

Revamped pavilion project for Riverside Park is moving forward

By **Troy Shinn**
of the Daily Courier

Plans for a pavilion at Riverside Park are beginning to move forward, although city officials and others involved in the effort are now calling it a platform.

Last week the Grants Pass Parks Advisory Board agreed on new designs for a performance venue at the park that board members hope will better satisfy the needs of the Active Club and several other groups than the previously suggested pavilion structure.

The work will be underwritten by a \$500,000 grant from the Oregon Lottery that state Sen. Herman Baertschiger Jr. secured in the waning days of the 2015 session of the state Legislature.

Since then a number of stakeholders involved in the process have been politely butting heads over using the money for Boatnik, organized by the Active Club, or for the city's summer Concerts in the Park series. The City Council has final say.

The Active Club maintains that a pavilion or platform for a temporary VIP bandstand during Boatnik, one of

the biggest community celebrations in the Northwest, will benefit all events in the park, including Concerts in the Park, the annual Back to the '50s festival in July and the Rotary Club Duck Derby.

Although there has been widespread consensus that the park could use a pavilion that could double as a bandstand or stage, there was disagreement among stakeholders over where in the park the structure should be located. For now it's going near the Seventh Street Bridge for Boatnik.

During a presentation to the Parks Advisory Board last week, project engineer Justin Gerlitz unveiled a less obstructive concrete structure than what was initially proposed.

"This new design will address a lot of the concerns we had with sewage and the floodplain," Gerlitz said.

The new design features a two-platform structure with a removable tarp roof that city officials hope will accommodate more seasons and events.

Gerlitz also assured that the elevation of the platforms and distance from the riverbank would keep the space from flooding during high water events.

The removable roof structure was an important component of the new design, as city officials had concerns that a permanent structure in the park would lead to vagrancy and camping concerns in wet months.

"A permanent roof structure unfortunately attracts people to sleep and camp out at nights," city Parks and Community Development Director Lora Glover said.

The only concern left on the roof issue was whether the structure would still look good with the canvas tops off.

"It's important for this to look good even without the covers on it," said Mayor Darin Fowler. "We don't want it looking like a skeleton."

Gerlitz said that this was possible. "There's lots of different covers we could do ... and these things are very weather-proof and have longtime warranties for replacement too," Gerlitz said. "We could also put up some lights to light up the covers or make the structure look good without the covers on."

While firm numbers weren't provided, Gerlitz estimates that this type of structure would be cheaper than the

alternative.

Parks board vice chairman Cliff Kuhlman praised the new design.

"It being cheaper allows us to do more with the park with the same money," Kuhlman said.

The money for this project is going to be provided through an Oregon Lottery grant that the city was approved for in 2016. The \$500,000 is expected to be distributed in April, according to Glover.

Active Club representatives at the meeting expressed support for the design.

"I think this is a great design and a really great start," said James Lowe.

The club did have some other space concerns for the Boatnik event, but were confident these can be added as the design goes forward.

Another plus for the new design was that the space may be good for the Concerts in the Park series, since the space allows for a lot of customization in stage size and acoustics.

While Glover, the city's parks director, said officials are still planning on something separate for the concert venue, many at the meeting agreed

that they could try those events in this space and see how it works. The city has \$300,000 already set aside to replace the Izaak Walton building that was torn down in 1999.

The next phase of designs will address electrical installation for lights and sound systems.

Committee members passed a motion to go forward with the design, allowing Gerlitz to address some of the other concerns brought up at the meeting. The City Council and the public are expected to weigh in at an upcoming meeting.

Glover said that this phase of the project can take a while and pose the most pushback as neighbors will have to be notified and may object to a development in the park and near the river.

"We run the risk of, when we notify the surrounding neighbors, them opposing the site plan," Glover said. "Hopefully this will be less visually obstructive."

Reach reporter Troy Shinn at 541-474-3806 or tshinn@thedailycourier.com

City approves balloon festival funding

By **Troy Shinn**
of the Daily Courier

The Grants Pass City Council on Wednesday night pledged up to \$20,000 in tourism-related tax money for the Grants Pass Balloon & Kite Festival in June.

The funds would act as seed money to ensure that the festival, put on by the Greater Grants Pass Rotary Club, will have a fighting chance of becoming an annual event.

