

Driving in circles results in serious injuries

Two persons were injured, one seriously, as a result of a roll-over accident at “Forks” park, and the driver was cited on charges including reckless driving, said Oregon State Police.

The crash at Illinois River “Forks” State Park was reported Thursday, Aug. 21 at 5:40 p.m. The driver, identified as Selma resident Joshua Harley Baker, 21, was cited by OSP on charges of driving while suspended, no insurance, reckless driving, reckless endangerment, and fourth-degree assault.

His vehicle, a 1984 pickup truck, was impounded. He was said to be “spinning tight fast circles on a dirt road in the park when a tire caught on a mound and flipped the truck.”

Reported seriously injured was Cave Junction resident Troy Craig King, 26. He was hanging out the right-side

window when the pickup flipped, and he was pinned under it, OSP said. He was taken by American Medical Response (AMR) to a nearby landing site from which a Mercy Flights helicopter took him to a Medford hospital.

Subsequently, said his mother, Susan Lowden, he was transferred to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Eugene, where he underwent surgery. He incurred damage to his pelvis, and likely will be in a wheelchair for a time, and then on crutches until fully recovered, she said.

Also reported injured was Jennifer Jo Brown, 43, of Cave Junction. She was sitting on the lap of Selma resident Cory Lee Livengood, 25, who was in the center of the cab. She was taken by AMR to a hospital in Grants Pass “with multiple nonlife-threatening injuries,” OSP reported.

Livengood and Baker both refused medical treatment. Only Baker was using a seatbelt, OSP stated.

In connection with the crash, it has come to light that Oregon Dept. of Parks & Recreation is concerned with a number of problems at the popular day-use park. Illegal camping and fires, public intoxication, vandalism, littering and human waste are among the problems being noted, said Andre Briggs, Rogue Valley District manager for the department.

He said that although closing “Forks” park is a possibility, it is at this time considered as the last resort. Other options to control law-breakers are being considered first, he said.

“But we need to let the public know that closure is a possibility,” he said on Monday, Aug. 25.

OSP seizes coke on I-5 valued at \$600,000

Approximately 65 pounds of cocaine with an estimated value of \$600,000 were seized last week on Interstate 5 by Oregon State Police, assisted by the Douglas County Interagency Narcotics Team (DINT).

In connection with the incident Wednesday morning, Aug. 20 following a traffic stop on Interstate 5 north of Sutherlin, two Washington state men were arrested, and investigation is continuing.

Manslaughter charges levied following father, son deaths

Two counts of manslaughter and one of driving under the influence of intoxicants have been levied against a man who crashed his van, resulting in the deaths of two persons.

Josephine County Sheriff’s Office (JCSO) added that Roy Lee Smith, 59, of Moonbeam Drive in rural Grants Pass, was lodged in county

jail Friday, Aug. 22. The charges came after JCSO conferred with the D.A.’s office.

Smith was driving a van that crashed in rural Grants Pass on Monday, Aug. 18. Dead after the accident were James Dahl, 25, and his son, Mason James Slawson, 2, both of Grants Pass.

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Tales from the Police Blotter

(Editor’s Note: Factual information for ‘Blotter’ is provided by official law enforcement agencies. All persons listed are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Charges can be amended or dismissed.)

Friday, Aug. 15

*Around midnight it was reported that a dog with two broken legs was in the middle of Laurel Road in the 2000 block. The animal responded aggressively when folks attempted to help or move it. A veterinarian was phoned to euthanize the animal.

*Loss of a wallet in the O’Brien area was noted.

*Theft of a purse from a locked vehicle near Six Mile Campground was reported at 4:26 p.m.

*A caller voiced concern about having seen someone flick cigarette ash and a butt (from a cigarette) out a car window.

*Extra patrol was requested after people were seen snooping around a residence on Illinois River Road.

*At 10:51 p.m., loud music with “vulgar lyrics” was coming from a vehicle parked near Lake Selmac, a caller complained.

*Another caller reported at 11:05 p.m. that a group of people near Lake Selmac were being disorderly and that “lots of drinking” was going on. Although a deputy arrived within 40 minutes, the subjects were gone on arrival.

Saturday, Aug. 16

*A man phoned to say that his employer’s niece had stolen a white work truck.

*Jessica Sue Humbert, 26, was cited on a charge of driving with a suspended license (DWS) and warned regarding VBR (violation of the basic rule/driving too fast for conditions), and endangering a child passenger.

*A white pickup truck was reported left running all day on the corner of Raymond Street and S. Junction Avenue. No one was around the vehicle, which had a screwdriver jammed into the ignition. The truck was recovered by the man who’d reported it stolen earlier.

*Theft of a Mustang left with the keys on the dashboard on N. Junction Avenue was reported.

*A ladder and extra letters for a signboard on W. Watkins Street proved too tempting for a trio of teen-aged boys, who were caught changing words at 8:37 p.m.

*A man reported that when checking into a motel room three days earlier, he discovered several bags with quantities of white powder and parts of a syringe. These he turned in at the front desk with the understanding that law enforcement would be calling. He was following up.

*A Madrone Drive resident returned home to find her front door open, but nothing appeared amiss inside when a deputy checked.

*An Illinois Valley Fire District volunteer was warned regarding his behavior in uniform after a reported disturbance on Addison Lane.

Sunday, Aug. 17

*Following a complaint at Iron Ring Campground, Trevor Boyd Westfall, 23, was lodged in Josephine County Jail on charges of felon in possession of a weapon, and menacing. He also was cited on a federal

charge of intimidating a U.S. Forest Service officer.

