

Josephine County Crime Briefs: HEAT ...

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

The Josephine County Sheriff’s Office jailed a Cave Junction man for violating his probation following a weekend incident in the Illinois Valley. The Sheriff’s Office reports deputies came across an abandoned Ford Expedition near the intersection of Redwood Highway and Glendon Road May 19 at 9:21 a.m.. While processing the SUV for impoundment, deputies said they contacted 36-year-old Jonathan Frederick Neomode and discovered that he was a Community Corrections client who was wanted by his probation officer. Neomode was arrested, transported to Grants Pass and lodged in the Josephine County Jail for probation violation stemming from a previous arrest for drug possession. He was being held on a no-bail probation detainer.

One person was injured and another was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a weekend crash on Redwood Highway in the Illinois Valley. The Oregon State Police reports troopers and emergency crews responded to a two-vehicle collision near milepost 38 of US Highway 199 May 18 shortly before 3 a.m.. Troopers said a Ford Escape driven by 33-year-old Jamie Ogren of Talent ran into a small utility trailer which was stopped in the middle of the northbound travel lane. They said the front-seat passenger -- 60-year-old Pamela Davis of Talent -- complained of neck pain and was transported by AMR Ambulance

to Three Rivers Medical Center for treatment. The owner of the trailer -- identified as 47-year-old Britton Franklin -- lives at the house adjacent to the crash scene and said somebody had attempted to remove the trailer from his property without his knowledge and left it on the highway. Franklin was found to have a warrant for his arrest issued by the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office. He was given a citation and then released.

A motorist may have suffered a medical episode yesterday when he sideswiped a semi-truck in the Illinois Valley. The Josephine County Sheriff’s Office reports deputies and emergency personnel responded to the two-vehicle crash near the intersection of Takilma and River Grove roads May 16 about 10:30 a.m.. Deputies said the unidentified man was driving to view a property when the real estate agent behind him saw him swerve on the roadway and side-swipe a semi. The agent said the man was very disoriented after the wreck and did not seem to realize he had been involved in a wreck. The man was transported by AMR Ambulance to Three Rivers Medical Center for evaluation and treatment. He advised deputies of a history of past strokes and heart attacks. The driver of the semi was not identified and apparently not hurt in the crash

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“Essentially what this boils down to is, we would like to create a standing list of approved contractors that will be used by Josephine County to support cleanups at public waste sites,” Webber explained. “Both for public health hazards and for nuisance properties.” He added that the primary purpose of the list is to expedite the process of assigning contractors to clean the aforementioned waste sites.

Item 2b, was, “Approval of a contract between Design Sound Northwest and Josephine County for the Anne Basker audio and video equipment replacement.” For those unaware, the Anne Basker Auditorium is where the commissioners convene for their weekly business sessions. The microphone Fowler used to read the proposal is just one of many pieces of equipment that will be replaced or improved.

Requests and comments from citizens were welcomed following administrative actions. John Jarvie from Williams was first to speak. He claimed that the Williams town council was violating their own bylaws when it came to voting procedures and transparency, and asked if there was anything the board could do to rectify the alleged errant behavior by the Williams councilors. Tom Campbell, who spoke very negatively about the commissioners the prior week, was back at it again. This time he targeted Morgan, noting her absence from the meeting and saying she does “nothing.” Not to leave the other commissioners out, though,

Campbell added that he could do more for the county than all three commissioners in his sleep, saying the word “sleep” in a high falsetto voice. His angry rant even extended to past commissioners, claiming that nothing ever gets done in Josephine County. But Campbell promised more, stating near his unhinged accord’s conclusion that the board hasn’t “seen nothin’ yet” and that “the show’s just beginning.” He added that when he becomes as eloquent as President Donald Trump, he will bombard the board with even more negative comments. Yikes.

On a more polite note, Victor Zaitsev of Grants Pass approached the podium to talk about the Grants Pass Airport master plan and future noise impact planning. He claimed that with the recent removal of sound buffers, the noise impacts on nearby residences have increased, affecting livability. Zaitsev urged the commissioners to work with property owners to reach solutions on how to mitigate the problem.

DeYoung ardently disagreed with Campbell that his commission gets nothing done during commissioner responses, listing some of the notable achievements of the last year as evidence. He encouraged his criticiser to run for office next year if he has such strong distaste for his local government. “To say I do nothing,” DeYoung said, “I gotta take offense to that. But you’re certainly entitled to your opinion. And I’m gonna keep working just as hard if not harder than I have already whether you recognize it or not. That is not my problem.” After several more minutes of defending both himself and

his colleagues, DeYoung concluded that no matter what Campbell’s “show” will consist of in the future, it will not offend him. “I’ve had a lot of people try over the years, and it just doesn’t work,” he proclaimed. Responding to the citizen from Williams, Fowler pointed out that as an unincorporated community, the town council has some influence, but it is not “binding.” The councilors have no legislative authority. Rather, they keep the community communicating and addressing issues important to the town. Still, Fowler said he was going to try to get to the bottom of Jarvie’s complaints, and continue to attend the Williams council meetings. He went on to defend Morgan’s absence, saying she was at a conference in Salem he encouraged her to attend and that she will be a great contributor for on behalf of Josephine County.

Following commissioner responses, Fowler called for a vote on administrative actions. Both passed unanimously, marking small victories in the areas of public nuisance abatement and AV at Anne Basker Auditorium. The consent calendar also passed unanimously. The sole matter included in the consent calendar was a grant for \$67,500 from the Oregon Department of Aviation to conduct a resiliency study at Grants Pass Airport.

As always, the weekly business session can be viewed in its entirety by visiting the county’s YouTube channel. Last week’s meeting clocked in at just over 40 minutes (skip to the 15-minute mark to hear Tom Campbell’s fiery comments).

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