



WALL CEREMONY

Seven veterans to be honored by local American Legion

LOCAL, 6A



WILD TIMES

Wilderville's concert series begins Friday

ENTERTAINMENT, 10A



WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 6, 2018

\$1.00  
GRANTS PASS, ORE.

Daily Courier

Riverside Park trees removed for new spray park

By Troy Shinn  
of the Daily Courier

Riverside Park is changing. Just take a visit to Grants Pass' signature downtown park to see how plans for a spray park and pavilion are reshaping the landscape.

Security fencing is up around a large space near the playground. An excavator on Tuesday was pulling out the roots and stumps of a few tall trees that were encroaching on the construction space. Grading and further excavation work should start next week.

All the while, children played on the adjacent playground, where by summer's end, Riverside should have its newest feature: a spray park.

The city has already bought all of the fixtures that will go up, but there's still a lot of installation and dirt-moving necessary before the children of Grants Pass can frolic in the artificial falls.

Closer to the riverfront, a pavilion, or viewing platform as it's also been called, is also part of this round of summer construction.

The pavilion saw its fair share of controversy, even after

Turn to PARK, Page 9A

Report: Medicare finances worsening

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Medicare will run out of money sooner than expected, and Social Security's financial problems can't be ignored either, the government said Tuesday in a sobering checkup on programs vital to the middle class.

The report from program trustees says Medicare will become insolvent in 2026 — three years earlier than previously forecast. Its giant trust fund for inpatient care won't be able to fully cover projected medical bills starting at that point.

The report says Social Security will become insolvent in 2034 — no change from the projection last year.

The warning serves as a reminder of major issues still languishing while Washington plunges deeper into partisan strife. Because of the deterioration in Medicare's finances, officials said the Trump administration will be required by law to send Congress a plan next year to address the problems, after the president's budget is submitted.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement that there's time to fix the problems. "The programs remain secure," Mnuchin said. Medicare "is on track to meet its obligations to beneficiaries well into the next decade."

"However, certain long-term issues persist," the statement added. "Lack-luster economic growth in previous years, coupled with an aging population, has contributed to the projected shortages for both Social Security and Medicare."

Turn to MEDICARE, Page 8A

No providers willing to take on county public health programs

By Shaun Hall  
of the Daily Courier

Josephine County's effort to privatize some of its most in-demand public health services has hit a roadblock.

After months of study, the county several weeks ago sought bids from health care providers willing to take on

services currently provided by the county.

At 352 pages, the county's request for proposals was a serious undertaking.

But no one was interested in applying.

Now it's time to decide if the services are to remain county-provided.

Most are state-funded.

"The next step is ... what are some next-step options," said county Commissioner Lily Morgan.

The hope was that outside providers such as AllCare Health, Asante or Siskiyou Community Health could provide better services at less cost to the county.

The county has a recent history of reorganizing services in an effort to cut costs. In large part, it has made parks, airports and the fairgrounds stand-alone services in the last several years, requiring them to stand on their own financially.

Turn to HEALTH, Page 9A

CLASS OF 2018



SCOTT STODDARD/Daily Courier

SUCCESSFUL STEPS

North Valley High School senior Shane Johnson rose up from his wheelchair and, with the help of a cane and rousing applause from the crowd, walked across the stage after receiving his diploma at the school's graduation ceremony in Merlin on Tuesday evening. Johnson suffered a spinal stroke that damaged neural paths from the waist down during a Jan. 11 basketball practice and has been undergoing rehabilitation for months. For more photos from the ceremony, see the Graduation 2018 gallery at our website, thedailycourier.com.

HV soccer star has been a 'leader above leaders'

By Jeff Duewel  
of the Daily Courier

MURPHY — Erica Alfred said she wasn't always a leader.

Her parents, Troy and Amy Sorenson, sent her to a goal-keeper camp in Wisconsin between her sophomore and junior year at Hidden Valley High School.

Something about flying there alone, not knowing anyone, forced her to find herself.

"They sent me there to bring out my voice and the leadership in me," Alfred said. "I was afraid, like shook up."

"At the end of the week, sure enough, I was a talker."

Alfred has also walked the walk in the halls of Hidden Valley, where she will graduate tonight, say school officials.

"She goes out of her way to help everyone," said Office Manager Susie Biller. "She's kind to all students. She'll always stand up for what's

Hidden Valley graduation

WHEN: Today, 7 p.m.  
WHERE: Hidden Valley High School football field, 651 Murphy Creek Road, Murphy

right.

"It's the depth of character she has. She's a girl who you'd like to be your own daughter."

Or, someone you'd like your son to marry, added Athletic Director Brian Miller.

Miller, who calls Erica "Fred" for short, said Alfred's leadership earned her the spot as permanent captain on the soccer team.

The Mustangs won three playoff games on the road before losing 1-0 in the state Class 4A title game to Valley Catholic in November in Hillsboro.

Turn to STAR, Page 5A



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Hidden Valley High School senior Erica Alfred was the starting goalkeeper for the Mustangs' soccer team that finished second in the state this year.

GP High seniors encourage youngsters to stay in school

By Zoe Morgan  
of the Daily Courier

As part of a continuing effort to improve graduation rates, seniors from Grants Pass High School visited elementary schools Tuesday to encourage the younger students to stay in school.

Dressed in their caps and gowns, the seniors returned to the schools they once attended, with teams of teens visiting all six district elementary schools.