*Eight transient individuals were “very intoxicated” and “causing a ruckus” in Downtown Cave Junction around 4 p.m. a caller reported.

*Near milepost 14 on Caves Hwy., Chad Barrett Bauer, 40, was cited on a charge of driving with a revoked license. His scooter was impounded, and he was “trespassed” from Oregon Caves Chateau, where at 8:55 p.m. it was reported he’d been “intoxicatedly” screaming obscenities.

*Three large garbage bags of marijuana leaves and potting soil were found off Burch Drive.

Monday, Aug. 18

*A 17-year-old boy was warned regarding his behavior when a deputy spotted him diving into some bushes near the Josephine County Building in Downtown Caave Junction at 12:48 a.m. The boy was warned regarding curfew and released to his mother.

*It was reported at 1:57 a.m. that an unconscious man was lying on a parking lot in the 100 block of S. Redwood Hwy. The man could not be located by medics.

*Someone used her debit card to make a \$2,169.99 purchase at an online watch store, a woman reported.

*Loss of a red bag at Lake Selmac containing a wallet, camera, fishing license and jacket, among other items, was reported.

*In O’Brien, people were said to be “spinning out” on ATVs on a cafe parking lot.

*Theft of property from a mining claim on Josephine Creek was reported.

*An eyewitness stated that three teen-agers removed lumber from a newly completed residence on East Fork Circle and took it to a Schumacher Street residence.

*Freddie Louis Tillett, 37, was cited on a charge of disorderly conduct and lodged in county jail.

Tuesday, Aug. 19

*Contacted in the 400 block of S. Redwood Hwy., Jeffrey Vernell Couick, 49, was cited on a charge of DWS and warned for failure to obey a stop sign.

*A camper awoke to find someone stealing his fishing gear at Lake Selmac at 11:16 p.m. It also was discovered that the thieves had attempted to steal gas cans, lighter fluid and rope from the camp host.

*Theft of a .38-caliber handgun valued at \$175 was reported on Pine Cone Drive.

*Some sort of “white, milky substance” was said to be in Illinois River “about 9 miles up toward Grayback Campground.” A state agency was testing a sample, but it wasn’t thought to be a hazard.

*Following a 911 hang-up call from Deer Creek Road, it was determined to be an error by the caller.

*A Cave Junction man was acting a bit erratically after being in a fight on the preceding Sunday, but all turned out OK.

*Two juvenile girls from Cave Junction were reported as runaway people.

*Quad drivers off Finch Road were said to be damaging the river bed near Joe’s Market in Kerby at 9:34 p.m.

*The identity of a “suspicious person” lying on Rockydale Road near Idlewild Drive at 9:41 p.m. apparently was known.

*Wind conditions were listed as the possible reason for knocking noises on doors and windows reported from Kerby at 10 p.m.

*In Downtown Cave Junction at 11:06 p.m. a woman was warned about driving too fast.

*In Cave Junction at 11:15 p.m. a man was warned about a faulty head light and failure to carry proof of insurance.

*During a traffic stop on Redwood Hwy. and Laurel Road at 11:46 p.m., a driver was warned about speeding, and he denied driving in a riverbed.

Wednesday, Aug. 20

*Loose cows were the subject of a complaint from White Schoolhouse Road.

*A vehicle-in-a-ditch incident was reported at 1:33 p.m. in the 2900 block of Holland Loop.

*Internet fraud amounting to \$50,000 was claimed by a Cave Junction woman.

*A vehicle smashed into a tree on Redwood Hwy. near Arrowhead Drive, it was reported at 5:44 p.m.

*Following a request by a relative, a welfare check of a family was conducted on Old Stage Road. All was OK.

*More than 20 text messages from the same person resulted in a Caves Hwy. man being warned about telephonic harassment.

Thursday, Aug. 21

*Near Redwood Hwy. at Eight Dollar Mtn. Road, an injured animal became a deer

departed.

*Burglary, theft and criminal mischief were complained about on Brown Road. The complainant said that a red car and a black car might have been driven by the suspects in a possible drug-related situation.

*An empty 30-foot trailer was the subject of a traffic complaint on Dick George Road at 12:32 p.m.

*Two men were warned about camping within city limits in connection with their watching, with permission, Judy’s Brown Barn Laundry.

*After a male motorist struck her car, spinning it around in the 6500 block of Caves Hwy., the man was heard to say, “Oh, f _ _ _!” He then drove away, and officers were looking for him in Wonder.

*Harassment was reported on Crooks Creek Road, and then the caller said the situation was resolved.

*Burglars took more than 1,000 pounds of lead from

northbound on I-5 near milepost 140, was stopped for following too close and other hazardous traffic offenses, OSP said. Subsequently, approximately 65 pounds of cocaine were found in hidden compartments inside the car, and the two occupants were taken into custody without incident.

Winston, a DINT drug detection canine, assisted during the investigation and seizure of the cocaine.

buildings on Crooks Creek Road, the owner said.

*Harassment was complained about on Queen of Bronze Road. Raised fists and a container of chemical deicer were noted.

*On S. Old Stage Road, a boy, 14, was arrested under a protective custody order.

*At 11:35 p.m. the Illinois Valley Visitor Center was checked. All was well; there were no visitors.

*Garry Allen Womack, 51, also known as “Stargazer” and “Hobbit Wolf,” was arrested and jailed on two charges of second-degree assault after an injured woman was found at 11:49 p.m. on Dick George Road.

Friday, Aug. 22

*It was a doggone situation as 11 inmates were let loose by persons unknown at the Josephine County Animal Shelter. Four of the dogs were found dead on Pleasant Valley Drive; three were still on-site; and four were missing.

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