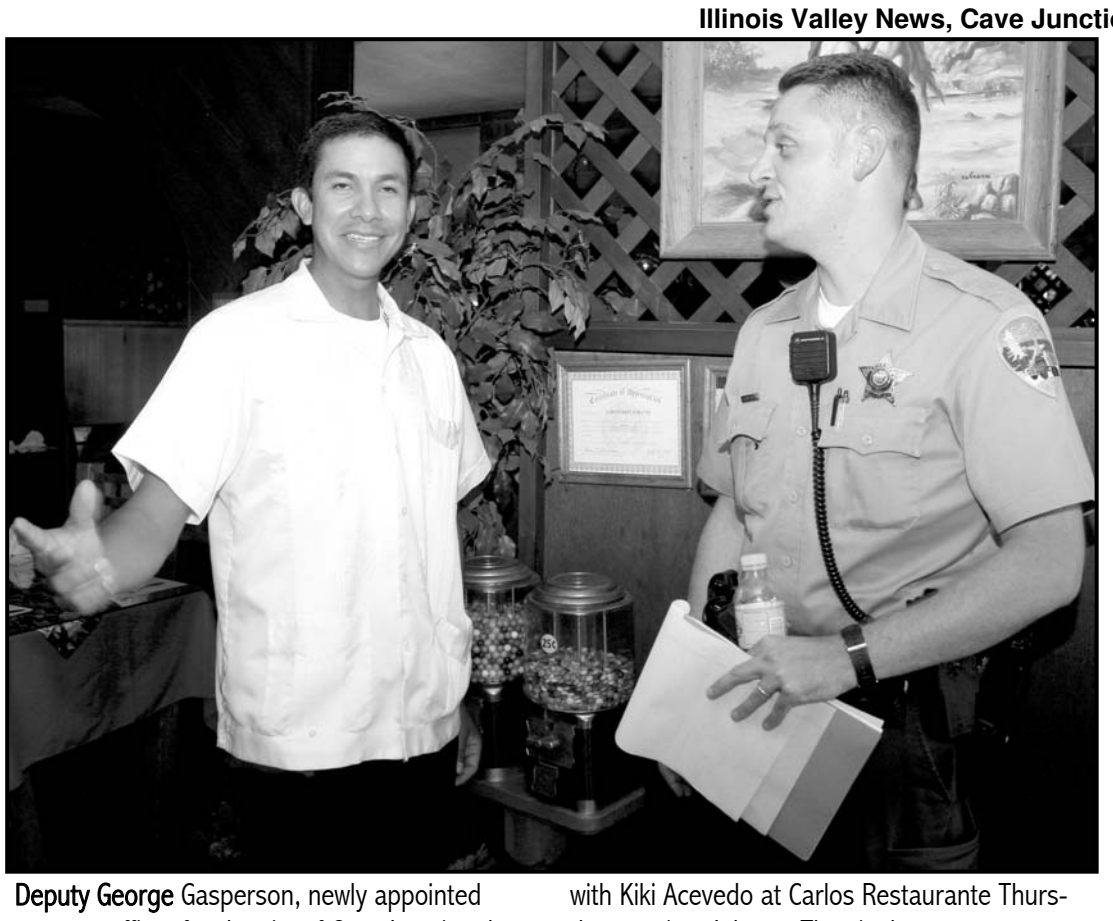

Deputy George Gasperson, newly appointed contract officer for the city of Cave Junction, has been visiting businesses to make himself known. He has been with Josephine County Sheriff's Office for five years. (Above) Gasperson met with Kiki Acevedo at Carlos Restaurante Thursday evening, July 17. The city has a one-year, $100,000 contract for the deputy to provide 40 hours of patrol coverage per week. (Photo by Michelle Binker, *Illinois Valley News*)

Deputies nab crank and cash stash

A Cave Junction resident faces charges including eluding a police officer and possession of methamphetamine after a chase in and around O'Brien early Thursday morning, July 17.

Gerald Bart Batty, 39, is accused of attempting to elude an officer after Deputy Jim Geiger of Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) noticed a motorcycle being operated without headlights on O'Brien Road at 12:43 a.m. and initiated a traffic stop.

The driver, later identified as Batty, failed to yield to overhead lights and siren, fled the scene, and subsequently crashed in the 100 block of Naue Way, JCSO reported.

Batty ran from the crash, pursued by K-9 Deputy *Basco*, who pulled the fugitive to the ground by the backpack he was wearing. The K-9 was punched several times, and Batty escaped custody momentarily, only to be apprehended once more, JCSO said. Deputies took Batty into custody without further incident.

Inside Batty's backpack, after obtaining a search warrant, deputies discovered approximately a pound of methamphetamine and some $11,500 in cash.

Batty was transported by American Medical Response to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass for treatment of injuries including a broken rib sustained in the crash and "K-9 apprehension cuts." He later was released to county jail.

The motorcycle, a 2003 Kawasaki dirt bike, was listed as stolen in 2007 from a Redwood Hwy. resident, according to JCSO.

Batty was cited on charges of attempting to elude a police officer, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, interfering with a police animal; and outstanding arrest warrants charging possession of methamphetamine, felon in possession and unlawful possession of a firearm, and giving false information to police.

Later released on $20,000 bail, he was ordered to appear in court Friday, July 25.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to phone the JCSO Narcotics Unit at 474-5151 or the confidential tip line at 474-5160.

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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.)