This was the Parade of Graduates' fifth year and is meant to help increase the graduation rate, which stands at 71.61 percent for Grants Pass High in 2017. That lags behind the statewide average of 76.55 percent, one of the worst in the country.

At Riverside Elementary, 12 seniors walked into the courtyard as "Pomp and Circumstance" played, before telling the assembled children about their grade school experience and plans for the future.

"We are so proud of each and every one of these former Riverside students as they reach a major milestone in their life and in their career," Principal Rob Henderson told the assembled students.

The grads recalled memories from their time at Riverside, including playing football on the field with their friends and going on field trips. Many also thanked the teachers who made the biggest impact on them.

"Shoutout to Ms. Dennis. She's the reason I'm up here today," Blake Fuller said. "She always pushed me to do my hardest in school and never give up. And I'll be attending Portland State in the fall."

Each school structures the event differently, with a goal of modeling for the elementary schoolers why the graduates stayed in school, GPHS Principal Ryan Thompson explained. The idea is for the students to

Turn to SCHOOL, Page 9A

California governor race down to two



NEWSOM COX

It's Democrat Gavin Newsom vs. Republican John Cox to replace Jerry Brown as governor of California. **Primary roundup, Page 8A.**



2 Sections, 20 Pages  
Volume CVIII  
No. 186 Issue 32446  
The Daily Courier  
www.thedailycourier.com



OVERNIGHT  
LOW  
50  
THURSDAY  
HIGH  
83  
Five-day forecast on Page 2A

WHERE TO FIND IT  
Abby .....10A  
Classified .....5-9B  
Comics .....10B  
Entertainment ....10A

Obituaries .....7A  
Opinion .....4A  
Police .....7A  
Sports .....1-4B  
Stock markets .....8A

Circulation .....541-474-3702  
Classified Ads .....541-474-3711  
News Tips .....541-474-3823  
news@thedailycourier.com





Photos by TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

ABOVE: Grants Pass High School graduates make a visit on Tuesday to Riverside Elementary, where most of them had attended, and answer questions from fifth-graders who will be moving to the sixth grade. BELOW: Grants Pass graduate Christian Lopez makes a hand-painted print on an outside wall at Riverside.

## School From 1A

see and hear what a graduate looks like and understand that the work they put in will culminate at graduation.

“The elementaries have done just a fantastic job at recognizing the graduates and honoring them,” Thompson said.

After speaking to the whole school at Riverside, the seniors met separately with the fifth-graders and gave them advice on the transition to middle school.

“Most of you guys are probably pretty nervous to go into sixth grade, I mean I was when I was a fifth-grader as well,” Fuller said. “The best advice I have for you guys is be yourself, there’s nothing you can do better than that.”

Others shared their own stories about middle school and high school. Taylor White, who is one of the high school’s valedictorians, told the students that she enjoyed middle school and that school is what you make of it. White and many of the other seniors encouraged the students to get involved in extracurricular activities as a way to stay engaged.

After speaking with the younger counterparts, the high schoolers left their handprints in blue paint on a campus wall where the hand



prints of prior years’ graduates are already displayed.

Thompson said that for many students, this is the first time they have seen someone in a graduation gown and mortarboard.

The first year that the event was run an elementary school student thought they were kings and queens because of the regalia they wore.

Thompson said the student, “just

knew that they were very important people.”

For him, one of the main points of the event is showing the younger students that they too can be one of those important people by continuing with their education and graduating from high school.

The event has been a big motivator at Riverside, said Henderson, the Riverside principal, because it

allows students to see graduation down the road.

It’s set up as a way to acknowledge the work graduates have done, both for them and for the current Riverside students.

“Last year I had several kids come up to me after this and said, ‘I can’t wait to come back and be here at Riverside to do this when I graduate.’”

## Health From 1A

Douglas County recently privatized some services, so Josephine County wouldn’t be the first. In a similar move about a decade ago, the county out-sourced its mental health services, to Options for Southern Oregon.

But the deadline of May 25 came and went. Services on the table included immunizations and the

Women, Infants and Children program, better known as WIC.

The proposal also called for the county to contract out programs dealing with communicable diseases and maternal, child and adolescent health services, including school health centers, teen pregnancy prevention services and home visits by nurses.

County Public Health Director Mike Weber said the state is modernizing public health services and that revised ways of conducting

business might be ahead, which might have given potential applicants pause.

“They were expected to be in revision for the next year,” he said.

Weber plans on meeting with local providers to get their thoughts about the county’s proposal, and then report back to commissioners.

“I will be following up,” he said.

“I’m still meeting with organizations to get feedback.”

In any case, going through the exercise of planning a possible reor-

ganization gave the county an opportunity to look at how it provides services and how that can be done better, according to Weber, who was hired after the process began.

“Walking through this process has been really valuable,” he said.

“It’s important and it’s valuable to periodically reassess how you’re doing business.”

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

# Spade remembered as vibrant and colorful, just like her creations

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bright. Vibrant. Colorful. And, most essentially, fun.

The same words used so often to describe Kate Spade’s enormously popular handbags — “It” bags that were both aspirational and affordable — were an apt description of the woman herself, say many in the fashion world. And that only contributed to the sense of shock and loss in the industry upon hearing the news Tuesday that Spade had apparently taken her own life at 55.

“She was always just as happy and delightful as her collection was,” said Fern Mallis, industry consultant and former director of the Council of Fashion Designers of America during Spade’s rise to success in the 1990s.

“She was every bit the representation of that brand, and the fun of it all.”

