

# CRIME . . .

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“The criminal didn’t actually get in the facility,” said IVSHA executive director Chris Mallette. “And we’re thankful for that. They bent the plate and tried to break the lock. What’s scary is they are doing it so close to when people are scheduled to come to work. We don’t know how they would react and this could be dangerous for our staff.” IVSHA’s security camera recorded images of a young man in a hoodie with a skateboard at 5:30 a.m.

The Lady Thyme shop, next door to King’s Chinese Cuisine on Highway 199, was broken into last month. Ruth Overholser, who owns the shop, said the perpetrator first shut the power off and then kicked the door in. “That’s his M.O.,” Overholser said. “And the same thing happened at Dutch Bros recently.

They got a full picture of the guy turning off the power, that’s what he does, to shut down security systems.”

Overholser regularly communicates with other business owners in C.J. and says that there’s “a lot of clear video footage” of these break-ins that can identify some of those responsible, and she’s wondering why there have not been any arrests.

“Many businesses have been broken into repeatedly,” Overholser said. “These people are showing up on security cameras, but then law enforcement is saying that there’s not enough proof - but the faces are clearly visible. So I’m stumped. Like in one recent case, I know there’s footage of this guy’s face and that several people have ID’d him, and yet we’re seeing him just walking down the street. It’s pretty sad. This individual is recognizable, by his features, clothing and his skateboard. And, he may be the same guy who

was caught on camera at Dutch Bros. Even his dog was in the picture. Even members of the general community are recognizing suspects from security cams walking down the streets in the light of day.

“Plus, when I called 911 when I was broken into, the operator said I’d have to call the sheriff’s office back after 9 a.m., because my break-in was not an emergency,” she added. “And it seems clear that the criminals know that this is how things are here. So now, I know a lot more business owners who are bringing guns with them to work. The one thing we need is patrol at night! Not during the day, but at night!”

St. Matthias Church has also been broken into twice in the past week. “Like most break-ins in the area, they’re carried out by street youth,” CJ Patrol organizer Jimmy Evans. “And they’re hitting these places late at night after our patrols are done.”



(Courtesy photo for the Illinois Valley News)

Dairy Queen front door after March 3 break-in.

## Archive Zone: by Hillary Mohr and the Illinois Valley News archives

This week we jump back 60 years to March 7, 1957. The Valley was expanding with a 25 student increase at the high school, timber sales were still driving the economy and spring vacation was just around the corner. From hitch-hikers to landslides, it’s going to be one heck of a ride in this week’s Archive Zone.

**Timber sale to stop slides on Caves Highway.** The United States Forest Service is starting to advertise two small timber tracts near Oregon Caves. The notices appear in today’s issue of the *Illinois Valley News*. One of the tracts is located near the Lake Creek Bridge, about a mile from the Caves. This sale is being conducted to remove timber and permit measures to be taken to stop landslides which have often stopped traffic on the state highway. One such slide occurred last week as a result of the heavy rains.

It was cleared away by a crew of the state highway department. The slide area fronts about 150 to 200 feet along the roadway. The other tract is on Grayback creek and is for the purpose of removing dead Port Orford Cedar.

**Kerby man gets stab wound; his companion held.** Harold G. Madden, 27, of Kerby, is in Josephine General hospital suffering from a stab wound in the abdomen, and Pickney H. Freel, 28, former resident of Cave Junction, is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon. The charge was lodged after a frantic search by the state police for an alleged hitch-hiker, reported to have been involved. The incident resulted from an argument between the two men which started at Mildred’s Café in Kerby last Saturday afternoon. The pair were asked to leave the café and both went outside where they continued their argument.

Both were seen to drive away from the place in their cars. The alleged stabbing took place, according to the reports given the police, at the north end of Sauer Flat a short time later. Freel took Madden in a car to a physician’s office in Cave Junction, where he is said to have told a story about a hitch-hiker attack. The state police were notified and road blocks set up on the Redwood Highway. While driving Madden to the hospital Freel was stopped at the road block. He was told to return for further questioning after the injured man was delivered to the hospital. It was during this questioning by the state police that he is said to have admitted the stabbing and told where he had thrown the knife. The knife was recovered by police on Sunday after a search of the roadside.

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