

Established 1937

Illinois Valley News



Wednesday, October 20, 2004, 3 Sections, 28 Pages, Volume 67 No. 31 Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

Single Copy 50-cents



RUSSIAN 'HEAVENLY VOICES' - A quartet from St. Petersburg performed in Cave Junction's Methodist church last week. (See page 15 for a performance review)

Deputies thwart marijuana ambush; handcuffed man sought as fugitive

Lawmen are looking for a man who escaped while handcuffed following an armed confrontation in connection with a marijuana garden on Takilma Road, said Josephine Inter-agency Narcotics Team (JOINT).

The suspect is identified as Glen "Mitch" Parrish, 33. He is described as a white male adult, 5-9, 162 pounds with short blond hair.

When last seen on Friday, Oct. 15 he was wearing a green T-shirt with a "Born In The USA" imprint, black-and-blue trousers, and white-and-red tennis shoes.

He is considered "armed and dangerous."

He is wanted on charges of manufacturing, possession and delivery of a controlled substance/marijuana, unlawful use of a weapon, and second-degree escape.

In addition he is wanted for giving a false name to law enforcement officers, that of his brother, on Oct. 15; and felony endangering an aircraft.

The latter charge, said JOINT, stems from failing to appear in court after he was arrested for using a large mirror to reflect the Sun's rays into the eyes of a pilot looking for marijuana gardens in the Takilma area, said JOINT.

Arrested at the site in the 9000 block of Takilma



GLEN 'MITCH' PARRISH

Road, on Bureau of Land management property, was Richard A. McCarthy, 22.

He was charged with manufacturing, possession and delivery of a controlled substance/marijuana, unlawful possession (concealed) of a firearm, unlawful use of a weapon, and unlawful use of a (stolen) motor vehicle, according to JOINT.

The agency said that at the site on Takilma Road, officers from the Josephine Marijuana Eradication Team (JOMET) encountered McCarthy, "who was armed with a concealed, loaded 9mm handgun.

"He initially resisted commands, calling the deputies profane names, and resisted officer efforts to control the scene. He was taken into custody without incident.

"Moments after controlling McCarthy," said JOINT, "Parrish was observed attempting to sneak up to officer positions while armed with a scoped assault rifle.

"Parrish had his weapon at the ready position and loaded with a 30-round magazine containing 27 rounds of .223 caliber expansion control bullets.

"Deputies were able to surprise Parrish and disarm him without injury," said JOINT.

The agency continued: "Parrish and McCarthy were handcuffed, and while preparing to secure them in police vehicles, Parrish was able to escape into nearby woods on foot. Parrish took advantage of a brief moment when the guarding deputy divided his attention to another issue and stepped 10 yards away.

"Parrish, who was familiar with the nearby woods, was successful in evading capture," JOINT said.

The agency added that McCarthy had two expanded capacity magazines of 15 rounds each for the 9mm handgun.

Deputies confiscated eight growing marijuana plants, and processed evidence indicating that the grow site had produced up to 100 plants, said JOINT.

The motor vehicle charge against McCarthy stems from a 1985 Nissan pickup truck found at his home, said JOINT, as it had been reported stolen from Cave Junction.

Information can be phoned to 474-5123.



SMOULDERING SILO - Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) firefighters responded to a silo fire at Rough & Ready Lumber Co. on Saturday, Oct. 16. The silo contains fuel for a boiler. Despite a volume of smoke, there was not much fire and firefighters contained it. No damage was reported. Firefighters had to haul hoses up 30 feet to combat the blaze. Another alarm for the same problem occurred late Monday afternoon, Oct. 18, but it was quickly handled. (Photos by Dale and Elaine Sandberg/IVFD photographers)

Fire district Chief Rich gets outstanding mark

By SHANE WELSH
Staff Writer

At his six-month evaluation, Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) Chief Harry Rich received an "outstanding" score.

During an IVFD Board of Directors meeting held Thursday night, Oct. 14 at the district administration building on Redwood Hwy., the board praised Rich for his performance since being hired as chief in March to replace Kyle Kirchner, who resigned.

When Rich began his three-year employment contract, the board has indicated, he immediately proved to be an asset, bringing with him 34 years experience as a firefighter and EMT in the city of Los Angeles and Big Bear City fire departments.

His evaluation included quantity of work

performed; quality of work; work habits; personal relations; adaptability; personal qualities; supervision and leadership; fire, ground, and EMS management; and specific job functions and responsibilities.

Overall, Rich received "outstanding" and "above standard" totals for his performance. The evaluation summary said that "in the six months Rich has been with the district, (there have been) more improvements seen than in the last six years."

Joe Malcolm, board president, summed up Rich's performance evaluation, "There were quite a few comments written, and it seems that all of them were positive.

"You have greatly exceeded the expectations of the board."

Pot harvesters fire at hunters

Marijuana gardeners confronted and shot at two hunters on Walker Mt., said Josephine Interagency Narcotics Team (JOINT) on the north slope of the mountain, alongside Interstate 5 approximately 7 miles north of Grants Pass, on Sunday, Oct. 10.

The Josephine Marijuana Eradication Team (JOMET) responded to the site on Bureau of Land Management property, but the suspects were gone when officers arrived.

JOMET deputies seized approximately 500 marijuana plants. Indications were that many of the plants were being harvested and packaged when officers arrived.

Fire season concluded due to rain

The 2004 fire season ended officially Monday, Oct. 18 because of recent rain, said Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF).

Restrictions have been lifted on state, county, private and Bureau of Land Management land in Josephine and Jackson counties protected by ODF.

For residents within Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District, a burn permit is needed through the winter if piles are larger than 4-by-4 feet. Permits are issued at the administrative office at 28195 Redwood Hwy. (formerly Fire Mountain Gems).

ODF officials ended fire season because "fall conditions and recent rainfall should reduce fire danger to a point in which activities, previously restricted to prevent wildfires, can once again take place."

Most of the two-county area received at least half an inch of rain during the past several days, and more is predicted.

Fire season lasted 137 days, slightly less than the 143-day average.

"Although fire danger approached record levels

(Continued on page 3)

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, Oct. 20
Partly cloudy
High--58, Low--36.



Thursday, Oct. 21
Partly sunny
High--59, Low--35.



Friday, Oct. 22
Cloudy with showers
High--57, Low--39.



Saturday, Oct. 23
Overcast, rain likely
High--58, Low--33.



Sunday, Oct. 24
Mostly cloudy with rain
High--59, Low--32.



Monday, Oct. 25
Cloudy with rain
High--61, Low--38.



Tuesday, Oct. 26
Partly cloudy
High--58, Low--32.



SHE'S THE BOSS - Jessica Kraska, store director at Shop Smart Food Warehouse, is well aware of many community needs, and the store supports many organizations as part of its efforts to aid Illinois Valley. (See story on page 5)