All of the city councilors voiced support for the opportunities this event would create for tourism in the area.

"If it does succeed over the next five or 10 years it's going to be doing a lot for our community for a pretty small investment compared to what we could get out of it," said Councilor Jason Anderson.

The tourism money would come from the city's hotel-motel room tax.

"I support it also," said Council President Dennis Roler. "One of the additional reasons I bring it up is that a lot of people on our tourism committees have done a lot of work on this, and we should support

them."

Councilor Tyler Flaming voiced concern over the fact that since some revenue from this event is expected in part to go toward local charities, the city might essentially be donating money rather than investing it. Flaming cited a 2004 resolution passed by the city that said all city funds must go toward municipally provided services.

"I worry that if we give this money and then it's carried over, we're essentially giving money to a nonprofit to then turn around and give money to another nonprofit," Flaming said.

The funding contract already stipulated that the same percentage of the event's budget that is provided by the city, about half in this case, must be carried over toward next year's event, assuring the tax money is actually used as the seed money they are intended for.

To that end, Flaming motioned for an amendment that said that, regardless of the percentage figure, that the Rotary Club commit \$20,000 of the profits toward next year's festival to ensure there was no con-

flict with the city's previous resolution.

This amendment to the resolution passed 5-2, with Roler and Councilor Valerie Lovelace voting against it.

Roler did so because he felt like that might limit the club's ability to raise money next year.

"Getting into this amendment is kind of not giving them the ammunition to fundraise in the future by getting charities to donate without the assurance that they would get some sort of contribution back," Roler said.

Rotary spokesman and event organizer Caleb LaPlante said he warned charity sponsors of this possibility.

"The directors of the charities are expecting the possibility that they may not see any money from this event in its first few years," LaPlante said. "They are willing to do this mainly for the good PR."

The motion to approve the money passed unanimously with seven votes. Councilor Roy Lindsay was absent.

Reach reporter Troy Shinn at 541-474-3806 or tshinn@thedailycourier.com

The Lodge expansion approval upheld by city

By **Troy Shinn**
of the Daily Courier

The Grants Pass City Council on Wednesday upheld approval of a small hotel adjacent to The Lodge at Riverside.

The previous decision by a hearings officer in January was appealed by neighbors in the area, who were opposed to a plan to build a three-story, 24-room hotel attached to the privately owned Taprock Event Center.

Neighbor objected about parking but also claimed that the height of the building was unusual for the area and would pose aesthetic and sunlight concerns.

Parks and Community Development

Director Lora Glover said that the code allows this height and the applicants had met their requirements for parking and then some.

"This application complies with all the relevant parts of the municipal and development code," Glover said. "They are required to have 116 parking spaces based on this use, and the plan contains 157."

Some of these spaces are shared between several other businesses, including the Hamilton House and also a handful of on-street parking spaces along Eighth Street, much to the neighbors' displeasure.

"My yard is often the turn-around for cars parked along the street and coming out of that parking lot," Arden McConnell, one

of the neighbors said.

The Council imposed one condition: lighting and improving the shared parking spaces in the Hamilton House lot.

In an effort to avoid an appeal, developers took the public use of the Taprock Events Center off of the table in January, limiting the use only to hotel patrons and their guests.

"That's perhaps going to be a financial loss for the client, but we nevertheless did that to appease the neighbors," Max Bondar of ZCS Engineering told the Council. "But here we are today."

Reach reporter Troy Shinn at 541-474-3806 or tshinn@thedailycourier.com

Police

Oregon State Police

A Grants Pass motorist headed west on Rogue River Highway Wednesday at 8:20 a.m. ran off the road and hit mailboxes, then overcorrected and rolled his vehicle, coming to rest on the shoulder, four miles east of Grants Pass. He was not injured.

Josephine County Sheriff's Office

A landowner on Takilma Road in the Illinois Valley reported ongoing vandalism of survey stakes, and theft of a trailer and bicycle.

Grants Pass police

A man was arrested on a charge of DUII near Grants Pass High School on Wednesday afternoon after reportedly harassing students and driving 20-30 mph in the school zone. Police noticed the smell of marijuana coming from the car and conducted a field sobriety test, noting signs of impairment. The man's name was listed as Zohn Johnson in police dispatch records. No age was listed.

