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Christmas Greetings



American Medical Response personnel took a gunshot victim from a Cave Junction home (top). Law enforcement (bottom) responded in force to the scene.



Shooting suspect held after CJ home incident

A suspect listed as an armed career criminal was arrested in connection with shooting a man in the city of Cave Junction Friday, Dec. 17, said Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO).

Arrested on charges of first-degree assault and being an ex-convict in possession of a firearm was Everett Daniel Scott, 35, of O'Brien.

He is charged with wounding Old Stage Road resident David Wayne Scott, 49, in his upper-right thigh "with a small-caliber handgun." The shooting occurred at 207 W. River St., said JCSO, and was reported at approximately 3:26 p.m.

The victim was taken by American Medical Response (AMR) to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass, where he was treated and released, said the sheriff's office.

At the initial call, AMR and Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) medics and other personnel stood by for a short time in the neighborhood until the first two deputies on-scene, including

Sgt. Stephen V. Clarke and his K-9 partner, "Piko," said it was safe to come in.

Once the house was declared Code 4, medics and firefighters converged.

Subsequently, besides two AMR ambulances and several IVFD units, four more deputies and an Oregon State Police trooper responded to the scene.

The street was filled with emergency vehicles and their flashing lights, which attracted a large number of bystanders.

According to JCSO: "Witnesses said that an argument broke out between the two Scotts, who are not related.

"The argument became physical, and Everett Scott produced a small-caliber handgun and shot David Scott.

"He then fled on foot. Less than an hour later, a deputy spotted him walking on Old Stage Road near Laurel Road, less than a mile from the shooting.

"He was taken into custody without incident and placed in county jail."

Deputy on leave after shot

Administrative leave has resulted for a deputy who fired one gunshot at a man fleeing from him on foot in Cave Junction.

The action affecting Deputy Michael Burke, of Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO), is standard procedure, said JCSO. An internal investigation is under way.

Burke fired at Anthony J. Slovick on Sunday, Dec. 12 at approximately 2:41 a.m. on Daisy Hill Lane, said JCSO. The deputy was chasing him after a vehicle pursuit when Slovick stopped and turned around.

Seeing a metallic object in Slovick's hand, the deputy fired one round. It missed, and it was determined that the object was a flashlight.

Slovick was jailed on charges of parole violation, eluding, reckless driving, reckless endangering, driving under the influence of an intoxicant, and possession of methamphetamine.

Kerby water system gets green light

Kerby Water District (KWD) has a green light to seek a \$690,000 grant that could open a door for another one worth \$1.5 million.

Following a public hearing in Grants Pass Wednesday night, Dec. 15, Josephine County commissioners approved an application for KWD to seek a 2004 Community Development Block Grant for \$690,000 from the Oregon Economic & Community Development Dept.

Its approval would clear the way for a \$1.2 million grant from the USDA's Rural Utilities Program, said John Plute, KWD president.

It's hoped, he said, that a water system for the Kerby community could be in operation by sometime during 2005. The community has had water problems for years because of wells going dry during summer months, and there have been sanitation problems.

KWD has contracted with the city of Cave Junction to supply water and read meters once the system is installed.

Children's letters to Santa are in the second section of this issue.

The "Illinois Valley News" office will close at noon Friday, Dec. 24.

A number of valley businesses will close early Dec. 24, and nearly everything will be closed Christmas Day.

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, Dec. 22

Mostly sunny, Evening clearing High--45, Low--24.



Thursday, Dec. 23

Mostly sunny, Chilly & clear evening High--49, Low--24.



Friday, Dec. 24

Variable clouds, Cool evening High--50, Low--25.



Saturday, Dec. 25

Variable clouds, Evening clearing High--50, Low--28.



Sunday, Dec. 26

Afternoon showers, Clearing later High--53, Low--32.



Monday, Dec. 27

Variable sunshine, Cold night High--39, Low--18.



