

Josephine County Crime Briefs: by Sam Marsh, KLDR 104.5 FM / KAJO 1270 AM / 99.7 FM

The former city manager in Talent is facing charges that he secretly recorded nearly a dozen face-to-face conversations.

The *Mail Tribune* reports 62-year-old Thomas Corrigan was charged with misdemeanor counts of obtaining contents of communications.

An indictment filed in Jackson County Circuit Court by the Oregon Justice Department says Corrigan used a device to record conversations without notifying participants between April 19 and Nov. 1 of 2017.

Corrigan worked as Talent city manager from 2012 to 2018, and is now the city manager in Shady Cove.

Allegations of secret recordings were listed as a reason Corrigan was fired in January 2018.

Corrigan’s lawyer Peter Carini said he hasn’t received details about the case yet, but said recording devices -- namely surveillance cameras -- are extremely common in government buildings.

A Grants Pass man has been sentenced to nearly six years in prison for beating an infant so badly that the child was sent to a Portland hospital for treatment. Josephine County Court records show 27-year-old Joshua Eugene Whetzel was ordered last week by Circuit Judge Pat Wolke to spend the next 70 months with the Oregon Department of Corrections. According to Court records, Whetzel pleaded no contest to charges of second-degree assault and first-degree criminal mistreatment for the incident that happened on or about Jan. 23 of this year. A 70-month sentence for the assault and an 18-month sentence for the criminal mistreatment will be served concurrently.

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety captured a fugitive out of California April 4 following a lengthy pursuit after a hit-and-run crash on the Parkway. The Public Safety Department reports officers were alerted to a two-vehicle rear-end collision on the

Grants Pass Parkway at NE F Street at 1:58 p.m.. Officers said a motorist reported that the driver of a Chevrolet Lumina crashed into the back of their Kia Soul while they were stopped at the light and that the suspect driver did not stop and kept driving south on the Parkway. Police spotted the suspect vehicle a short time later on Rogue River Highway and the driver later identified as 28-year-old Christopher Jack Wesley Sovereign of Eureka refused to yield to them. At one point, the suspect nearly hit an officer as he exited his patrol vehicle. Spike strips were deployed near Caveman Bowl, but the suspect continued driving east on the highway until he stopped, abandoned the car at the Holiday Mobile Park and ran into the woods. Sovereign who is a felon was eventually apprehended by a police K-9 and placed into custody. He was found to be in possession of a loaded firearm. He was lodged without bail in the Josephine County Jail.

Grants Pass Police arrested two people April 4 on multiple warrants issued by law enforcement agencies in Jackson County. At 4:30 p.m., public safety officers were alerted to a man and woman doing drugs in a silver Honda parked in the 1600-block of Williams Highway. Officers arrived on scene and contacted 34-year-old Daniel Osgood of Phoenix as well as 32-year-old Barbara Henderson of Selma. No drugs were found, but both were immediately placed into custody due to their fugitive statuses. Osgood was wanted on a Medford felony warrant for aggravated theft, theft and burglary, a Jackson County warrant for contempt of court related to a no contact order and an Ashland warrant for theft, criminal mischief and criminal trespass. Henderson was wanted on three warrants issued by the Medford Police Department that included crimes of theft, burglary, methamphetamine possession and heroin possession. Both were detained in the Josephine County Jail awaiting transfer to Medford.

Rogue Area Drug Enforcement (RADE) jailed a Grants Pass man last week for trafficking in three different types of narcotic substances. Josephine County Jail records show 24-year-old Nathan Baine Sayre was arrested on seven felony charges after being interviewed by RADE Detectives at the Justice Building. RADE has not yet issued a press release regarding this incident, so only limited information is available about the drug bust. Sayre was booked into jail on charges including unlawful possession and delivery of cocaine, unlawful possession and delivery of psilocybin mushrooms, and unlawful manufacture, possession and delivery of LSD. Nathan Sayre was being held in lieu of posting \$50,000 bail.

An investigation by Rogue Area Drug Enforcement (RADE) has led to the arrests of two California residents for narcotics trafficking in Josephine County. On April 3 RADE Detectives stopped 31-year-old Gabriel Manuel Rivera and 24-year-old Monique Quiroz -- both of Citrus Heights -- after it was discovered they were bringing heroin to Grants Pass from the Sacramento area. Grants Pass Detective Sergeant Doni Hamilton said over a half-pound of heroin, \$1,800 in cash and drug notes were seized during the stop which occurred in the 100 block of Mardan Lane. Hamilton said it was determined the heroin with an estimated street value of \$13,000 was going to be distributed

throughout Grants Pass and Josephine County. He said the investigation is ongoing. Rivera and Quiroz were detained at the Josephine County Jail on charges including unlawful possession and delivery of heroin.

With assistance from the OnStar navigation system, the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office arrested a Cave Junction man April 3 for stealing a brand-new sport utility vehicle from a Medford automobile dealership. The sheriff’s office reports 51-year-old David Blade Clay was contacted by deputies in the 100 block of Jasper Lane April 3 near 1:30 p.m.. He had been driving a 2019 GMC Acadia recently reported stolen from Airport Chevrolet. The Medford dealership tracked the stolen auto to the location with OnStar and then had the system disable the vehicle’s ignition. They also made it easier for deputies to find the SUV by activating the horn and flashing the headlights. Deputies subsequently arrested Clay and discovered that he was wanted on a Grants Pass felony warrant. Clay was transported to the Josephine County Jail where he was detained on the warrant and booked on new charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, felony possession of methamphetamine, identity theft and petty theft.

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