A license plate was reported stolen off of a vehicle parked at Asante Three Rivers Medical

Center.



RICHARDSON

A man was arrested in the 600 block of Southwest Sixth Street late Wednesday night after police confirmed he had an outstanding warrant and, upon a search, was found in possession of a syringe with methamphetamine residue. Michael James Richardson, 45, was lodged in jail.

Obituaries

Geraldine Carroll Pritt

Geraldine Carroll Pritt, 67, of Grants Pass died Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at Hearthstone in Medford. Services were held. Hull & Hull Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

Malachi Matthew Batty

Malachi Matthew Batty, age 15, of Grants Pass, Oregon, died March 10, 2017.

Malachi was born May 29, 2001, in Coos Bay, Oregon, where he lived and was homeschooled until moving to Grants Pass in 2014. In public school for the first time in Grants Pass, he excelled in many subjects and made two close friends.

He was a kind, thoughtful boy. He especially loved art, making Claymation videos, skateboarding, welding, writing/drawing comics, playing video games, and reading.

He is survived by his mother, Tina Batty of Grants Pass; his

father, Melvin Batty of Coos Bay; two sisters, Mariah Batty of Grants Pass and Talitha Batty of Coos Bay; a brother, Tyler Waggoner and sister-in-law, Sumar Waggoner, their daughter, Trinity and son, Ezekiel, all of Ashland, Oregon.

A viewing will be from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, March 17, 2017, at Hull & Hull Funeral Directors, 612 NW A St., Grants Pass.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m., Friday, March 17, 2017, at the Grants Pass High School Commons.

Remembrances may be made to (JCEF) Josephine County Educational Fund for the Malachi Batty Art Scholarship, PO Box 908, Grants Pass, Oregon 97528.

Malachi's absence leaves a void in his family's hearts that will never be filled. Not a day will go by that he won't be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

Dianna Lynn Pritchett

Dianna Lynn Pritchett, of Gold Hill, Oregon, passed away on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

Born April 7, 1953, she was the daughter of the late Olen and Goldie Strother. One of seven children, born in Crescent City, California.

She married the love of her life at a young age, but knew what she was born to do, shower everyone with love. Her love of family showed in everything she did and provided to this world. She was never without a smile on her face and kind words of wisdom to give. Dianna will be greatly missed by all.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Ernest; two children, Ernest Pritchett and wife, Martha, and Shelley Quayle and her husband, Kevin; six grandchildren, Andrew, Nicholas, Nathan, Austin, Issy, and Corrina; and four great-grandchildren, Kailani, Jenny, Kaden and Abbie. These are only a few of her beloved family.

Memorial services will be conducted at 1 p.m., Saturday, March 18, 2017, at Foothills Creek Chapel in Gold Hill, Oregon.

To place an obituary, call Tamara Stuebing or Caroline Pitts at 541-471-7702 or email obits@thedailycourier.com

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WEEKEND
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MADE IN GRANTS PASS

A quick look into a few products that are not only ‘Made in America,’ but produced in our own backyard

By Lisa Whiting
of the Daily Courier

What comes to mind, when one thinks of Grants Pass? Jet-boats. Fishing. Whitewater rafting. Wineries. Brewpubs. The Oregon Caves. Boatnik. Coffee. The climate. And now marijuana. The town definitely has a strong service-based economy. That includes the region’s biggest employer, Asante, which runs Three Rivers Medical Center. But what about manufacturing, and the long list of business success

stories right here in our backyard? Here’s a look at five homegrown companies and products. All are well known. Next weekend: Five more awesome things you might not have heard of.

SOTAR

If you spend any time on the Rogue River, you’ve seen rafts made by local company SOTAR. If you’ve spent any time on famous whitewater rivers anywhere else in the world, you’ve probably seen SOTAR rafts there, too. Started in a garage in 1980 by Glenn Lewman and a group of

friends, today SOTAR employs a crew of 18 and makes close to 700 boats per year, purchased by white-water enthusiasts worldwide. SOTAR stands for State of the Art Rafts, and they are that and then some. SOTAR makes rafts, cataracts, and kayaks. It offers three standard models of each, which customers typically have customized to fit their needs. “Our boats are on every continent except Antarctica, said Jeremiah Lewman, Glenn’s son and the company’s chief operating officer. The company is credited with cre-

ating the world’s first self-bailing raft, and a technique to electronically weld raft material together instead of gluing it. SOTAR’s products are not cheap. Customers include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard. The company’s boats have made it to the waters of countries such as Fiji, Zimbabwe and Argentina. Recently SOTAR made 20 sea kayaks for an outfitter in Thailand that takes people on tours of sea caves.

