



County fair winners in cakes, pies and other foodstuffs

FOOD, 11A



Grants Pass

Daily Courier

\$1
TUESDAY
AUGUST 28, 2018

City urged to cut fees, impose tax to aid affordable housing

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

A long-awaited report from a City of Grants Pass advisory committee looking into the local housing crisis recommends fee breaks for builders who con-

struct affordable housing, and also suggests a 1 percent tax on other types of construction.

Revenue from the tax could be used to encourage housing for low-income persons, committee spokesman Doug Walker told the City Council on Monday

during a workshop.

The council took no firm action, but Mayor Darin Fowler asked that the proposal be evaluated by city staff members. Other cities, including Portland and Bend, have adopted such a tax.

Walker also suggested:

- That some fees, known as system development fees, be waived or deferred for builders who construct affordable housing.

Turn to HOUSING, Page 6A

16 sheriffs ask voters to repeal sanctuary law; Daniel chooses neutral stance

From staff and wire reports

Sixteen of Oregon's 36 county sheriffs are urging voters to support an initiative on the November ballot that would repeal the state's 1987 sanctuary law. Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel is not one of them.

The sanctuary law prohibits state and local law enforcement from using public resources to arrest people whose only violation of the law is being in the country illegally. In a letter released Monday, the sheriffs of counties in southern, central and eastern Oregon said the statute "undermines respect for law in significant ways."

"(The sanctuary law) tells illegal immigrants that Oregon considers immigration-law violations so inconsequential as to be unworthy of police and sheriffs' attention," the letter states. "In doing so, it legitimizes those violations and encourages more."

The letter was issued in support of Measure 105, which will appear on the November ballot and seeks to repeal the sanctuary law.

The majority of Oregon sheriffs did not sign the letter, including Daniel and Jackson County Sheriff Nate Sickler.

In an interview with the Daily Courier, Daniel said he decided to "stay neutral" on the subject after the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association considered but failed to take a stance on endorsing Measure 105.

"I wanted us to send a unified message, and it wasn't there," he said of the sheriffs' association. "It's going to the voters, and I want the voters, my constituency, to tell me what they want."

Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin, the chief author of the letter, told Oregon Public Broadcasting the sanctuary law hampers law enforcement in Oregon. The Trump administration argues sanctuary laws violate a federal law that requires information sharing between law enforcement agencies.

"If I get an MS-13 or somebody that's a bad guy, ISIS or whatever is here, then I'm screwed," Bergin said, echoing a common refrain from President Trump and other advocates of tougher immigration laws in the United States.

Bergin said he was more likely to come across a "bad guy" at the local level, and therefore needed more authority to address undocumented immigrants.

"We're not talking about migrant farm workers," he said. "Now, if they're an MS-13 guy that comes across, our hands are tied. We have a lot less authority to say you're under arrest for A, B, or C and we're going to hold you."

The letter endorsing repeal drew a swift response from the Oregon Justice Resource Center. Erin McKee, co-director of the civil rights group's Immigrant

Turn to SANCTUARY, Page 6A



Photos by JEFF DUEWEL/Daily Courier

The Tidal Barrel unloads on Jazlynn Lemaster, 9, in red, at the opening day of the Riverside Park Spray Park on Monday.

Wet and wonderful: New spray park is a huge hit

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

Rotary Club member Harry Mackin snipped the red ribbon, and he and Grants Pass Mayor Darin Fowler pushed down on the two control buttons at the Riverside

Park Spray Park Monday morning.

About 30 kids made their way onto the bright blue surface and started soaking up the fun, with close to 20 options for getting wet.

Most impressive was the Tidal Barrel, which dumped

a circular wall of water 16 feet wide every 90 seconds.

"It's worth it for all the smiles you see," said Thaleda Owens, who brought sons Elijah, 2, and Xavier, 5.

Elijah ran around screaming

Turn to SPRAY, Page 6A



Rotary Club member Harry Mackin snips the ribbon while Grant Pencille of the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors holds it, allowing a pack of children to get wet at the grand opening of the Riverside Park Spray Park on Monday.

