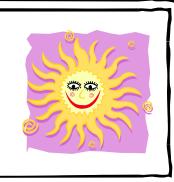
Single Copy 50-cents



## 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 firedamaged 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.

IN LOVING ME MORY

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 ap-

proximately 1:25 p.m.

when his pickup truck

crashed between Selma

a graduate of Illinois Val-

ley 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 Dol-

lar Mountain Road, said

on in a 1999 Ford F-350

pickup truck, owned by his

employer, Hansen Log-

Allen was southbound

Oregon State Police.

Joshua Isaac Allen, 22,

and Kerby.

"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."

Wednesday, July 14, 2004, 3 Sections, 24 Pages, Volume 66 No. 17 Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

"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 firekilled 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.

'Buzziness'

on list for

Selma site

By SHANE WELSH

**Staff Writer** 

may soon be answered at

the Selma mill, under ad-

ministration of Selma

Community & Education

has been for sale for a

while now; opposite SCEC

on Redwood Hwy. Re-

cently, Bill Hunt, director

of the center, decided to

present the idea to pur-

chase the mill to SCEC

board members; and it was

the project to purchase the

mill in order to retain the

historic value that Berle

McTimmonds started

when he bought the mill in

Deer Creek Valley Asso-

ciation is working on a

stewardship program with

Bureau of Land Manage-

ment to help manage 7,400

acres of forestland within

Illinois Valley, which in-

cludes wildland fire pre-

property, private and pub-

lic, that needs to have

some fire thinning and

small woods forestry work

done; this is the only mill

close enough to do it," said

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

in operation. The intention

of SCEC is to use that fa-

cility to demonstrate mill-

ing specialty wood such as

make it an interpretive mu-

seum dealing with the his-

tory of logging and mill-

work in Illinois Valley,"

said Hunt. "We also intend

to use alternate sources of

energy such as solar power

According to Hunt, a

to operate the mill."

"We would basically

molding or flooring.

The large mill is still

visit," Hunt said.

"Another thing we

"We have a lot of

vention management.

According to Hunt,

1955 from Lou Hammer.

SCEC is spearheading

approved unanimously.

Selma Wood Products

Center (SCEC).

"What's the buzz?"

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 www.biscuitfire.com. The BLM ROD is available at www.or.blm.gov/Medford. Copies or CDs can be requested by e-mail at: r6 biscuit@fs.fed.us, or by phoning (541) 471-6574.

cated 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)

#### games Monday, July 12, I.V.'s Little League team was ahead 2-1 overall against Rogue River.

I.V., RR fight

For LL rights

After the third of five

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

the courts and in the

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

The forest service re-

Don Smith, SREP executive director, is heading its "Save Our Wild Siskiyous" campaign. He said that this sale is precedent-

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

(Continued on page 7)

### reserves By MICHELLE BINKER **Staff Writer** As anticipated, environmental groups have taken issue with the Biscuit Fire salvage sales -- in

woods.

Wednesday, July 14.

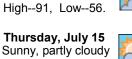
ceived some 23,000 comments on the salvage proposal. The vast majority strongly opposed violating areas set aside in the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP), enacted during the Clinton Administration.

setting for several reasons. "This will be the largest timber sale on public

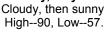
land on record," he said.

# Weather Watch

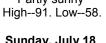
**Cave Junction** Wednesday, July 14 Low clouds, then sun



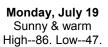
High--93, Low--57. Friday, July 16

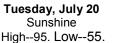


Saturday, July 17 Partly sunny

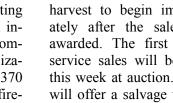


Sunday, July 18 Sunny High--94. Low--56.









a v a i l a b l e

The Biscuit Fire, lo-

# 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 Pro-

"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 involve-

### ject's Rolf Skar wrote: (Continued on page 9) 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 Mariiuana 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 mushrooms. 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 magazines," ammunition said JOINT.

(Related photo page 13)

#### ging, 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

The Josephine County affecting aviation and air-Board of Commissioners is

cations is Aug. 1.

Applications are avail-Grants Pass.

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.

on its left side and was

severely damaged.

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

(Obituary on page 5)

### I.V. Airport directors solicited

accepting applications from volunteers to fill vacancies on the Illinois Valley Airport Advisory Its purpose is to advise

and assist the county commissioners on all matters port facilities at Illinois Valley Airport. The deadline for appli-

able in the commissioners office, Room 154, Josephine County Courthouse,

(Continued on page 3)