

GP 'bomb' more trash than terror

By **MICHELLE BINKER**
IVN Staff Writer

Several blocks of Downtown Grants Pass were cordoned off for a little more than two hours Friday morning, Jan. 9 following a report of a suspicious box on the parking lot of a branch bank.

Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety (GPDPS) officers evacuated all businesses surrounding the Wells Fargo Bank at 205 N.E. Sixth St. after the suspect device was located at 8:28 a.m. ODOT and GP public works employees helped to control vehicle traffic.

GPDPS auxiliary volunteers and Josephine County Citizens Emergency Response Team helped control and redirect pedestrians. OSP was notified around 8:50 a.m.

"We are very fortunate that we had two bomb techs in Central Point this morning and they could respond," said Laura Zeliff, GPDPS deputy chief and public information officer.

GPDPS's mobile unit had an elevated camera trained on the item. But, Ze-



This tethered Oregon State Police robot, equipped with video camera and a water cannon, was deployed to investigate the 'bomb'. (Photo by Michelle Binker, *Illinois Valley News*)

liff said, it was not possible to definitively identify the object, described as a box with wires sticking out of it.

OSP deployed a robot equipped with video cameras and a water cannon to approach the box, which was determined to be more trash than terror.

"It was a speaker box" said Sgt. Jeff Proulx of OSP's criminal investigations division. "Our bomb techs responded to the scene. They

were able to get some good close up pictures of it.

"It appeared to be a speaker box," Proulx said. "At that point you don't know what it is. So they took all precautions, deployed the robot, and destroyed the box."

The incident warranted "no further investigation," Proulx said.

Concerning the disruption, Zeliff said "This has an impact.

"When you start to think about the large area we have had to cordon off, the businesses closed; this has an impact on the community."

With horrific memories in mind of a recent bank-bombing incident in Woodburn, where two law enforcement officers died and a third seriously injured, Zeliff said, "I would rather shut things down and be on the safe side than to think that we know (that it's safe)."

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County board acts on KWD; sits on development post

By **SCOTT JORGENSEN**
IVN Staff Writer

An amendment to the engineering plan for the Kerby Water District (KWD) project was approved by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners during its administrative meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 6 in the conference room at the courthouse in Grants Pass.

Commissioner Dave Toler said that the amendment was necessary due to a big change in the project.

A major obstacle had been the issue of how to get water pressure to fire hydrants. Toler said that the original plans had called for having a reservoir, but that the city of Cave Junction has conducted a study on the use of a pump system and determined that it would work.

County Chief Financial Officer Rosemary Padgett said that because of that change, the project's engineers had to redraw the construction bids. Padgett said that no county funds are being used for the project, because it's funded through a \$1 million Community Development Block Grant.

As such, Toler said, the board had to amend the engineering agreement and grant

to reflect the change.

Commissioner Dwight Ellis moved to approve the contract amendment, and Commissioner Sandi Casanelli seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Toler said that there's a "good chance" that the project will be completed some time this year. He added that its indefinite completion up to this point has prevented the county from applying for and receiving other block grants.

The board also acted with regard to the county's economic development position. Toler urged his fellow commissioners to fill the position. He said that the county's economic development funds don't come out of the county's general fund, but are dedicated state dollars from lottery proceeds.

He said that there are currently no economic development plans for the county, its two airports or the fairgrounds. The salary and benefits for the position are paid by SOREDI, Toler said, but the county would have strong say in the candidate selection.

Ellis said that a number of economic development projects in the county are currently stagnant due to the position not being filled.

No formal vote was taken, but the commissioners agreed to pursue filling the position.

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. 2

*Parties involved in a motor vehicle accident on Redwood Hwy. at Watkins Street at 2:38 p.m. exchanged information themselves, as there were no officers available to respond.

*On Kerby Avenue at 3:32 p.m., driver Michael

Anthony Webbe, 34, was cited on a charge of driving with a suspended license (DWS); Kenneth Russell Davis, 23, was cited on warrants charging failure to appear on charges of harassment, reckless endangerment and providing false information to a police officer.