District's new policy restricts cellphone use by GP students

By Zoe Morgan
of the Daily Courier

As students in Grants Pass return to school this fall, things will be just a little bit different from last school year — their cellphones will need to remain out of sight during class.

The middle schools and high school in Grants Pass are implementing new, more restrictive cellphone policies, which are aimed at increasing student engagement and minimizing distractions.

At Grants Pass High School, cellphones must be put away during the school day in all academic buildings, including in the hallway between classes. However, cellphones will be allowed outside of class time in specific areas of campus, like the cafeteria and outdoor spaces.

The policy will be stricter at the middle school level. No cellphones may be used at any time or place during the school day.

Grants Pass High School Principal Ryan Thompson said that the discussion of changing the policy came after a group of staff reviewed surveys taken by teachers and students over the past few years. They found that students reported having a lot of ways to be engaged in school, but that many students weren't taking advantage of these opportunities.

The group concluded that part of the problem was that students were becoming disengaged because they were spending too much time on cellphones.

The prior policy was more

Turn to PHONES, Page 6A

Klondike still a major challenge for firefighters

Bear Camp Road once again closed to public

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

With the Taylor Creek Fire all but over, the Klondike Fire continues to challenge firefighters in a remote corner of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

On Monday, the Klondike made another leap across the Illinois River, this time south of the mouth of Silver Creek.

The fire has jumped the river three times since it started on July 15, and on Monday it grew another 3,779 acres to the west into the Collier Creek area.

Klondike grew to 93,358 acres and is 37 percent contained, 2 percent less than it was on Sunday, because of fire growth and better fire information.

Winds from the east pushed smoke to Gold Beach, about 20 miles due west of the edge of the fire.

In another major develop-

KLONDIKE FIRE

93,358

ACRES

PERSONNEL CONTAINMENT

1,100 37%

TAYLOR CREEK FIRE

52,838

ACRES

PERSONNEL CONTAINMENT

390 95%

Source: Taylor Creek and Klondike fire information officers

ment, Bear Camp Road, the main route to the lower Rogue River from Galice, was closed to the public once again.

Turn to FIRE, Page 6A

WINNING CATCH



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Wes Fauver proudly hoists the 19-pound, 4-ounce chinook he landed to win the Middle Rogue Steelheaders' Restoring the Rogue Salmon Derby on Saturday. For more on the event, see Page 3A.



2 Sections, 24 Pages
Volume CVIII
No. 245 Issue 32505
Grants Pass Daily Courier
thedailycourier.com



Sun & smoke
OVERNIGHT LOW 57°
WEDNESDAY HIGH 88°
5-day forecast on Page 2A

WHERE TO FIND IT
Abby.....5B
Classified7B
Comics6B
Entertainment.....5B

Obituaries.....3A
Opinion4A
Police5A
Sports1B
Stock markets9A

Independent and locally owned since 1885
Circulation 541-474-3702
Classified Ads 541-474-3711
News Tips 541-474-3823
or email news@thedailycourier.com

Phones From 1A

lenient, allowing cellphones in class on a case-by-case basis if individual teachers allowed them. According to Thompson, this caused a slippery slope where students started being on their phones more and more.

“It just kind of eroded over time to where, well, it’s just kind of casually out, I’m not really on it, but then it buzzes and I might check it, or maybe it doesn’t buzz and I’m checking it,” Thompson said.

The school surveyed teachers and parents, who Thompson said overwhelmingly supported limiting cellphone use in the classroom.

Administrators also spent two days meeting with the 55 students in the high school’s

leadership class, gaining their perspective on a possible policy change.

For senior class president Shelby Bowen, the policy is going to be a bit of an adjustment for students, but one that she thinks will have positive results. In particular, she said that when students are on their phones, they have a harder time connecting with each other and meeting new people.

“I think it’ll force all of us to talk to each other, which is going to be a really good thing,” Bowen said. “I think that’s going to be the big plus out of all of this. We’ll be forced to talk to new people instead of just being on our phones.”

