



Mohr aims to teach gun safety, handling

By **BRYAN HARLEY**
IVN Staff Writer

Steven Mohr was a maintenance manager for a steamship company in Miami, Fla., a job that required late hours in dark places, checking equipment when vessels docked.

Driving to work one night around 11:30, he stopped at a red light.

A man at one corner

approached his car, a knife in hand.

But Mohr was not going to be the victim that night. He reached down and drew the .45-caliber handgun that he carried concealed legally because he had a concealed weapons permit.

The robber fell to his knees, begging Mohr not to shoot him. Although the scenario is not typical, in

society today it is an unfortunate possibility.

Mohr refused to be a victim that day. Now he is showing people how they too can avoid becoming a victim.

Mohr, an NRA-certified instructor, teaches basic handgun and firearms safety and training to others who desire to obtain their Oregon concealed handgun license.

“People are aware of the lack of police presence in the valley, so some people take the course to understand more about gun safety and usage,” Mohr said.

Mohr’s enthusiasm for firearms started with a .BB gun as a boy. It eventually brought him to Oregon, when he enrolled in the

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Steven Mohr at work. (Photo by Michelle Binker)

I.V. matmen on track for major meet

Competing against 18 other teams at the Cottage Grove Invitational Tournament, Illinois Valley High School’s wrestling team earned second place Saturday, Jan. 28.

The top five teams were Cascade 183, IVHS 169, Barlow 156, Springfield 120.5, and Cottage Grove 120.

A trio of Cougar wrestlers took first places: Zach Pagnotta at 160 pounds, Adam Miller at 145, and Jesse Swift at 140.

Other I.V. placers were Larry Ragsdale, 5th at 112 pounds; Sam Winter, 5th, 125; Jerrad Miller, 3rd, 130; Paulo Rocha, 2nd, 152; and Lefi Tausasa, 3rd, 189.

It was a long day for the boys, as they had to board their bus at 3:30 a.m., and did not reach home until nearly 2 a.m. Sunday.

On Thursday, Feb. 2 the team will compete in Ken Mann Memorial Gym against Hidden Valley. It will be the last match before the district tournament in Klamath Falls on Feb. 10.

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in O’Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson.

- *Fri., Jan.20: 46-37, .71
- *Sat., Jan.21: 48-35
- *Sun., Jan.22: 47-33
- *Mon., Jan. 23: 44-31
- *Tue., Jan. 24: 46-30
- *Wed., Jan. 25: 49-31, .20
- *Thurs., Jan. 26: 43-35, .83

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in Cave Junction at Mountain Wind Farm.

- *Fri., Jan.20: 46-38, .72
- *Sat., Jan.21: 48-34
- *Sun., Jan.22: 49-30
- *Mon., Jan. 23: 50-28
- *Tue., Jan. 24: 50-30
- *Wed., Jan. 25: 50-28, .12
- *Thurs., Jan. 26: 43-33, .77

Failing to plan is planning to fail.

Weather Watch

Illinois Valley

Wednesday, Feb. 1
Windy & Rainy
High--52 Low--36

Thursday, Feb. 2
Rain
High--54 Low--37

Friday, Feb.3
Mostly Cloudy
High--52 Low--38

Saturday, Feb. 4
Mostly Cloudy
High--53 Low--35

Sunday, Feb. 5
Mostly Cloudy
High--51Low--34

Monday, Feb. 6
Partly Cloudy
High--56 Low--36

Tuesday, Feb. 7
Partly Sunny
High--60 Low--39



RAINY WEATHER AND CRASHES seem to go hand-in-hand, and several accidents occurred in and around Illinois Valley. One incident (top) was reported around 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26 on Hwy. 199 near Selma Quik Mart. Russell S. Herd, 37, was cited on a charge of careless driving by Oregon State Police after his pickup truck struck the rear of a vehicle stopped to make a left turn. It was pushed head-on into another vehicle. Minor injuries to Cindy R. Ohara, 44, and Scott A. Harris, 29 were reported. An accident in the 900 block of Dick George Road (bottom right) was reported



near 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29. Josephine County Sheriff’s Office said that Lee C. Bermudez, 43, address not listed, apparently went off the road and her car ended up atop a culvert. She was cited on a charge of driving under the influence of an intoxicant (DUII). Her passenger, Jeena Watson, 31, was jailed on charges of probation violation in connection with DUII. On Hay’s Hill (bottom left) a car driven by Agustin Garibay, 18, of O’Brien, crashed at 1:28 p.m. OSP cited him on a charge of driving too fast for conditions. (Photos by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/ Illinois Valley Fire District)

Award due blazingly successful JoCo fire plan

Josephine County has been chosen to receive the 2005 Partners for Disaster Resistance and Resilience Outstanding Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Josephine County is being recognized for the collaborative planning effort that resulted in the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP). Cave Junction members of the collaboration are the Illinois Valley Fire District and the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization.

The award will be presented to Sara Nicholson, manager of Josephine County Emergency Services, during the Oregon Landslide Forum in Salem on Monday, Feb. 6.

