

Briefly

Physical therapist to speak at Garden Club

Physical therapist Doranne Long, author of "Your Body Book," is the guest speaker at Wednesday's meeting of the Grants Pass Garden Club. She will talk about how to deal with the aches and pains of gardening.

The meeting is at the Fruitdale Grange, 1440 Parkdale Drive in Grants Pass. It starts with a social at noon, followed by the program at 12:15 p.m.

For more, contact Carole Genovesi at 541-218-3453.

DivorceCare workshop is planned on Sept. 9

Looking for help and healing from the hurt of separation or divorce?

Parkway Christian Center is offering DivorceCare, a seminar followed by weekly support groups led by people with experience of the issues surrounding divorce. A free workshop introducing the program is being held Sept. 9, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the church, 229 N.E. Beacon Drive in Grants Pass.

The workshop is free; a workbook, which is optional but recommended, is available for \$15.

Weekly support group sessions will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 13.

For more information about the program or to register, call the church at 541-479-2639.

City Council to meet in a workshop on Tuesday

The Grants Pass City Council will meet in a workshop on Tuesday to discuss Fifth Street lighting options, tourism and Chamber of Commerce quarterly updates.

Following the workshop will a groundbreaking ceremony at the Water Restoration plant at 1200 S.W. Greenwood Ave. to kick off the Phase 2 upgrades that were recently approved by the city.

The workshop gets underway at 11:45 a.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall,

101 N.W. A St.

Sports Complex Taskforce to meet

The Sports Complex Taskforce will meet on Tuesday to discuss developments with the new artificial turf soccer field at Reinhart Volunteer Park as well as future funding.

The meeting kicks off at 5 p.m. in the Courtyard Conference Room at City Hall, 101 N.W. A St.

Hydroplane boat races set for Labor Day

Hydroplane boat races on Monday on the Rogue River will close the water between Baker Park and Griffin Park, roughly between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Check signs at area boat ramps for more information. All boaters are strongly advised to avoid this section of the river.

Drowning victim's body found in Rogue River

GALICE — The body of a woman who drowned after going under at Indian Mary Park last weekend was found on the Rogue River Friday morning downstream of Morrison's Lodge.

Passersby who were floating the river noticed the body, two miles downstream of where she went in, and about a mile upstream of Ennis Riffle, said Marine Deputy Ernie Fields of the Josephine County Sheriff's Office. The office got the information at 10 a.m.

Fields and other personnel responded to the scene in a jet-boat, and confirmed it was Hannah McGuire, 28, of Philomath.

The body was released to Hull & Hull Funeral Directors, and next of kin were notified.

McGuire attempted to swim across the river toward a rope swing on the north side of the river, and went under. Attempts to save her by bystanders failed, and she was presumed drowned. Three days of searching, including with divers, turned up nothing.

Group hires consultant to evaluate public safety system

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

A local group has signed a contract with a Portland research firm to study Josephine County's public safety system.

A kickoff event to herald the effort is set for 11 a.m. Wednesday outside the county's Juvenile Justice Center, Fourth and F streets. The exact location of the gathering might have to be near the JJC's front lawn or across Fourth Street in the city's "Growers' Market" parking lot, since business is being conducted at the center at that time.

County Sheriff Dave Daniel, Grants Pass Public Safety Director Bill Landis and Juvenile Justice Director Jim Goodwin are expected to speak, as is Nate Gaoiran, director of the county's parole and probation department.

After years of defeat at the polls, the county in May won voter approval for a five-year property tax levy to fund county jail and juvenile detention programs. But, there's more work to do, according to members of Securing Our Safety,

the nonprofit group that has commissioned the \$60,000 study by NPC Research.

"Now is the time to work together to establish longer-term planning for when the levy funds end," the organization said in a news release.

A goal of the effort is to gather reliable information.

"Let's develop objective criteria," said SOS board member Keith Heck, a former county Board of Commissioners member. "Where do we stand?"

"It's an opportunity for us as a community," Heck continued. "Let's get this done."

The study will be paid for by community donations yet to be raised, he said.

SOS is about six years old and has supported past levy efforts, along with creation of a sobering center and an opiate treatment program in Grants Pass. Chairman of the SOS board is Jay Meredith, the city's finance director.

For more information, contact Cheri Adkins, at 541-441-0740.

Reach reporter Shaun Hall at 541-474-3722 or shall@thedaily-courier.com.

