

## Briefly

**Rollover in CJ after 100 mph chase; driver flees**

CAVE JUNCTION — A fugitive fled a rollover wreck in Cave Junction and remains on the lam after fleeing from a state trooper at speeds of nearly 100 mph.

The incident began to unfold after the trooper tried to make a traffic stop at about 9:15 p.m. Saturday on Redwood Highway near Kerby, according to Oregon State Police.

The driver eluded the trooper at speeds estimated at 96 mph, leading to a rollover in front of the Coffee Heaven coffee shop next to Caves Chevron, at the intersection of Redwood Highway and Caves Highway.

A woman passenger was treated at the scene for non-life threatening injuries, said Jason Bayless of Illinois Valley Fire District.

Bayless said the driver took off running and was not located.

OSP said the man's name is Kyle Young, 28, but had no other information about him.

A sawed-off shotgun and another firearm were found in the vehicle.

OSP said charges of felony elude, reckless driving, hit-and-run and felon in possession of a firearm will be forwarded to the District Attorney's Office.

**River activities to be restricted during Boatnik**

The Josephine County Sheriff's Office has released a statement reminding everyone that river activities on the Rogue River will be restricted during the 2017 Boatnik Festival.

Since the annual Boatnik Festival features boat exhibitions and races along the river, other activities will be put on hold to accommodate the boating schedule.

Here are the restrictions:

- Starting May 26 at 6:30 p.m.: Baker Park to Riverside Park will be closed until May 30 at 3:00 p.m.

- May 26: Baker Park to Park Riffle will be closed during race events scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- May 27: Baker Park to Park Riffle will be closed during race events scheduled from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- May 28: Baker Park to Park Riffle will be closed during race events scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- May 29: Baker Park to Robertson Bridge will be closed during race events scheduled from noon to 3 p.m.

Only law enforcement, rescue, and race officials will be allowed on the water at those times. Boats may be anchored on the shore as long as it is deemed safe by officials. All users must be off the water at least one hour prior to the day's events however. Any unauthorized activity may result in a citation from law enforcement for reckless operation.

The Josephine County Sheriff's Office will be patrolling the river during the events. Contact Marine Deputy Ernie Fields at 541-474-5123 for any questions related to the river closures.

All Boatnik spectators are reminded to stay off of the water and to remain at least 50 feet away from the waterway at all times during the event.

**City recommends forming GP's first Housing Advisory Committee**

By Troy Shinn  
of the Daily Courier

The Grants Pass City Council on Monday during its regularly scheduled workshop recommended forming a Housing Advisory Committee for the city. This would be the first such committee in the city's history.

"It's about time we did this because I do think that we are in a crisis situation, not just in low-income housing but really just in housing availability in general," said City Councilor Valerie Lovelace.

A December series by the Daily Courier found that the housing shortage in Grants Pass is fueled largely by a lack of supply, which is driving vacancy rates down and prices up.

The new committee would be tasked with identifying where local resources could be spent in addressing these housing concerns. Since Grants Pass has been designated an entitlement community for federal Community Development Block Grants, funds from that program could be used to supplement existing programs in Josephine County and in Grants Pass.

Senior Planner for Grants Pass Tom Schauer said that the lack of housing leads to other problems for the city, like increased crime due to vagrancy and a lack of econom-

**Letter carriers collect 13 tons of food for local Food Bank**

Photo courtesy of Josephine County Food Bank

Volunteers sort and box donations at the Josephine County Food Bank warehouse.

Letter carriers from throughout Josephine County collected food from their customers on Saturday, resulting in a donation estimated of more than 25,000 pounds to the Josephine County Food Bank.

Another load of less than 1,000 pounds was expected today.

The National Association of Letter Carriers drive is a nationwide event that is believed to be the largest single-day food drive in the United States. It is also among the largest food drives each year in Josephine County.

In Grants Pass, the carriers unloaded their vehicles at the post office loading dock on Northwest Washington Boulevard. From there, donations were loaded into a Food Bank truck and taken to the nonprofit's warehouse on Upper River Road, just west of town.

Once at the warehouse, the food was sorted and boxed by a team of dedicated volunteers.

"To make this food drive the huge success it was took several elements all coming together," said Kevin Widdison, director of the Josephine County Food Bank. "The generosity of the community, the hard work of the letter carriers and the people who were willing to volunteer their Saturday afternoon at the Food Bank's warehouse. Everyone who participated played an integral role in the success of this event."

The volunteers processed more than 15,000 pounds of donations on Saturday, and at least that much more remains to be boxed and weighed, according to Widdison.

"We'll resume that effort on Monday," he said.

