



GETTING HELP

AmeriCorps volunteers build greenhouse at Food Bank

LOCAL, 3A



TURTLE TALK

Trampled by Turtles' fiddler talks to us before Britt date

ENTERTAINMENT, 10A



TWO WINS

GP Cavemen sweep twinbill against North Eugene

SPORTS, 1B

\$1.00
GRANTS PASS, ORE.

Daily Courier

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 20, 2018



ZOE MORGAN/Daily Courier

New Bridge High School is more than 13,000 square feet, which includes four classrooms, a career center, a resource center, a manufacturing technology lab, a barber shop and an outdoor classroom.

Youth prison's new high school dedicated

\$9.8 million New Bridge facility will allow students to attend classes in a more natural environment

By Zoe Morgan
of the Daily Courier

New Bridge High School has been in operation for about six weeks, but Tuesday was a day of dedication.

Officials held a ceremony and open house for the new high school, located within the confines of the Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility in Grants Pass.

The school is a separate building from the rest of the youth prison, located on North-east F Street behind Walmart,

with the two spaces connected by a pathway and bridge. There is symbolism in that.

"Many of our youth haven't had positive school experiences," Principal Lynn Eccleston told the assembled crowd. "This is our opportunity to create one."

Before the new facility was built, students attended classes in their living units, which Ken Jerin, superintendent of the youth prison, said wasn't conducive to student learning.

Turn to SCHOOL, Page 6A

City Council's support for plan to tear down Redwood Empire sign draws plenty of ire

By Troy Shinn
of the Daily Courier

A day after the Grants Pass City Council voiced support for tearing down and replacing the historic Redwood Empire sign, the public voiced its displeasure in droves on social media.

"I feel like I just got punched in the stomach," one person said in a Facebook post. "I will never understand the need to destroy history."

That post was on a page called "Grants Pass Memories! It's the Climate" that garnered nearly 270 reactions, 342 comments and 56 shares as of this morning.

"That is very disappointing," another commenter said. "I thought they were going to restore it. The new design con-

cept I saw is awful."

The Daily Courier's own Facebook post had also received significant public reaction — 100 percent of it against the demolition of the sign.

Letters to the editor have also largely been in support of preserving the sign, not replacing it.

The outcry was almost immediate after a Daily Courier news story about the council's stance on the sign, which has sat at the entrance of Caveman Bridge since 1941, hit newsstands Tuesday.

During a discussion Monday at City Hall, city officials seemed to have a different impression of the public's views the subject.

Turn to SIGN, Page 6A

Donor hopes \$50,000 gift will return big acts to county fair

Country band Lonestar to perform at fair on Aug. 15

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

An anonymous donor has agreed to pony up \$50,000 to help bring a national recording act to this year's Josephine County Fair. And if all goes well, the act — country music band Lonestar — will bring in enough money to pay for another big act next year.



Fairgrounds manager Anderson to step down after this year's fair.

Page 6A

"That's going to be a big deal," said Fairgrounds Manager Peggy Anderson, who issued a news release Tuesday tri-

