

Rumor of the Week (Dispelled)

Imminent closure at CJ watering hole?

**By WALLY AIKEN
For IVN**

This week's rumor is a good example of a well-crafted model. There is just enough easily verifiable truth in it to make it believable to the terminally gullible.

I must admit that eventually I had to resort to actual research on this one. but in the end ...

Rumor -- Art's Red Garter will close soon because the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) cannot renew its liquor license. The rumored reason for the lack of "renewability" and for the current status, claimed as operating with a temporary permit, is that the city of Cave Junction has refused to issue a business license to the Garter.

The Truth Behind The Rumor -- As a matter of

regular business, municipalities are given opportunities to provide input concerning all OLCC license applications within its jurisdiction. In this case, the city of Cave Junction asked for input from the county sheriff's office. It responded by stating that the Garter had been a source of law enforcement calls. The translation here is that the sheriff's office feels that there are too many incidents revolving around the Garter for its liking.

With that notation, the city was given the normal four options regarding renewal of a liquor license. The options are recommending approval, recommending approval with conditions, making no recommendation, or recommending denial. The city chose to make no recommendation.

According to OLCC, this indicates that there are concerns to be addressed, and OLCC investigates. A representative meets with the business owner and sees what can be done. OLCC noted that the Garter principle is working to address concerns of some in the community, having met with OLCC representatives several times about these issues and has been cooperative.

As far as the city's role, the Garter has had no problems receiving a business license nor is it under any threat of imminent closure.

Those who believe that the city has the omnipotence to arbitrarily close businesses, or prevent any from opening, didn't learn from last year's experience with a business wanting to profit from women's bare bosoms.

Four arrested in rock, egg damage cases

Four suspects have been arrested in connection with criminal mischief involving rocks and eggs that were thrown from a moving vehicle at parked and moving vehicles, said Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety (GPDPS).

GP dock fire out

Employees at Gottschalk's knocked down a loading dock blaze with portable extinguishers before firefighters could arrive on Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Fire and smoke damage was estimated at \$2,000, said Grants Pass Fire/Rescue.

The alarm came in at 10:40 a.m. as a dumpster fire. However, it was discovered that a 500-watt halogen floodlight placed too close to combustible material on a dock ignited it.

One incident caused facial injuries to the driver of a vehicle. The suspects:

Frank L. Gaumer Jr., 26, of Grants Pass; Nathan A. Leach, 19, a transient; Michael John Kirk, 18, of Grants Pass; and a 17-year-old GP resident who was not identified.

The four each are charged with first-degree criminal mischief, conspiracy, and four counts each of recklessly endangering another person. The juvenile person was placed in the Juvenile Justice Center; the three others were taken to Josephine County Jail.

Since the arrests, GPDPS and Oregon State Police have noted a marked decrease in the frequency of such incidents, said GPDPS.

The case involves several

reports on Nov. 28 that rocks and eggs were thrown. The weight of the rocks ranged from 3 to 10 pounds, causing extensive damage to the vehicles struck, said GPDPS. Investigation resulted in the four arrested being indicted by the Josephine County grand jury.

Investigation also uncovered several similar incidents. Further charges are anticipated. The incidents involve rocks and cinder-type blocks being thrown from moving vehicles at other vehicles.

Also, such items were placed on a roadway, which caused an auto vs. fixed object collision. In one case, a roll-over crash resulted.

Those who have been the victims of such incidents not yet reported should phone GPDPS at 474-6370.

Tales from the Police Blotter

Editor's Note: Factual information for 'Blotter' is provided by official law enforcement agencies. All persons listed are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Charges can be amended or dismissed.)

Friday, Jan. 4

*No evidence was found to substantiate a man's claim that he was assaulted by two people in Cave Junction around 12:40 a.m. He was given a ride home and invited to recontact the sheriff's office if he wanted to pursue charges. But he should sober up first.

*A volunteer deputy reported that deer carcasses with guts and stuff had been dumped off of Laurel Road on Lurline Lane. A description of the suspect's vehicle was forwarded to Oregon State Police.

