Motorcycle crash kills Myrtle Creek man

The News-review

A Myrtle Creek man was killed Friday afternoon when his motorcycle crashed in a construction zone on Interstate 5, 13 miles south of Cottage Grove, according to Oregon State Police.

Paul Joseph Alvarado, 60, was riding a Harley-Davidson shortly before 4 p.m. north on I-5 near Milepost 161 when he failed to merge into the left lane while entering a work zone, troopers said.

Alvarado hit at least one orange construction barrel, lost control of his motorcycle and struck a guardrail, troopers said.

The man was wearing a helmet but was still seriously injured.

A trooper and emergency personnel responded to the scene. An air ambulance was also called in.

Alvarado was pronounced dead, however, before he could be transported to a hospital.

The northbound lanes were blocked for about an hour before one lane opened to traffic.

Efforts to reach Alvarado's family were unsuccessful Saturday.

Troopers said there were multiple signs advising motorists of construction up ahead and a right lane closure, as well as orange construction barrels to separate right lane traffic into the left lane. Troopers from the Roseburg Area Command Office are investigating the accident.

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office, North Douglas County Fire & EMS and Oregon Department of Transportation assisted.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY GROWERS

Conditions perfect for big Oregon wine yield

SALEM — Oregon's Dundee Hills suffered from late rains last year that impacted the quality of wine in one of Oregon's most productive regions.

Not this year.

Vintners in the Willamette Valley say the conditions have so far been perfect, and early September has given white-grape growers a chance to start harvesting early.

The first picking of the state's famous pinot noir grapes isn't far behind, The Statesman Journal reported.

Stoller Family Estate vineyard manager Robert Schultze says Oregon's hot summer and the mild conditions for ambient yeast on the grapes themselves combined to forecast a strong early harvest.

"This year is remarkable for its earliness, perfect conditions at bloom and increased heat accumulation," Schultze said, adding that this year's crop is "bigger and riper earlier than last year."

Melissa Burt, who is celebrating her 12th vintage at Stoller, is also enthusiastic about this

A billboard visible near Winston is part of a campaign to urge peoples to turn in their leftover and expired prescription medicines.

MICHAEL BULLMAN/The News-Review

GOT LEFTOVERS?

Campaign urges people to give leftover and expired medicine to local agencies

Law enforcement and health agencies are seeking expired and leftover prescription medicines as seen here in this illustration. Product Stewardship Institute asks people to drop such medications at one of six sites in Douglas County.

So you know ...

Looking for a place to drop off leftover or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications? Take your medications to any of these six sites:

Douglas County Sheriff's Office lobby, 1021 S.E. Douglas Ave., Roseburg:

Gordon's Pharmacy and Gifts, 327 S.W. Main St., Canyonville:

Myrtle Creek Police Department, 251 W.N. Pleasant St., Myrtle Creek:

Reedsport Police Department, 146 N. 4th St., Reedsport:

Sutherlin Police Department, 126 E. Central Ave., Sutherlin:

Winston Police Department, 203 N.W. Douglas Blvd., Winston.

Prescriptions can only be returned to the listed law enforcement agencies. These who return their medications to the sheriff's office can enter to win a $50 Visa gift card, courtesy of the Product Stewardship Institute, which is leading the awareness campaign.

Douglas County pharmacies and homes especially in the central part of the county.

"My general thought is do we have a problem," he said. About 70 to 75 percent of heroin users in the county started their addiction with prescription medications, Moore said. These percentages are based on interviews with known addicts, treatment programs and local law enforcement agencies, he said.

Moore said the most abused prescription drugs include oxycodone, hydrocodone, clonazepam, Vicodin and Percocet.

In the last 2½ years, 33 people in Douglas County have died from drug overdoses, roughly one person per month, he said. Of that Turn to MEdS. page A7

JESSICA PROKOP

The News-Review

Seeking to cut back on crime, drug overdoses and waste, law enforcement and health agencies are encouraging Douglas County residents to turn in their left over medications.

The campaign, spurred by a national nonprofit group, Product Stewardship Institute, asks people to drop off their unused or expired medications at one of six sites throughout the county.

 Authorities say it's a better alternative than flushing drugs down the toilet or tossing them in the trash.

The Boston-based nonprofit agency focuses on solving waste management problems caused by products with an expired shelf life.

Douglas County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Andrea Zielinski said this newest campaign is about drawing attention to the dangers of expired over-the-counter medications and prescription drugs that have been allowed to accumulate.

People often don't think about throwing out leftover medications until a spouse or relative dies and leaves behind a stockpile of medications, she said.

The sheriff's office in 2011 installed a medications disposal box in its lobby after teaming with the Oregon High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, a state program founded in 1999 with a mission to reduce drug-related crime, violence and drug trafficking.

"(Drop-off boxes) help alleviate the drug abuse problem and prevent people from being the victims of burglaries or thefts," Zielinski said. "Most property crimes are drug-related."

She said consumers whose prescription painkillers are stolen cannot get a new prescription without first filing a police report. This helps prevent people from stocking up on painkillers.

Roseburg police Lt. Patrick Moore, who leads the Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team, said there was a string of medication thefts in Phy tocks several years ago from

GOT LEFTOVERS?

Campaign urges people to give leftover and expired medicine to local agencies
**Wine:** Willamette growers looking for a good harvest

Continued from page 11

The week of harvest, "We have a healthy and heavy fruit set across the entire vineyard. The grapes are harvested in a compressed period of time, which leads me to think we'll get 2.75 tons. The record high for Oregon is 3.5 tons per acre," saidaylor. "The grapes are picked early to help with acid retention and lower sugar content, resulting in lower alcohol content for sparkling wine, an approach we've adopted after developing our sparkling wine program over the last year," winemaker Alex Sokol Blosser said. If the warm weather keeps up — temperatures reached the low 90s on Saturday — the pinot noir crop could come earlier than anticipated. "It appears to be an all-around stellar year for the Dundee Hills, and I'm looking forward to tasting the results of our collective work," Schultz said.

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**Wine:** Willamette growers looking for a good harvest

Continued from page 11

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**Follow Got Leftover Meds?**

**DON'T FLUSH THEM!**

Bring them to any of these Southern Douglas Co. locations:

- Winter Fire Dept.
- Myrtle Creek Police Dept.
- Douglas Co. Sheriff's Office
- Gordon's Pharmacy & Gifts

[Address and contact information provided for various locations.]