Indeed,

Spade had said it herself: “I hope that people remember me not just as a good business-woman,” she told Glamour magazine in 2002, “but as a great friend — and a heck of a lot of fun.”

Spade was found hanged in the bedroom of her Park Avenue apartment Tuesday morning in an apparent suicide, law enforcement officials said.

Spade liked to say that she wasn’t obsessed with fashion, or interested in trends. “I grew up in the Midwest, where you have to have (a fashion item) because you like it, not because you’re supposed to have it,” she told The AP in 2004. “It’s an adornment, not an obsession.”

And a Kate Spade bag was an adornment that was, crucially, affordable, unlike other iterations of “It” bags whose status seemed to hinge on the price tag. “It was a real shift,” Mallis said. “Everybody had Kate Spade bags. You could afford them, and happily buy more than one. They were affordable AND terrific AND fabulous.”

Having a Spade bag “was a sign that you were in the know,” said Eric Wilson, fashion news director at InStyle. “You associated yourself with this fun, cool, with-it, hip brand that wasn’t snobbish or so exclusive that it felt like a European luxury brand.”

And the bags seemed to effortlessly appeal to a variety of women. “She had a quirky visual language that captivated Bat Mitzvah girls and artists alike,” wrote actress Lena Dunham on Twitter. “She was also a staple of NYC who spread goodwill.”

Born Katherine Brosnahan, Spade grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. She was working as an accessories editor at Mademoiselle magazine when she launched her company with husband Andy in their New York apartment in 1993, based on six shapes of bags she thought every working woman needed. She called them her “stepping stones” — and said years later that they were still her favorites.

As her brand expanded, “the fun, colorful, bright designs she created added an element of cheerfulness others have tried to emulate,” said Deidra Arrington, associate professor of fashion design and merchandising at Virginia Commonwealth University. “She was a visionary.”



BEBETO MATTHEWS Associated Press, 2004

**Designer Kate Spade was found dead in an apparent suicide in her New York City apartment on Tuesday.**



TROY SHINN/Daily Courier

Contractors are digging up the stumps of trees that were cut down at Riverside Park last week. Several large pines had to be moved in order to make room for the planned Spray Park and viewing pavilion that will be constructed this summer. Also planned for the park is a new community center to replace the old Isaak Walton building.

## Park From 1A

being approved last October by the Urban Area Planning Commission.

First envisioned as a viewing area to watch the jetboat races during Boatnik, the pavilion design changed over the years after several groups, including neighbors, quibbled over the project.

The pavilion was eventually approved in February and up to this point, officials have been securing the contractor and the bidding for the project.

Officials say that the bid for work came back much higher

than they anticipated. However, both projects have been bundled together so as to speed up completion.

The activity all comes with a nearly \$1 million price tag — \$532,000 for the pavilion and \$454,000 for the spray park.

The pavilion is largely being underwritten with funding from a \$500,000 state lottery grant in 2015. Proceeds from the last Duck Derby event went to pay for part of the spray park.

And that’s just the first phase of plans for Riverside.

Next year, the city hopes to get started on replacing the old Isaak Walton building and community center, which was torn down in 1999. Plans to include a

bandstand area that will be connected to that community center are also in the works.

“I remember going to that as a child,” Parks and Community Development Director Lora Glover said. “I am really excited about that project.”

The city will likely have to borrow money to make up the difference for the community center and bandstand — as much as \$100,000, Glover said.

Some of the trees that were removed over the past week at Riverside Park will be replanted after construction is complete, Glover said.

The spray park and pavilion are expected to be finished by the end of August.

# Thank You!

Thank you library sponsors and donors for bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to our community.

541-476-0571

foundation@josephinelibrary.org





# HOME & GARDEN

Creating a Shakespeare garden, a farm tour of the Rogue Valley and more

**Susan & Marian Jaeger & Szevc**  
Dedicated Professionals  
Principal Real Estate Brokers  
Licensed in the State of Oregon

**FREE Home Value & Market Analysis!**  
Excellent References ♦ Great Moving Resources ♦ No Obligation

**CALL OR TEXT NOW!**  
**541-778-3400**

**Windermere REAL ESTATE**  
SOUTHERN OREGON

**\$1.00**  
GRANTS PASS, ORE.

# Daily Courier

**FRIDAY**  
**JULY 13, 2018**

## State admits medical pot oversight failures

Oregon Health Authority says tracking of growers has been inadequate and inaccurate

**By Andrew Selsky**  
Associated Press

SALEM — The agency overseeing Oregon’s legal medical marijuana industry conceded in a report Thursday it has not provided effective oversight of growers and others in the industry, creating opportunities

for weed to be diverted to the black market.

The blunt internal review echoes complaints from federal authorities that Oregon hasn’t adequately controlled its marijuana businesses, and that overproduction of pot is feeding a black market in states that haven’t legalized it.

Oregon was one of the first states to legalize medical marijuana in 1998, and in 2014 voters approved allowing recreational use. The state’s struggle to transform a business that for decades had operated illegally in the shadows into a regulated industry sets an example for other states moving toward

legalization.

Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen ordered the internal review amid complaints from state and local law enforcement officials about lack of oversight of the pot industry. The health authority directs the state’s Medical Marijuana Program, while the Liquor Control

Commission regulates recreational pot.

The review showed there were more than 20,000 grow sites, but only 58 inspections were carried out in 2017.

The Oregon Medical Marijuana Program has far too few inspectors, while the tracking of growers and the pot they produce has been inadequate and inaccurate, the report con-

cluded.

