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SCHC to gain some \$700K in federal stimulus bux

Siskiyou Community Health Center (SCHC), which has a clinic in Cave Junction, will receive an infusion of federal dollars as part of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

The U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services is awarding more than \$14.6 million in grants to health centers throughout Oregon as part of its Capital Improvement Program, according to a Tuesday, June 30 announcement from Sen. Jeff Merkley (R-Ore.) and Sen. Ron Wyden (R-Ore.).

Approximately \$700,835 will be allocated to SCHC, which has its administrative offices in Grants Pass.

La Clinica Del Valle Family Health in Medford will receive \$676,510; and the Medford-based Community Health Center will receive \$600,945.

The funding will go toward supporting construction, repair and renovation of the health centers' facilities. Also, purchasing new equipment and health information technology systems, and adopting expanded use of electronic health records, the announcement states.

A Wednesday, July 1 SCHC announcement relates that ultrasound equipment will be purchased to better serve prenatal patients. Medical lab equipment will be expanded to provide more on-site services, and a Class "A" mobile unit will be used for "dual-use dental operatories." The unit will provide services to Williams, Merlin, Hugo and up to Wolf Creek, said Merkley and Wyden.

Kurt Higuera, SCHC CEO, praised the federal funding allocation.

"The Capital Improvement Program grant is a welcome opportunity for Federally Qualified Health Centers to make needed additions and improvements to enhance services," Higuera said. "Siskiyou Community Health Center will be utilizing the funding to provide extended services throughout Josephine County as well as to improve and enhance services at our existing clinics."

Wyden also praised the allocation.

"More than 17 million Americans from small towns to urban centers rely on com-

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Former Deer Creek Ranch owner pleads guilty to tax evasion

Prescott facing up to five years in federal prison for 'promotion and sale of abusive trusts'

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

One of the former owners of the Deer Creek Ranch property on Illinois River Road in Selma, now home to the Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI), has pleaded guilty to federal tax evasion charges.

Former Selma resident Roderick Prescott admitted to evading at least \$550,000 in personal income taxes for

1998 and 1999, according to a Tuesday, June 30 U.S. Dept. of Justice press release.

It states that Prescott, the former principle of National Trust Services (NTS) in Selma and San Jose, Calif., now resides in Orem, Utah.

Prescott's trial was scheduled to begin on Tuesday, July 7 in Eugene.

Along with his now-deceased business partner,

Leroy Fritts, the Dept. of Justice states that Prescott "allegedly was involved in the promotion and sale of abusive trusts through NTS." The government claims that Prescott and Fritts also recruited NTS clients to invest in Fountainhead Global Trust (FGT), an offshore investment that promised returns as high as 50 percent per year.

The release states that

FGT collected \$20 million in investors' funds between 1995 and 1999, and that Prescott and Fritts funneled part of the money in that offshore account to themselves.

Those funds, which the government asserts totaled up to \$3.5 million, were said to be spent on luxury goods and real estate, including purchase of Deer Creek Ranch.

Prescott and Fritts are

accused of having used trusts and accounts to conceal their income from IRS, according to the Dept. of Justice.

The government claims that Prescott last filed an income tax return in 1991. He now faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

Construction began on two custom-built luxury log homes on the Deer Creek Ranch property, with a combined budget of \$2 million, the release states. More than \$465,000 was spent on construction before work was halted in 1999.

Solar panels for the ranch were purchased for more than \$328,000; and more than \$1.1 million was spent on food in

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Area solons reflect on legislative session

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

The final gavel of the 2009 Oregon legislative session fell at 9:45 p.m. on Monday, June 29, at which point lawmakers from throughout the state returned home from the capitol in Salem.

District 3 Rep. Ron Maurer (R-Grants Pass) characterizes the session as one in which the Democrats and their political allies dominated the agenda, especially since that party had a supermajority in the House and Senate.