Plus, donations from outlying areas of the county still have not yet arrived at the Food Bank warehouse.

Once all the donations are processed, the Food Bank will issue an updated report on the number of pounds received during the event.

**New Blackberry Lane subdivision breaks ground**

By Lisa Whiting  
of the Daily Courier

A ribbon-cutting and ground-breaking ceremony was held Monday at the site of the Redwood area's Blackberry Lane subdivision on Leonard Road near Schroeder Park.

Principal Gayle Atkins began negotiations for the almost 6-acre parcel during fall 2015, but waited for design approval by city officials before closing escrow in August 2016.

After the design and planning phase, Atkins formed a partnership with Bob and Kay Watts.

Atkins received the news before the ceremony began that the City of Grants Pass had approved the development permits for the 38-home subdivision, a green light for contractors to begin work on the infrastructure.

Timber Mountain Construction is installing Blackberry's infrastructure, which includes grading and paving the access road, installing water and sewer lines, storm drains and utilities.

The subdivision will consist of three-bedroom, two-bath, two-car garage homes which will range in size from 1,200 to 1,700 square feet.

"We are envisioning that the homes will be affordably priced," said Atkins.

There are four more acres Atkins owns, contiguous to Blackberry's 6 acres, which will ultimately be incorporated into the subdivision.

When Atkins first spoke to the Daily Courier in 2016, construction of the 38 homes was anticipated to proceed all at once, but the city has permitted the option to build in three phases.

Atkins has been a real estate broker and a home developer



LISA WHITING/Daily Courier

Groundbreaking ceremony at Blackberry Lane subdivision Monday. From left: Will Garrouette, Gayle Atkins, Heidi, Anna and Kendall Pollard, Robbee Pierce, Justin Gerlitz, Taylor Marucci, Matt Pheland, Jake Schmidt, Craig "Trueman" Poague, dogs Tuxedo and Sapphire and in excavator Kenny Poague.

since the early '80s. "I come from a farming background, so dirt came naturally to me," laughed Atkins.

Real estate is also in the blood, as Atkin's son, Kendall Pollard, of RE/MAX Integrity's Grants Pass office will be the subdivision's real estate broker.

Blackberry Lane is one of two single-family-home developments planned for this part of town, the second being Summerfield North, phase three, which has 50 single family homes planned.

Laura Glover, parks & community development director for the city, reported there are two other single family home subdivisions currently under construction in Grants Pass.

One is called Capitol Hill, phase one, at G and Lincoln streets. The other is called Landon Estates, off Grandview Avenue.

While the construction of single family homes will serve as a pressure release valve in the tight local housing market, better news shared by Glover is

that one other development of multi-family homes is "possibly in the pre-application process, a combination of duplexes and triplexes."

Glover is pleased with the amount of commercial construction activity in town, such as the In-N-Out Burger, Hampton Inn, plans for a "scraping and rebuild" of McDonald's at the north end of town, and interest

in the property between Carl's Junior and the Parkway Christian Center.

"Both commercial and residential development seem to be moving along at an equal pace in Grants Pass," said Glover.

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problems just compound themselves," Schauer told the City Council.

Schauer said that the need for this new city committee comes from the fact that existing programs aren't as effective when there isn't enough housing to go around.

An example is the Housing Choice Voucher Program, administered by the Josephine County Housing Authority, which provides low-income families with access to less affordable homes.

The problem is that those vouchers expire and are only useful if there is housing to be had.

The decision to form a new committee comes amidst increased housing development, particularly in the Redwood District, where large single-family housing developments are going up.

Summerfield Estates has plans for a new swath of houses on an adjacent lot called Sum-

merfield North. The Blackberry Lane development also broke ground on Monday.

The Housing Committee would deal less with these larger scale housing developments and look more at how to infill existing housing and increase density in residential zones.

Once city officials determine the size and scope of the committee, a resolution will be brought before the Council for a formal vote.

Reach reporter Troy Shinn at 541-474-3806 or [tshinn@thedailycourier.com](mailto:tshinn@thedailycourier.com)

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**Merlin & Galice Road Sidewalk Improvement Project Meeting  
May 17, 2017**

Josephine County Public Works will be contracting the construction of sidewalks along Merlin Road and Galice Roads during 2017. Conceptual plans of the project will be displayed at an open house meeting on May 17, 2017 from 4pm to 6pm at the Merlin Alternative Center located at 345 Merlin Road. The public is encouraged to attend. Public Works staff will be available to answer questions and collect public comments.

We understand this project will be a temporary inconvenience for residents and businesses located along the route, and we appreciate your ongoing patience during the project.

For more information contact:  
Josephine County Public Works at 541-474-5460.