

# Tales from the Rural Patrol

**(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.)**  
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## Monday, Jan. 13

\*For the second time in recent history, a vacant home on Jonathan Court was broken into. It was noted that such incidents probably will continue until the purchaser moves in. (Nice.)

\*A bunch of people on N. Junction Avenue had a big hoo-hah that first was reported as domestic violence; then after a deputy checked and found neither property damage nor injuries, all parties were counseled regarding their actions.

\*The U.S. Postal Service was notified of errant mail found on Westside Road for an address there plus some on Prottzman Way and Diller Place.

\*Theft of a 2001 red Dodge Ram 1500 crew cab pickup truck was reported in the 24000 block of Redwood Hwy. The complainant didn't know the license number.

\*Theft of checks, apparently from a mailbox on Terrace Drive, was reported by someone who went to the I.V. Substation.

\*The driver of a large pickup truck ran over a woman's dog on Old Stage Road and returned to tell her. She buried the animal.

\*Five calls from rural Grants Pass were logged including a domestic violence case and an alarm termed "beyond available resources."

## Tuesday, Jan. 14

\*There was a situation on Takilma Road (maybe Holland Loop?) involving a possible stolen vehicle and someone being shot in the leg. Details were lacking and a tad unclear in the log.

\*On the Junction Inn vacant lot some dude had to be advised that he couldn't sell firewood without a business license from the city of CJ.

\*Civil papers were served on Watkins Street.

\*In the 24000 block of Redwood Hwy. a guy went to move into a place from which a woman had been evicted. But she was in the place with some children and a man. The complainant was told to get a writ of execution.

\*Something happened in the 7000 block of Rockydale Road.

\*An apparently disabled (broken down) vehicle was checked at Lone Mountain Road and Naue Way.

\*There were 14 calls from ru-

ral GP areas involving various arguments and problems by folks who can't handle life on their own. Although one call was from the county animal shelter where three men and two women got physical with an animal control officer because they wanted a certain dog back.

## Wednesday, Jan. 15

\*Near a wooded area at Schumacher Street and Sawyer Avenue a young man was said to have "thrown his girlfriend," and she was screaming and ran into the woods without her sweatshirt, which he had torn off. A deputy checked the area, but neither person had stayed around.

\*After his cell phone was stolen while in a CJ business, a man phoned the number from another phone and it was answered a couple of times. One person who answered was angry, saying that the phone belonged to his father. The complainant had his former phone "turned into a brick."

\*A trucker was asked to move his rig from a CJ parking lot, and he did.

\*Several male persons on bicycles were said to have threatened to kill another male person at Jubilee Park. No weapons were shown, although the complainant said that one hoodlum with a blue bike said,

"Don't make me f-ing kill you." Then the gang pedaled out of the park to escape.

\*Fourteen calls of varying urgency, mostly not urgent, came from areas of rural GP.

## Friday, Jan. 17

\*Someone was cited on E. River Street for an unspecified traffic violation.

\*Rural GP residents put in 13 calls for various reasons.

## Monday, Jan. 20

\*A dead body situation was handled on Lakeshore Drive.

\*A parent reported that her runaway daughter had been located at a CJ address. She asked that a deputy help her with retrieving the girl.

\*Although an anonymous "witness" said that he knows who was involved in a hit-and-run accident, after drinking heavily in a CJ bar, no one reported a problem. The complainant said that the suspect caused a problem in the bar and that he struck another car (apparently in his vehicle) so hard that it moved into another lane. (Either that or he was Superman).

\*Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (someone stole a car) involving a bright red Cadillac was report-

ed on Addison Lane.

\*A case of menacing was reported on Lakeshore Drive by a woman who said that her estranged male partner person threatened her husband with a .22-caliber weapon when they went to retrieve her stuff. The loving partner had thrown a lot of her belongings outside, she said. One reason she was leaving, she said, was that the model husband recently had an accidental discharge (of an AK-47) inside the house.

\*In the vicinity of E. River Street a deputy tried to stop a motorcyclist lacking a headlight and a helmet, but the little poop got away by running into some woods. The bike was towed away.

\*Former editor-and-publisher Bob Rodriguez, who now lives in N.W. Wyoming, observed his 70th birthday. This call was deemed to be beyond available resources. Caller was advised to contact the fire department to report the illegal burn.

\*Rural GP residents coughed up nine calls today including one involving an elderly man who had fallen between his bed and a wall three days ago. He was combative with medics, but was not strong because of not having eating during the three days. (You can't make up these items).

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## A moment with Mary: By Mary Halvorsen

It was well past midnight when my husband woke to knocking at the front door. Emerging from sleep, I heard him press, "Have you been in an accident?" and, "Was there anyone else with you?" The fear that he was on the phone with our son gripped me, as I hurried up the darkened hallway.

On the other side of the storm door, a person stood distraught, face red with abrasions, unable to recall if an accident had occurred, or if anyone else was involved. Attempts at getting a phone number for family were unsuccessful.

