

Rampaging man on Cat wounded by deputy

By MEDFORD 'MAIL TRIBUNE'

(Editor's Note: Portions of this story came from Josephine County District Attorney Stephen Cambell.)

A Josephine County sheriff's deputy shot and wounded a man early Sunday, Feb. 20 near Rogue River on Savage Creek Road, after he allegedly fired a shotgun at officers and then tried to run them down with a hijacked Caterpillar log skidder on a rural Jackson County road.

The man, identified as Michael James Murray, 41, apparently was in critical condition at Rogue Valley Medical Center (RVMC) in Medford, officials said. Another man, identified as Mark Louis Tripp, 35, was in custody in connection with the incident.

The Jackson County interagency major crime team launched an investigation, and Josephine County D.A. Stephen Campbell announced Tuesday, Feb. 22, that the Jackson County D.A.'s office would handle the prosecution.

The incident began when Josephine County deputies tried to stop the two men at about 3 a.m. Sunday for a traffic violation as they drove toward the city of Rogue River from Grants Pass on Rogue River Hwy.

The men, driving an older-model gray Bronco, attempted to elude the deputies, said Jackson County Sheriff Mike Winters.

Campbell added that the situation then "escalated into felony attempt to elude, and reckless driving."

The men turned south onto Savage Creek Road on the border between Jackson and Josephine counties, and began firing a shotgun at the deputies. Most of the shots fired occurred in Jackson County.

Shots struck two Josephine County vehicles; no deputies were injured, Hastings said. The Bronco crashed into a BLM gate in the 1900 block of Savage Creek Road, officials said. Both men attempted to flee; the driver was apprehended. He is held on outstanding warrants, Hastings said.

The passenger fled on foot and successfully eluded searches for approximately five hours. As deputies from two counties and Oregon State Police officers were looking for the man, he apparently commandeered heavy machinery from a logging site.

The man drove the skidder -- a huge machine fitted with a large, curved blade -- over an embankment, taking out trees and striking a Jackson County Sheriff's Dept. cruiser. No deputies were in the car, Winters said.

The man drove about 2 miles east, apparently toward officers, until a Josephine County deputy fired on him near the 900 block of Savage Creek. The man did not fire when he was inside the log skidder, Winters said.

He eventually stopped and was arrested.

Murray was taken by Mercy Flights helicopter to RVMC.

Mommy Market at I.V. Pregnancy Center assists expectant moms

By CHRISTINA HILL Correspondent

Nothing is free. However, baby products -- such as diapers, shampoo and formula from the Mommy Market at the Illinois Valley Pregnancy Center -- don't cost members a dime.

Instead, obtaining these items only requires a little of the mother's time and energy.

"We have about a dozen mothers who participate in The Bridges to Motherhood Program, which meets every two weeks; on first and third Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.," said Bernadine Pinard, a volunteer peer counselor at the pregnancy center.

Pinard continued, "The mothers earn points for coming to these meetings or by reading parenting magazines or books, then writing a synopsis, getting their children's shots, continuing their education, volunteering and also by memorizing Bible verses."

"The Mommy Market is only open to mothers

who are in the Bridges program," she said.

"One point equals one dollar, and during the last hour of the meeting they are able to use their points to buy products from the Mommy Market," she explained.

Pinard, who volunteers

four hours a week, leads the "mother topic" and the Bible study group during the first hour of the two-hour meeting.

"We encourage the mothers to seek God as they are mothering," she said. "We help them with their needs with their baby. After all, we're pro-life. We want to encourage them to be the mothers of their babies," Pinard said.

The Market, she said, only stocks items for children from birth to 2 years of age. Every item is either donated or bought using the money the center raises.

"We have various people who donate to the market," said Pinard. "This center is funded mostly by individuals that care to see this exist. We also receive donations from a couple of churches," Pinard said.

"The money that we do have goes to buying diapers for the market. Diapers are a hot commodity," she said.

The Bridges program, which Pinard estimated has been in existence for at least four years, is open to

all mothers, regardless of age, income and the number of children in need.

Mothers who participate are urged to attend the biweekly meetings, where they earn points for the market.

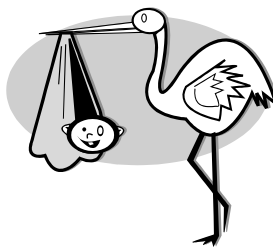
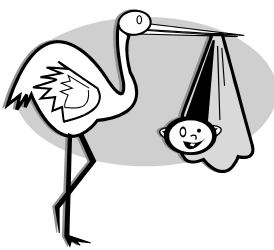
"It's like a support group," she said. "It especially helps for first-time moms to meet with other moms and just talk about what's going on. They don't have to be new moms either."

"Some of our mothers have several children and just need a little help. For a

lot of women it helps out financially, so that's why they participate," Pinard concluded.

Besides the Bridges to Motherhood Program and the Mommy Market, the I.V. Pregnancy Center also provides free pregnancy tests, counseling for mommies-to-be and post-abortion counseling.

For more information on the center or the Bridges program, phone 592-6058 or visit 481 S. Junction Ave., adjacent to Fountain of Life Assembly of God Church.



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