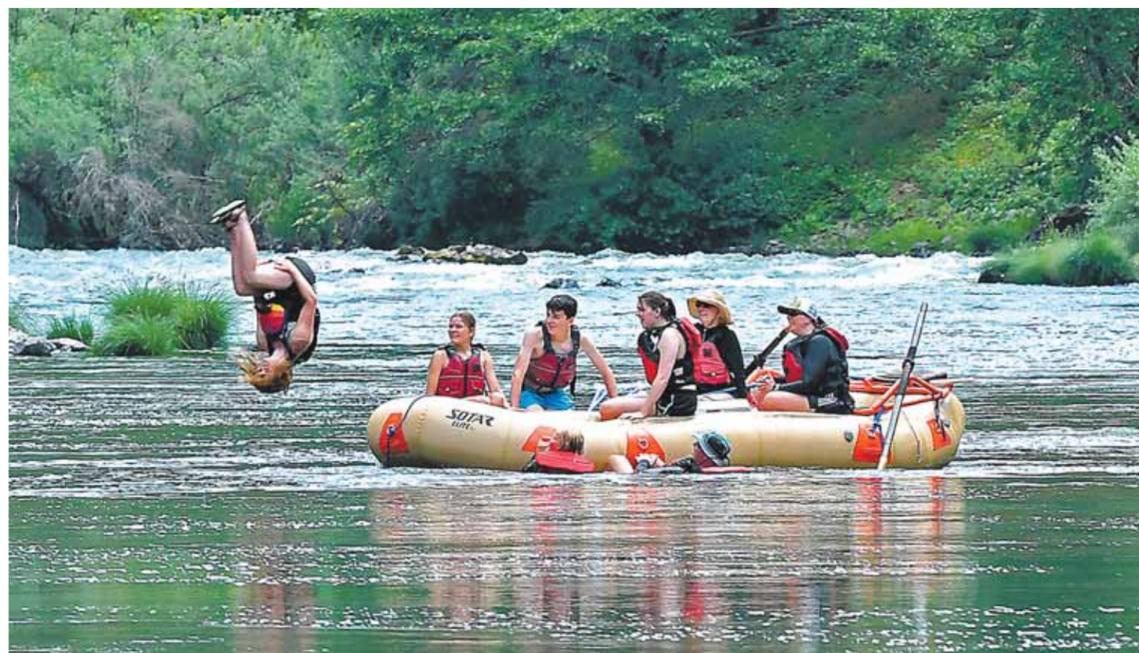
umphing the landing of Lonestar, the Country Music Association's vocal group of the year in 2001.

The hope is that the \$50,000 in seed money, coupled with other contributions, will bloom into big shows for the future, as the proceeds from each year's act pays for the following year's show. Bigger names bring in bigger crowds — and bigger paydays.

Anderson said the donor feels that the fair has "missed the boat for many years"

Turn to FAIR, Page 6A

FLIPPING OUT ON THE ROGUE



SCOTT STODDARD/Daily Courier

On a slower stretch of the Rogue River approaching Grave Creek, Grants Pass river guide Jasmin Cook performs a back flip for her boatmates as their Orange Torpedo Trips raft nears the end of a Monday journey.

Trump administration wants lawsuit challenging Cascades-Siskiyou expansion to be dismissed

By Stephen Floyd
Klamath Falls Herald & News

The Trump administration has asked for dismissal of a lawsuit challenging expansion of the Cascades-Siskiyou National Monument, claiming the president's authority supersedes timber laws that would allow harvesting on monument land.

On Friday, the administration filed a motion for summary judgement in Fourth U.S. District Court seeking dismissal of a lawsuit filed last year by the Association of

O&C Counties.

The association is made of 17 Oregon counties, including Josephine, which depend on timber revenue provided by the O&C Lands Act of 1937. The act established minimum harvesting and revenue sharing standards for 2.5 million acres of Oregon timberland.

President Barack Obama expanded the monument by 48,000 acres in a proclamation Jan. 12, 2017. The expansion included 40,400 acres of timberland designated by the O&C Lands Act, which is now unharvestable due to monu-

ment protections.

O&C counties filed suit Feb. 13, 2017, against Trump, the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of the Interior seeking to overturn Obama's proclamation. At the time, the association's leadership said they had a strong case to argue monument expansion was unlawful.

On Friday, however, Trump officials said the O&C Lands Act does not supersede authority granted to the president by the American Antiquities Act of 1906, which allows federal property to be set aside for

preservation due to scientific, cultural or historic value.

Defendants said, though the suit presents conflicts between statutes that preserve land and statutes that monetize timber, this does not call into question the president's authority to designate such land for monuments.

"(Obama) lawfully exercised his discretion in accordance with Congress' delegated authority and therefore Federal Defendants respectfully request that the Court enter

Turn to LAWSUIT, Page 6A

Workers remove 13-year-old synthetic turf from heavily used Mel Ingram Field at Grants Pass High School on Monday, starting a multi-week project to install new turf, a sand base and drainage system. Nearly \$447,000 in donations are being used to fund the work.



SHAUN HALL/Daily Courier

'Thicker, softer' turf being installed at Mel Ingram Field

Corporate sponsorships, donations pay for \$447,000 project

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

Crews began work this week to replace the synthetic turf at Mel Ingram Field at Grants Pass High School.