Partners involved with JCIFP also recently completed the second annual review and report to the county board of commissioners. The plan was developed in response to the lessons from the 2002 Biscuit Fire and adopted in November 2004.

The 2005 annual report illustrates the accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned from the first year of implementation of the JCIFP. The report also includes next steps and opportunity for updating and strengthening the plan and monitoring activities.

Issues addressed in the report include collaboration, emergency management, fuels reduction, education and outreach, special needs, biomass utilization, and stewardship contracting.

The fire plan is available at co.josephine.or.us and click on, “Integrated Fire Plan.” Visitors to the Website can learn how to protect their homes from wildfire, read the plan and annual report, view maps of wildfire risk in Josephine County, and find out about coming fire plan events.

Community members can get involved by contacting their fire protection agency to find out about volunteer opportunities, according to Nicholson.

Tail-gating prevailing cause of Oregon crashes

Risky, costly and sometimes deadly, drivers are tail-gating so much today that it has become the leading factor in crashes, according to the Oregon Dept. of Transportation’s Safety Division.

Tail-gating is a factor in nearly a third of all Oregon vehicle collisions -- not just fatal crashes, where speed, alcohol and failure to use passenger restraints play a more deadly role.

“Thousands of drivers who think they’re saving time are actually losing: money in the cost of collisions, and in terms of injuries and sometimes fatalities,” said Steve Vitolo, the Transportation Safety Division’s traffic law enforcement program manager. “Often, you can add to those costs possible fines and in-

creases in automobile insurance rates.”

During 2004, 13,000 crashes out of 41,000 total across the state were the result of rear-end collisions caused by drivers who were following too closely.

“Drivers throughout the state are inclined to press speed limits and follow too closely in what seems like a race to get their destination,” Vitolo said. “Unfortunately, tail-gaters are not getting where they want to go any faster by pushing the vehicle in front of them.

“Instead, they are getting into increasingly injury-plagued or fatal crashes,” he said.

During 2004, following too closely topped the list of Oregon’s six worst driver errors that caused or were a contributing factor in traffic

crashes, according to Vitolo. In order they are:

*Following too closely (tail-gating).

*Not having the right-of-way (failure to yield to other traffic when merging).

*Speeding (particularly while rounding corners).

*Dangerous left turns (drivers misjudging the speed of other vehicles).

*Running a red light or “Stop” sign (or proceeding before it is safe to proceed).

*Improper lane changes (not signaling 100 feet before a lane change; failure to check blind spots).

In terms of crashes that cause death and serious physical injury, Vitolo added, drivers tend to make most dangerous choices on the state’s rural highways. As a result, the state’s fatal and serious-injury crashes

take place most often on rural state highways, followed by county roads, city streets and then interstate highways.

“Rural state highways are where approximately 50 percent of the state’s traffic fatalities occur,” Vitolo noted. “By contrast, the entire interstate highway system -- Interstates 5, 84, 205 etc. -- accounts for almost 10 percent of traffic fatalities annually.

“Thus, it’s important for drivers to know where they are most likely to be involved in a traffic crash so they can take appropriate precautions.”

According to ODOT/TSD, no matter which roadway you drive on, a minimum safe following distance is two to four seconds

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Big brawl by 20 nets arrest of 4

Grants Pass dwelling said forcibly entered

Additional suspects are sought following a major disturbance in which an apartment was forcibly entered in the city of Grants Pass, and which involved an estimated 20 persons, possibly gang members.

Due to the number of persons involved, approximately eight officers responded from Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety (GPDPS), Josephine County Sheriff’s Office, and Oregon State Police, said GPDPS.

In addition, GPDPS had to call back a three-officer shift to cover the city because of on-duty officers responding to the disturbance, said city detective Dave Daniels (no relation to county Sheriff Dave Daniel). The disturbance was reported at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 210 S.W. Rogue River Ave.

Initial investigation revealed that a group forced its way into an apartment, and that several people in it were pepper-sprayed, said GPDPS. It was not clear how many suspects entered the apartment.

Several people, said police, were assaulted or threatened.

Numerous persons were detained at the scene, following the report of several people being involved in a fight. It was learned, said GPDPS, that a majority of those involved had fled just prior to the arrival of officers.

Four persons have been arrested. They are identified as Ernie David Brown, 25; Travis Llaras Rough, 23; Revis Hultquist, 19; and Brandon Ainsworth, 23; addresses not listed.

Brown was charged with menacing, first-degree burglary, third-degree assault, and second-degree criminal mischief. Rough was charged with first-degree burglary, third-degree assault, and third-degree criminal mischief.

Hultquist was charged with first-degree burglary, and third-degree assault and criminal mischief. Ainsworth was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, four counts of unlawful pointing of a firearm at another, three counts of menacing, first-degree burglary and third-degree assault.

GPDPS said that the incident possibly is related to gang activity that has been occurring in the area. City officers, it added, have been aware of problems there, and are focusing patrols to determine who has been involved in a recent increase in fights in that neighborhood.