

Josephine County Crime Briefs:

by Sam Marsh, KLDR 104.5 FM / KAJO 1270 AM / 99.7 FM

CJ Woman Arrested for DUII and More after Two Crashes on Redwood Highway

A Cave Junction woman was arrested for impaired driving and more after she wrecked her vehicle twice on Redwood Highway over the weekend. The Oregon State Police reports troopers, the Illinois Valley Fire District and American Medical Response were dispatched to the single-vehicle crash on US Highway 199 near Rockydale Road Dec. 8, 9:41 p.m.. Troopers said a southbound vehicle driven by 40-year-old Natasha Lynn Merkel left the highway on the north side and ended up in the ditch. They said the woman was the only occupant of the vehicle and she self-extricated herself from the car. Turns out Merkel was fleeing from another crash scene when she wrecked into the ditch. She had crashed into the Red Garter Saloon building earlier in the evening. Merkel was lodged in the Josephine County Jail for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, Reckless Driving, Hit-and-Run and Resisting Arrest.

Authorities Investigating Weekend Theft of ATM from Wolf Creek Service Station

The Josephine County Sheriff’s Office was investigating the weekend theft of an automatic teller machine from a service station in Wolf Creek. The Sheriff’s Office reports deputies responded to the reported theft of the ATM from the Pacific Pride station on Old Highway 99 early Dec. 9. Video surveillance showed the heist occurred shortly after 1 a.m. when someone in a dark-gray Ford F-150 pickup

strapped a chain to the ATM and then drove off, dragging the cash-dispensing machine behind the vehicle. The suspect vehicle was last seen heading south away from the crime scene. Deputies recovered parts of the ATM along the highway, but the machine and cash were not located. Anyone with information on this crime is encouraged to contact the Sheriff’s Office at 541-474-5123.

Small Motorhome Destroyed by Sunday Night Fire on Deer Creek Road near Selma

The Illinois Valley Fire District reports a motorhome was destroyed by fire in the Selma area last night. Dec. 9, 7:28 p.m., IVFD responded to the recreational vehicle fire in the 500-block of Deer Creek Road. IVFD Public Information Officer Ned Booth said the small motorhome was totally engulfed in flames by the time the first engine arrived from the Selma station. The blaze was quickly extinguished by firefighters. Booth said the motorhome was occupied by one resident who escaped the fire without injury. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the IVFD Fire Marshal. Traffic control was provided by the Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Local Man Arrested on Warrants After Verbal Argument with Mom

A local man is in the Josephine County jail being held on warrants after a verbal argument with his mother. The incident began

Friday at 9 a.m. with a 911 call from the mother saying her 34-year-old son had jumped out of her car on Deer Creek Road and took her keys. The son was reportedly upset because of money issues. Josephine County Sheriff’s deputies responded and made contact with Jack Hugh Steinhoff and determined he was wanted on two different warrants: a Grants Pass Department of Public Safety warrant for failure to appear on charges of unlawful entry into a motor vehicle and unauthorized use of a vehicle and a Josephine County warrant for failure to appear on charges of trespass II, criminal mischief III, and attempt to commit a class A misdemeanor.

CJ man charged with reckless driving while on suspended license

A Cave Junction man was jailed last weekend for trying to run another vehicle off the roadway in south Grants Pass. The Oregon State Police reports troopers responded to a driving complaint of a large truck trying to run a small car off the roadway near the intersection of Williams and Redwood highways Dec. 2, 1:40 a.m.. Troopers said the GMC pickup driven by 35-year-old Jeremy James Sorenson was right behind a Saturn sedan driven by a 29-year-old Salem woman when they arrived on scene. She had two teenage passengers and an infant in the small car. Sorenson was arrested and charged with Reckless Endangering as well as Driving While Suspended. He was lodged in the Josephine County Jail.

Josephine County Community Development introduces electronic permit, application system

The Josephine County Community Development department’s Building Safety and Planning divisions have implemented a new electronic permit and application system, allowing customers for the first time to access the department’s services online. This system is used in the office to issue and track permits and inspections. In addition, the system — which can be found at <https://co-josephine-or.smartgovcommunity.com/Public/Home> — allows access by permit holders and contractors to track their project status. The permit and application system allows customers to log in from home or work to make and track the status of applications at any time. Users can also schedule Building Safety inspections. “This system was designed to meet the needs of customers identified by the Josephine County Chamber of Commerce’s 2007 Business Retention & Expansion report by increasing the

efficiency of our processes,” said Julie Schmelzer, Community Development director for Josephine County. “The survey found that customers felt they needed to come to our office too often for status updates on applications and permits. This online system is designed to address those concerns and make the process seamless for all users.” Please note that at this time payments for Planning permits and applications must be made in person at the Planning Division, 700 NW Dimmick St., Suite C, Grants Pass, Oregon. Building Safety payments can be made online. “We’re all very excited about it,” said Mark Stevenson, Josephine County building official. “I think it’s definitely going to help the customers by allowing them to access our services from the comfort of their own homes.” For more information, see <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=127>.

2018 Illinois Valley Youth Enrichment Association

Holiday Stocking Giveaway

Our Current Goal: Holiday Stockings for all the Elementary school children in the Illinois Valley. This will include children attending Evergreen Elementary, Madrone Adventist Elementary, and The Dome School.

We want our children to smile this Holiday Season. We are working to provide every child in our public elementary along with 2 private school classrooms with a Holiday stocking (to include a toothbrush and toothpaste along with a candy treat), and a toy or game. The stockings are given out to the teachers at the schools to ensure that each child receives one.

We are asking for your help. We are trying to provide for 400 to 600 children. We want to give the children a sense of community, a feeling of being loved and accepted regardless of their home or family dynamics. Each child will be treated the same as the others in their classroom and know that they live in a community that cares.

Donations are currently being accepted at The Redwood Service Center. Please call to find out more or volunteer to help. 541-592-6440. You can also use email IVYEA@cavenet.com or Postal mail: PO Box 1459, Cave Junction, OR 97523.

Wish list for stockings:	Money can also be donated and will be used 100% to purchase stockings and/or items to fill them.
Small games	
puzzles	
candy canes	
wrapped candy	
small toys	
stickers	

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