"I hate to see it go," Dale Collett, who installed the original and now very worn out carpet 13 years ago, said at the work site Monday. "It'll be better when it's done."

Featuring some 250,000 pounds of rubber and "second-generation" turf, the project is being paid for with \$447,000 in corporate sponsorships and donations.

"It will be thicker, softer," said Grants Pass Hall-of-Famer Tom Blanchard, a key fundraiser for the project, along with his wife, Pam.

Importantly, a new drainage system will be installed to carry away water that pooled previously.

"By experience, we now know what needs to be done," said Collett, who turned off the tracked vehicle he was using to talk briefly.

Collett's Synthetic Turf Consulting is working with general contractor Robco on the job, which is expected to last into early August.

Turn to TURF, Page 6A



2 Sections, 20 Pages
Volume CVIII
No. 196 Issue 32456
The Daily Courier
www.thedailycourier.com



OVERNIGHT LOW 56 THURSDAY HIGH 88
Five-day forecast on Page 2A

WHERE TO FIND IT
Abby10A
Classified5-9B
Comics10B
Entertainment10A
Obituaries8A
Opinion4A
Police7A
Sports1-4B
Stock markets9A

Circulation541-474-3702
Classified Ads541-474-3711
News Tips541-474-3823
news@thedailycourier.com

Turf From 1A

"We're excited," said Collett, who helped replace other fields at the school.

The old turf was rolled up and carted away, using an ingenious system: One worker used a cutting tool to create wide strips of turf, which then were wrapped around a pipe attached to straps that were, in turn attached to Collett's vehicle. When he backed up, the turf rolled up.

The old turf will go to the landfill. Corporate sponsors of the project are Evergreen Federal Bank and Dutch Bros Coffee as well as the Grants Pass High School Athletic Booster Club.

Evergreen and Dutch Bros each gave \$140,000, with the booster club and its donors pickup up the balance. Several individuals have given to the club, including major donors Mike and Eileen Amaranthus, whose children, Zach (football) and Bri (softball), played sports there.

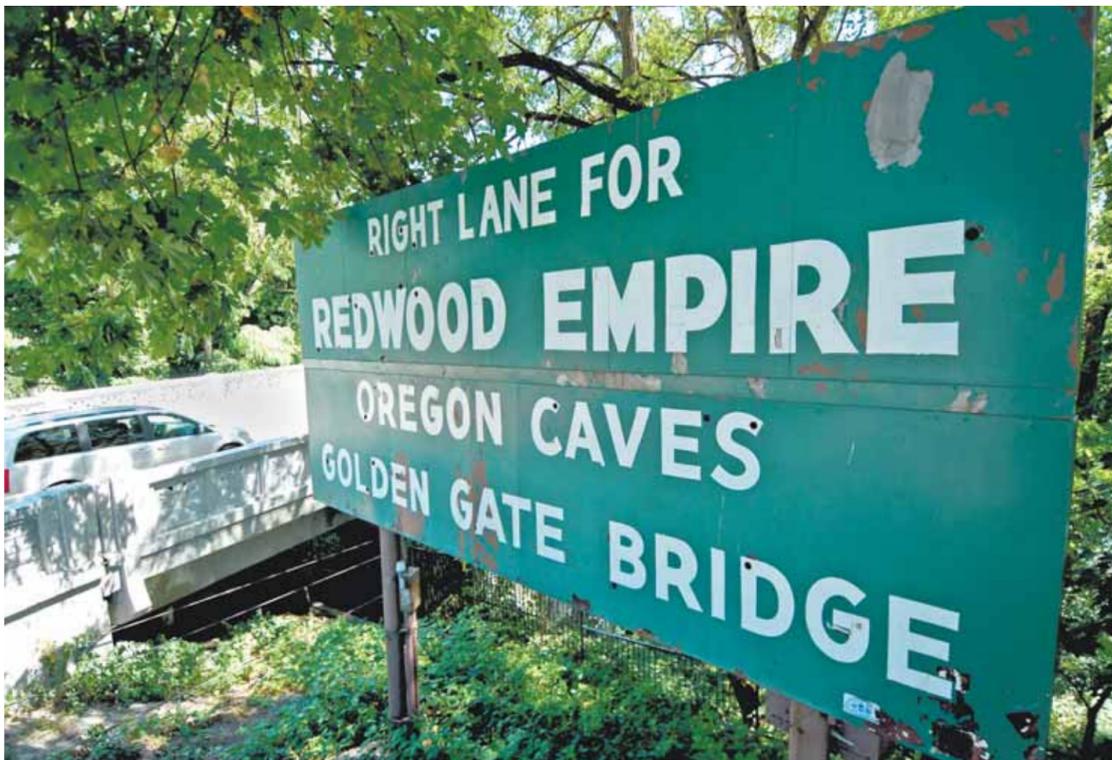
"We really appreciate them," Blanchard said. "We certainly would appreciate any help we can get."

