

Josephine County Crime Briefs: by

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

The Oregon State Police (OSP) apprehended three fugitives in three separate traffic stops in Josephine County June 21. OSP reports the first incident happened at 10:32 p.m. when troopers pulled over a Volkswagen Passero driven by 34-year-old Jessica French Westling on US Highway 199 at West Watkins Street in Cave Junction. Troopers said they stopped Westling for a traffic violation and quickly discovered that she was wanted on an out-of-state fugitive warrant for Felony Probation Violation. She was transported to Grants Pass where she was lodged without bail in the Josephine County Jail awaiting possible extradition proceedings. The second incident occurred at 11:26 p.m. when troopers pulled over a Dodge Neon driven by 23-year-old Travis Lee Camarena near the intersection of Highland Avenue and Donaldson Road. Camarena was stopped for traffic violations and found to have multiple warrants for his arrest for felony drug crimes. The third incident took place Saturday at 12:44 a.m. when troopers pulled over a Ford Fiesta driven by 44-year-old Robby Lee Frenna at 7th Street and Hillcrest Drive. Frenna was wanted on warrants for felony parole violation and failing to appear in court for probation violation and possession of methamphetamine.

A Wolf Creek man has been sentenced to serve 18 months in state prison for running over an employee of the Grants Pass Sears store while fleeing the scene of a theft. Josephine County Court records show 29-year-old Michael David Brenden was ordered this week by Circuit Judge Marilyn Litzenberger to serve 1-1/2 years with the Oregon Department of Corrections. Brenden pleaded guilty earlier this month to crimes of robbery in the third degree and assault in the third degree for the incident that happened April 13. In an agreement with the district attorney, charges of felony hit-and-run, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and second-degree theft were dismissed. Grants Pass Police testified that Brenden was confronted by a Sears worker after he stole \$110 worth of tools. She ran after him in the parking lot and he backed over her while fleeing the scene in a pickup truck that had been reported stolen. Judge Litzenberger also sentenced Michael Brenden to serve 24 months of post-prison supervision and suspended his driver's license for five years..

With assistance from other agencies, Josephine County Search & Rescue located a missing and endangered female juvenile in the Illinois Valley early June 21. The Josephine County Sheriff's Office reports that Search &

Rescue was advised about the missing girl in O'Brien June 20 about 9:30 p.m.. According to family members, the 17-year-old female was last seen at a residence in the 32,000-block of Redwood Highway at about 5 p.m. June 20. They stated she had a habit of "hiding" when upset or in distress. After several hours passed and she did not return, the family became concerned and called 911. Search & Rescue -- along with the Illinois Valley Fire Department and its Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) crews searched on foot in the dark for more than four hours. At 2 a.m. June 21, the juvenile was located on the property. She was cold, but in good health and turned over the care of her family.

A Kerby man was jailed for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend in the Illinois Valley early yesterday. The Josephine County Sheriff's Office reports 19-year-old Charles Dunnick was arrested later June 21at his mother's residence on South Kerby Avenue. Deputies said Dunnick was intoxicated when he punched his girlfriend in the face in the 2900-block of Holland Loop Road June 20 around 7 a.m.. He fled the scene on foot and was last seen in a Toyota at Shop Smart. Meanwhile, the victim was transported by a friend to Three Rivers Medical Center in Grants Pass for treatment of unspecified injuries. Dunnick reportedly told his girlfriend that he was going to blow up the house if she did not allow him to retrieve his belongings. He was placed into custody, taken to the Josephine County Jail and lodged for fourth-degree domestic assault.

A car stolen out of Southern California was located in a remote area of the Illinois Valley last week. The Josephine County Sheriff's Office reports the 1993 Mercury sedan was found down a 40-foot embankment off Josephine Camp Road June 17. A caller to the 911 Dispatch Center reported spotting skid marks and following them to the edge of the embankment where he could see the red car. The caller told deputies to look for the skid marks as well as a broken off tree to find the vehicle. Deputies and medical crews responded to the site near Green Bridge where medics rappelled down the steep cliff to the vehicle, finding no one inside. Since the car was located on Forest Service land, arrangements were to be made with the agency to retrieve the vehicle. The Sheriff's Office later determined the Mercury had been reported stolen from a resident of Glendale, California.



Her life in the Valley of Riches

by Laura Mancuso, editor

I want to begin by stating for the record that I love the CJ Farmers' Market. It has been a pleasure to watch it grow since I first started going when it was in the dirt parking lot by Chevron.

I feel very grateful to have such a great venue to buy an array of organic food, flowers, plant starts, art, jewelry, clothing and so much more, all while listening to the sounds of local musicians and watching RiverStars perform. I love the farmers' market so much that I am willing to walk anywhere in Jubilee Park to participate and I would gladly travel if they moved their location.

I am sorry that many of the farmers are upset about a proposed spray pad's location that might go in Jubilee Park ... if the city receives a grant.

