

Manhunt ends with 1 dead



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Oregon State Police (OSP) trooper attempts to remove the deceased from the truck where shooting occurred, Friday, Jan. 12. U.S. Marshal’s along with the OSP and the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office had been looking for the fugitive from Florida.

“Everyone was yelling and I didn’t know what was going on.”

Female driver of vehicle

By Dan Mancuso
IVN Staff

Jeffery Alan Burleson, 36, an out-of-state fugitive from Florida was shot and killed by police Friday, Jan. 12, in the parking lot of a local fast food establishment in Cave Junction.

U.S. Marshals (USM) along with Oregon State Police (OSP) and Josephine County (JOCO) Sheriff’s deputies were involved in the search for Burleson when he was located in a vehicle heading north on U.S. 199 around 12:30 p.m..

Burleson was a passenger in a vehicle being driven by a friend. According to the female friend, she and Burleson were coming into town to get lunch when she noticed the OSP trooper

following them. As she pulled into the parking lot of the Dairy Queen, the trooper engaged his light bar. After that things moved quickly, and the driver then noticed the marshal standing in front of the vehicle.

According to a press release from the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (GPDPS), Burleson displayed a firearm. In a telephone conversation with GPDPS, Detective Robert Shaw declined to provide further clarification of what “displayed” actually meant and how many shots were fired due to the nature of the ongoing investigation.

“Everyone was yelling and I didn’t know what was going on,” the female friend said. “He [Burleson] was holding a 0.25 caliber pistol.” The female driver could not confirm nor deny if Burleson

discharged the weapon. She also said Burleson made the comment that he was not going back to prison, “He chose suicide by cop.” According to her, Burleson was shot three times in the chest.

After removing the driver, police surrounded the vehicle and then removed Burleson from the vehicle where he laid motionless and facedown on the ground until a JOCO deputy flipped him over and attempted chest compressions. Chest compressions were performed until the Illinois Valley Fire District Chief arrived along with American Medical Response who transported Burleson to Three Rivers Hospital in Grants Pass where he was officially pronounced dead.

Burleson was wanted for aggravated assault with a firearm, domestic battery by strangulation and possession of a firearm by a felon from a Feb. 3, 2017 incident in Ocala, Florida.

According to the *Ocala Star Banner*, Burleson was arrested after police say he choked, punched and kicked a woman and fired shots near her.

The arrest report stated: “The 28-year-old woman told Ocala Police Department Detective Melissa Buetti that Jeff Burleson placed a firearm against her cheek, near her eye and in one of her ears, and twice fired the weapon into the ground.” The report also stated that while doing that, he threatened to kill her and everyone inside a residence on Northwest 17th Street.

Furthermore, the *Ocala Star Banner* reported that the woman said Burleson also choked her and officials found bruises on the woman’s body.

Burleson’s female friend that was driving Jan. 12 claimed to have no knowledge of Burleson’s warrant.



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Dairy Queen parking lot was tied up with vehicles from five different governmental agencies Friday, Jan. 12.

Grocery Outlet to get green light

Jason McMillen
IVN Contributing Writer

According to Mayor Daniel Dalegowski, the city of Cave Junction has thus far found no legal reason to deny developer Main and Main’s partition request which will result in the construction of a Grocery Outlet. The location in question, currently part of the Junction Inn’s property, is the dirt lot next to Shop Smart. “We’re almost just rubber stamping this, but because it’s so controversial I want us to be absolutely 100 percent sure that all the criteria have been adequately met,” Dalegowski said.

The first session of the land use hearing, whose purpose was only to discuss legal objections to the partition, occurred Jan. 8 but was, by law, automatically scheduled for a continuance Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

The primary opponent of Grocery Outlet occupying the particular location in question is the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO). They argue that the location is not ideal for the community and maintain that the 5.63 acre property should remain intact so that a sprawling single story hotel can be built whenever the Junction Inn’s owners decide to sell. The IVCDO’s position is based on the findings of their grant funded feasibility study which said that only a single story hotel would result in an attractive return on investment for developers.

Despite the IVCDO’s opinion that Grocery Outlet should be located on the north end of town, they think that the store will be a good addition the community.

SEE STORE ON A-10

County looks to beef up code enforcement

Jason McMillen
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Ordinance 2017-001, which went into effect Oct. 30, aims to eliminate unsightly, disruptive or potentially dangerous practices regarding fencing, lighting, buildings and erosion with particular emphasis on cannabis operations. On Nov. 6, all properties with formal complaints levied against them were sent a letter that informed them that they had 30 days to comply or face the consequences.

The county, previously only having one code enforcement administrator, recently bankrolled a second with state level cannabis dollars and are in the process of hiring a third. State level cannabis enforcement personnel, specifically the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) and the Oregon State Police (OSP) are increasing their presence in all counties participating in the recreational cannabis program. The new OLCC personnel will charge themselves with managing licensed cannabis operations while the OSP will deal with operations that exceed their plant limit or are wholly illegal.

Community development director Julie Schmelzer said that her department has received several calls from growers asking what’s necessary for them to be in compliance while several others called in and claimed they’ve fixed their violations. Yet more calls, Schmelzer said, are from neighbors who claim that they’re aware of jury-rigged fences that have not been taken down, despite being far past deadline. Schmelzer added that many of the neighbors claiming to know of continued violations of 2017-001 are filing formal complaints after being informed that that’s the primary method in which the county is made aware of those not in compliance at this time.

SEE CODE ON A-10

Burning season is in full swing, find out the do’s and don’ts.

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