"It was not a good session for working Oregonians," said Maurer. "It was not a good session for business. But it was a great session for public employee unions."

District 2 Sen. Jason Atkinson (R-Central Point) also finds fault with many of the Legislature's efforts. In particular, he said that new laws regulating fill removal, banning field burning and raising the state's corporate tax from 6.6 to 7.9 percent for companies making more than \$250,000 will ultimately hurt

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Antique Alley Custom Rod Shop celebrated 40 years with a celebration on Saturday, July 4. Howard & Terri Hill (below) hosted the get-together, which featured many of the vehicles Hill has customized since founding the business in San Diego in 1969. Antique Alley relocated to Cave Junction in 1995. This 1957 Chevrolet pickup (above) earned 2009 Best in Show in Medford recently. Among guests (below) was Illinois Valley Fire District Chief Harry Rich, proud owner of a 1936 Plymouth. (Photos by Michelle Binker, *I.V. News*)



Sheriff's Office urges safety during summer activities

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Scorching summer heat tends to send several area residents scrambling for the nearest swimming hole.

However, the Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) is urging would-be recreationalists to exercise caution when engaging in seasonal activities.

"We lose five to six people a year because they drown," said Sheriff Gil Gilbertson. "They fall off rocks, injure themselves or drown because they're intoxicated or not wearing a life jacket."

Gilbertson said that since summer started, his office has "become busier than normal" responding to incidents throughout the county. That trend repeats itself every year, the sheriff said.

"In colder weather, people try to stay warm by staying indoors," he said. "In the heat of the summer, people are engaged in more outdoor activities, and more people are on the move."

One particularly popular swimming spot is the swing-



Boaters should wear life jackets and JCSO will enforce increased state penalties for boating under the influence of intoxicants, said Sheriff Gil Gilbertson. (File photo by *Illinois Valley News*)

ing bridge above Illinois River out Illinois River Road at McCaleb Ranch Boy Scout Camp near Selma. Gilbertson said that JCSO has a contract with the U.S. Forest Service to provide patrols in the area.

"There will be somebody patrolling the Illinois River," Gilbertson said.

JCSO also has two marine boat operators assigned to the Rogue River, he said. Among other aspects, Gilbertson said, JCSO will

enforce increased state penalties for boating under the influence of intoxicants.

"I think we're definitely keeping a closer eye on river activity," he said.

Vehicle break-ins have been a common occurrence at boat ramps along the Rogue River, but Gilbertson said that steps are being taken to put a stop to them.

"We now have volunteers checking boat ramps," Gilbertson said. "Some places

have even put cameras up so we can catch these people breaking into vehicles that are left at the boat ramps."

River guides also are recording the license plate numbers of cars parked at boat ramps, Gilbertson said. He added that anyone parking at a boat ramp should avoid leaving valuables visible in their vehicle, and make sure it is locked.

Intoxication often accompanies summer recreational activities, but also can lead to potentially dangerous situations that can be easily avoided, Gilbertson said.

"If you're going to be drinking to the point where you become intoxicated, don't go swimming," he said. "If you're shooting rapids or in a raft or a boat, wear a life jacket."

Gilbertson said that JCSO usually sees an uptick

of instances of intoxicated driving during the summer.

"More drinking goes on and people have the tendency to get behind the wheel of a car," Gilbertson said. "The accident rate increases."

Another popular area swimming site is Illinois River Forks State Park, just outside Cave Junction city limits. Although Gilbertson said the park is the "state's responsibility," JCSO strives to maintain a presence there.

As of early July, Gilbertson said, there have been no major incidents in the county, "but the summer is young."

The JCSO Marine Division will hold a boating safety exam day from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 18 on the west gravel parking lot of Grants Pass Family YMCA next to the county fairgrounds. Participants should bring paperwork and required boating safety equipment.

Anyone who passes the safety exam will be issued a decal, JCSO said. For more information, phone 474-5120.