However, Bowen said that she wished administrators had kept students more in the loop after visiting the leadership class. She didn’t hear back

about the policy until it was mentioned in a leadership meeting a few weeks ago.

For student body secretary Randy Clark, the policy also appears to be a net positive. Like Bowen, he believes that it will help make school a more social and inviting place. However, he questions whether students will be willing to cooperate with the new rules, or whether they will rebel against them.

“I think the idea of the policy is a very good one, I’m just waiting to see how they treat it, punishment-wise,” Clark said. “Because it’ll be tough to punish a group of 50 kids that just decide they don’t want to follow the policy.”

To help students adjust to the new rules, Thompson said that over the first few weeks of school staff will be implement-

ing the policy slowly. Administrators will work on teaching students about the new measures before instituting any punishments.

Bowen believes that over time students are likely to adjust. She likened it to another change in technology — Apple discontinuing the headphone jack from the iPhone. At first people freaked out, she said, but over time they adjusted.

Once fully implemented, students who violate the policy will have to surrender their phone and pick it up at the end of the school day. They will also be given a warning and a parent will be called. For any subsequent infractions, a parent will have to come and pick the phone up from the school office themselves.

For South Middle School Principal Barret Sale, this isn’t

his first time teaching in a school without cellphones. Before coming to Grants Pass, Sale had worked in North Clackamas School District, which has a total ban of cellphones during the school day.

In recent years, schools nationally have struggled with an increase in discipline problems tied to phones, particularly cyberbullying. Often, Sale said that these problems are occurring during the school day.

Like the high school, the middle schools will also be staggering the implementation of the policy over the first few weeks of the year, trying to give students time to adjust. After that, students who violate the policy more than once may be subject to detention or potentially more serious discipline.

However, Sale said that each case will be dealt with individu-

ally and that the goal is to work collaboratively with parents, teachers and students when problems arise.

In his prior roles in Clackamas, Sale saw firsthand the positive impact that a cell free school had on students. Rather than staring down at their screens, he saw students engaging with each other more directly.

“Anybody who has been alive for the past 10 years would say, without a shadow of a doubt, that cellphones take that connectedness away,” Sale said. “It’s a totally cool and neat tool to use to stay connected with the people across the county and the world. But I think there’s been a devaluing of face-to-face communication.”

Reach reporter Zoe Morgan at 541-474-3813 or zmorgan@thedailycourier.com.

Housing From 1A

Walker didn’t provide cost estimates, but City Finance Director Jay Meredith said the loss of income from the fees could be offset by the gain from the new tax.

- That government organizations, including schools and the federal government, be charged system development fees when they build. Government currently is exempt from the fees, which pay for such things as parks and streets.

Walker didn’t provide any revenue estimates from the removal of the exemption.

The report follows months of study by the committee, which approved the recommendations earlier this month by a vote of 6-2, with two abstentions. The committee suggested that the changes be put in place for 10 years. The recommendations come amid a housing crunch statewide that is especially pernicious in Grants Pass and shows no signs of easing.

Locally, apartment rents have shot up 39 percent over the past six years, according to the state Department of Housing and Community Services, thanks largely to the simple forces of supply and demand.

A Daily Courier study last year found that from 2006 to 2016, only nine apartment complexes were built in Grants Pass. Added up, they totaled fewer than 100 units.

During that same period of time, builders took out permits for more than 1,100 houses.

And the single-family home construction boom continues. In 2017, 137 single-family homes were built, while so far this year 82 permits have been issued for single-family homes.

Multi-family construction, meanwhile, continues to lag. A handful of duplexes have been built, but no apartment complexes.

Escalating rent has an especially negative effect in rural communities like Grants Pass, where as many as 50 percent of households in Josephine County are considered “rent burdened,” meaning they spend more than 30 percent of their monthly income on housing and related expenses.

On Monday several city councilors voiced support for the suggestion that system-development charges be deferred, but the council mainly hedged on other suggestions.