“Potentially erroneous reporting coupled with low reporting compliance makes it difficult to accurately track how much product is in the medical system,” the report said. “This limits OMMP’s ability to successfully identify and address potential diversion.”

Turn to POT, Page 2A

## Expulsions in GP schools down more than 31% from last year

**By Zoe Morgan**  
of The Daily Courier

Expulsions are down more than 31 percent in the Grants Pass School District, with the trend especially pronounced at the high school level.

There were 68 expulsions district-wide this past school year, compared with 99 in the 2016-2017 year. At Grants Pass High, the number of expulsions decreased from 74 to 43 — a more than 40 percent decrease.

There was a particularly large reduction in marijuana-related expulsions, with only 27 this past school year across all grades, compared with 70 the year before.

District officials largely attribute the reduction to a decrease in the amount of free time that high-schoolers had during the school day. Grants Pass High School has time set aside during the week for students to meet with teachers and catch up on work, known as Intervention Time or Cave Time.

“I think the driving factor is that they had less free time and so they were more supervised during the course of the day,” District 7 Director of Human Resources Dan Huber-Kantola said. “When they are more supervised, they are less likely to go off campus and get in trouble.”

Free time during the school day can provide an opportunity for students to leave campus, get high and come back under the influence, Superintendent Kirk Kolb said. This past year the district reduced the amount of open time from about three or four hours a week down to one hour.

“We did lose a lot of intervention time with this new schedule, but teachers and students did not find it to be a tremendous burden or challenge,” Kolb said. “We really liked having it (the longer hours), but we weren’t getting people taking advantage of it like it was intended.”

Turn to EXPULSIONS, Page 7A

## Russians hacked Democrats in 2016 election, indictment says

Twelve Russian intelligence officers hacked into the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton presidential campaign in the run-up to the 2016 election and released tens of thousands of stolen communications, according to an indictment announced today. **Story, Page 7A**

## As temperatures soar, spray park can’t come soon enough



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

**Al Cella, project superintendent for Adroit Construction, walks through the concrete slabs that will be filled with 26 water features in the coming weeks, for the new spray park at Riverside Park. It’s due to be open in early September, but he’s hoping for a bit earlier.**

### Riverside Park water feature may be ready in August

**By Jeff Duewel**  
of the Daily Courier

The blast furnace that was Grants Pass on Thursday made people all the more curious about the spray park under construction at Riverside Park next to the playground.

Holly Garland of Grants Pass and her 5-year-old son walked over and peeked at an artist’s rendition on the fence.

In the background, two circular concrete slabs with rebar poking up hinted at what’s to come — a 4,600-square-foot water wonderland with 26 squirting,

spraying features.

Maybe, just maybe, it will be open before school starts.

The headliner will be a giant bucket that fills and dumps over and over.

“Oh wow, look at this,” Garland said. “This is going to be fun, Andrew. We’re excited. This is something we’ve been hoping for for quite awhile.”

Engineer Justin Gerlitz said the tar-

get for opening is early September.

Project Superintendent Al Cella of Adroit Construction said he hopes to beat that, maybe by two weeks. Interest is through the roof.

“Every day I have little kids and parents come up and ask, ‘When’s it going to open?’” Cella said. “It’s going

Turn to SPRAY, Page 6A

## Lawmakers eye changes to Endangered Species Act

**By Jes Burns**  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Members of the U.S. House on Thursday announced legislation they say will “modernize” one of the country’s seminal environmental laws: the Endangered Species Act, originally passed in 1973.

Nine pieces of legislation are designed to streamline the administration of the Endangered Species Act, provide more local control and protect

property rights, members of the House Western Caucus said.

At an event held outside the U.S. Capitol, the lawmakers said only 3 percent of listed species have recovered and been successfully removed from the endangered species list.

“That means the Endangered Species Act is the most inept program we have in the federal government,” said Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah.

They highlighted proposed changes that would provide incentives to

landowners, allow officials to be more selective in considering petitions to add species to the endangered species list and make it easier to remove species once they’re listed.

Five representatives from the Pacific Northwest are members of the House Western Caucus: Oregon Republican Greg Walden, Oregon Democrat Kurt Schrader, and Washington Republicans Jaime Herrera Beutler, Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Dan Newhouse.

The legislation is also backed by

numerous energy, agriculture, timber, mining and developer organizations, as well as hunting and trapping groups.

Susan Jane Brown, an attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center, says industry advocates in Congress push reforms to weaken the environmental law fairly regularly, but that the Endangered Species Act remains popular among voters.

Oregon is home to 57 species on the endangered species list. Washington has 48. California has 300.

## City officials say don’t feed the birds at Riverside Park

It’s messy and unhealthy, but there’s limited things that can be done to encourage waterfowl to go elsewhere

**By Shaun Hall**  
of the Daily Courier

There’s a few new twists to the love-hate relationship Grants Pass has with geese and ducks at Riverside Park.

The city has ordered signs that will encourage people not to feed the waterfowl because it’s unhealthy for the birds. It cuts both ways, as droppings from the birds are unhealthy for humans, too.

The bird problem is so well-known that the city is planning to use an easy-to-clean concrete finish on the new multi-use pavilion now under construction at the park. Droppings make

a big mess.

The pavilion, which looks something like a big picnic shelter, is being built near where the birds come ashore from the Rogue River, on a sloped lawn a few hundred feet upstream of the Seventh Street Bridge.

The city also is constructing a water spray park nearby, closer to the park’s playground, but the hope is the birds won’t wander that far — even though they regularly feed on a big grass field adjacent to the playground.