Second phase of Sand Creek repairs begins

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

The second phase of a project begins next week to permanently fix damage along Sand Creek and the Highline Canal of the Grants Pass Irrigation District west of Grants Pass.

Well over 1,000 patrons of the district will lose irrigation a month early. They are the same people who started a month late because of the first phase.

The Highline Canal west of Allen Creek will be shut off on Friday, said GPID Manager Don Miller.

No other patrons of the district will be affected, and irrigation normally lasts through September.

A devastating rainstorm in December started the damage, followed by massive snow and rain in January, the heaviest in over 30 years.

The section along Sand Creek eroded into a canyon 25 feet deep in places after an old concrete GPID spill structure gave way during a storm that brought more than 3 inches of rain.

Dozens of large trees toppled, and several property owners suffered loss of land.

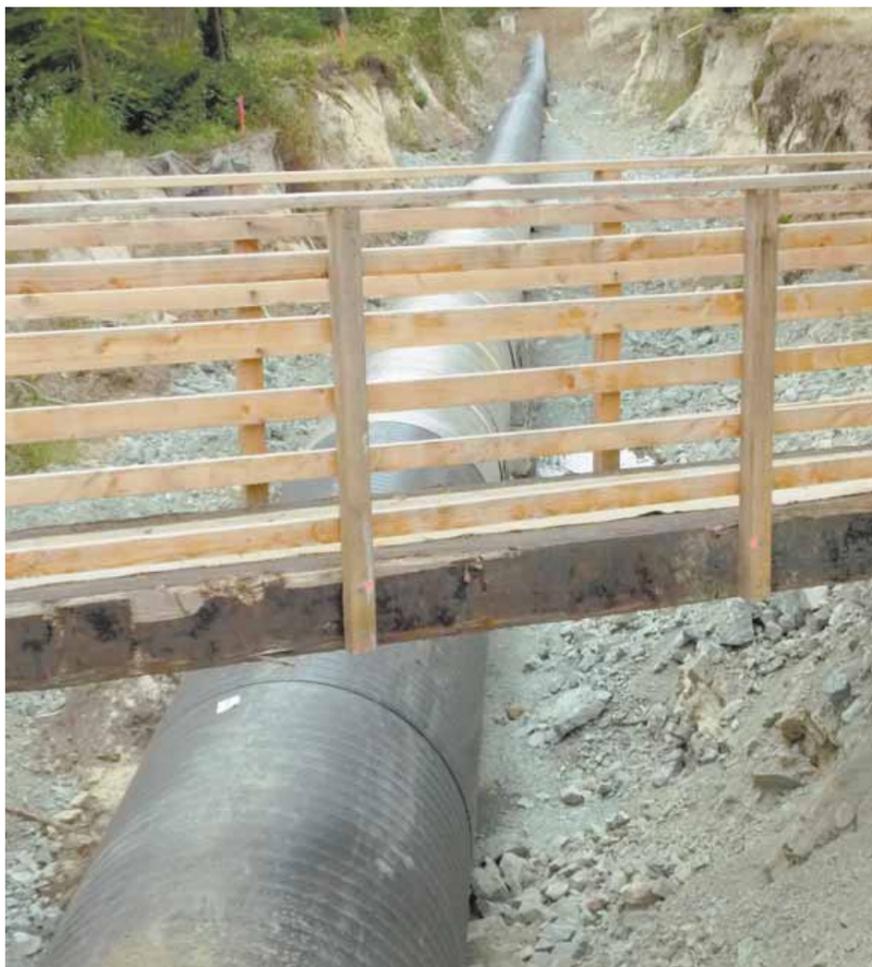
An 875-foot-long pipe, 60 inches in diameter, now carries Highline Canal water through the canyon. The creek and canal have combined in that segment since GPID formed nearly a century ago.

In the second phase, the pipe will be taken apart, then rebuilt and buried under the current level, said Justin Gerlitz of Gerlitz Engineering. Diversion boxes for property owners will also be built.

When that's done, Sand Creek will be restored, with earth fill, then boulders and logs, Gerlitz said.

Siskiyou Cascade Construction is the contractor, and this phase is expected to cost \$1.23 million.

The National Resources Conservation Service is paying for the pipe-burying phase, some \$659,700, but the work must be done by Nov. 1, Gerlitz said. The remaining \$568,000 is expected to be covered 75 per-



JEFF DUEWEL/Daily Courier

This long section of irrigation pipe, a temporary solution to heavy erosion on the South Highline Canal and Sand Creek last winter, will be buried and Sand Creek restored in the permanent phase of the project which begins next week.

cent by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is paying 75 percent of the first phase also, with a price tag over \$600,000.