Turn to MADE, Page 7A

‘Kicker’ is in: Average refund per tax return is \$227

By Christian Wihtol
Eugene Register-Guard

The state on Friday said it has officially confirmed Oregonians will receive more than \$463 million in income tax “kicker” refunds that they can claim starting in January. Unlike in the past, there will be no checks issued. Instead, the sur-

plus will be returned through credits on 2017 state personal income taxes. The amount translates into a median refund of about \$89. The median has an equal number of refunds above and below that amount. The average refund per tax return will be about \$227. That figure reflects that upper-income Oregonians

pay most of the state’s income taxes and thus receive the bulk of kicker refunds. Individual refunds are calculated as a percentage of the state income taxes residents pay. The state in August had tentatively determined the total kicker would amount to \$463 million. The kicker is triggered when state income tax col-

lections exceed earlier official projections by at least 2 percent. Oregon’s burgeoning economy has swelled state income tax receipts. The state will pay the kicker to taxpayers through a credit on their 2017 state personal income tax returns, which they will file in 2018.

Turn to KICKER, Page 5A

Gusty winds fan California wildfires day after crews reported progress

Blazes have killed 35, displaced 100,000 and destroyed 5,700 structures

By Janie Har and Andrew Dalton
Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Rising winds fanned the California wildfires again Saturday, forcing hundreds more people to flee from their homes in the state’s fabled wine country and testing the efforts of crews who have spent days trying to corral the flames behind firebreaks. Just a day after firefighters reported making significant progress, the winds kicked up several hours before dawn and pushed flames into the hills on the edge of Sonoma, a town of 11,000. About 400

homes were evacuated as the fires threaten Sonoma and a portion of Santa Rosa that included a retirement community that evacuated earlier this week, authorities said. Dean Vincent Bordigioni, winemaker and proprietor at the Annadel Estate Winery awoke at 3 a.m. with flames erupting on the ridge above his property. “Things went to hell last night,” he said. “They’ve got a good fight going on.” Nearly a week after the blazes began, the fire zone had swollen to an area as long as 100 miles on a side. The flames have left at least 35 people dead and destroyed at

least 5,700 homes and businesses, making them the deadliest and most destructive group of wildfires California has ever seen. On Saturday, an unknown number of additional structures burned down in a rural area, said Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Judy Guttridge, who was evacuating for the second time this week, said her daughter saw flames advancing over the side of a hill around the same time Bordigioni did and told the family to get out.

Turn to FIRES, Page 7A



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/Associated Press

Firefighters set a containment line with a backburn as they battle a wildfire on Friday in Glen Ellen, Calif.



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THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 22, 2018

District 7 sends \$138 million bond to voters

Money would rebuild aging North and South middle schools

By Madeline Shannon
of the Daily Courier

The Grants Pass School Board voted this week to ask voters to approve a \$138.7 million construction bond on the May ballot to rebuild the city's aging and overcrowded North and South mid-

dle schools.

The decision was made after months of deliberation on the part of the school board and District 7 administration.

"We have until Friday to fill out the paperwork with the county elections officer," said Sherry Ely, business and finance director for the Grants Pass

School District.

"Today was down to the wire to getting it done, so now we're getting the documents ready."

The final dollar amount the board approved during a special board meeting Tuesday was pared down from the initial \$155 million amount the board has been deliberating on for months. After a number of meetings about what

needs to be covered by the bond, the board decided to shave more than \$16 million off the final bond amount.

If voters say yes, the bond will be financed via a tax of \$1.94 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for 30 years. For a home valued at \$200,000, that's an extra \$388 a year.