There’s limited things that can be done to encourage the birds to go elsewhere.

Turn to BIRDS, Page 6A



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

**Ginny and Rick Cameron, visiting from Nevada City, California, enjoy the Rogue River and the geese at Riverside Park. People love to feed the Canada geese and mallard ducks at the park, but the food harms the health of the waterfowl and they leave behind messy droppings.**



**3 Sections, 68 Pages**  
Volume CVIII  
No. 213 Issue 32473  
The Daily Courier  
www.thedailycourier.com



**OVERNIGHT LOW 65 SATURDAY HIGH 101**  
Five-day forecast on Page 2A

WHERE TO FIND IT	
Abby .....	9A
Classified .....	4-10B
Comics .....	1A
Entertainment .....	9A
Obituaries .....	7A
Opinion .....	4A
Police .....	5A
Sports .....	1-3B
Stock markets .....	7A

Circulation .....**541-474-3702**  
Classified Ads .....**541-474-3711**  
News Tips .....**541-474-3823**  
news@thedailycourier.com





Stained glass brightens new St. Anne church

FAITH, 9A

FIVE DOLLARS

\$5 CASH

OFF COUPON

1 Coupon per ticket • Offer good through 8/31/18

Eddy's

OLD FASHIONED BURGERS & SHAKES

956 Rogue River Hwy. • 541-479-8667

Open 7 Days A Week! 8am-8pm

Grants Pass

# Daily Courier

\$1  
FRIDAY  
AUGUST 24, 2018

KLONDIKE FIRE  
**80,725**  
ACRES  
PERSONNEL CONTAINMENT  
**1,200 37%**

TAYLOR CREEK FIRE  
**52,796**  
ACRES  
PERSONNEL CONTAINMENT  
**300 95%**

Source: Taylor Creek and Klondike fire information officers

## County residents are breathing a little easier

Air quality should remain improved through weekend

**By Jeff Duewel**  
of the Daily Courier

The best news on the wildfire scene is the air quality, which improved greatly in Southwest Oregon on Thursday night and this morning.

The air quality index in Grants Pass that was unhealthy for much of

the past four days improved to moderate (yellow) this morning.

The National Weather Service predicts air quality should be in the good (green) to moderate (yellow) range through much of the weekend, and a marine layer that pushed eastward this morning has significantly improved conditions to slow down wildfires.

Low clouds and fog crept inland well into Josephine County, with humidity as high as 80 percent, according to the NWS.

The Klondike Fire, the largest left from the July 15 outbreak in Southwest Oregon, slowed down Thursday and is considered 37 percent contained. Total acreage is up to 80,725. And the Taylor Creek Fire is nearly

Turn to FIRE, Page 7A



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Traffic from the downtown area merges onto Redwood Highway near Tussey Lane. Early estimates of what it would cost to add a third westbound lane from the South Y area to Redwood Avenue are high: \$3 million to \$5 million.

## Ready, set, splash: Spray park opens Monday



Photos by TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Children and adults will be able to try out the Riverside Spray Park after a grand opening ceremony Monday morning. The water playground includes 19 different features including a barrel atop a tall pole that periodically explodes, shooting 40 gallons of water to the surrounding area.



Riverside Spray Park Project Supervisor Al Cella checks out the sequencing box that controls water timing and patterns of 19 different features capable of pumping 138 gallons per minute.

### 4,600-square-foot play area has 19 water features

**By Jeff Duewel**  
of the Daily Courier

The kids have crammed up against chain link for weeks, watching the spray park at Riverside Park take shape.

Finally, Monday is the big day.

The grand opening is set for 10:30 a.m., with city officials and the Rotary Club on hand.

On Thursday, Pat Chambers brought 4-year-old grandson Nicholas to the adjacent playground and said they've been waiting.

"Did you hear that Nicholas?" she said. "Monday!!!"

"It's going to be great."

"It's going to be beautiful," added Project Superintendent Al Cella of Adroit Construction.

Two circular concrete pads, both

bright blue, are the foundation of the 4,600-square-foot spray park, which cost \$454,000. Interspersed are 19 water features, eight of them upright novelties and the rest circular nozzles on the ground.

Cella said all the features, which were supplied by Water Odyssey, worked great right out of the box, and he lauded the design by Justin Gerlitz of Gerlitz Engineering.

Parks & Property Management Superintendent Wendy Giordano said use of the park is free and will currently run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

The highest and possibly most spectacular feature is the Tidal Barrel, which fills up then spills out in a 16-foot-radius.

Turn to SPRAY, Page 3A

## No quick, cheap fix for congestion on Redwood Highway

Adding third lane to short section of road would cost at least \$3 million

**By Shaun Hall**  
of the Daily Courier

Initial estimates of what it would cost to add a third westbound lane to a short section of Redwood Highway from the South Y area to Redwood Avenue are discouragingly high: \$3 million to \$5 million.

That's sticker shock for city and county officials who were hoping for a quick, cheap fix to help solve that area's traffic congestion problems.

"I don't know where that money would come from," said Jason Canady, public works director for Grants Pass.

Canady has been working with Josephine County Public Works Director Rob Brandes, consultant HHPR and state transportation officials to look into costs for a third lane, with the possibility that nearly \$1 million in grant money could be shifted from an Allen Creek Road improvement project to the highway. But \$1 million isn't nearly enough.

"For the third lane project, we're still way short," Canady said when contacted Thursday for an update on a "scoping study" for the project.

