



ILLINOIS VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT plans to move into a new administrative headquarters building next to the new Cave Junction Station 1 during the last week of January 2006, said Chief Harry Rich. Batzer Construction, of Medford, is the primary contractor for the single-story building with approximately 5,900 square feet

of space. The cost of the \$600,000 structure is being handled through a ‘flex-lease arrangement’, Rich said. The district has been renting the former Fire Mountain Gems building on Redwood Hwy. for \$1 per year, but now is paying \$1,000 per month for November through January. (Photo by ‘Illinois Valley News’)

Man without money gets gas; makes a meth of things

A Sacramento man was arrested by Grants Pass Police after he left a service station without paying when the attendant would not trade the fuel for methamphetamine.

Arrested was Francis Shalen Kumar, 31, said Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety (GPDPS).

He was arrested under numerous charges including two counts of felony attempting to elude, second-degree escape, driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, and posses-

sion of a controlled substance/meth.

There was a complaint from Fairgrounds Shell that a man, later identified as Kumar, had stopped and received gasoline. When asked for payment, he did not have the money. He then offered methamphetamine as payment.

The offer was refused, and Kumar drove away without paying, said GPDPS. He later was observed at South Middle School by an employee. GPDPS officers while en-

route saw Kumar driving away.

Officers tried to stop him, but he fled eastbound on Fruitdale Drive from the area of Williams Hwy. A short pursuit followed.

Officers began a felony (at gunpoint) car stop. Kumar then fled again before officers could get him out of the vehicle. Another pursuit ensued and continued to Rogue River Hwy.

GPDPS requested assistance from Oregon State Police, Jackson County Sheriff’s Office or

Rogue River Police to get into position to place spike strips to disable the vehicle. OSP was en route to set up spike strips when the pursuit ended.

Kumar crossed the center line of Rogue River Hwy. and struck a pickup truck in the 8000 block of Rogue River Hwy, disabling both vehicles. GPDPS officers took the suspect into custody without further incident. No one was injured.

Kumar was found to be “severely under the influence of methamphetamine.”

Totally tobacco-free law at schools to begin 2006

A king-size absolute prohibition against tobacco of any kind anywhere on public school property will go in to effect Jan. 1.

Based on the new state law, directors of Three Rivers School District (TRSD) voted 5-0 to incorporate the ruling into district policy.

The TRSD board met Monday night, Dec. 12 at Illinois Valley High School.

The Oregon Board of Education made a change to an Oregon Administrative Rule requiring school districts to adopt policies to ensure that school campuses are tobacco-free for students, faculty, staff and visitors.

By Jan. 1, 2006, school districts must implement and enforce OAR 581-021-0110, which states:

*For the purpose of this rule “tobacco” is defined to include any lighted or unlit cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi, clove cigarette, and any other smoking product, in-

cluding spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew, or to sell tobacco at any time, including non-school hours:

*In any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented, or chartered by the school district, school, or public charter school; or

*On school or athletic grounds, or parking lots.

*No student is permitted to possess a tobacco product:

*In any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented, or chartered by the school district, school, or public charter school; or

*On school or athletic grounds, or parking lots.

Therefore, effective Jan. 1, 2006, all buildings, facilities, and vehicles owned by TRSD, school grounds, athletic grounds or parking lots within TRSD will be tobacco-free zones.

I.V. firefighters staying busy

Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) is experiencing increased responses of more than 100 percent this year, reported Chief Harry Rich.

Rich addressed IVFD directors during their meeting Thursday night, Dec. 8 at administrative HQ.

“Last year at this time we had 1,096 runs,” he said. “Responses to date are 2,166: Our firefighters are working; it’s where the rubber meets the road.”

He noted that IVFD volunteers and staff have so far this year recorded 24 percent more runs than Rural/Metro Fire Dept., a subscription service based in Grants Pass.

In another matter, Rich said that a proposal to purchase the former Selma Fire Station property is being considered. Lynn Johnson, of Illinois Valley Real Estate, is the agent.



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