Turn to **BOND**, Page 6A

About the bond

ON THE BALLOT: May 15 election
AMOUNT: \$138.7 million
PURPOSE: Grants Pass School District 7 wants to replace two overcrowded middle schools: North, built in 1966, and South, built in 1958.
LENGTH AND RATE: 30 years, \$1.94 per \$1,000 of assessed property value

White blanket of snow closes schools, offers hope to restless skiers



Photos by SCOTT STODDARD/Daily Courier

Tree branches collect falling snow as Dan Adkins of ALSCO Linen and Uniform Rental makes a delivery to Ma Mosa's on Northwest E Street between Fifth and Sixth in downtown Grants Pass.

Tow companies busy responding to numerous crashes along Interstate 5

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

Residents woke up to a white blanket of snow throughout Southern Oregon this morning, which forced school closures, and made Mt. Ashland Ski Area a happy place.

"Winter has finally returned!" boomed the Mt. Ashland website this morning.

As of mid-morning a decision hadn't been made, but officials at the ski area were hoping to reopen on Friday. The lifts have been still for more than two weeks because of lack of snow.

In Grants Pass, a couple of inches lay on the ground, and the school dis-



Traffic moves on Sixth Street through downtown in the direction of Caveman Bridge after snow fell across Grants Pass overnight.

trict elected to close all schools after considering a late start. All other schools in the area were closed this morning. Rogue Community College was on a two-hour delay.

Lonnie Leonard, Caveman Towing owner, said his business responded to three semi-truck crashes on Interstate 5 on Sexton Summit, and six other crashes were waiting for tows between the Manzanita rest area at milepost 63 and Glendale at milepost 80.

The southbound lanes were blocked, with Oregon Department of Transportation reporting two-hour delays, at 9 a.m.

A long line of trucks could be seen backed up into one lane looking north from Hugo at 8:45 a.m. from the ODOT webcam. The southbound lanes were completely empty from Hugo to Sexton.

Turn to **SNOW**, Page 5A

Trump endorses raising minimum age for more weapons

NRA, meanwhile, urging enhanced — and armed — security at schools

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump today endorsed a higher minimum age for buying certain rifles and tighter background checks for purchasers, saying "there's nothing more important than protecting our children," amid a public outcry for action after the Florida school shooting.

Trump said he spoke Wednesday

night with many members of Congress and "they're into background checks." The president commented as he opened a school safety discussion at the White House with state and local officials from around the country.

Early today, Trump tweeted his strongest stance on gun control one day after an emotional White House session where students and parents poured out wrenching tales of lost lives and pleaded for action.

Trump said on Twitter, "I will be strongly pushing Comprehensive Background Checks with an emphasis on Mental Health. Raise age to 21 and end sale of Bump Stocks!" The president did not immediately offer more details.

Trump's focus on gun violence came as leaders of the National Rifle Association offered a vigorous defense of gun rights during the Conservative Political Action Conference, urging enhanced — and armed — security at schools. An

armed Broward County sheriff's deputy, the regular school resource officer, was on the campus of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, at the time of the shooting.

"Evil walks among us and God help us if we don't harden our schools and protect our kids," said NRA Executive Vice President and CEO Wayne LaPierre. "The whole idea from some of our opponents that armed security makes us less safe is completely ridiculous."

Turn to **TRUMP**, Page 6A

Full sail ahead for Riverside pavilion

Despite a few objections, city OKs controversial design

By Troy Shinn
of the Daily Courier

You can't please everybody, said the Grants Pass City Council before approving the controversial design for a pavilion at Riverside Park.

The project was at first the brainchild of the Active Club, which was pursuing a viewing platform for jetboat races during Boatnik, the annual Memorial Day weekend festival that is one of the biggest community celebrations in the Northwest.

A state lottery grant for \$500,000 was secured by Grants Pass state Sen. Herman Baertschiger Jr. in 2015. The Active Club, which organizes Boatnik, envisioned a gazebo-like structure that matched the aesthetics of Taprock Northwest Grill across the river.

Then, the community at large took an interest in the project.

Other groups, like the Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce, which runs the Concerts in the Park Series, suggested a pavilion to accommodate all kinds of events, not just Boatnik.

That's when the city reimagined the project as a two-tiered platform with removable canvas roofing, basically large shade sails that can protect from the sun and other elements year-round or be taken down in winter months.