Turn to FIX, Page 7A

## CJ City Council rejects tax plan for nighttime law enforcement

Sheriff: Proposal likely wouldn't have worked

**By Jason McMillen**  
of the Daily Courier

CAVE JUNCTION — A tax plan to fund after-dark law enforcement in Cave Junction has been rejected by the City Council.

Three proposed taxes — a 3 percent local sales tax on marijuana sales as allowed by state law, a 5 percent tax on food and beverage sales, and a gas tax of 3 cents per gallon were pitched for the November ballot as a way of raising enough money to contract nighttime patrols by the Josephine County Sheriff's Office.

However, the tax measures spearheaded by City Recorder Becky Patton and Mayor Daniel Dalegowski in response to citizen requests for additional law enforcement was winnowed after city councilors moved forward only on the marijuana tax.

"I'm a little frustrated," Patton said. "It's a problem of extreme focus for me. The mayor and I

Turn to TAX, Page 7A

## After \$51M tourism loss to wildfires, Oregon wants visitors to come back

**By Ericka Cruz Guevarra**  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

An arm of Oregon's Tourism Commission wants to warm tourists up to the idea of a vacation in Oregon despite a summer of cold feet over wildfires in the West, driving a sizable revenue loss to the state's tourism industry last year, leaders say.

Travel Oregon says it's joining a coalition of leaders from Washington and California to encourage tourism to their states, all while fighting visitor hesitation shaped by historic wildfire-related events that now include the largest fire burning in California history and Portland's hottest year on record.

"Fire and smoke may not care much about state lines, but Visit

California, Travel Oregon and the Washington Tourism Alliance do care about the visitor experience and the perception that the West is inaccessible due to fires," said Todd Davidson, Travel Oregon CEO.

Nearly \$51 million in tourism revenue was lost in Oregon last year because of wildfires, according to a

Turn to VISITORS, Page 7A



A hillside near Hellgate Bridge on the Rogue River smolders July 31 after the Taylor Creek Fire swept through. The wildfire forced an eight-day closure of one of the river's most popular stretches for recreation.

SCOTT STODDARD  
Daily Courier



2 Sections, 20 Pages  
Volume CVIII  
No. 243 Issue 32503  
Grants Pass Daily Courier  
thedailycourier.com



Breezy and cooler  
OVERNIGHT LOW  
**49°**  
SATURDAY HIGH  
**82°**  
5-day forecast on Page 2A

WHERE TO FIND IT  
Abby .....10A  
Classified .....4B  
Comics .....8A  
Entertainment .....10A

Obituaries.....3A  
Opinion .....4A  
Police .....6A  
Sports .....1B  
Stock markets .....7A

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](mailto:news@thedailycourier.com)



# Planning committee approves Dollar General construction

By Jason McMillen  
of the Daily Courier

The Urban Area Planning Commission on Wednesday night approved the construction of a Dollar General store on the west side of Grants Pass near Parkside Elementary School, an area that currently has few nearby retail options for residents.

At the property that was formerly the home of Sandy's Nursery at 1950 S.W. Bridge St, which closed last winter, demolition will likely occur some time in the fall after Cross Development has acquired all of the proper permits.

"There's seven buildings, old fencing, underground utilities, quite a bit of overgrown vegetation, pavement and areas of sidewalk that need to be replaced," Development Manager Mike Stults said, explaining that demolition will likely take about two weeks to complete. "It's not necessarily an undeveloped site, so we have to



JASON McMILLEN/Daily Courier

**Approved on Wednesday by the Grants Pass Urban Area Planning Commission, Sandy's Nursery, which closed last year and is located at 1950 S.W. Bridge St., is set to be demolished to make way for a Dollar General.**

gut everything and build anew." The store will be about 9,100

square feet, which is about average for a store in the Dollar General chain.

Approval of the project faced virtually no opposition from either the public or the commis-

sion and, once underway, the project will take an estimated 150 days to complete.

Local contractors will be used where possible, though it may be difficult due to a shortage of construction workers.

Dollar General, which sells a roster of products reminiscent of a general store, was founded in Springfield, Kentucky, in 1955 and, contrary to what is seen nowadays due to inflation, nothing — at least back then — was to cost more than a dollar.

Dollar General has established stores locally in Grants Pass, Merlin, Murphy, Cave Junction, Rogue River, Gold Hill and Glendale. The chain currently has more than 14,000 stores in 44 states.

"We're happy to be establishing another location in Grants Pass," Stults said. "The Grants Pass Planning Department was very thorough, extremely helpful and their professionalism was first rate."

Reach reporter Jason McMillen at 541-474-3718 or [jmcmillen@thedailycourier.com](mailto:jmcmillen@thedailycourier.com).

# Cave Junction looking to improve nighttime safety, security

By Jason McMillen  
of the Daily Courier

CAVE JUNCTION — Crime has long plagued Cave Junction's downtown area, primarily because of a lack of law enforcement at night. Now a plan is being formulated to do something — anything — about it.

Cave Junction's City Council is set to host a public workshop Monday in order to discuss improvements that would be paid for by using proceeds from the sale of the county building, which the Illinois Valley Senior Center purchased last summer for \$340,000.

The workshop will be held in the Council Chambers at 222 W. Lister Street. Citizens of Cave Junction are encouraged to attend and provide feedback.

"We're planning on doing some public safety improvements, primarily cameras, and, hopefully, to a lesser extent, some aesthetic and lighting improvements," Cave Junction City Councilor Dan Bosch said. "How the money will be split up between those three different things is what's up for discussion."

