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Community

Sunday, January 19th, 2025

Briefly

Man gets 18 months for firing gun during dispute

A man caught on camera firing a gun in the direction of another man outside a Medford market was sentenced on Tuesday to 18 months in prison.

Damien James Reed, 31, of Ashland also was placed on two years of post-prison supervision for his guilty plea in Jackson County Circuit Court to felony weapons charges.

The conviction stemmed from an altercation involving gunfire at 4:27 a.m. on Nov. 15, 2024, outside Ace Market, 1503 N. Riverside Ave.

Police said witnesses reported a man was waving a gun around and then fired several rounds into the air before speeding away in a white SUV.

Officers quickly located the suspect vehicle and arrested Reed, a convicted felon, for possession of a black pistol and a centrifugal-force knife.

Two spent bullet casings were found by the gas pumps at the store. Surveillance footage, police said, showed Reed firing a gun in the direction of a man he had been arguing with.

From court records, it does not appear police ever identified the person who got shot at. No victim was named in court records, and Reed refused to be interviewed by investigators.

The sentence overlapped a 9-month sentence in a separate case for Reed's plea to a charge of felony DUII.

That case stemmed from a traffic stop on March 14, 2022, on Crater Lake Avenue. Reed had prior DUII convictions in 2017 and 2019, both in Jackson County.

Man who slashed tires gets 20 months in prison

A man with a long history of petty crimes was sentenced Thursday to 20 months in prison for slashing tires.

David Israel McDonald, 47, of Grants Pass also was placed on one year of post-prison supervision for his guilty plea in Josephine County Circuit Court to a charge of first-degree criminal mischief.

The district attorney's office said McDonald was believed to be the person who slashed the tires on his daughter's boyfriend Jeep on Southwest Bellinger Drive in April 2024.

For his plea, prosecutors dismissed a host of misdemeanor charges in other cases, mostly for random, menacing behavior on the street.

McDonald is a local product whose criminal history in Grants Pass dates back at least as far as 1996, when he was 18 years old.

In 2023 he was arrested after an altercation at Riverside Park with the leader of an unsanctioned park watch group who had drawn both praise and condemnation for confronting homeless people in city parks.

McDonald was accused of striking the man with a brass bunny figurine while being maced. He was sentenced to 18 months of unsupervised probation.

RCC's board to accept \$434K grant for nursing

The board of Rogue Community College is set on Tuesday to accept a state grant of just over \$434,000 for the school's nursing programs.

The grant is from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and is to be used for the registered nursing program for virtual reality simulation training and to develop curriculum for the program.

The board is also set to approve several new certificate programs, including substance abuse counseling, business skills, and employment skills training, which provides tailored courses of study in a wide variety of career fields.

In addition, the board is set to approve two new business programs, in marketing and management.

The board is set to meet Tuesday at 5 p.m. in Building A, Room 123A, at the Table Rock Campus in White City.

Prior to the main meeting, the board will convene at 4 p.m. for a presentation on the topic of "Board of Education Self-Evaluation and RCC Board and President Team Agreements."

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Both meetings will be livestreamed on Zoom, webinar ID #933 0075 1708.

Man dies in logging accident near Azalea

AZALEA — A Winston man died in a logging accident in Douglas County on Thursday.

A Douglas County Sheriff's Office report said that at around 3:20 p.m., dispatchers were notified of a serious injury accident at a logging site in the 15000 block of Upper Cow Creek Road near Azalea. The patient was working for Dancer Logging.

Responders from the sheriff's office, the Azalea Fire Department and Glendale Ambulance arrived on scene. Medical personnel attempted resuscitation but eventually declared 49-year-old Justin Godel, deceased.

A GoFundMe started for Godel's wife and children said Godel also was a wildland firefighter.

The Douglas County Medical Examiner's Office also responded to the accident.



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