“We’re in a crisis, but I don’t want to short ourselves,” said Fowler, who cautioned against “gutting” the city’s SDC funds, which pay for improvements to infrastructure.

The mayor also suggested that once city staff members have weighed in, the council kick it around at its annual goals retreat, which typically takes place in January.

Councilor Roy Lindsay, who is the council’s liaison to the committee, said the committee did excellent work.

“The discussions were not frivolous by a long shot,” he said. “It’s a balancing act. We have to do something.”

Councilor Dennis Roler warned the council about “cutting your throat in the long run,” for short-term gain.

Council President Valerie Lovelace urged action, but didn’t want to abandon system-development charges.

“I don’t want this to sit around,” she said, adding, “I hate to cancel SDCs. Infrastructure is so important.”

Walker said the community lacks about 2,000 housing units. He said assistance from former city senior planner Tom Schauer was key to the advisory committee’s work. Walker said the report was a long time coming in part to obtain good data and conduct outreach.

“We took our time trying to create data,” he said. “We did quite a bit of outreach.”

Fowler said the committee included some “pretty strong personalities” and that it did some thorough work.

“It affects our friends and families,” he said.

for today and in the 80s the rest of the week.

Jazlynn Lemaster, 9, may have been the most demonstrative of any of Monday’s participants, holding her arms out every time.

“It feels like you’re relaxing and doing yoga,” she said.

Lisa Tortola brought her 13-year-old son Chris Ruppel.

“I love it. He loves it. He loves the big barrel,” Tortola said. “There’s not that much to do in town. This is awesome.”

“This is something Grants Pass has needed for a long time and it’s beautiful,” said Sandie Frost, who brought granddaughter Zoe. “We’re just so excited it’s open.”

The \$454,000 project, in the works for two years, was partly paid for by the Rotary Club’s Duck Derby. All four Rotary Clubs in Josephine County are part of the program.

Justin Gerlitz Engineering



JEFF DUEWEL/Daily Courier

Two-year-old Elijah Owens races through a cone of water.

Spray From 1A

through all the different cones and water walls in his camouflage shorts.

“Now we don’t have to drive to Central Point,” said Shawn Bracamonte, whose 9-year-old daughter Alexandria tried out all the features. “I’m a disc golf fan, so this is now a multi-purpose park.”

Cliff Kuhlman, Rotary Club member, echoed the idea of Riverside Park as the hub of Grants Pass.

“This is truly where the community comes together right now,” Kuhlman said. “We’re all in this together. This is a beautiful job.”

The new park is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. for now. The outlook for warmth is good, as the National Weather Service predicted a high in the mid-90s

Fire From 1A

As of late morning, it was unclear whether special permit users — rafting outfitters and their shuttle drivers — would be able to use the road, said Chamise Kramer of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. National Guard members will be posted at both ends of the road. Private rafters now face a drive through Brookings and Gold Beach to get to Agness and Foster Bar.

Bear Camp was closed for a few weeks earlier during the Taylor Creek Fire, when fire swept north toward Galice.

Meanwhile heavy fire retardant drops over the weekend on Silver Peak and the ridge between Silver and Indigo creeks kept the Klondike atop that ridge.

But there was not stopping it going to the west. Spot fires across the river burned about 100 acres on Monday, and heavy helicopter work was done to try to steer the fire into the Collier Butte Fire burn area, from August 2015. Another few drops were made with air tankers flown from Medford.

“It grew yesterday and it will continue today,” said Mark Struble, fire spokesperson this morning.

The fire is burning through

Fire information

- **Evacuations:** All evacuations on the Taylor Creek and Klondike fires in Josephine County are Level 1 (Be ready). Only Level 2 evacuations (Be set) are in Curry County at Agness. Evacuations in Jackson County for Ramsey Canyon Fire are all Level 1 or Level 2.
- **Roadblocks:** Roads are still closed at Briggs Valley Road at Redwood Highway, Illinois River Road at milepost 2.5, Taylor Creek Road near 600 block, Galice Access Road at Galice Road, Shan Creek Road at end of pavement, and Eight Dollar road at the national forest boundary.

the 2002 Biscuit Fire area now, in steep and difficult terrain.