Although the fine details need to be worked out, the umbrella plan — drafted

by the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization — already has the county's approval.

Aside from lighting and safety improvements, IVCanDo's plan also allocates money to the Illinois Valley Airport for a fire suppression system, broadband and fiber optic development, plus tourism signage on Highway 199.

Those areas of the plan are to be discussed at a later date.

"I think it's amazing," Dairy Queen Manager Lisa Parenteau said. "Maybe if we get the right systems and stuff, we can catch who's doing it

and they'll stop.

"I just had on Monday a person come break through my back gate and shut the two main breakers to the whole building off, just because they could."

Cave Junction's Dairy Queen was broken into four times last year and was vandalized several times.

In addition to the safety improvements, local business T C Computers is willing to help the city by donating a camera network, along with the time to plan and install it.

The live feed network will be mounted on municipal poles like streetlights

and will be remotely accessible by the Josephine County Sheriff's Office as well as the Oregon State Police via the internet.

Once formal approval is granted, T C Computers co-owner Monique Allen says it will take 30 to 60 days to install.

"We should have enough of them to get a good coverage area," Allen said. "We'll have at least eight cameras, maybe more."

Reach reporter Jason McMillen at 541-474-3718 or [jmcmillen@thedailycourier.com](mailto:jmcmillen@thedailycourier.com).

## Spray From 1A

"We've got the barrel tuned in to shoot off twice in three-minute segments," Cella said. "It fills up with water and sprays out like a giant umbrella."

Other named features include Flower Shower, Ride & Spray Horse, Water Weave, Pop Dropps, 3 Bucket Fill N Spill, Mission Hill Showers, Water Fence and Water Arch. The park could use up to 138

gallons a minute if all features are running. The city chose a water-conserving spray nozzle array or it would be higher, Cella said.

Nice concrete benches surround the pads, and landscaping and more picnic tables are planned.

The Rotary's Duck Derby is helping to pay for the spray park with a \$40,000 grant.

Another feature at the park is also nearing completion: the \$532,000 pavilion between the river and a parking lot west of the restrooms. Cella hopes to

have it done by October.

The 3,600-square-foot open-air pavilion was delayed by a change in the support structures for the overhead shade, Cella said.

A \$500,000 state lottery grant in 2015 is paying for most of the pavilion cost.

Cella said that the pavilion project was also delayed a couple of weeks by discovery of the remains of a wooden bathhouse and pavilion.

The original structure was torn down in 1937. The successor was two stories, with a

bathhouse in the lower level and an open-air bandstand above. It was destroyed by the flood of 1955.

Cella also relayed the story of an 80-year-old woman who stopped by after a recent Concert in the Park and told him about using the bathhouse in her youth. She was overjoyed when Cella produced a photo of the old structure that he found online.

Reach reporter Jeff Duewel at 541-474-3720 or [jduewel@thedailycourier.com](mailto:jduewel@thedailycourier.com).

# Oregon retailers can't bar gun sales based on age

By Ted Sickinger  
The Oregonian

Oregon retailers cannot discriminate against gun buyers based on their age, according to a ruling this week by the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries.

Hannah Brumbles, an 18-year-old from Deer Island in unincorporated Columbia County, filed a complaint with the state after a Walmart store in St. Helens refused to sell her a rifle or ammunition last February because she was younger than 21.

Oregon law allows individuals 18 and older to purchase firearms, but a variety of

regional and national retailers, including Walmart, adopted more restrictive policies following the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida. Former student Nikolas Cruz, 19, is accused of killing 17 people, including 14 students and three staff members, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Feb. 14. Brumbles' complaint alleged that the policy was discriminatory and violated the Oregon constitution. BOLI found in her favor.

Brumbles is seeking damages for physical, mental and emotional distress, which could be as high as \$5,000. A follow-up hearing will be held in November.

## Obituaries

### Mary Koeper

Mary Koeper, 81, of Grants Pass, Oregon, passed away Saturday, August 11, 2018, at her home surrounded by loved ones.

Mary was born September 30, 1936, in Ames, Iowa, the daughter of George and Luella Blair. She was raised in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and graduated from Fort Dodge High School.

On August 7, 1955, Mary was united in marriage to Dean Koeper, also of Fort Dodge, and in 1961, they moved to Cali-

fornia. In 1973, they relocated to Grants Pass, where Mary began her career with the Siskiyou National Forest Service. With a love of nature, Mary instilled a similar appreciation within each of her grandchildren. She was a dedicated employee to the forest service until her retirement in 1999.

Mary is survived by her husband, Dean of Grants Pass; her sons: Kevin of Medford, Kent of Grants Pass and Kyle of Pella, Iowa; her six grandchildren and 14 great-grand-

children.

### Richard J. Twogood

Richard "Dick" J. Twogood, 92, of Grants Pass died Sunday, Aug. 19, 2018. Chapel of the Valley-L.B. Hall Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### George W. O'Brien

George W. O'Brien, 92, of Grants Pass died Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018, at home. Arrangements are pending with Hull & Hull Funeral Directors.

### Robyn Sue Lanham

Robyn Sue Lanham, 59, of Grants Pass died Saturday, Aug. 18, 2018, at home. Services will be held on Sept. 8 at 2 p.m. at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses on Williams Highway. Cremation arrangements with Stephens Family Chapel.

To place an obituary, call Tamara Stuebing at 541-474-3714 or email [obits@thedailycourier.com](mailto:obits@thedailycourier.com).