Miller said because of financial uncertainty related to Hurricane Harvey afflicting Texas that the FEMA money for the second phase may be delayed, and GPID needs to secure a loan.

Assistant GPID Manager Debbie Tarr added that a loan from Business Oregon — the state's economic development agency — is in the works. Business Oregon also has helped GPID cover the 25 percent of the first phase not covered by FEMA, according to Tarr.

The heavy winter made for a difficult spring and summer of

slides and broken pipes, Miller said. Also, a lightning storm in late June knocked the Jerome Prairie pump station out of commission, extending the dry period for another 500 patrons in the Jerome Prairie area.

Reach reporter Jeff Duewel at 541-474-3720 or jduewel@thedailycourier.com

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Workers continue project to bury irrigation pipeline

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

JEROME PRAIRIE — A massive excavator scooped earth and dumped load after load into a 30-yard dump truck at the bottom of a significant canyon.

That's the quarter-mile section of Sand Creek and the High-line Canal of the Grants Pass Irrigation District, which was massively eroded over the winter west of Grants Pass.

On Wednesday, Siskiyou Cascade Construction was busy doing the second phase of a project to restore the creek bed and bury an 875-foot pipe to carry irrigation water.

GPID Manager Don Miller said the work needs to be done by Nov. 1, for weather and permitting reasons.

"We'll get it done as fast as we can get it done," Miller said.

The work began recently, ending the irrigation season almost a month early for 1,500 or more GPID patrons. Their season also started a month late to accommodate the first phase of the project.

That involved laying the same 875-foot pipe on top of the ground and connecting it to the canal at both ends.

The work was necessary



JEFF DUEWEL/Daily Courier

The second phase of a Grants Pass Irrigation District project to restore the creek bed along Sand Creek and bury pipeline to carry irrigation water is underway.

because the section along Sand Creek eroded into a canyon 25 feet deep in places after an old

concrete spill structure gave way during a storm in December that brought more than 3

inches of rain.

For Phase 2, the pipe had to be disconnected and pulled out

Last day of irrigation soon

The final day of irrigation for the Grants Pass Irrigation District is set for Sept. 29, said GPID Manager Don Miller.

On that day the pumps at the former Savage Rapids Dam site will be turned off and the canals will stop flowing.

The patrons of the district are advised to get as much watering done as possible before they pull their own pumps out of their canals — sunny, warm weather is forecast for next week.

Irrigation season typically ends around Oct. 1.

It will be buried five feet or so below the current streambed, which will be then built up with 6,000 to 7,000 cubic yards of material supplied by Robco of Grants Pass.

Boulders and logs will go in on top of that, said Justin Gerlitz of Gerlitz Engineering. Sand Creek has had salmon and steelhead juveniles netted in recent years in its lower sections, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife requires the creek and irrigation water be separate.

When all the material is in place, multiple metal baskets filled with rocks will be added to stabilize slopes, Gerlitz said.

When everything is done, the GPID water will flow independently of Sand Creek. For over 70 years they shared that quarter-mile segment in irrigation season, before the big blowout in

December.

Siskiyou Cascade Construction is the contractor, and this phase is expected to cost \$1.23 million.

The National Resources Conservation Service is paying for the pipe-burying phase, some \$659,700.

The remaining \$568,000 is expected to be covered 75 percent by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is paying 75 percent of the first phase also, with a price tag over \$600,000.

Miller said because of financial uncertainty related to recent hurricanes, the FEMA money for the second phase may be delayed, and GPID needs to secure a loan.

Reach reporter Jeff Duewel at 541-474-3720 or jduewel@thedailycourier.com

Obituaries

Terrell Wilton Page Jr.

December 15, 1950 - September 13, 2017

Terrell Wilton "Terry" Page Jr. was born December 15, 1950, in Kingville, Texas, to parents Terrell and Helen Page. When Terry was young, the family moved to New Iberia, Louisiana. He attended the University of Southwest Louisiana, receiving his master's degree in business.



He came to the Rogue Valley in 1979, and in 1980 he got his Oregon CPA. He then worked for the Serrage and Serrage CPA firm in Grants Pass, Oregon. In 2007, he elected to start his own accounting business in Medford, Oregon.

He is survived by two aunts and numerous cousins. No service is planned and donations may be made to Providence Hospice.