Nearby neighbors disliked the idea, saying that the platform would be an ugly concrete slab that wouldn't blend in with the surrounding park.

At an Urban Area Planning Commission meeting in October, when the design was first approved, the board approved the design with the condition that efforts be taken to soften the visual appeal of the pavilion.

Then, the city got a local company called Natural Creations, which also did work on the water fountain in front of the Taprock, to take the existing pavilion design and make it look more natural.

The structural elements remain unchanged, but Natural Creations softened the design to look more woody, with faux lumber poles, green- and brown-colored concrete and bushes planted around the platform.

Turn to **PAVILION**, Page 5A

Coming Friday: Business Pulse

A double-section, 16-page special report on industry and commerce across our region.



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Oregon Military Department

Grants Pass attorney Greg Day was formally promoted to brigadier general in the Oregon Army National Guard, during a ceremony Sunday in Salem.

Local attorney Day named brigadier general

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

Grants Pass attorney Gregory Day was busy over the last two summers as a colonel in the Oregon Army National Guard, overseeing responses to the solar eclipse in 2017 and wildfires as the director of operations of Joint Domestic Operations Command.

Now he's been promoted one rung higher, to brigadier general.

Day, 54, earned the rank at a ceremony on Sunday in Salem.

He has a long resume in the military, including deploying to the Sinai Peninsula in 2001 with the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment based in Southern Oregon.

He later commanded the battalion in Iraq in 2009-2010, and was also operations officer in Afghanistan.

He also served as assistant chief of staff for Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon Army National Guard, and was brigade commander of the 82nd Brigade from June 2014 to June 2017.

He said he couldn't fulfill his military obligations without support from his partners in the law firm of Davis, Freudenberg, Day & Galli, and "the courts have been really cooperative with my military schedule."

"My motivation has always been service oriented," Day said. "That's one reason I became a lawyer, and definitely the reason I became a soldier."

As a brigadier general, Day will be responsible for planning

the response to any major disaster, such as the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake expected in the Northwest, possibly not in the distant future.

Day said planning the government response is one thing, but people need to do some planning of their own.

He urged people to take a look at resources available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

Day began his military career in 1987 with active duty in the U.S. Army at Fort Hood, Texas, then as a tank and scout platoon leader at Fort Lewis, Washington.

He joined the Oregon Army National Guard in 1992 and has served as company executive officer, company commander, intelligence officer, battalion operations officer and battalion executive officer.

He earned his undergraduate college degree at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, and earned his law degree at University of Oregon.

He also graduated from the U.S. Army War College in 2012 with a master's in strategic studies.

Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, adjutant general of the Oregon Army National Guard, praised Day's service and leadership abilities.

Said Stencel, "He is an accomplished officer and a leader with demonstrated outstanding service at every level of command and staff from company through brigade with overwhelming success."

Riverside Park Pavilion officially unveiled at ribbon-cutting event

By Troy Shinn
of the Daily Courier

Riverside Park's newest feature was officially unveiled on Monday.

The Riverside Park Pavilion, originally conceived as a viewing platform for boat races during Boatnik, has been in the works for more than three years, when state Sen. Herman Baertschiger Jr. secured \$500,000 grant in state lottery money.

During a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Grants Pass Mayor Darin Fowler praised the pavilion and a new spray park located nearby as evidence of City Hall's commitment to Riverside Park.

"The day before the election, we're going to talk about something different, something fun," said Fowler, who is in a runoff race for county commissioner. "We love our downtown park."

Baertschiger, a former member of the Grants Pass Active Club, which organizes the Boatnik festival every year, secured \$500,000 in state lottery grant money in 2015 for the platform.

But it didn't take long for other groups to want in, saying that the structure should be an all-purpose venue for other events and clubs, too.

It was reimagined so that it could be used as a temporary bandstand until a better venue for the Concerts in the Park series can be constructed, near where the old Izaak Walton building used to stand until it was torn down in 1999.

