

Efforts to retain DOGAMI map collection in JoCo successful

The Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) Grants Pass field office in Merlin has been closed, but efforts to keep some of its materials in Josephine County have proven successful.

Josephine County Commissioner Sandi Cassanelli said that many of the geological maps and mining files once contained in the Merlin facility have been photocopied. The originals will be stored at DOGAMI's Portland office, Cassanelli said, but the copies will be kept at the courthouse in Grants Pass.

Cassanelli said the maps will be stored in the sur-

veyor's office, and the gem and mineral samples will likely be kept in display cases in the hallways and lobbies of the courthouse.

"The state has allowed us to keep the collection here," she said. "They want it in the courthouse because the state feels it has to have public access readily available."

At one point, it was hoped that the collection could be kept at Kerbyville Museum in Illinois Valley. But Dennis Strayer, who serves as president of the museum's board of directors, said he found out during a Tuesday, July 28 phone conversation with DOGAMI

officials in Portland that the materials must be kept in a public facility.

"Apparently, according to their regulations, they cannot give the stuff to non-profits," Strayer said. "My

understanding from the conversations I've had is that it has to stay with another government entity."

Cassanelli credits her fellow commissioners for their efforts to keep the mate-

rials local, along with state geologists Tom Wylie and Vicki McConnell, the legislators who represent the area, and Southern Oregon Resource Alliance Chairman Jim Frick.

"Everybody was pulling together in the same direction to get this done," she said. "We got what we wanted, and the state got what it wanted."

~ Scott Jorgensen

Takilma workshop on mining activity educational

Management (BLM) were present to answer questions from audience members.

The forum was organized by the Siskiyou Project. Executive Director Shane Jimmerfield said it went very well.

"It focused mostly on the type of stuff that goes on

in the Illinois Valley," Jimmerfield said. "It was a very civil, very nice exchange of information. I thought it was beneficial."

The rising price of gold has caused concern that mining activity in the Illinois Valley may be increasing. Jimmerfield said he is uncertain if that has been the case.

"Certainly, there's been an increase in the number of mining claims being filed," he said. "Our experience, from being out in the land and seeing things, is that we're noticing activity. Whether that equates to an increase or not, we're unsure."

Jimmerfield said the

discussion mostly centered on what happens when a miner strikes a claim on land administered by BLM or USFS, and what it means for that land.

A similar workshop may be held in Selma in the future, Jimmerfield said, but has not been scheduled yet.

For more information on mining regulations, or to report a problem, phone BLM Western Zone Geologist Richard Chaney at 471-6522 or USFS Mining Administrator Karla Gallegos at 471-6708, or visit f.s.f.e.d.u.s/g.e.o.l.o.g.y/m.i.n.e.r.a.l.s._p.o.l.i.c.y.html or access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_02/43cfr3600_02.html.

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.)

Wednesday, July 22

*A driver was cited for an undisclosed infraction at Bolan Lake Campground at 2:07 p.m.

*Also near Bolan Lake, Jessica Reann Lujan Lee, 24, was cited on charges of driving uninsured and endangering child passengers.

*After being contacted in the 300 block of S. Redwood Hwy., Crystal Dawn Costa, 34, was lodged in Josephine County Jail on warrants charging failure to appear (FTA) on charges of possession of a controlled substance (PCS): marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school; and second-degree criminal trespass. Two other people were warned regarding trespassing.

*Someone had cut brush and erected an "elaborate" camp off a U.S. Forest Service road west of Selma. The caller was a self-described member of an "environmental group" which keeps track of "this type of activity."

*An intoxicated driver in a blue pickup truck was reported at Illinois River Forks State Park at 4:16 p.m.

*Rita C. Bennett, 43, was cited on a charge of third-degree theft ("shoplifting") at Shop Smart Food Warehouse at 6:25 p.m.

*Theft of tools and other items from the porch at a N. Old Stage Road residence was reported.

*Neil Francis White, 57, was cited on a charge of second-degree criminal trespass in the 300 block of Redwood Hwy. at 7:40 p.m.

*Jerry Lee Clark, 57, was cited to appear in Cave Junction Municipal Court on charges of failure to wear a seatbelt, driving uninsured and expired registration. His vehicle was impounded.

*Theft of a purse, camera and cell phone from a locked vehicle on Illinois River Road was reported.

*Michael N. Medley, 34; and Dennis G. Edge, 47, were cited on charges of second-degree burglary and first-degree theft after an Aries Lane caller reported that tools and a brush hog valued at \$700 were stolen from a locked shed. Video of the theft was noted.

Thursday, July 23

*A valley resident said that his grandson was cultivating some curious, non-fruited plants in his garden among the tomato and potato plants.

*A car parked near Snailback Trail on Illinois River Road was broken into and some \$65 cash taken, the owner said. Cost to replace the broken driver-side window was estimated at \$400.