Tuesday, Dec. 28

Clear & sunny, Very cold evening High--37, Low--18.



MAJOR STRUCTURE FIRE - Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) firefighters responded to assist Rural/Metro Fire Dept. and Rogue River Fire Dept. Monday, Dec. 20 in fighting a 6:30 a.m. blaze involving a two-story home with approximately 4,500 square feet of space on Round Prairie Road near Wilderville. The home owners, Monte and Audrey Southwick, arrived from an out-of-town trip shortly afterward. A light bulb on wet carpet in a car is suspected as the cause of the fire. A damage estimate was unavailable. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD photographers)

Illinois River improvements slated

USFS says \$1.6 million project will bolster recreational opportunities

A two-year, \$1.6 million recreation improvement project including features along Eight Dollar and Illinois River roads, as well as the roadways themselves, will begin next summer.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) announced Wednesday, Dec. 15 that it is moving forward on the Illinois River Recreation Development Project. Plans include constructing, reconstructing, removing and replacing facilities and roads at various locations in the scenic section of the Wild and Scenic Illinois River.

"We are going to develop or designate 58 campsites, 21 day-use sites, 230 parking spaces and 13 toilets to increase the public opportunity to enjoy their national forest," said Pam Bode, ranger for the Galice and Illinois Valley districts.

"This investment," said Bode, "will provide suitable recreation facilities for the public while protecting the 'Outstandingly Remarkable Values' in the Wild and Scenic Illinois River.

Change tears of fear to holiday cheer

By CHRISTINA HILL Correspondent

Whether frantically shopping for Christmas gifts or baking goodies, chances are that you're one of the millions of Americans stressed and overwhelmed this holiday season.

But help is available. Using simple tips from Dorothea Hover-Kramer of Behavioral Health Consultants in Cave Junction, will help replace tears of fear with holiday cheer.

Hover-Kramer spoke at the Illinois Valley Family Resource Center in Cave

"My decision also includes development and enforcement of user regulations in this corridor that will improve safety and reduce resource damage.

"Restrictions will include parking in undesig-

More enforcement of rules to protect visitors and the environment, based on past incidents, is planned

nated areas, off-road vehicle use, speed limits and campfires," said Bode.

"In certain areas," she added, "campfires will be limited to agency-constructed fire rings."

The project area extends along Illinois River from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest boundary near Kerby, to the confluence of Briggs Creek near the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. Besides Eight Dollar and Illinois River roads, it includes other less-traveled forest roads.

Among areas affected by the project will be the

section of Illinois River Road from Six-Mile Creek to a point near McCaleb Ranch. Because of heavy visitations during the past several summers, there have been problems with traffic, underage drinking, public intoxication, reckless endangerment and other such situations.

"Current conditions like those are unacceptable," said Michael Keown, environmental coordinator in Bode's office.

Parking areas on both sides of Illinois River, across from McCaleb Ranch at the swinging bridge, are planned.

Private contractors likely will be engaged for some of the project work, said Keown.

The planned project "was three years in the making from conception to analysis to decision."

A 45-day appeal period will end Jan. 31, 2005. The legal notice describing the appeal process was published in a Grants Pass newspaper.

Junction to a group of hopefuls wanting to learn about beating holiday stress.

Her simple techniques, she promised, will help anyone feel better.

"There are cultural myths that we have about the holidays," she said. "A lot of this stuff is what the (advertisers) feed us, like, you have to buy this to be happy; and the only problem with that is that it doesn't happen that way," said Hover-Kramer.

"It works against us," she said. "We set high expectations to make every-

body happy, but it's not possible. Each person must find inner happiness within, because it doesn't come from material things."

From trying to make the perfect holiday meal to buying the perfect present, people easily lose sight of the real meaning of what Christmas is all about, she noted.

According to Hover-Kramer, more people are depressed after the holidays than before, because the high expectations they set for themselves weren't met.

(Continued on page 11)