But neighbors across the river weren't pleased with the



TROY SHINN/Daily Courier

Members of the Grants Pass Cavemen from the Active Club assisted with the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Riverside Park Pavilion, which was formally unveiled on Monday. The pavilion was imagined as a grandstand for watching the jetboat races during Boatnik, but officials hope that it will be used by other clubs and for other activities, too. On hand were state Sen. Herman Baertschiger Jr. (shaking hands with a caveman) and, on the right, Grants Pass Mayor Darin Fowler.

design, and during a number of public forums, yet another design was unveiled.

The City Council approved the pavilion in its current form in February. Construction began in the summer, around the same time as work was finishing up on the nearby spray park — another new addition to the park.

The pavilion, and the spray features, are just two pieces of

larger efforts to renovate the city's premier downtown park. Plans to build a community center, with a concert venue and space that can be rented out for events, are also in the works.

In total, the pavilion cost approximately \$440,000. Any left over money will be carried over into these other projects for the park, Parks and Community Development Director Lora Glover said.

Members of the Grants Pass Cavemen Club, members of the Active Club and Baertschiger were also there.

"We wanted a permanent facility that would facilitate Boatnik better," Baertschiger said. "But I'm hoping that this facility is not just for Boatnik."

Reach reporter Troy Shinn
at 541-474-3806 or
tshinn@thedailycourier.com

Obituaries

Gail Marie Firestone

Gail Marie Thompson Tucker Firestone recently passed away in Grants Pass, Oregon, on October 22, 2018.

She was born October 2, 1942, in South Gate, California, to Charles Horten Thompson and Alice Elizabeth (Zerkle) Thompson. She was preceded in death by her mother and father, and son, Michael James Tucker.

Gail was a daughter, sister, wife and mother. She leaves her husband, Stan; daughter, Cristen; grandchildren, Jennifer (husband, Joe), Katherine, Robert and Skye; and sister, Jean.

She studied Commercial and Advertising Art at Woodbury Art Institute in Los Angeles, California, and MLS at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass.

She had worked for Litton Guidance and Control in Grants Pass for over 15 years in material control and over 15 years for Asante Three Rivers Hospital as a medical language specialist.

Gail was a homemaker and an artist dabbling in charcoal, pencil, ink, paint and various forms of sculpting. She will be missed by all that knew her.

Gail's favorite saying was, "Thank you Father, for all the people who made my life so happy."

The family recommends donations to the American Cancer Society or a charity of your choice.

There will be no services. Funeral arrangements have been made through Stephens Family Chapel of Grants Pass, Oregon.

Willis J. 'Bill' Fowler Jr.

Willis Jennings "Bill" Fowler Jr., age 84, was born in Savannah, Georgia, on March 19, 1934, to Willis Jennings Fowler Sr. and Marie Virginia Stratton. Bill graduated from Tamalpais High School in 1952.



He then joined the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. Bill then served nine years in the Coast Guard for Air Sea Rescue dur-

ing the Korean crisis. While he was in the Coast Guard, he was awarded the National Defense Service medal, Korean Service medal and United Nations Service medal.

After being discharged, Bill got his B.A. at the University of California, Berkeley. He married Barbara Kratochvil and they opened an insurance agency. From 1989-1990, he was president of REALU (Redwood Empire Association of Life Underwriters). He was a member of the National Key Club, as well as the political action committee (PAC) and a Registered Health Underwriter (RHU).

Bill and Barbara moved to Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, for five years, then moved back to Grants Pass, where he designed and built their home.

Bill passed away at Royale Gardens Health & Rehabilitation Center on Monday, October 15, 2018, after losing his battle to Binswanger's Disease (BD) Dementia while under hospice care.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Fowler.

Memorial donations may be made to Asante Hospice, 2600 Siskiyou Blvd., Ste. 100, Medford, OR 97504.

John Henry Moe

John Henry Moe, 92, of Grants Pass died Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018, at Asante Three Rivers Medical Center. Military funeral honors will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, at Eagle Point National Cemetery.

Valora Darlene Stanfield

Valora Darlene Stanfield, 81, of Grants Pass died Oct. 23, 2018. A celebration of life will be held from noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, at the Moose Lodge in Merlin. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

Raymond Robert Novero

Raymond Robert Novero, 84, of Cave Junction died Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018, at home. Arrangements are pending with Illinois Valley Funeral Directors.

To place an obituary,
call Tamara Stuebing at
541-474-3714 or email
obits@thedailycourier.com

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