the proposed timber sales in the Biscuit Fire area, that citizens and organizations will educate the public, media and your customers of your involvement."

He also was charged with three counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm; resisting arrest; second-degree escape; and first-degree theft involving a firearm.

JOINT said that although he is unemployed he had nearly \$1,500 cash and was able to bail himself and Biggs out of county jail in Grants Pass.



David J. Camarato

Biggs was charged with manufacturing, possession and delivery of marijuana.

Prater was charged with probation violation on an original charge of possession of meth. Additional charges are pending, said JOINT.

Besides the meth lab, marijuana plants and hallucinatory mushrooms, officers found several quantities of meth precursor substances and lab-grade glassware.

In addition, they identified the weapons they found as a World War II fully automatic machine gun known as a "grease gun;" a loaded 12-gauge pump shotgun; and a loaded SKS assault rifle that was reported as stolen.

"These weapons were operational and were accompanied by several loaded and ready-to-use ammunition magazines," said JOINT.

**(Related photo page 13)**

## Weather Watch

### Cave Junction

Wednesday, July 14

Low clouds, then sun High--91, Low--56.



Thursday, July 15

Sunny, partly cloudy High--93, Low--57.



Friday, July 16

Cloudy, then sunny High--90, Low--57.



Saturday, July 17

Partly sunny High--91, Low--58.



Sunday, July 18

Sunny High--94, Low--56.



Monday, July 19

Sunny & warm High--86, Low--47.



Tuesday, July 20

Sunshine High--95, Low--55.

