

No Camping

Police say they'll be working to contact those who camp under bridges and on private property

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Police Department will be attempting to make contact with those it believes to be camping illegally in the City in the coming weeks, Interim Police Chief Scott Shepherd said late last week.

Shepherd said police have already made attempts to contact "certain transients" known to camp under Cottage Grove's bridges, including efforts to make those contacts last week. Shepherd said those who may be found camping under bridges will be told that camping there is illegal, that they cannot stay and will be given a specified period of time (usually a week) to clear their belongings from the area.

"Those efforts are already in progress," he said. "We've had reports of people camping under every bridge in Cottage Grove. We tried to contact ODOT (the Oregon Department of Transportation) to see if there's something that can be done to make those areas less likely to be used for camping."

Meanwhile, Shepherd said police will also be making efforts to contact individuals that CGPD said may be frequenting a "big homeless camp" north of the Cottage Grove Speedway, in addition to the rumored locations of other camps.

"Until last week, we were under the impression that the camp (near the Speedway) was outside the city limits," he said. "We'll be trying to contact the property owners to make sure people don't have permission to camp there."

If and when contact is made, Shepherd said, police will supply the same warning and time period for when the area must be vacated. He said complaints by local landowners regarding garbage and even human waste have led to these police actions.

"We've also had a number of calls to recover stolen property," he said. "We're hoping to address this now so that maybe it can save us from having a bigger problem in the warmer months." Heather Boyce, who manages the Cottage Grove Speedway, said that she was unaware of CGPD's plans, though the camp has been an issue for some time.

"We'd sure like them to be gone," she said. "They're constantly trespassing. They go through our garbage and dump it out after the races. It's very frustrating. You can see it from the pits. It's a big mess out there."

NO CAMPING
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photo by Jon Stinnett

Messages painted on pylons at the Interstate 5 underpass near the Row River Trail state that no camping is permitted there. Police will be attempting to contact those known to camp there in the near future.

Search for John Jarrell continues

The Cottage Grove Police Department last week issued another request for public assistance regarding the whereabouts of a 38-year old Cottage Grove man missing since late September of 2015.



Police John Jarrell say there is no new information to indicate the location or circumstances surrounding the disappearance of John Jarrell, who moved to Cottage Grove last May after recently living in Ashland; he has been missing since Wednesday, Sept. 30.

A press release dated Feb. 10 states that "despite wide dissemination of information regarding Mr. Jarrell's disappearance, nothing has surfaced with regard to his whereabouts, or that of his vehicle. His family is very worried..."

Jarrell is the father of a small child. He reportedly has a history of depression and left his medication and cell phone behind. Police say there have been no bank transactions to help lead them to Jarrell.

"He is not a danger to the public, but I fear he is a danger to himself," said a flyer prepared by his family shortly after his disappearance, a flyer that also indicates that Jarrell is bi-polar.

Interim Police Chief Scott Shepherd said late last week that Lane County Search and Rescue has been enlisted to aid in the search for Jarrell, though at this point they have little to go on.

"We will do whatever we can to help Search and Rescue," Shepherd said. "The family thinks about him every day, so reminders to the public are something that we should continue to do."

Jarrell is described as six-feet tall, with brown hair, green eyes and a beard. He drives a white Chevrolet S-10 Blazer with a damaged bumper and license plate VSF 329 or 285 GAH. Police say he is an outdoorsman who may have gone to the national forest in Jackson or Josephine counties, though he may also have gone into the foothills east of Cottage Grove.

Anyone with information regarding Jarrell's whereabouts is urged to contact Cottage Grove Police Department at 541-942-9145 and dial extension 140 for Detective Doug Skaggs.



Jarrell drives a white Blazer with a window sticker that reads "Armed Infidel."

Sheriff's Office chase involving stolen vehicle ends in Creswell

The Lane County Sheriff's Office said that on Tuesday, Feb. 9 it responded to a rollover motor vehicle crash at Bob Straub Parkway near Mt. Vernon Road near Springfield. Witnesses reported seeing a male and female walking away from the crash. The crashed vehicle was discovered to be a

stolen Honda Civic. Witnesses provided a detailed description of the female, who was later observed being picked up by a different male driving a red Honda Civic. Witnesses provided the license plate number for the red Honda Civic and gave the last known direction of travel.

A records check on the red

Honda Civic discovered it was also listed as a stolen vehicle. Police said a Deputy from the Lane County Sheriff's Office located the vehicle on Cloverdale Road near Creswell and initiated a traffic stop. The vehicle fled from the Deputy at speeds reaching at least 90 miles per hour. With the assistance of the

Oregon State Police, the Deputy pursued the vehicle briefly into the City of Creswell, eventually locating it stopped in the Riverwood Mobile Home Park located off of River Drive.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Douglas Grable. The female passenger was identified as Cristina Englund. At

the conclusion of the investigation, Grable was arrested and lodged at the Lane County Jail for Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle, Eluding Police by Vehicle, Eluding Police by Foot, Reckless Driving, Reckless Endangering and Possession of Methamphetamine.

Englund was arrested for two counts of Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle stemming from the crashed stolen Honda Civic at

Bob Straub Parkway and her involvement with the stolen red Honda Civic used in the pursuit.

The identity of the male with Englund in the stolen Honda Civic that crashed on Bob Straub Parkway is still unknown. Anyone with further information on this incident or the identity of the unknown male can call the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541-682-4141.

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