Upon dialing 911 and explaining an injured person was on our premises, and that we suspected an accident had occurred, we were informed there were no deputies, and that an ambulance could not be sent until law enforcement was present. We were then transferred to State Police dispatch, and told it would be at least an hour before help arrived. In the evolving moments from the

knocking, to opening the door, the list of things that might happen, and needed to happen, began to whirl. While being warned to not allow anyone in, I looked up to see my husband opening the front door. "Too late" I reported, and a quick, heavy sigh came across the wire.

Within fifteen minutes things had begun to feel out of control, when a sudden, angry outburst from the individual, precipitated a return back to a chair on the porch, with a wool blanket. A degree of fear had been kindled upon finding that help would not be forthcoming. It hit that we were out in the country, in the middle of the night, on our own, uncertain of what we were dealing with.

Though we had reported a suspected car accident, dispatch offered that the individual was technically trespassing and could be ordered off our property. I had to wonder, to go where? It was 3:00 am and injuries were involved. It has been stated by the Sheriff that it is now common

in Josephine County to call 911 and not get a response. In a communication with him a few days after this episode, he confirmed, "The ambulance/fire service in this county will not respond to suspicious calls like this without law enforcement being present" explaining that safety was a concern. I wasn't sure why our call was "suspicious," perhaps because it reported an accident victim, with no vehicle in sight. We had initially been leery, worrying that a knock in the middle of the night might open the door to a robbery. In the communication with the Sheriff, it was affirmed, "you were cautious in that you suspected it might be a ruse....you can't be too careful today." More than just private citizens seem to be experiencing the apprehension that comes with limited law enforcement

According to the Sheriff's office, the county patrol division consists of six deputies, three of whom are contract, covering Cave Junction, the federal forests, and the area's wa-

terways. The remaining three, patrol from north of Grants Pass to the California border. The U.S. Census Bureau counts roughly 80,000 residents in Josephine County. This allots one deputy per every 13,788 citizens, or one for every 243 square miles. The Oregon Department of Revenue explains that, "Oregon's property tax is one of the most important sources of revenue for Oregon's public sector." Josephine County's .59 cents per one thousand dollars of assessed value, is the lowest in the state.

Our county is in a Catch-22, where many emergencies require police presence, and county law enforcement is only sparingly available eight hours a day, five days a week; no nights, no weekends. In twenty-five years at this residence, we have had to call 911 three times. The first two calls brought patrol in a matter of minutes, but that was many years ago. It has been taken for granted that a call for help in the middle of the night will bring an emergency re-

sponse. With little assurance that help will come at all, let alone quickly, the inclination to be a Good Samaritan may disappear.

The flashing lights of the state police were eventually visible through the trees. They were unable to progress up our driveway, due to the disabled vehicle that had come to rest close to the road. They traversed the hill, flashlights bobbing in the darkness, while the ambulance that was immediately summoned, had to inch over a rarely used entry, through thick grass and hanging branches.

I lit a candle for the valley a month ago for an end to violence. Who will light one for a community that may become too fearful to help one another? What will happen when the porch lights and the glow of windows across the valley go dim?

Crossword Puzzle courtesy of **SOS Southern Oregon Sanitation Inc.**  
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### Across

1- City near Kobe; 6- First Arabic letter; 10- 1998 Wimbledon winner Novotna; 14- Birth-related; 15- Completed; 16- Hydroxyl compound; 17- Championship; 18- A Chaplin; 19- Having a sound mind; 20- Inter \_\_\_; 21- Antagonism; 23- Crown of ancient Egypt; 25- Actually existing; 26- Primate with a short tail or no tail; 27- Cavalry sword; 29- Musical drama; 32- Viscounts' superiors; 33- "Lord, is \_\_\_?": Matthew; 36- "The Time Machine" people; 37- Dispute; 38- H.S. exam; 39- Deli bread; 40- Extra-terrestrial being; 41- Back in; 42- Peaks of Peru; 43- Orch. section; 44- Virginal; 47- Interruption; 51- Knot uniting the ends of two lines; 54- \_\_\_ about (approximately); 55- Winglike parts; 56- Marquand sleuth; 57- Conductor Dorati; 58- Frond plant; 59- Med school subj.; 60- \_\_\_ Selassie; 61- Worry; 62- AMEX counterpart; 63- Luges;

### Down

1- Available; 2- Leaves port; 3- Room at the top; 4- Desert region in SW Africa; 5- Bass, e.g.; 6- Take as one's own; 7- Coil; 8- \_\_\_ uncertain terms; 9- Probable; 10- Clown; 11- Diarist Nin; 12- Taboos; 13- Coeur d' \_\_\_; 21- Any person; 22- Supermodel Sastre; 24- Clean air org.; 27- Wise ones; 28- Give \_\_\_ for one's money; 29- Not 'neath; 30- Layer; 31- Fair-hiring abbr.; 32- Buffalo's lake; 33- Believer's suffix; 34- Pitch; 35- Figure skater Midori; 37- Councillor; 38- Private; 40- Chip in; 41- Numbered rd.; 42- Thumbs-up; 43- Melancholic; 44- Grain husks; 45- More healthy; 46- Alert; 47- Benjamin; 48- Free laces, say; 49- Author Dahl; 50- City on the Rhone; 52- Emaciated; 53- Greek letters; 57- Sighs of relief;

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