

# LCSO takes CG resident into custody

Both the suspect and the vehicle involved in an armed carjacking in Cottage Grove have been found, according to authorities.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) has announced that 22-year-old Travis Scott Rich, a Cottage Grove area resident, had been apprehended and

would be lodged at the Lane County Jail on charges including but not limited to Robbery in the 1st Degree and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle.

LCSO had been searching for a suspect in a carjacking incident that occurred overnight in the 77000 block of Mosby Creek Road.

Just before midnight on

Thursday (Nov. 11), a citizen reported that he went to check on the occupant of a crashed vehicle.

The driver of the crashed vehicle reportedly pointed a black gun at the citizen and stole the citizen's blue 2005 Dodge Dakota pickup. The stolen truck was last seen traveling southeast from the crash scene in the di-

rection of Blue Mountain School Rd.

Deputies and officers from the Cottage Grove Police Department quickly saturated the area but were unable to locate the suspect or stolen vehicle.

The suspect was described as a white male adult in his twenties with a thin build standing approx-

imately 5'08". The suspect was considered armed and dangerous.

On Nov. 12 around 3 p.m., the stolen vehicle had been located and investigators continued working to identify the suspect. By 4:36 p.m. that day, LCSO reported that Rich had been identified and taken into custody.

## Jean Marie Miller September 5, 2021



challenge of becoming a nurse during midlife. She prided herself on being her own property manager for several rentals.

She had a lifelong passion for Dixieland Jazz and big band music. She enjoyed a challenging game of Bridge, and became a football fan, especially following the U of O. Back in the day, her children recall her cutting a rug at the Rod & Gun club and the Elks in Cottage Grove with friends, enjoying drinks and laughs together. During her last years, she enjoyed European cruises with Gary and relaxing with him on the patio of her home, watching the golfers on the 17th green.

She is survived by daughters Lisa Sargent (Jim) of Sacramento, Tami Nikitins (Dahn) of Creswell and son Todd Miller (Connie Smith) of Cottage Grove; grandchildren Heather Casey of Cottage Grove, Adam McCarty of San Diego, and Tahni Nikitins of Bothell, Washington; and great-grandchildren Emilia and Eliana Casey and Harrison, Francis, and Charlie McCarty.

A private remembrance gathering at the graveside for immediate family was held. The family has requested that remembrances be made in the form of contributions to Meals on Wheels and Willamette Valley Hospice.

Jean Marie Miller died peacefully on September 5 at the age of 87 surrounded by family in her home in Keizer, Oregon.

She was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Juanita and Ray Falk. She and her sister Darlene and brother Ron lived across the US, as her father played in bands and worked as a handyman. She attended Eugene High School and continued friendships made there until her death.

She married Gary Miller, the owner of the Cottage Grove-Eugene Freight company, and lived in Cottage Grove, raising their children, Lisa, Tami, and Todd. She was married to Vern Coop, of Cottage Grove, during midlife. The last years of her life, she enjoyed the companionship of Gary Leslie, of San Diego, in Keizer.

Jean worked at Lane Community College in the counseling department while raising her children. She undertook the ambitious

## Brown attends infrastructure bill signing in DC

By JULIA SHUMWAY/  
OREGON CAPITAL  
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Gov. Kate Brown was on hand Monday in Washington, D.C., as President Joe Biden signed a \$1 trillion federal infrastructure bill that will bring more than \$5 billion to Oregon over the next five years.

Brown described the new law as a "game changer" for Oregon.

"It will help us repair and improve our roads and bridges, build more (electric vehicle) infrastructure, and support hardworking Oregon families – all with a focus on equity at its core," she said.

Most of Oregon's funding will go toward transportation, with \$3.4 billion for roads and highways, \$268 million for bridges and \$747 million for public transportation. The state also stands to receive \$529 million for

water infrastructure, \$39 million to mitigate wildfires and \$100 million to expand broadband access in rural areas.

During Monday's signing ceremony, Biden said projects that receive funding will need to align with his administration's priorities. They must use supplies from American manufacturers, employ unionized workers and design projects with climate change in mind.

A Brown spokesman did not respond to inquiries about how long she would remain in Washington and what else she would do in the capital. She recently attended the global climate conference in Glasgow and is facing growing pressure in Oregon to call the Legislature into a special session to address housing, as the state anticipates running out of rental assistance money by the end of the month.

## LCC opens application for \$5 million in winter term emergency student assistance grants

EUGENE, Ore. — Lane Community College announced plans this week to disburse approximately \$5 million in student emergency grants to students for winter term, which begins Jan. 4.