Susan Coyl

Susan Coyl was born March 3, 1949, in San Francisco, California, and died in Grants Pass, Oregon, on Sunday, September 17, 2017. No memorial is planned, but donations in her name to the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (theaftd.org) are appreciated.

A third-generation San Franciscan, Susan moved to Oregon in 1974, where she walked into her best friend's kitchen in Wolf Creek, Oregon, and met her husband. Married for 42 years, Mark keeps her memory, as do their daughter Shaula, son-in-law Brandon, and grandson Lucan. Her extended family is too large to list here.

In her 68 years, Susan ranged from San Francisco to Bali to Oregon and worked as a candle maker, postal employee, and manager of bingo games. She was co-founder of Oregon Wild Hair Moustache Wax. Susan loved all things furry, the San Francisco 49ers and Giants, and the tropics.

Susan was vibrant yet peaceful; intelligent and funny; very direct, but with a welcoming heart that drew people to her. Her generous, adventurous spirit and unmistakable laugh will be remembered with love by her family and friends.

Robert Edwin Smith

Robert Edwin Smith, 95, of Galice died Saturday, Aug. 16, 2017. A celebration of life and potluck will be on Sept. 30 at 1 p.m. at Galice Community Hall. Hull & Hull Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

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

Woman dies in motorcycle crash

MERLIN — A passenger on a motorcycle was killed in a collision with a pickup truck Wednesday on Hog Creek Road near Galice Road.

Debra J. Welsh, 49, of Merlin was dead at the scene of the crash, which occurred a little after 3:30 p.m., according to the Josephine County Sheriff's Office.

The male driver of the motorcycle was transported with injuries to Asante Three Rivers Medical Center in Grants Pass. The unnamed driver of the pickup truck escaped injury.

The crash investigation is being handled by Oregon State Police, which was unable to provide further details by press time this morning.



LISA WHITING/Daily Courier

Volunteers are still needed for a fall clean up event on Saturday at Rock Point Cemetery in Gold Hill. The day will consist of weeding, raking and trimming.

Volunteers sought to help clean up cemetery

By Lisa Whiting
of the Daily Courier

GOLD HILL — Volunteers are still being sought to help clean up Rock Point Cemetery this Saturday.

"This cemetery is full of the area's first settlers, as well as veterans dating back to the Civil War. It's an important part of our history," said Kerry Meads, board secretary of the nonprofit that manages Rock Point.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the pioneer cemetery is in need of raking, weeding, line trimming, removal of woody debris and general landscape clean-up.

Volunteers will need to bring work gloves, weed trimmers and other weeding tools, rakes and mowers. Trash bags and fuel for equipment will be provided.

Rock Point Cemetery is typically

cleaned once a year, before Memorial Day.

This is the first time a fall clean-up event has been organized, and the first time the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries has partnered with volunteer recruitment organization SOLVE.

SOLVE is best known for its statewide beach and riverside clean up events, also planned for Saturday. Cemeteries all over the state are being cleaned up in advance of Veterans Day and the onset of winter.

Mr. J.B. White deeded the land for the cemetery to Jackson County in 1864. The first board of trustees were J.L. White, Benjamin Haymond and Fred Birdseye.

After the three died, the cemetery fell into a state of disrepair until the county interceded and elected a new set of trustees in 1955.

At one time in its history, a fire swept

through the property, burning all wood crosses and leaving many unmarked graves.

There have been reported ghost sightings at the cemetery, including stage coach driver William Marion Morris. Morris was the great-grandfather of Mead's husband Shane.

Some locals attribute the ghost stories to the cemetery's proximity to the Oregon Vortex.

Volunteers can register on-site Saturday morning or online at solveoregon.org.

"We're thrilled to have this extra support and would be pleased with any help we can get," said Meads.

Rock Point Cemetery is located at 10 Rogue River Highway, just east of Del Rio Vineyards and a stone's throw from Interstate 5, exit 43.

Governor vows to defend Latinos in Oregon

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and Hispanic members of the Legislature vowed Wednesday to defend Latinos in the state, including those who entered the country illegally.

In a ceremony marking Hispanic Heritage Month in Oregon, Brown denounced U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' comments he made to law enforcement officials in Oregon. Sessions urged locales whose police don't cooperate with federal immigration agents to reconsider their policies, and said federal grant money cannot be given to sanctuary cities.

"The comments that Attorney General Jeff Sessions made (Tuesday) while in Portland do nothing to make America great," Brown said. "Instead, they incite fear and chaos, and undermine Oregon's workforce and our economy."

Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon, the first immigrant to be elected to the Oregon Legislature, said the state's Latino population has increased 72 percent since 2000 and the number of businesses owned by Latinos rose by 44 percent between 2007 and 2012, with Latinos in Oregon owning over 6,000 businesses.

"We are growing. We are powerful, and we are here to stay,"

"We are growing. We are powerful, and we are here to stay."

— TERESA ALONSO LEON
State Representative

said Alonso Leon, adding: "It is important to build a better future for those who come after us."

Alonso Leon, a Democrat who is from the predominantly Latino town of Woodburn, was brought to the U.S. illegally from Mexico as a child. Her family gained permanent residence status under a Reagan-era amnesty. She became a U.S. citizen in 2012.

Rep. Diego Hernandez, a Democrat representing Portland, told those gathered in Brown's ceremonial office, including the consuls from Mexico and Guatemala, that there is "a lot of hate and xenophobia in our communities, especially here in Oregon."

Hernandez said he has gone through a rough period. Hernandez was recently cleared of a rumor that he maintained a list of female lobbyists, ranking them by "attractiveness and certain physical attributes," Willamette Weekly, a Portland newspaper, reported Tuesday. Hernandez

has said the rumor was due to racism, prompted by his Latino heritage and because he advocates for immigrant rights.

He had requested the inquiry to verify the allegations and identify the source of the rumor. The office of the legislative counsel said in a letter that the investigation had shown the rumor was false, but that investigators were unable to identify the source.

Meanwhile, a group called Oregonians for Immigration Reform is seeking signatures of registered Oregon voters to place a measure onto the November 2018 statewide ballot that would seek to repeal a 30-year-old statute that made Oregon America's first sanctuary state. The law prohibits law enforcement from detaining people who are in the U.S. illegally but have not broken other laws.

Oregonians for Immigration Reform said it needs 88,184 signatures. "Illegal aliens can and do harm the American citizens to whom Oregon owes its foremost responsibility," the group's website said. "For this reason, enforcement of U.S. immigration law is central to the duties of Oregon's police departments and sheriff's offices."

However the ACLU of Oregon says the law means immigrants can go to police, without fearing

deportation, when they are a victim of a crime or witness one.

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SPORTS, 1B



VA CENTER APPROVAL

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LOCAL, 5A



Daily Courier

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WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 24, 2018

Oregon voters back health care taxes

Measure 101's assessments on health insurers and hospitals will help fund state Medicaid shortfall

ELECTION RESULTS: MEASURE 101

From staff and wire reports

Oregonians on Tuesday voted to shore up expanded funding for Medicaid that now covers hundreds of thousands of low-income residents, including more than a third of Josephine County's population.

Measure 101 was passing handily as of 8 a.m. today, 61.7 percent in favor vs. 38.3 percent

against. The measure affirms the Legislature's plan to tax hospitals, health insurers and managed care companies to pay for expanded coverage under President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act.

Oregon now has one of the lowest rates of uninsured residents in the nation at 5 percent. About 1 million Oregonians — 25 percent — now receive health care coverage from Medicaid.

Voters in Josephine County opposed Measure 101 by a margin of 52 percent to 48 percent.

The measure's proponents said roughly 1 in 8 local residents were in jeopardy of losing their health care coverage if Measure 101 failed. No other county in Oregon has a higher percentage of its population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan, the state's version of Medicaid.

The mood this morning was one

of relief at PrimaryHealth, a coordinated care organization in Grants Pass that provides health plans for nearly 10,000 Medicaid patients in the county and nearby areas.

"We're thrilled with the outcome," said Jennifer Johnstun, health strategy officer for the organization. "We're very happy with the support organizations have shown for access for health care."

Turn to MEASURE, Page 9A

STATEWIDE

YES
61.7%
NO
38.3%
as of 8 a.m. today

COUNTIES



County	YES	NO
JOSEPHINE	48%	52%
JACKSON	58%	42%
DOUGLAS	41%	59%

Source: Oregon Secretary of State Elections Division

ORDER RESTORED

One year later, a project to fix and rehabilitate section of Sand Creek along GPID canal devastated by flooding is nearly complete

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

JEROMIE PRAIRIE — Last winter an 800-foot section of Sand Creek west of Grants Pass turned into a gash in the earth when a 70-year-old concrete irrigation structure collapsed in a large rainstorm.

That triggered massive erosion — trees toppled, chunks of property spilled into the canyon, and an elderly woman was temporarily cut off from her property on Sand Creek Road.