*A trailer previously reported stolen was located and recovered from a location on Waldo Road.

*In the 7000 block of Holland Loop a man reported that people had been parking on his driveway for several days. Also, tools were reportedly taken from the property.

*Theft of a Toyota four-wheel drive pickup truck from the 23000 block of Redwood Hwy. was reported.

*Some sort of disturbance was reported on E. River Street at Caves Avenue at 8:34 p.m.

*At 9:45 p.m. a resident in the 7000 block of Holland Loop reported a suspicious vehicle in his driveway.

Saturday, Jan. 3

*A man suspected of passing two bad checks was asked to leave a Cave Junction restaurant, and warned against trespassing in the area.

*Three men were warned about trespassing in the 100 block of S. Redwood Hwy.

*A domestic disturbance was reported in the 7000 block of Caves Hwy. Neither party wished to pursue harassment charges, but the male half was given a ride to town "to cool off."

*Davina Marie Mooney, 30; and Byron Wayne McLaughlin, 31, were cited for lack of SnoPark permits at Page Mountain around 1 p.m.

*Charles Edward Clark, 57; and Travis Randal Davenport, 23; and Rodger Lee Davenport Pernicka, 24, were cited on charges of damaging government property in the 5000 block of Waldo Road. Clark also was cited on a charge of possession of a controlled substance (PCS)/less than an ounce of marijuana

*Frederick P. Hampton,

50, was cited to appear in Cave Junction Municipal Court on a charge of speeding (50 mph in a 35 mph zone) on Caves Hwy. at 2:28 p.m.

*Nichole Leeann Bowman, 19, was cited into CJ Muni Court on a charge of speeding (45 mph in a 35 mph zone). on N. Old Stage Road at 3:41 p.m.

*Contacted in Downtown Cave Junction, Richard Abe Linville, 57, was cited on a warrant charging failure to appear on an original DWS charge.

*Larry Samuel Becker, 32, was cited for lack of an operator's permit in the 8000 block of Rockydale Road at 5:57 p.m.

*The driver's window of a vehicle parked at Western Plaza was smashed with an unknown object, causing some \$600 damage, the owner reported at 6:22 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 4

*On Brown Road, a man stated that he'd made a citizen's arrest, and wanted to press charges against a woman at his residence. Another caller stated that the woman was in danger. She was removed from the residence, and the original caller warned about his behavior.

*Michael Murphy, 18, was cited on a charge of being in possession of an untaxed load of firewood on Deer Creek Road at 10:24 a.m.

*Theft of a silver-colored Dodge pickup truck by an "on again/off again" employee of the complainant was reported in the 27000 block of Redwood Hwy. at 4:41 p.m.

*Information on the possible location of recently stolen items including a shotgun and violin was relayed to the investigating officer.

*A disturbance between father and son on Forest Creek road was determined to be a civil issue regarding rent.

Monday, Jan. 5

*One sign was missing and another damaged at the Eight Dollar Mountain Botanical Wayside parking area. Also, a vehicle was tagged

with a warning sticker for being in a no-parking area.

*Reported stumbling "intoxicatedly" into traffic and found by a deputy in a ditch on Caves Hwy., Luey Magic Ocean Glenn, 19, was taken to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass on a peace officer's mental hold.

*Two incidents of assault were reported at Illinois Valley High School. Both victims declined medical assistance, and allowed school officials to handle the incidents.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

*A Selma man reported losing his wallet. Some of the contents were recovered on Lakeshore Drive, and a suspect, captured on surveillance video, attempted to use the man's debit card at a Cave Junction bank.

*Theft of two guns, two knives and a half-ounce of medical marijuana was reported from Hogue Drive.

*A woman reported her purse stolen from her Reeves Creek Road residence.

*No evidence of a crime was found after a reported disturbance on Gamay Court.

*A resident of Hanby Lane reported that his home had been forcibly entered and ransacked.

