



CURRY COASTAL PILOT

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015

SERVING CURRY COUNTY SINCE 1946

BROOKINGS, OREGON

Crosswalk being built after fatal accident

By Jayati Ramakrishnan
Pilot staff writer

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has begun construction on a crosswalk on Chetco Avenue near Lucky Lane — the result of citizens' demands to make the area safer after a Brookings woman was killed there.

Joyce Marie Betties, 73, was struck and killed by a car while crossing that section of highway last August. She was often seen walking up and down the street and frequenting Fred Meyer and the Chetco Activity Center to have lunch with friends.

Prior to the accident, ODOT and the city had been exploring placing a crosswalk in that area because of an increase in pedestrian and motor traffic there.

"Both ODOT and the City of Brookings saw a need for a crosswalk," said ODOT Project Manager Glen Pederson.

ODOT has been working on the project for about one week, and plans to complete it within the month.

"We're upgrading the sidewalk on the south side of 101," said Pederson. "We're putting in two pedestrian ramps, a crosswalk with a pedestrian island and a signal with a flashing beacon."

See **Safety**, Page 8A

Brookings

Discord sinks water tank project

City, county, timber firm blame one another for demise of airport project

By Jane Stebbins
Pilot staff writer

Officials with the city of Brookings, Curry County, South Coast Lumber and the Fed-

eral Aviation Administration are blaming one another for the likely demise of the city's water storage project at the Brookings Airport.

The \$2.8 million project the city, county and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have been working on for two years is "dead on arrival," Mayor Ron Hedenskog said this week.

South Coast Lumber

in Brookings, which uses the road that abuts the north end of the airport runway to access its timber lands, said that, if it could not have continued access "without any additional limitation or restriction" to the road

it has used for the past 54 years, it will not permit the city to place a 500,000-gallon water tank on its land adjacent to the airport.

It's those words that have made the FAA balk.

See **Tank**, Page 2A

WAVE BASH!



Photo by Mark Harpur

A professional windsurfer launches himself off a wave at Pistol River during the annual Pistol River Wave Bash that continues today. See full story on Page 6A

College trying to improve grad rates

By Jayati Ramakrishnan
Pilot staff writer

A recent state study shows only 24 percent of community college students at campuses throughout Oregon finish a degree or certificate within seven years — an alarmingly low rate, officials said.

And while Curry County's Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) falls within the statewide average, college officials are taking steps to improve the completion rate for their students.

Factors that often impact students' ability to complete a degree include financial difficulties, lack of transportation and juggling full-time jobs and family commitments.

See **College**, Page 10A

Correction

Charges against Marlyn Schafer were incorrect in the June 10 edition of the Pilot, as the state Department of Justice refiled the case and changed the charges before trial.

The amended charges include one charge of first-degree forgery, two of second-degree forgery, two of first-degree theft, one of second-degree theft and three of computer crime.

The Pilot regrets the error.

Firefighters corral numerous lightning-sparked wildfires

By Scott Graves
Pilot staff writer

Firefighters spent all week battling and containing numerous lightning-sparked wildfires throughout Southern Oregon, including several on the eastern outskirts of Curry County.

No structures are threatened by any of the fires as of Friday afternoon, said Virginia Gibbons, spokeswoman for the U.S. Forest Service. But continued high temperatures and winds are expected to keep fire agencies on high alert.

This weekend, various state and federal agencies were planning additional aerial resources to support suppression efforts and be ready for any additional fire incidents, Gibbons said.

The Buckskin Fire, located in Curry County, 10 miles southwest of Cave Junction and six miles north of the California border, was approximately 100 acres in size as of Friday afternoon, Gibbons said.

See **Fires**, Page 8A



The Buckskin Fire, located in eastern Curry County, has charred about 100 acres of forest as of Friday afternoon.

Submitted photo

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Weather Past four days

	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
HIGH	77	63	89	95
LOW	54	53	50	65

5-day forecast: Page 3B • 24-hour: www.CurryPilot.com

Rain totals Past four days

	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	0"	0"	0"	0"

Since Jan. 1....25.85 Normal...41.30
Since Oct. 1....55.57 Normal...69.09

Sunrise/Sunset

	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
RISE	4:41	4:41	4:41	4:41
SET	8:54	8:45	8:55	8:55

For information on tides, see Page 7A



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