Funding is provided by

the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

The winter term grants are part of a plan announced by the college in August to distribute \$8.8 million in emergency financial aid grants during the 2021-22 academic year to students who are or were enrolled during the pandemic.

Approximately \$2.5

million was awarded to 3,000 students during fall term as KickStart grants, which are \$500-\$1500 grants that may be used for tuition and fees or other costs as a result of the pandemic. The grants are considered non-taxable income and do not impact other financial assistance.

Students must apply for consideration. New students, once admitted and

enrolled, are also eligible. Grant award amounts increased for winter term and range from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The application and additional information is available at lanec.edu/KickStart.

Winter classes start Jan. 4 and registration is now open. Browse the class schedule at www.lanec.edu/schedule.

## BMD Board President Resignation Letter

### Board of Directors and Coordinators

Please accept my formal letter of resignation from the Bohemia Mining Days Board of Directors as well as from the Bohemia Mining Heritage Association Board of Directors. It is effective, as of Wed, Nov 3, 2021.

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to fellow board members for their support for my two-year period as president. I thank the coordinators that, along with the board, created a very successful 2021 abbreviated BMD celebration, bringing 3 new attractions to the event under very trying times, namely, the pandemic.

Each and every board member and coordinator, along with our wonderful sponsors, and those who made the event successful with their attendance, can take great pride in the fact we leave to the 2022 committee, a bank account of \$15,000. In a normal year, the budget around \$50-\$60,000 for a full-blown event.

The reason for my leaving: I have found that question needs to be answered in our beautiful little community of Cottage Grove. I list the reasons to eliminate any gossip or rumor mills that may occur.

The simple facts are:

Most if not all BMD meetings are held in the evening. With daylight ending at 4:30 pm, I find it difficult to make evening meetings. This is all brought about by age. Winter, and ice, will be coming. It is not logical or practical to get out in the dark in icy conditions at an advanced age.

The modern way of communication is through texting and e-mail. Those who know me and have worked with me in the community know I am a hands on, boots on the ground, type of leader. A great deal of my enjoyment, in taking on these tasks, whether it be efforts to save the Dr. Pierce Barn, or others, has been the face-to-face communication with the community members. In other words, texting and e-mail is a foreign language to a person who enjoys personal communication with his fellow human being.

I believe it is time for new ideas and a different approach to the business design for our wonderful festival, BMD. There are, in the wings, individuals who will fill that new business model. I ask that each person reading this give the new leaders support.

For those reading this in the community, I want to thank each and every person who has supported – financially and physically – the many events that I have been involved with, starting back in 1979.

I became a board member of the Chamber in 1978, assumed the duties of BMD president 1979-1980 through 1984, followed by the president of the Chamber 1983, president of community chest 1989, United Way fundraising president early 1980's. The hospital and fire boards followed, plus many other committees and boards in the meantime. When my term of office for the fire board was up, along with my term of office for the hospital board, I thought I was retired. But then I became involved with the Chamber in 2010 when I was asked to come back as a board member to set up board committees. Then the beautiful project of the carousel was presented. With the rebuild of the carousel project finished, and the carousel operating, I once again retired.

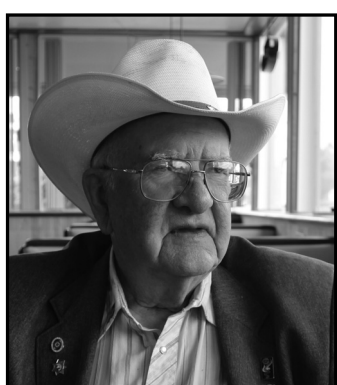
Then, BMD and the pandemic came along, and I once again heeded the request to come back as a board member of BMD.

With that, I once again give my deepest thanks to the supporters of BMD, the participants, and those I worked with in the community for all these many happy years. Thanks to all those who have supported my efforts.

As a final thought, I would like to suggest those of us who are Chamber members, or members of groups such as LIONS, Rotary, Prospectors, Kiwanis, that we support Cindy Weeldreyer for First Citizen through the Chamber. And through the service clubs, we nominate and support Cindy for Volunteer Service Award for her service to the community

She has spent years volunteering for BMD, as well as working for other organizations, such as Beds for Freezing Nights, doing many graveyard shifts to help her fellow man. Through the Chamber Tourism Committee, Cindy and I formed Around the Grove, a community-based organization out of which grew the Around the Grove newsletter, which Cindy writes, and is read by well over 400 community members, as well as viewed on channel 47.5 on South Lane Translators. These are just three of the many things Cindy has done for Cottage Grove. Many of you remember her service to Lane County, sitting on the Board of Commissioners for 8 years and administrative assistant to Marie Frazier for 2 years. Truly service above self.

Don Williams



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