*Two people and their dogs were found camped inside the lobby of the Cave Junction Post Office at 8:41 p.m. They were warned against trespassing and left.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

*David Michael Heikka, 44, was arrested in Kerby on a charge of probation violation and lodged in Josephine County Jail.

*Although a concerned witness reported an aggressive disturbance on Finch Road at 2:12 p.m., those contacted said they were "just playing around."

*Two horses loose on Rockydale Road were being pursued by four vehicles, a caller said at 8:17 p.m.

*A Deer Creek Road resident stated that her

neighbor threatened to kill her.

Thursday, Jan. 8

*Emus were said to be on the roadway on Holland Loop at 12:06 p.m. No officers were available to respond.

*After the driver of a Toyota pickup sped through Downtown CJ at 9:05 p.m. and ran a red light, a pursuit ensued on Hwy. 199 and Westside Road before the vehicle crashed on Finch Road. Arrested was Sean Cordell Wylie, 19, on charges of felony eluding, reckless driving, reckless endangerment and PCS/less than an ounce of marijuana. He also was cited on a warrant charging FTA on a DUII charge, and was charged with PCS/methamphetamine after the substance was discovered in one of his boots at county jail.

- IVHS School Menu -
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THURSDAY, JAN. 15
Pasta with marinara / meat sauce, bean & cheese burrito, chicken burger, cheeseburger, cheese, barbecue chicken, or supreme pizza; Italian sandwich, turkey & cheese sandwich, spicy chicken wrap; chef, antipasto, fruit & veggie, or garden salad.

FRIDAY, JAN. 16
Nacho supreme, corn dog, spicy chicken burger, hamburger; pepperoni, cheese, supreme or taco pizza; ham & cheese sandwich, turkey & cheese sandwich, turkey wrap; chef, garden, fruit & veggie, or Mandarin chicken salad.

MONDAY, JAN. 19
Martin Luther King Day
No Classes

TUESDAY, JAN. 20
Chicken fajitas, BBQ chicken sandwich, chicken burger, cheeseburger; pepperoni, cheese, or Hawaiian pizza; Italian sandwich, turkey & cheese sandwich, spicy chicken wrap; chef, antipasto, fruit & veggie, or garden salad.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21
Taco salad, sweet & sour chicken rice bowl, spicy chicken burger, hamburger; pepperoni, sausage, cheese or Italian griller pizza; veggie sandwich, turkey & cheese sandwich, turkey wrap; chef, garden, fruit & veggie, or Mandarin chicken salad.

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Open House at Evergreen Elementary and Illinois Valley High school's school-based health centers.

Siskiyou Community Health Center (SCHC) would like to announce the addition of a new school-based health center at Evergreen Elementary and the adoption and remodel of the health center at Illinois Valley High School (IVHS).

In 2007, with the generous support of the Illinois Valley community and Three Rivers School District, SCHC started exploring the idea of a school-based health center at Evergreen Elementary. A planning grant was received from the State School-Based Health Center Program Office which was used for construction of the new health center. Local contractor Bruce Donelsons' company, "A Better Builder," was awarded the construction contract. The construction was completed in September 2008 and students were able to start utilizing this service.

That same year, the Josephine County Public Health Department (JCPH) was no longer able to continue operating the school-based health center at Illinois Valley High School and began looking for alternate sponsors. With the approval of JCPH, SCHC was able to assume sponsorship of the IVHS health center. A \$15,000 grant was applied for and received from the Cow Creek/Umpqua Indian Foundation to remodel the existing IVHS school-based health center. The project was completed in early September 2008 and has greatly enhanced student access and the efficiency of the health center.

Siskiyou Community Health Center would like to invite the community to come take a look at the two school-based health centers during an open house at both sites on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Evergreen Elementary is located at 520 W. River Street in Cave Junction. Illinois Valley High School is located at 625 E. River Street in Cave Junction.

SISKIYOU COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

For more information contact Carolyn Litak, PA at 541-592-6978.