**loanDepot**  
NMLS#174457

FINANCING YOUR AMERICAN DREAM!

**WILLIAM WARD**  
**541.660.6313**  
[www.loanDepot.com/ward](http://www.loanDepot.com/ward)  
SALES MANAGER | NMLS# 384123

loanDepot : 793 N. 7th Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526 | Office: (541) 295-3501 | Rates, terms, and availability of programs are subject to change without notice. loanDepot.com, LLC. NMLS ID: 174457 is owned by the C&D Division of Finance and Corporate Securities, Mortgage Lending, NMLS #972, 5342618, 921946.

## Briefly

### Kids to question Oregon gubernatorial candidates

SALEM (AP) — Candidates running for governor in Oregon will be asked questions in their first debate not by reporters or by voters, but by children and youths.

Children First for Oregon, the debate's sponsor, said Thursday it is soliciting applications via a web site from children and youth throughout the state who want to participate. The debate, the first of three, between Democratic Gov. Kate Brown, Republican nominee Knute Buehler and

Patrick Starnes of the Independent Party of Oregon, will be on Oct. 2.

Sharon Soliday, chairwoman of Children First for Oregon, said children can't vote but can have a voice on economic security, health care, safety, education, and other issues.

The debate is also presented by KOIN, a Portland TV station, and Pamplin Media Group.

### Hood to Coast watching air quality as race nears

SEASIDE (AP) — Organizers of the annual Hood to Coast

relay race are anxiously watching the air quality as the weekend race approaches.

Dan Floyd, the race's chief operating officers, told The Daily Astorian on Thursday that this is the first time he's ever had to consider smoky conditions during the relay race.

He says conditions appear to be easing and the air should be much clearer by the weekend, but organizers are reminding runners they participate at their own risk.

Wildfires around the region have made Pacific Northwest skies unusually smoky.

## Senior menus

Food & Friends serves both Josephine and Jackson counties through congregate meal sites and home-delivered meals. All area seniors are invited to the various dining centers for lunch and conversation. A donation is requested.

Call 541-955-8839 for program information and current volunteer opportunities.

In Josephine County and in Rogue River, the nutritious, hot meals are served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at all meal sites.

Next week's menu features: Monday — Pork riblet on a bun

Tuesday — Egg salad sandwich

Wednesday — Chicken chop suey with rice

Thursday — Baked rigatoni

Friday — Cowboy campfire stew

Lunches are served every weekday in Grants Pass at 215 Ringuette St. They are served Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Illinois Valley Senior Center, 520 E. River St. in Cave Junction.

Dining centers also are located at the Merlin Community Center, 109 Acorn St., on Tuesdays and Thursdays; at the Wolf Creek Community Center, 100 Railroad Ave., on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and at Wilderville United Methodist Church, 7970 Redwood Highway, on Wednesdays.

In Rogue River, meals are served at the Rogue River Com-

munity Center, 132 Broadway.

Seniors needing transportation in Josephine County to the various dining centers or needing more information may call 541-474-5452.

IN GLENDALE. The dining site in the Special People's Depot, 176 Glendale Town Road, is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A small donation is requested.

Next week's menu: Tuesday — Sweet and sour pork or chicken chop suey

Thursday — Baked rigatoni

Friday — Turkey tetrazzini

Contact Senior Services in Douglas County at 541-832-3220 for transportation and further information.

Fall in love with **MonaLisa Touch®**

Millions of women experience changes to their vaginal health as they age, affecting their personal lives and intimacy.

**Now there's something you can do about it!** MonaLisa Touch® is a simple, safe and clinically proven laser treatment that generates collagen, elastin and treats the uncomfortable symptoms of menopause.

3 Treatments  
< 5 minutes each

Non-hormonal

Minimal side effects

Thousands of women successfully treated since 2012

1075 SW Grandview Ave., Suite 200  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527  
**541.479.8363**  
[www.womenshealthso.com](http://www.womenshealthso.com)

MonaLisa Touch is not a vaginal rejuvenation treatment. It's important to discuss your specific gynecologic concerns with your medical provider to see if MonaLisa Touch is right for you.

**MonaLisa Touch**

©2017 Hologic, Inc. Cynosure is a registered trademark of Hologic, Inc. MonaLisa Touch is a registered trademark of DEKA M.E.L.A. Srl - Calenzano - Italy.





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  
Classified .....7B  
Comics .....6B  
Entertainment.....5B

Obituaries.....3A  
Opinion .....4A  
Police .....5A  
Sports .....1B  
Stock markets .....9A

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](mailto: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.

## The 16 sheriffs who signed

- Sixteen of Oregon’s 36 county sheriffs signed a letter, released Monday, endorsing Measure 105, which would repeal the state’s 1987 sanctuary law.
- They are:
- Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin
  - Gilliam County Sheriff Gary Bettencourt
  - Harney County Sheriff Dave Ward
  - Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack
  - Sherman County Sheriff Brad Lohrey
  - Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan
  - Malheur County Sheriff Brian Wolfe
  - Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin
  - Curry County Sheriff John Ward
  - Coos County Sheriff Craig Zanni
  - Klamath County Sheriff Chris Kaber
  - Union County Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen
  - Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer
  - Wheeler County Sheriff Chris Humphrey
  - Lake County Sheriff Mike Taylor
  - Deschutes County Sheriff Shane Nelson

# 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**

Grants Pass Family YMCA 1000 Redwood Ave.  
541-474-0001 • [www.grantspassymca.org](http://www.grantspassymca.org)