The plan is still to send a rappel team in to build a helispot for a Hotshot crew, said fire spokesperson Kate Webb. Hotshots are expert firefighters trained for remote and difficult terrain.

Three Hotshot crews, 15 hand crews and 48 fire engines are assigned to the west side of Klondike.

The fire has moved north enough that the Curry County Sheriff’s Office issued Level 2 (Be set) evacuation warnings in the Agness area.

Another good day of air quality is predicted for Grants Pass, which has been in the good (green) level for going on four days now.

The winds are expected to shift around tonight, to from the northwest, which could bring some smoke back into

Grants Pass toward the end of the week.

On Monday wind gusts of 30 mph were recorded atop Onion Mountain, 15 miles west of Grants Pass, inside the Taylor Creek Fire burn area. But all firelines held up, according to fire officials.

The evacuation levels for Taylor and Klondike are all down to Level 1 (Be ready) in Josephine County.

The east side of Klondike that at one time threatened Selma and Kerby has been stable for several days.

Meanwhile, much progress has been made on the Ramsey Canyon Fire 10 miles north of Gold Hill.

On Monday evening the fire was 55 percent contained, after burning 1,971 acres.

No more houses are threatened, after 315 were threatened at one time.

Sanctuary From 1A

Rights Project, said the letter “not only ignores facts and statistics, but it also relies on tired, fear-mongering rhetoric that misleads the public.”

“Studies have shown, repeatedly, that immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born citizens,” McKee said in a news release. “There is no factual basis for the assertion that a civil immigration violation leads to a life of crime.”

Being in the country without authorization is considered a civil violation, not a crime, although crossing the border illegally is a federal misdemeanor the first time and a felony if repeated.

Other Oregon sheriffs distanced themselves from Bergin’s stance.

“While Oregon sheriffs see eye-to-eye on many issues, the communities and people that we each represent are incredibly varied, and each sheriff must answer to his own community and conscience,” Washington County Sheriff Patrick Garrett said in a statement to OPB, adding that he supports the state’s sanctuary law.

The effect of the repeal endorsement is unclear. Though the signatory sheriffs cover 44 percent of the counties in the state, the residents of those counties make up about 16 percent of Oregon’s population, according to population estimates by Portland State University.

Alaska primary race got 7 applications from dead people

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Seven people who are considered dead by the state of Alaska asked for absentee ballots for a hotly contested state House race in last week’s primary election. Two others told election officials they didn’t vote, even though state had absentee ballots in their names.

The seven applications requesting ballots in the names of dead people were rejected, and no ballots were sent out.

Those were among the irregularities involving House District 15 in Anchorage, where three votes separate the two candidates.

Aaron Weaver holds a narrow lead over fellow Republican Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux, who was targeted by the state GOP as a turncoat for caucus-

ing with the Democrats.

Alaska state law favors counting questioned ballots so voters are not disenfranchised. The state says it will not reject ballots without clear evidence that the voter didn’t cast the ballot or it is an improper ballot.

“The integrity of our elections is vital to our democracy,” Division of Elections Director Josie Bahnke said in a statement. “The division will continue to look into this matter throughout the week and remove any ballots that we determine should not be counted.”

The candidates and the state Republican party were briefed on Monday.

Tuckerman Babcock, the head of the Alaska Republican Party, said he was appalled by the absentee vote situation but has faith in the Division of Elections.

"PAY THE DAY"

Membership Special!

Join the Y during the month of September and pay the amount in enrollment fee that matches the date that you join!

- Join on the 1st & pay only \$1 enrollment fee (Regular enrollment fee is \$60!)
- Join on the 2nd and pay \$2 enrollment fee
- Join on the 15th and pay \$15... You get it!

(Regular Monthly Membership Fees Must Be Paid.)

Come In Today!

**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

SAVE UP TO \$59!

Grants Pass Family YMCA 1000 Redwood Ave.
541-474-0001 • www.grantspassymca.org