

Two arrests noted as drug scene remains active in Bitter Root area

A Stevensville area man was arrested and charged with criminal possession of dangerous drugs Friday night after a search warrant on his residence was executed and \$1,000 worth of drugs, mostly hashish, was confiscated.

Members of the Ravalli County sheriff's office and the Big Lost Anti Drug Team cooperated in the investigation that led to the arrest of the man, Robert Lars Magdalen, 24, who resides in the Eagle Lake area northeast of Stevensville.

One half pound of hashish was confiscated, along with a small amount of marijuana and \$275 in cash which is alleged to be money from the sale of drugs.

Magdalen was arraigned in justice court Saturday and released on a bond of \$1,000 later that day. Investigation is continuing and more arrests may be made, according to deputy Bill Nielsen.

Participating in the arrest were Sheriff Dale Orr and deputy Jay Pratt and four Montana law enforcement officials who are members of the drug team.

A 16-year-old Hamilton High School male was arrested Friday afternoon by county officers pursuing a drug investigation. Searches of marijuana were reportedly found in his vehicle. He was released to his parents and issued a warning citation.

Further investigation of drug activities in high schools is continuing throughout the valley, Nielsen said.

Charles Bremer responded to a chimney fire Friday at the Everett Detour residence, where a small amount of damage occurred.

Stevensville firemen quelled a chimney fire in the other Bell residence Sunday on

Main Street there. Minor damage resulted.

Two Hamilton drivers were cited in separate incidents Friday.

Joseph Rabeck, 26, Hamilton, received three citations and was jailed for damaging a fire hydrant. The incident occurred on North First near Bitter Root Plumbing and Heating when Rabeck pulled into a parking lot, saw a fire hydrant and struck it with his car.

He then left the scene. He was cited for reckless driving, failure to stop immediately at a property damage accident, and failure to remain at a property damage scene.

Rabeck was set at \$1,000 and Rabeck was released to appear in court Monday morning.

Randi Smith, Hamilton, was also cited Friday on North First after he pulled into

the street and accelerated to a high rate of speed. Policeman Jim Cragg ticketed him for reckless and imprudent driving.

In other law enforcement news, there were several appeals in justice court last week.

Robbie Newberry, 26, Hamilton, appeared on a misdemeanor charge of possession of less than 60 grams of marijuana. He waived his right to a preliminary examination and was bound over to District Court. He is being held in lieu of \$300 bond.

He was arrested Thursday. He also appeared on a citation for failure to drive on the right side of the roadway and was given five days in jail.

In a summary trial in Hamilton's court, Earl Montgomery, 18, Hamilton, was found guilty of driving while intoxicated. He was fined \$250. He was cited Jan. 23.



FRESH FROM THE SEA — Thirty gallons of Pacific oysters brought a record 100,000 landlocked Bitter Rooters together Saturday evening for the annual Rocky Mountain Grange oyster supper. The enthusiasm of the group was evident (see photo above) and the help was plentiful, with practically the whole Grange dining aprons under chairman Jack Smith's direction. Below, Gene Henderson mans the soup line.



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Bitter Root summaries

Highway report

Despite some rain and snow showers Sunday, U.S. 91 is in good driving condition from Missoula to Lost Trail Pass at present.

The road is nearly bare to the summit of Lost Trail, but frost bits are beginning to appear in many stretches, particularly from south of Hamilton to the Idaho border.

Only two inches of snow has fallen on Lost Trail during the past two weeks, bringing the total to about 7 1/2 inches for the winter.

Plates arrive

Ravalli County officials received a fresh supply of car and truck license plates Friday and applications are again

being processed, according to county treasurer Melba Kern.

Some thousands of plates arrived from the state prison at Deer Lodge following a shipment because of mechanical difficulties.

The deadline for securing plates is this Friday, Feb. 13. The courthouse will be closed on Thursday, Feb. 12, because of a legal holiday. Some plates have not yet been received from the Montana Highway Patrol on whether the deadline will be extended for enforcement of late or broken owners to secure their plates.

Annual drive set

The Bitter Root Shrine Club has begun its yearly drive to sell tickets for the Shrine Circus to be staged March 13-14 at the Harry Adams Fieldhouse in Missoula.

Local members will conduct their first

for drive in the near future, calling on local merchants and patrons to purchase tickets for the circus. The tickets, in fact, will be distributed through city schools to children who wish to attend the circus.

Proceeds from the drive will be used to support Shrine crippled children's hospital and their centers throughout the United States. At present, approximately 800 Bitter Root children are in the Spokane children's hospital at five percent cost.

