

COUNTY ...

Continued from A-1

Commissioner Lily Morgan also weighed in on the absence recording matter, encouraging citizens to keep putting pressure on the school district to revisit related procedures. She also stated that in her experience, evening meetings

A note for those looking to attend a county meeting in the near future: The commissioners will be convening at the Wolf Creek Inn for their June 12 session. So don't show up at the Anne Basker Auditorium that day or you will be met with disappointment.

Josephine County Crime Briefs:

The Josephine County Sheriff's Office captured a well-known fugitive in the Illinois Valley yesterday following a pursuit that started in a vehicle and ended on foot. The Sheriff's Office reports 20-year-old Merle Leonard Southard, Jr., was arrested at gunpoint near the corner of Redwood Highway and North Laurel Road at about 1:25 p.m. June 3. Deputies said the pursuit began when they spotted Southard in a vehicle at the intersection of Holland Loop Road and Caves Highway. He was driving a green pickup with temporary tags and no license plates. The suspect refused to yield and led deputies on a chase that ended with his arrest when he bailed and tried to run. Southard was wanted on three Josephine County felony warrants. He was additionally charged with felony and misdemeanor attempt to elude police, escape, reckless driving and driving while suspended. Southard -- who is the son of Merle "The Squirrel" Southard -- was transported to Grants Pass and lodged without bail in the Josephine County Jail. The Sheriff's log mentioned that he has a new nickname: "Chipmunk."

A Cave Junction man was arrested for impaired driving June 3 after he crashed his vehicle. The Oregon State Police reports troopers and emergency crews responded to the single-vehicle rollover wreck in the 900-block of Dick George Road around 7:25 p.m. Troopers said 49-year-old Charles Scott Bessner was driving a Toyota SR-5 pickup when he lost control and rolled the vehicle into a ditch. He was not hurt, but he was asked to perform field sobriety tests after showing signs of impairment. Bessner performed poorly and was subsequently charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and driving while suspended. He was taken to the Cave Junction substation where he provided a breath sample that was well over twice the legal driving limit. Bessner was cited and released, but his pickup was impounded.

A Cave Junction man was seriously injured late last night when he was struck by a vehicle while crossing Redwood Highway on foot. The Oregon State Police (OSP) reports troopers and emergency personnel responded to the vehicle versus pedestrian crash on U.S. Highway 199 at West Watkins Street May 30 around 11:15 p.m.. Troopers said 72-year-old William Pomba Chaney was wearing dark clothing when he attempted to cross the highway illegally. They said a Mercedes SUV driven by 68-year-old James Patrick O'Shaughnessey of Gasquet, California, collided with the pedestrian while he was in the southbound travel lane. According to OSP, Chaney suffered life-threatening injuries and was transported by AMR Ambulance to Three Rivers Medical Center in Grants Pass. O'Shaughnessey was not hurt. His vehicle sustained only minor damage and he was able

A Kentucky man was killed in a weekend motor vehicle accident on Redwood Highway in Selma that closed the roadway for about 4 1/2 hours. The Oregon State Police reports troopers and emergency personnel responded to the two-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 199 near milepost 21 June 1 around 8:38 p.m. A preliminary investigation revealed that a Nissan Frontier driven by 26-year-old Ryan Risely of Lexington, Kentucky, was traveling north on the highway when it left the roadway and entered the southbound travel lane, impacting a Mazda driven by 37-year-old Diego Thor of Crescent City. Troopers said Risely suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Thor and a juvenile passenger were transported by AMR Ambulance to Three Rivers Medical Center in Grants Pass. Another passenger -- 35-year-old Moei Thor -- suffered serious injuries and was transported by Mercy Flights helicopter to Rogue Regional Medical Center in Medford.

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