A year and \$2.2 million later, order mostly has been restored.

Now the Grants Pass Irrigation District's Highline Canal runs through a pipe for nearly 900 feet, allowing Sand Creek to run directly above it through a bed of boulders.

The canal and the creek shared the same path for over 70 years until the concrete spill structure crumbled, creating a new gradient the stream cut through like a knife through butter.

And now, in theory, steelhead can move upstream through the revamped section. Fish biologists have documented them in the lower reaches of Sand Creek in recent years.

"It certainly provides a lot better passage than that old Highline structure that blocked fish," said David Haight, a fisheries biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife who consulted on the project. "Overall, I think it looks good. It definitely opened up some new habitat."

The price tag isn't so pretty, but GPID did not increase the rates this year, despite an estimated out-of-pocket cost to the district of over \$200,000, according to Debbie Tarr, assistant district manager.

"We're not punishing the patrons," said GPID Manager Don Miller. "They just got a raise in their bills (last year). We're trying to make it as feasible as possible for people in the district."

Annual bills recently mailed are \$205 per year for an acre or less of land. Rates have steadily risen over the years, including an 8 percent increase in 2017. In 1997 the base rate was \$82.

The district once got its water from the Rogue River diverted at Savage Rapids Dam but now pumps from the site of the former dam, which was taken out in 2009 to improve fish passage. Electricity to power the pumps costs well over \$300,000 a year.

Turn to ORDER, Page 9A



Photos by JEFF DUEWEL/Daily Courier

A section of Sand Creek and the South Highline Canal of the Grants Pass Irrigation District was devastated by flooding in the winter of 2016-2017, as seen in the above photo from March 2017. An 875-foot section of pipe is now underneath Sand Creek so that the canal and creek are separate. The \$2.2 million project to fix and rehabilitate the area, seen below this week, is nearly complete.



RCC's plan to move nursing program draws mixed reviews

Vote on possible move to White City will be made at end of next month

By Madeline Shannon
of the Daily Courier

WHITE CITY — The Rogue Community College board on Tuesday heard mixed feelings from staff about moving the school's nursing program from Grants Pass to the Table Rock Campus.

The nursing program is considered by many to be the flagship of the school's Redwood Campus in Grants Pass. The Table Rock Campus in White City is closer to RCC's shifting population base in Jackson County.

"In nursing, our motto is you have to be flexible to be a nurse, and we have made do and we were happy with our situation at the Redwood Campus," said nursing program chair Linda Wagner. "Our basic needs are being met."

However, Wagner can also see the cons.

"A negative side would be a move from the campus where it has always been housed," Wagner said, adding, "There will be some disruption no matter what happens."

Turn to RCC, Page 9A

Tsunami alert for Oregon Coast was wake-up call

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

SALEM — When a tsunami watch went out overnight Tuesday via text messages, phone calls and on the radio to residents of the Oregon Coast, most were asleep and oblivious of the potential danger.

That worries emergency managers, who said the 7.9 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Alaska that triggered the alert is a wake-up call. Any tsunami generated by the temblor that struck at 12:32 a.m. would have hit the Oregon Coast hours later, authorities said. No tidal wave materialized because the quake moved more horizontally instead of up and down, pushing up less water.

Turn to ALERT, Page 6A

City Council to discuss River Road Reserve — publicly

Lovelace: Any vote to sell the land will take place in open session; next workshop scheduled for March 12

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

The next time the Grants Pass City Council discusses the future of the River Road Reserve, it's expected to be in open session.

Council President Valerie Lovelace said Tuesday there's no plans until a March 12 council workshop to further discuss the property, which has been the subject of several closed-door council sessions.

The city has been approached by an unnamed potential buyer for some of the 248-acre reserve,

located on farmland about three miles west of downtown. The city bought the land in 2006 for \$2.75 million and has been sitting on it ever since.

"We have no plans (to discuss the subject) at this time," Lovelace said. "The next plan is the March 12 open session. Our legal counsel will give a presentation."

Lovelace said any vote to sell the land would take place in open session.

"It was never our intention to make any decision behind the scenes," she said.

Turn to RESERVE, Page 9A



An irrigation pipe supported by wheels that allow the pipe to be rolled into place rests along the southern border of the 248-acre River Road Reserve, land owned by the City of Grants Pass. The view is east. At left is the reserve, now leased for farming, with Lower River Road and the Rogue River to the right.

SHAUN HALL/Daily Courier



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LOW
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