Honor roll noted

Four students achieved straight A grades on the second quarter honor roll at Valley High School.

Top scorers were: Joseph Rabeck, 26, Hamilton; Patrick Scott, 16, Hamilton; Sam Freeman, 16, Hamilton; and Ronny White, 16, Hamilton. Other students on the list were: John Rabeck, 16, Hamilton; and Mark Threlkeld, 16, Hamilton.

Meet postponed

The Ravalli County board of health will hold its regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 23, at 10 p.m. at the old City Hospital. This Monday's session was postponed because several board members were out of town.

Ford sends message to Congress today

Changes in elderly aid are proposed

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford formally asked Congress today for a multi-billion dollar boost in Social Security taxes, new catastrophic illness insurance for older Americans and other contributions by Medicare patients to finance hospital and doctor bills.

Ford said the proposed tax increase would cost each employer who pays Social Security taxes less than \$1 a week.

The maximum increase for a worker would be \$60 a year, rising to \$100 in 1977. The tax hike would raise approximately \$4.1 billion during the 1977 calendar year.

In his message to Congress, the President recommended that Medicare patients pay up to \$600 per year for hospital care and skilled nursing services and \$200 per year for doctor bills.

He also called for a limit on Medicare payment rates in 1977 and 1978 for both hospital and private services.

All the proposals outlined in Ford's special message were announced Jan. 19 in the President's State of the Union address.

The Ford task the signing of signing the message during an Oval Office ceremony. He declared that older Americans have earned the right to live securely and comfortably and independently.

The retirement came exactly one month in advance of the 1976 presidential primary, in which Ford will be trying for the vote of thousands of retired people in that state.

Here are key elements in the President's request for new legislation:

To reduce the Social Security trust fund, now going into minus, Ford asked the President asked that pay off taxes paid by employers and employees be increased by three tenths of 1 percent each. This increase will cost no worker more than \$2 a week, and most workers less.

The general Medicare benefit would be equalized catastrophic medical costs. The President asked Congress to give each person who is admitted to hospital and skilled nursing facilities a set, generous benefit. That is, most people but one that would be to pay the cost of care of older people who need it.

To improve Medicare, to keep Medicare costs down, Ford also recommended that patients pay a larger share of hospital and doctor bills, a figure that now is below 10 percent.

Other students on the regular honor roll were: Scott Smith, 16, Hamilton; John Rabeck, 16, Hamilton; Patrick Scott, 16, Hamilton; Sam Freeman, 16, Hamilton; and Ronny White, 16, Hamilton. Other students on the list were: John Rabeck, 16, Hamilton; and Mark Threlkeld, 16, Hamilton.

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Eddie Sager retires after 36 years

A certificate of appreciation from Montana State University was presented to Charles E. (Eddie) Sager upon his retirement after 36 years of service to the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station at Corvallis.

A party of friends and family gathered at the research center recently to acknowledge his contribution to horticultural research in western Montana.

In the spring of 1940, Sager began his work at what then was the Horticultural Sub-station. Under three superintendents and four successive changes of the station, he continued his activities which included experiments with apple tree varieties, garden vegetable varieties and cultural practices.

Over the years, Eddie produced more than 300 apple trees, weighed and evaluated the results of hundreds of vegetable experiments, made numerous apple tree appraisals and started greenhouse planting of thousands of tomato and onion sets.

Most of the experimental trees on the station were planted to him, as well as the trees in front of Corvallis High School.

His efforts have resulted in a recommended list of vegetable and fruit varieties for western Montana. Recently, he was instrumental in developing methods of propagating grapes for the Montana Blueberry after retirement.

He did early work on the use of plastic mulches in vegetable production and attempted for a number of years to find a variety of western suitable for western Montana. The use of plastic mulch in a tomato fertilizer was one of the projects in the 1950s. He was involved in the



RETIREE HONORED — Station superintendent Don McHenry pins a recommended list of vegetable and fruit varieties with Eddie Sager of Corvallis during recent retirement party honoring Sager. See story for details.



Computer interviewed on breakdown; 500 attend Repub's open house Friday

Hamilton, Feb. 9 (AP) — The computer interviewed on a breakdown of the computer system on Friday, Feb. 9, at the open house of the Ravalli Republic newspaper.

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Hagg, while ads and articles were held over for Monday. Manager John McHenry, who was interviewed on a breakdown of the computer system on Friday, Feb. 9, at the open house of the Ravalli Republic newspaper.

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