

PATROL ...

Continued from A-7

*The owner of a green 1996 Toyota Camry recovered her stolen vehicle from Hogue Drive at 1:41 p.m.

*A report was filed for DUII and reckless driving after a motor vehicle accident near E. River Street and Laurel Road at 9:41 p.m. Multiple firearms were seized from the blue vehicle, which slid approximately 91.6 feet.

*Nicolas Bryant was arrested for DUII near S. Redwood Hwy. and W. Lister Street at 11:29 p.m. Bryant was cited and released to appear in JCCC Nov. 23.

Thursday, Oct. 7

*At 10:39 a.m. a gold-colored 2005 Ford 500 was recovered near Draper Valley Road and Indian Creek Road. The Ford was stolen from Lake Oroville California State Park.

*Justin Taylor was detained in JCJ for probation detainer at 3:53 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 8

*On Oct. 7 at 6 p.m. a couple returned to their home in the 300 block of N. Hussey Avenue and noticed their door, frame and lock were damaged.

*A previously red, now white, 1985 Toyota SR5 was recovered and towed from the 300 block of S. Kerby Avenue at 3:45 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 9

*A visitor overstayed his welcome at 2:37 a.m. in the 300 block of S. Kerby Avenue. He left at 3:02 a.m., but then climbed over a fence and returned at 4:28 a.m. The resident was advised to ignore him and lock her door.

*An intoxicated guy was retrieved by his mother following a collision that knocked down power lines in the 6400 block of Holland Loop at 5:58 a.m.

County slams vaccine mandate



C. J. Schatza
IVN copy editor

On Wednesday, Oct. 6, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners unveiled a letter addressed to the governor of Oregon requesting the deadline for healthcare workers and school staff to get vaccinated

against COVID-19 be extended to late November.

The board began their correspondence by endorsing the state's decision to give "around 24,000" government employees an extra six weeks to get vaccinated, moving the deadline to Nov. 30.

"For healthcare workers and educators, though, the original Oct. 18 deadline presently remains in place," the letter stated. "That deadline needs to be pushed back as well. The vaccine mandate is overwhelmingly opposed by Oregonians in this region."

An informal, online Daily Courier poll from early September was cited in the letter, which found that 75% of the

approximately 1,600 respondents said that healthcare workers and teachers should not be fired if they refuse to get vaccinated, while 24% said these employees should be fired if they do not comply with the vaccine mandate.

"Your vaccine mandate is extremely unpopular for a reason," the letter continued. "To learn that reason, Commissioner Fowler has met at the Board's request in recent weeks with several organizations." These included the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association, Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools, Oregon Fire District Directors Association, and others. "The resounding message imparted by these organizations is that the state's vaccine mandate

will cause dramatic harm to the Oregonians who comprise their membership and leadership.

"For the above stated reasons, Josephine County emphatically requests that you eliminate the vaccine mandate, or at least delay the deadline until on or after Nov. 30, 2021."

The board's stated contempt for vaccine requirements comes as Oregon surpassed 4,000 COVID-related deaths earlier this week.

"That's two short months after we last paused to mark the painful milestone of 3,000 COVID-19 related deaths in Oregon," said Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen.

SEE VAX ON A-10

GRANT ...

Continued from A-1

Many of the illegal grow operations in JoCo have multiple greenhouses with hundreds of plants in each greenhouse. Sheriff's office personnel must destroy every single plant, which requires assistance from additional people and equipment. "In order to have a greater impact on both illegal cultivation and illegal diversion out-of-state, we need a lot more personnel."

Daniel says he also needs help from landowners. "I'm hopeful we'll start seeing more reduction in landowners leasing out their properties, after seeing all the trouble they can get in to. Even out-of-state landowners can be billed or potentially lose their properties. We're looking for cooperation first, giving them a timeline for cleanup. We're just looking for landowners to be responsible. However, at the end of the day, landowners can be addressed punitively, which can cost

tens of thousands in fines."

JoCo officials are proposing enhanced citation authority for code enforcement on illegal grows for unpermitted electrical and structural improvements and Daniel said landowners will be responsible for those citations as well, which can also cost "many thousands."

The grant application also identified the myriad water and waste issues the county is now overwhelmed by. Water crimes have come under intense scrutiny as large grow sites are causing depletion to water resources. Local businesses have been impacted when forced to compete with illegal grow operations for a limited resource; and the impacts to rivers, creeks, fish and wildlife are other huge concerns.

Landowners can also end up footing the bill for the massive quantities of waste generated and left behind by large illegal grows. All the plastic and PVC left behind after a bust occurs must be removed. Also, due to substandard living conditions on many grow sites there has been an increase in

environmental issues such as human waste, chemical pollutants and solid waste running onto lands and into waterways.

Daniel noted that with the influx of people coming to work on local illegal grow operations, there has also been an increase of abandoned vehicles, trailers and motorhomes. Many of these vehicles end up dumped along roadsides or left on public lands.

While the grant will help address these issues, Daniel said, "We need a stabilized funding source to deal with the scope of the issue. I am working on legislation for that right now."

As far as getting help from citizens, he said, "We just ask that the citizens be the eyes and ears and let us do the heavy lifting. We don't want anybody getting hurt. This is dangerous business and some of these people are not amateurs. They are organized drug organizations."

Editor's note: Other Illinois Valley News staff contributed to this story.

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