At the same time, I think that the spray pad is an excellent idea for our community's youth. Not so much for myself, because my children have grown, and personally, I just hop in a pond or creek near the rural Cave Junction property where I live if I want to get wet. But, I have talked to many moms, dads and grandparents that live in the city that would love to have another positive activity to do at the park. One city mother that I talked to said she has driven all the way to Medford so that her children could play in a spray park and would like to have one closer. I have talked to a friend, who watches her grandchildren while her daughter works and is looking forward to having another summer activity in the park. Other city residents have shared that the more positive activities that are in the park, the more it pushes out people that are "up to no good like doing drugs and leaving their needles in the grass." Most recently, I talked to Jenna Larkin, the director of the I.V. Boys and Girls Club and she told me she is supportive of the

spray pad because it would be another family-oriented activity in the I.V. and she can even take the Boys and Girls Club children on a field trip to Jubilee Park so they can play in the spray pad during the summer term. Larkin said she doesn't understand the complaint that this wasn't openly discussed, because she has been hearing about this idea for years and has noticed Roger Brandt at many events trying to get public input.

The reason I am rehashing this proposal at all is because recently there has been some criticism of the June 12 *Illinois Valley News* article entitled "Spray pad gets green light" written by Tina Casey Jones. I reviewed the article and I listened to the audio of the Parks & Rec meeting held at City Hall June 6.

My conclusion was that the article was written to summarize a meeting that the new Parks & Rec Commission had and to describe the spray pad plan presented by Roger Brandt. I feel Jones did an excellent job summarizing the Q&A session held. It is not easy to summarize a meeting with a lot of dialogue and with a word count restraint. In my opinion, it was not necessary to repeat the pros and cons of the spray pad location from residents because this has already been covered in prior city council meeting articles. (The Cave Junction City Council already voted to authorize Roger Brandt to write the spray pad grant in the Jan. 7 meeting.) I can guarantee that the *Illinois Valley News* is not trying to influence public opinion but rather to report what happened in a meeting. Maybe the headline was not the best; maybe the article didn't have enough quotes for some, but both were written to reflect the fact that the Parks & Rec Commission did not put the axe to the spray pad and to let our readers know that we now have this city commission. It seems to me that the people trying to sway public opinion are the ones that benefit from the farmers' market or have a personal agenda. The next Parks & Rec Commission meeting will be at City Hall Thursday, July 11 at 6 p.m. I hope to see you there!

Thank you for reading this week's edition. Enjoy!

EVENTS ...

Continued from A-1

The festival has run for 16 years. Initially sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary took it over three years ago, "though we had to cancel the festival in 2018 because the Klondike Fire camp took over Lake Selmac," Larkin said.

"The money raised is targeted for most of our youth programs and grants which include, youth literacy and scholarships, hometown banners and other club activities," she added.

Rotary Club is a service organization of community volunteers who do good works on the local level and also strive to help end polio (and the Gates Foundation matches all funds raised to help eradicate polio). Learn more about the festival at Siskiyoubuegrassfestival.com

Finally, the Cave Junction Lions Club sponsored 'All Wheels Show' is celebrating its 20th anniversary on Saturday at Jubilee Park.

"On the last Saturday of every June for the last 20 years, the 'All Wheels Show' has brought people together with their classical cars, antique cars, rat-rods and motorcycles of many classes," said Ruth Overholser, Lions Club secretary. "And now, the last few years, we've included moderns cars. For example, there'll be corvettes this year. It'll be a good show."

Gates open at 7 a.m. for people with cars or motorcycles to exhibit, and at 9 a.m. the public is invited into the free event. The car show starts at noon. There'll be DJ music, vendor booths, food trucks serving breakfast and lunch for purchase, 50/50 and raffle drawing, and also, a booth selling parts for classics cars.

"The fee to have your vehicle in the event is \$25, or \$20 for motorcycles," Overholser said, "There's always some amazing vehicles - the work everybody puts into their cars is phenomenal. They're works of love and it's amazing to walk through and see it all.

"All profits from this event stays here right in the Valley and pays for eyes glasses and eye care for people who can't afford it," Overholser said.

Vendors can still sign up. Booths cost \$20 and food booths are \$50. For more information, call 541-415-1114.

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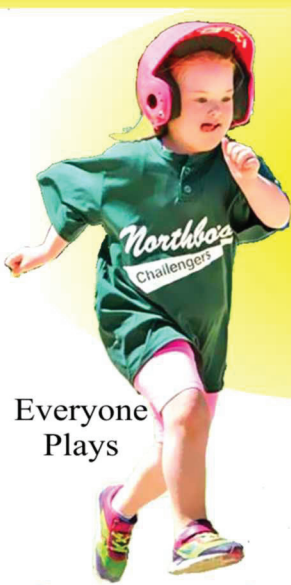
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