* * *

Thursday, July 10

*Several persons were said to be throwing items near a construction site on Kerby Avenue at 1:20 a.m. Cave Junction Public Works Dept. was notified that a "Road Construction" sign at the Palmer Street intersection was damaged.

*What sounded like small-caliber gunfire in Downtown Cave Junction at 1:41 a.m. was determined to have been fireworks. One person was cautioned about using them.

*While it was turning from Caves Hwy. onto Caves Avenue a vehicle clipped the taillight of her car, a caller said.

*A large pile of trash was reported dumped on the west side of Illinois River "Forks" State Park.

*A complaint about the use of fireworks in a wooded residential area was received from a Pinewood Way resident at 8:18 p.m.

*In the 5000 block of Dick George Road a woman was concerned for her daughter's safety, as she had been on a walk for 40 minutes. She returned without incident.

*Riding without lights in the 20000 block of Redwood Hwy. a bicyclist headed south on the lanes for northbound traffic nearly was struck by a passing vehicle, said a caller at 8:13 p.m.

Friday, July 11

*A deputy seized an ID card from a transient man at Lake Selmac after it was reported that the man had been going from campsite to campsite, entering tents. He was warned regarding his activities.

*While out for investigation at Lake Selmac, a deputy contacted a group of apparently intoxicated persons. Michael Pason, 46, was cited on a warrant charging failure to appear (FTA) on original charges of driving with a suspended license (DWS), and third-degree theft.

*During the contact above, Kevin Jeffrey Brittain, 41, was cited on three warrants charging FTA on charges of driving under the influence of an intoxicant (DUII.) He was taken to Three Rivers Community Hospital (TRCH) in Grants Pass by American Medical Response due to "extensive medical problems" and a high level of intoxication.

*At Lake Selmac a woman was warned about urinating in public.

*A 14-year-old Cave Junction girl, described by her mother as "not suicidal, just being stupid," was taken to TRCH, as she ingested too much alcohol while at the river.

*In connection with the incident above, Hailey Michelle Berger, 13, was cited on a charge of minor in possession (MIP) of alcohol, and a 14-year-old girl warned about MIP. Both were released to their parents.

*Kyle Lynn Sullivan, 37, was cited on a charge of DUII on Redwood Hwy. at Forks park at 11:10 p.m. His blood-alcohol content (BAC) was listed as .19.

Saturday, July 12

*A car driver with a listed BAC of .18 was cited on a DUII charge on Redwood Hwy. at "Forks" park at 1:30 a.m. It was unclear as to his name.

*Coincident with the traffic stop above, Kristopher Lynn Myers, 28, was lodged in Josephine County Jail on a warrant charging fraud.

*A silent alarm sounded at the Cave Junction Post Office at 1:30 p.m.

*Drivers were warned for a variety of activities including speeding and defective equipment in and around Cave Junction in the 9 o'clock hour.

*Someone failed to leave their name at the scene of a fender-bender on a parking lot in the 200 block of N. Redwood Hwy., a woman reported at 10:23 p.m.

*At 11:04 p.m. six people were contacted while loitering in the 200 block of S. Redwood Hwy. Subsequently, Brent D. Morrison, 46, was cited on warrants charging fourth-degree assault and failure to appear on a charge of DWS.

Sunday, July 13

*A caller said some people threatened to kill him when he approached them at a Lake Selmac boat ramp at 2:17 a.m.

*A reckless driver in newer model blue Toyota pickup truck was reported passing in an unsafe manner and forcing other vehicles off of the roadway on Illinois River Road at 8:12 p.m. The vehicle was last seen headed toward Grants Pass.

*A two-vehicle accident was reported in the 1500 block of Lakeshore Drive at 6:32 p.m.

*A woman in Cave Junction said that her ex-boyfriend, who'd been drinking and had taken too many anti-depressants, had threatened to burn their home.

*A single-vehicle accident was reported in the 4000 block of Deer Creek Road at 8:46 p.m.

Monday, July 14

*Young women were heard screaming at 12:44 a.m. in the vicinity of Lorna Byrne Middle School. When contacted, the girls stated they had been frightened by a movie they'd been watching.

*A 12-year-old girl was reported as runaway by her rural Cave Junction parents.

Tuesday, July 15

*While following another vehicle on Holland Loop, a caller said, he witnessed the occupants throw a bag of beer cans out the window. The caller said he followed the litterbugs, and told them to pick up their cans. They did so, but one of the two men threatened to "gut" the caller if he caught him alone.

*Several items reported stolen, and a stolen vehicle, were recovered from a Deer Creek Road residence at 6:12 p.m. The resident is in jail.

Wednesday, July 16

*In the 700 block of Caves Hwy. an unknown person gained entry to a residence through an unsecured bathroom window. Two rifles were reported stolen and the toilet broken, causing water damage to the residence.

*A Selma resident cautioned that her ex-husband's unstable behavior was escalating.

*On Lone Mountain Road a man said that his tenant accused him of shutting off power to her residence, and threatened to burn his house. In fact, the power outage was due to a motor vehicle accident. The tenant was to be warned regarding harassment.

*A woman was said to be disruptive and refusing to leave a Selma establishment at 8:13 p.m.

*Gary Scott Williams, 39, was lodged in Josephine County Jail on a charge of fourth-degree domestic assault after brandishing a knife during a disturbance on N. Hussey Avenue at 8:44 p.m.

Lovejoy HOSPICE

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~ Cheryl Valentine, R.N., Exec. Dir., Lovejoy Hospice

Lovejoy Hospice - 939 SE 8th St., Grants Pass
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