*A caller stated that someone had removed her documents from a Sucker

Creek mining claim and replaced them with their own. She was advised that it was a civil issue.

*A man was said to be urinating on the roadway on Caves Hwy. near Illinois Valley Visitor Center.

*Fairly late in the evening, two people in a van at Laurel Cemetery were thought suspicious by a caller. It turned out that they were visiting a grave site and imbibing alcohol. One man was advised to not drive.

*On N. Redwood Hwy. Jordan Connor Chambers, 25, was cited on a charge of speed limit violation, 71 mph in a 45 mph zone.

Friday, July 24

*A dump site including a trailer in the creek were found off Deer Creek Road.

*Jessica Dawn Noble Houck, 30, was cited on a charge of failure to wear a seatbelt at Illinois River Forks State Park at 4:02 p.m.

*At Bolan Lake Campground, a man was warned for failure to pay a campground fee.

*In the 28000 block of Hwy. 199 a dispute between a landlord and tenant was logged.

*Madrona Drive folks wanted their adult son and his girlfriend to be told to leave because he was becoming increasingly argumentative.

*Recently released from jail, a woman said that she was having trouble getting her dog back from the person who was caring for it.

*It was stated that young people had torn down a fence at the end of Schumacher Street and were trespassing to access Pomeroy Dam.

*Two people found at Lorna Byrne Middle School at 10:25 p.m. were warned about being there.

Saturday, July 25

*Justin Aaron Mack, 19, was cited on a charge of minor in possession of alcohol at Store Gulch on Illinois River Road.

*Three people were contacted at Pomeroy Dam at 3:48 p.m. and warned against trespassing.

*Richard Elliot Jensen, 40, was cited on a charge of driving with a suspended license (DWS) and no insurance at Illinois River Forks State Park at 4:12 p.m.

*Daniel Kevin Palmer, 25, was cited on a charge of speeding (61 mph in 45 mph zone) on N. Redwood Hwy. at 4:22 p.m.

*Donna Lillian Call, 45, was cited on a charge of illegal display of license plates.

*Melissa Jayne Lowenstein, 42, was lodged in Josephine County Jail on a warrant charging FTA on an original DUII charge.

*After a report that a pit bull tore the ear off another dog at Six Mile Recreation area, Jesse C. Riker, 27, was cited on a charge of dog not under control.

*Animal Control was notified after a caller on Deer Creek Road complained that two pit bulls had killed a

neighbor's dog.

*Joseph V. Morningstar, 42, was cited on a charge of speeding, (62 mph in a 45 mph zone) on N. Redwood Hwy. at 7:21 p.m.

*A woman on Beebe Drive claimed that her neighbors were harassing her.

*Latasha C. McCue, 19, was cited on a charge of being a minor in possession of alcohol on Illinois River Road at 8:53 p.m.

*At Store Gulch a camper was warned regarding a dog off-leash, an illegal camp and illegal campfire.

*A disturbance of some sort was reported in the 200 block of Caves Hwy., but those involved left prior to a deputy's arrival.

*Sima Jean Baldwin, 31, was cited on a charge of speeding (72 mph in a 55 mph zone) in the 21000 block of Hwy. 199 at 11:57 p.m.

Sunday, July 26

*Bones discovered in a plastic bag in a "hidden spot" at a Lakeshore Drive property were thought to be suspicious in origin.

*Two vehicles on Illinois River Road were ticketed for illegal parking; and two others, which were parked illegally and blocking the roadway, were towed.

*A Davis Creek Road resident complained of telephonic harassment from a man with whom she wished no contact. He also was warned regarding trespassing.

*When not permitted to know whom his wife was "texting," a man on Rockydale Road seized her cell phone and broke it, she reported. No evidence of a crime was found.

Monday, July 27

*A soldier in uniform was contacted near Ray's Food Place in Selma at 1:34 a.m. He was awaiting family members to pick him up.

*Overnight, someone threw a rock, damaging a vehicle on S. Junction Avenue, a caller said. Also, the vehicle had been spray-painted.

*A man and woman were said to be fighting as they walked northbound on Hwy. 199 at Laurel Road at 10:27 a.m. Each was contacted by a deputy.

*While with his dog at a swimming hole on Sucker Creek off Holland Loop at 6:32 p.m., a caller said that three people approached him and told him to leave "or the man would kill him."

*A fight between brothers on S. Kerby Avenue was reported.

*Theft of items from a secured residence in the 17000 block of Hwy. 199 was said to have occurred.

*Someone broke into a travel trailer and ransacked it, said a caller in the 28000 block of Hwy. 199.

*On S. Kerby Avenue, a caller said that her boyfriend's car was "egged" and that he was chasing the suspects. The son of the owner of the vehicle the vandals had been riding in was warned

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