*Someone exercised her credit card to purchase \$1,834 worth of physical fitness equipment, said an O'Brien woman.

*Trees reported down on Holland Loop, apparently because of stormy weather and not errant beavers, were taken care of by the county public works department.

*Harvey Peters, 48, was cited on a charge of driving while suspended (DWS) in CJ. He also was warned about a defective license plate light, and advised that his vehicle could be impounded.

*Contacted in the 28000

block of Redwood Hwy., David Roland Graves, 51, subsequently was lodged in Josephine County Jail on warrants charging failure to appear, and contempt of court.

Saturday, Jan. 5

*There was a report around 12:40 a.m. that a man threatened to shoot several people and "sic" his dog on them at a McMullen Creek Road home.

*Alarms were received from two Cave Junction businesses between 2 and 3 a.m. A deputy was requested, but no units were available.

*A call placed to 911 from Z Coffee turned out to have resulted from phone problems.

*A man on Reeves Creek Road reported the theft of a generator.

*Two people were warned about the hours when people are permitted at Illinois River "Forks" State Park at 8:06 p.m.

*Bryan Thompson, 30, was cited on a charge of failure to carry proof of insurance and warned for failure to carry proof of registration in Downtown CJ at 8:08 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 6

*An irate man was said to be trying to pick fights with people in Kerby at 5:13 p.m.

*A resident having a blast in the 22000 block of Redwood Hwy. was advised against setting off aerial fireworks, which had been reported a couple of hours earlier.

camping on National Forest land.

*People on motorcycles were said to be trespassing on private property on W. Schumacher Street at 2 p.m.

*Theft of a wallet and an ashtray filled with change from an unlocked vehicle was reported on Dogwood Lane. Footprints in the snow might have led to the culprit.

*Billie Mack Jones, 56, was cited on a charge of DWS, and his vehicle was impounded in the 27000 block of Redwood Hwy. at 7:30 p.m.

*A young man was caught on surveillance video breaking lights at CJ 76 service station.

*In the northbound lane of Redwood Hwy. at milepost 39 a snowman was reported in the roadway. It was a cold report, and OSP was advised.

Tuesday, Jan. 8

*A 14-year-old girl was reported as a runaway juvenile person.

*A man phoned 911 repeatedly, demanding a deputy because he'd received a phone call from someone, possibly a dissatisfied yard sale customer, who (he claimed) threatened to kill him. The item in question was not identified.

*A Kirkham Road resident was warned against making harassing phone calls to a Florida attorney about some matter or other.

*The mother of a runaway girl found her daughter at the home of a friend.

*Three persons contacted on Laurel Road at 8:19 p.m. might have been preparing to illegally dump something, a deputy noted.

Wednesday, Jan. 9

*Although he reported that his girlfriend's son had slapped him (no reason listed), a man in CJ decided not to press charges after the 16-year-old girl apologized.

*A student reportedly was "assaulted" at Illinois Valley High School, but the victim's parent declined to press charges.

*A transient who'd been camping in a barn in the 24000 block of Redwood Hwy. stole two tarps and caused a fire to be lit in the building, a man reported.

*On Naue Way a man reported that "drug addicts" were tearing around the neighborhood in a "sandrail, and doing donuts" on his driveway.

*On Laurel Road Jeremiah Scott Partain, 29, was cited on a warrant charging offensive littering, unlawful discarding of trash within 100 yards of a waterway. He also was cited on a DWS charge.

Thursday, Jan. 10

*Per a citizen's complaint, transients were rousted from near the Illinois Valley Substation and CJ Post Office and told to move on.

*A potential burglar was scared away from McGrew's Tavern at 6:30 a.m. Either that, or he wanted a drink really bad.



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FRIDAY, JAN. 18
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* Boys Basketball vs. North Valley, JV: 5:30 p.m. Varsity: 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 19
* Wrestling at North Coast Classic, Eureka: 7 p.m.
* Swimming at Skyline Meet at SOU: 10 a.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 21
* Fish Watch Meeting, Barker's Room: 12:06 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23
Balfour orders, Cafeteria: 12:06 p.m.



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