

Local grad on ace hot rod build team

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Ryan Gridley knew his passion while he was still in high school. He liked to work on cars — and he was good at it.

Before his 2012 graduation from Sisters High School, he was already working with Gordon Aram at A-Team Racing in Bend. He’s been an employee for two years. This year, he is part of a team that custom-built a car that has made the hot rod world sit up and take notice.

“We built a quarter-million-dollar custom Mustang.”
— Ryan Gridley

“We built a quarter-million-dollar custom Mustang,” Gridley told *The Nugget*.

The build is featured in the May issue of *Hot Rod*

Magazine — with a feature shot of Gridley driving the deep blue Mustang down the highways of Central Oregon.

The full story with numerous photos can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/hotrod-gridley>.

“They got ahold of us because they wanted to do a feature on it while it was being built,” Gridley explained.

The car has been a big hit — not least because the 1978 Mustang II is something of a redheaded step-child in the beloved Mustang line. Owner Brett Behrens turned A-Team loose to create something special.

“It’s the only Mustang that has a V-10 in it,” Gridley explained.

The car can be used for everyday driving and for road course races.

The build has garnered a lot of attention.

“It’s been all over the U.S., in magazines ... it’s been on three TV shows,” Gridley said. It made the top-10 builds at a SEMA (Specialty Equipment

Marketplace Association) show in Las Vegas.

As described in the *Hot Rod* article, “A-Team Racing employees Avery Bell, Ryan Gridley, and Mike Teagarden did the bulk of the custom bodywork, with everything but the front fascia being made from metal. Upon completion, it was Aram who sprayed the R-M two-stage Kona Blue paint, a color from the current Mustang palate.”

“It’s just four small-town country guys building cars for fun.”
— Ryan Gridley

Working with that small crew to create a piece of all-American automotive art was the essence of the joy Gridley finds in his work.

“It’s just four small-town country guys building cars for fun,” he said.

MURDER: Convictions came more than a decade after crime

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The late Leslie Brown covered the case for *The Nugget*. In the November 24, 1993 edition, she reported that Beck was “found guilty of two counts of aggravated murder and three counts of felony murder for the 1978 slaying of Kaye Jean Turner near Camp Sherman. The jury deliberated for five-and-a-half hours before reaching its verdict.”

Turner worked as a social services manager in Eugene and was staying at Lake Creek Lodge with her husband Noel and a group of friends for the Christmas holidays. An avid runner, she set out for her morning run of about eight miles and was never seen alive again.

Ackroyd, who worked with Beck at Santiam Junction for the highway department, acknowledged that he had seen Turner out running that day. In a macabre twist, in August of 1979 he led searchers to an area where he claimed to have found human remains while walking his dog. Searchers brought into the area found articles of clothing, hair, bones and a Timex watch.

Despite strong suspicions, it was difficult for investigators to build a trial-worthy case against Ackroyd and his suspected accomplice, Roger Dale Beck.

Ackroyd’s alibi was a claim to have been in the area poaching with his friend and co-worker Beck on December 24, 1978. Police interviewed both men and others close to the case repeatedly but were not able to make an immediate arrest.

The Turner case heated up again when Ackroyd came under suspicion in the disappearance of his stepdaughter, 13-year-old Rachanda Pickle in 1990. Rachanda was presumed to have been killed, but despite an extensive search in the area of Hoodoo, Potato Hill and Lost Lake, no body was ever found.

But circumstances had changed for the Turner case, and with new witness testimony in hand, police made an arrest.

Ackroyd was speedily found guilty by jury in October of 1993. Beck’s trial followed in November 1993.

Key testimony came from Beck’s former wife — who had been Ackroyd’s high school sweetheart and divorced Beck in 1985.

Brown reported that in the Beck trial, “Pam Beck Ramirez of La Pine sat in

the witness chair a few yards from her ex-husband and said Roger Beck had threatened her with the same fate Kaye Jean Turner met in 1978, unless she lied for him... It was fear of Beck that motivated her to lie to police several times in the early years of the Turner investigation, Ramirez declared.”

Ramirez’s testimony implicated both Beck and Ackroyd in the Turner murder, and she testified that Beck had bragged about the killing several times, especially when drunk.

Both men are in their mid-60s now, and are serving their life sentences at Oregon State Penitentiary.

In another twist in a case full of strange turns, Linn County sheriff’s detectives arrested Ackroyd in 2013 for the murder of Rachanda Pickle. No information has been released as to what, exactly, led to the arrest 23 years after Rachanda’s disappearance.

According to the *Eugene Register Guard*, “recent ‘advances in technology’ that were not available in 1990 allowed detectives to gain the information that led to Ackroyd being charged with murdering Pickle.”

No trial date has been set for Ackroyd in that case.

The results of Beck’s murder review hearing will be released at a later date.

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Please don't leave us in a hot car; we'd rather stay home!



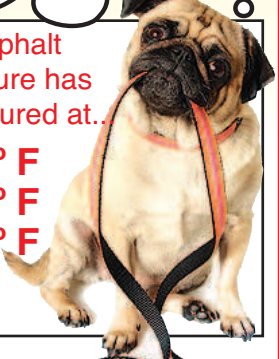
HOT CARS!

Elapsed Time	Outside Air Temperature (F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0 minutes	70	75	80	85	90	95
10 minutes	89	94	99	104	109	114
20 minutes	99	104	109	114	119	124
30 minutes	104	109	114	119	124	129
40 minutes	108	113	118	123	128	133
50 minutes	111	116	121	126	131	136
60 minutes	113	118	123	128	133	138
> 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University

HOT ASPHALT BURNS!

Press the back of your hand firmly against the asphalt for 7 seconds to make sure our paws will be comfortable.



When the air temperature is...	The asphalt temperature has been measured at...
77° F	125° F
86° F	135° F
87° F	143° F

These temperature correlations represent worst-scenario variables: direct sun, no wind, very low humidity, and high radiant energy.

At 125° F, skin destruction can occur in 60 seconds.
An egg can fry in 5 minutes at 131° F.

Data Source: Berens J. Thermal contact burns from streets and highways. Journal of American Medical Association; 214 (11): 2025-2027

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