

State police need help following hit-and-run fatalities

Oregon State Police (OSP) are asking for the public’s help to locate the vehicle and driver involved in the death of two people early in the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 30, who were struck by a vehicle on Highway 199 about two miles south of Cave Junction in Josephine County.

At approximately 12:15 a.m. Oct 30, a report was received that two people were struck by a vehicle in the 27000 block of Highway 199 near milepost 30 south of Cave Junction. When emergency responders arrived, they confirmed two males were deceased and the involved vehicle was not at the scene.

Information gathered by investigators indicates a vehicle driven by Cave Junction resident Jarred Quinn Houston, 21, stopped on the shoulder of the highway due to a possible mechanical problem. While at the location, another person identified as Robert Rad Calvin, 41, also of Cave Junction, was walking in the area with a female witness.

Investigators say that Calvin and Houston became involved in a verbal dispute that turned physical. As both men began fighting in the southbound lane of travel they were struck by the suspect vehicle that left the scene southbound without stopping.

The suspect vehicle is described as light colored, possibly beige or tan, 1980’s style single cab Toyota pickup with matching color canopy and front end damage.

Oregon State Police notified law enforcement agencies in northern California and southern Oregon to be on the lookout for the unidentified suspect vehicle and driver.

Anyone with information to help in this investigation is asked to call OSP Southern Command Center dispatch at (541) 776-6111.



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Scooby Doo was attacked by five Zombies while attempting to make a deposit at Sterling Bank in Cave Junction Thursday, Oct. 31.

Saturation patrol leads to about 90 stops

By
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Oregon State Police (OSP) conducted “Saturation Patrols” in the Illinois Valley on October 24 and 25 which involved 15 OSP troopers and detectives operating between three and seven vehicles at any one time.

Approximately 90 vehicle stops took place with almost every stop resulting in some sort of action: citation, warning, assistance or arrest.

According to OSP Lieutenant Kelly S. Collins, 20 traffic citations were issued along with over 100 warnings for various violation offenses. There were three outstanding warrants served and 15 arrests made on various criminal charges. Some of those criminal charges resulted in individuals being cited and released. In addition, one motorist was assisted on the side of the highway and one traffic crash was

investigated during this period of time. Troopers also made an arrest of an individual who illegally shot a turkey. See “Tales from the Rural Patrol” elsewhere in this issue for further information about that incident.

Saturation patrols occur frequently based on the identified needs of individual Area Commands around the state and they serve many purposes. Collins explained that OSP has a mission to enhance livability and safety by protecting the people, property and natural resources of the state.

“Providing traffic safety is a key service, which allows us to fulfill that mission,” Collins said. “Conducting saturation efforts provides an opportunity to present an increased presence and visibility in an effort to gain voluntary compliance from the motoring public; which in turn reduces the instances of traffic violations that commonly lead to traffic crashes.”

The number of patrol cars varies and often depends on available resources at the time. OSP has

held them with as few as two to three cars and with as many as 10 or more vehicles, in which case city and county law enforcement partners are also involved.

In regard to the loss of Josephine County sheriff’s patrols’ impact on the OSP mission, Collins went on to state, “One of the key objectives in accomplishing our mission is to support our local communities, including our law enforcement partners. Any time we have to draw from valuable resources to provide this support, certainly there is the potential to impact one of our key services of providing traffic safety. OSP takes a great deal of pride in our mission to deter or intercept criminal activity on our highways, intercepting DUII drivers, for example. It would be accurate to say our proactive patrol time is diminished when we are responding to service calls, but we view them as equally valuable to our citizens.”

See OSP on A-9

IVCDO has big impact throughout the Valley

By
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A peek behind the curtain reveals how instrumental the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization is to the maintenance, diversity and growth of the Valley’s economy, quality of life and social wellbeing.

From management of the Oregon Caves Chateau and the formation of the Kerby Water District to the development of the Business Entrepreneurial Center and the Community Education Partnership with RCC, the IVCDO’s wide-ranging initiatives benefit everyone who lives, works or travels through the Valley.

“Most nonprofit organizations are driven by a single issue,” said IVCDO Executive Director Menno Kraai. “IVCDO is multi-faceted, with diverse approaches to community planning, which is why we’ve tackled everything from basic infrastructure to business development.”

The IVCDO has been around a long time. With the timber industry in decline and many facing high unemployment and poverty, a group of concerned citizens came together in the late 1980’s to do something about it. These early organizers shared a vision of creating programs to encourage sustainable community development. Some of these dedicated participants are still involved.

See IVCDO on A-10



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

After escaping a zombie attack, Scooby Doo joined up with rest of the gang for a cup of Dutch Bro’s. Oct 31.

Doctors and scientists weigh in on GMO’s

By
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Few topics in agriculture are more polarizing than genetic engineering: the process of manipulating genetic material in plants to produce desired traits such as higher crop yields or drought tolerance. Conversely, it’s an easy task to find doctors and scientists who jump at the opportunity to issue grave warnings about these processes.

Genetic engineering has been hailed by some as an indispensable tool for solving the world’s food problems, and denounced by others as an example of human arrogance that could elicit unknown and potentially catastrophic planet-wide damage.

To create the genetically modified organisms (GMO’s) increasingly utilized in agriculture, DNA from animals and bacteria are inserted into plant materials, essentially creating new organisms. Scientists warn that these processes are producing gene mutations that never before

existed in nature.

“There’s just no long-term studies available to help us understand all the possible effects and impacts to the human body,” said local naturopathic physician Dr. Margaret Philhower. “That’s why I advise parents not to feed their kids GMO foods. Why should we use this generation of young people as guinea pigs?”

GMO’s are now present in 75 percent of all conventionally processed foods in America, according to the Grocery Manufacturers Association.

“There are so many hidden ingredients in many foods, like citric acid, you find it in everything, and it often comes from GMO corn,” said Selma resident and GMO Free Josephine County campaigner Carol Valentine.

The Harvard School of Public Health recently released a statement that GMO’s increase food allergies and can cause untold damages to biodiversity in locations where GMO crops are grown.

“GMO corn and soy

products cause substantially worse food allergies than non-GMO foods,” Philhower said. “People are also experiencing a whole range of abdominal symptoms, heartburn, irritable bowels, constipation and diarrhea. And, my patients are getting better when they eliminate GMO foods.”

Bacillus Thuringiensis, or BT, is a naturally occurring bacteria that produces a toxin to kill worms that feed on corn. BT is now bio-engineered into corn crops, yet no studies have proven that BT entering the human body through direct consumption is safe. Organic farmers safely place a drop of BT on the top of each corn plant, and this method prevents its spread into the corn people eat.

“Science doesn’t yet fully understand how genetic mutations from GMO’s get transcribed into the human body, but we’re learning more all the time,” said Dr. Kristen Plunkett, with the Naturopathic Medical Clinic in Grants Pass.

See GMO on A-9