No school district money is going toward the project.

"These are totally funded outside the school district budget," said Blanchard, the former Cave-man prep star, football coach and athletic director.

This isn't the first fundraiser for the Blanchards.

"It's fun," Blanchard said. "A labor of love."



SCOTT STODDARD/Daily Courier

The Redwood Empire sign was erected in 1941 as part of an effort to lure southbound motorists onto the Redwood Highway through Cave Junction and the redwood forests of Northern California instead of the Pacific Highway through Medford.

Sign From 1A

"There's going to be about half the people who don't like what we did and half the people that do like what we did," Mayor Darin Fowler told members of the council.

"That's why it's for you to decide. That's how representative government works."

Councilors themselves expressed their own dissatisfaction with the sign.

"I've lived here almost 60 years and it's been an ugly sign as long as I've lived here," Councilor Barry Eames said. "I just think it's not something we should be proud of."

The fate of the sign has been up in the air since at least 2011, when there was serious consideration at the time to either refurbish it or replace it with something snazzier that says "Grants Pass" in addition to its histori-

cal siren's song tempting drivers to take the scenic route to San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Putting to rest years of speculation, the State Historic Preservation Office earlier this year determined that the sign is indeed a historic resource and that plans to replace the sign would be considered an "adverse effect" on its historical significance.

During Monday's discussion at City Hall, some city officials conceded the sign does have some history. However, the conversation quickly moved on to saying that it wasn't as important as other historic landmarks in the area, which are also changing.

"We shouldn't be afraid of making some changes," said Councilor Dennis Roler, the liaison to the Historical Buildings and Sites Commission.

"The (Caveman) Bridge itself is going to get some

changes because of the ADA," he said, referring to the restoration project on the bridge that is underway right now. "That's kind of part of the progress: moving on."

Others simply focused on the trend of new branding for Grants Pass, which includes the controversial "Live Rogue" motto. City officials are insistent that the sign should say "Grants Pass" on it.

"One thing to consider is that we're looking to the future, not the past as much," said Councilor Roy Lindsay. "The past is important, but attitudes are changing and we want to be fresh and new."

The city's own tourism committee recommended against replacing it, saying that today it is more of a historical landmark than a marketing tool. The Historical Commission also prefers restoration over replacement. Nevertheless, the council

wants to move forward with plans to tear the sign down. It will have to come up with a mitigation plan to appease state preservationists, such as installing a plaque with the sign's history in front of the new sign, for instance.

The council is expected to take up the discussion at an upcoming meeting, though it has not been scheduled at this time.

In a post on Facebook, however, Councilor Tyler Flaming encouraged the public not to wait until then. Although the question about the sign's future is not on the agenda, the council meets tonight at 6 p.m. at City Hall's Council Chambers at the corner of Sixth and A streets.

There is a public comment period at the start of the meeting.

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

Lawmakers rip tariffs enacted in name of national security

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pointing to damage done to home-state companies, lawmakers from both parties today criticized tariffs the Trump administration has imposed on imported steel and aluminum products in the name of national security.

The Trump administration has turned to a little-used weapon in trade policy: Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. It empowers the president to impose unlimited tariffs if the Commerce Department finds that imports threaten national security. Trump imposed the tariffs in March, exempting several allies with a reprieve that expired in May. Trading partners have responded by slapping tariffs on a wide range of U.S.-made products.

Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah said rising steel costs since the imposition of the tariffs has made it harder for a Salt Lake City company to win contracts for custom industrial equipment, while pork farmers in his state are facing retaliatory tariffs from their two biggest markets, Mexico and China.

"I just don't see how the damage posed on all of these sectors could possibly advance our national security," Hatch said.

Democrats shared similar stories. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., said apple and cherry producers in her state are getting hurt. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., said a steel nail manufacturer in her state, the largest such enterprise in the country, has lost almost half of its business. The company will sell fewer than 4,000 tons of steel nails in July, versus 9,000 tons previously, she said.

Lawsuit From 1A

judgment as a matter of law on Federal Defendants' behalf," said the motion.

The Trump administration also said the O&C Lands act "was not absolute" in its directives to harvest timberland and the federal government has broad authority to set timber management policies.

"The Secretary of the Interior, as delegated to the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), has significant discretion over management of O&C lands, and while BLM's management may focus predominantly on timber harvest, that does not require the agency to manage every tree on every acre of O&C lands for timber production," said the motion.

The association's response to defendants' motion is due by July 30.



BRAD BARKET/Invision, 2013

(From left) Michael Britt, Richie McDonald, Dean Sams and Keech Rainwater of the music group Lonestar perform in New York City. The country superstar band will be playing opening night of the Josephine County Fair on Aug. 15., thanks in part to a \$50,000 anonymous donation.

Fair From 1A

by not bringing in a well-known national performer, and that the community deserves big-name acts.

Fair attendance has suffered in recent years, thanks to a combination of sweltering weather, forest fire smoke and budget cuts that have prevented big acts from performing at the fair, which is slated for Aug. 15-18 this year.

It's no coincidence that the all-time record attendance for the fair was in 1988. That's because country legend Johnny Cash performed at the fair that year, as did the monster truck Bigfoot.

Fair attendance that year was nearly 97,000. Last year's fair was barely half that — 55,000. The year before it was only 54,000.

"You can't do a national recording artist for free," said Anderson, who managed the Umatilla County Fair several years ago when Lonestar performed. She's a big fan.

The group achieved 10 No. 1 country hits on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart since 1995. Hits include "Amazed," "No

Fairgrounds manager will step down end of August

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

Josephine County Fairgrounds Manager Peggy Anderson says she's stepping down at the end of August, following the annual county fair. But she might not go far.

Anderson and former Interim Fairgrounds Manager Mary Groves are credited with helping to turn around the financial fortunes of the fairgrounds, which has operated without local taxpayer dollars since county budget cuts in 2012.

"We've had a lot of good things happen," said Anderson, who was hired in 2015 and has offered to stay on part-time to coordinate the annual fair, leaving the new fairgrounds manager in charge of day-to-day operations, including rental of facilities.

The county Board of Commissioners on Tuesday voiced support for the arrangement.

Anderson, 70, grew up in Grants Pass and is former fairgrounds manager for Umatilla County. She has her own events management business, Anderson Event Services.

"The idea was I was going to stay for three years," she said.

News" and "Come Crying to Me." They will play in front of the fairgrounds grandstands, with prices ranging from \$15-\$25, which also includes admission to the fair. Opening for the group is Billy Lund and Whiskey Weekend, a

Medford-based country music group.

Tickets are available by calling 541-476-3215, ext. 2, or at the fairgrounds office. Beginning July 1, tickets will be available at Grange Co-ops.

School From 1A

At a cost of \$9.8 million paid for by the state, the new space allows inmates to attend classes in a more natural environment that mimics a traditional high school.

According to Jerin, this makes them feel valued and like part of a community, something that will help them become good neighbors once they are released.

The school is more than 13,000 square feet, which includes four classrooms, a career center, a resource center, a manufacturing technology lab, a barber shop and an outdoor classroom. There is also a large recreation field. The staff includes eight teachers, four support staff and a graduation coach.

"This school changes lives daily," student Damian said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Damian will graduate high school on Thursday, the first in his family to do so. He said that walking across the bridge to the new campus each day makes him feel like he is entering a place with positive opportunities.

Another student Alfonso also spoke at the ceremony and said that when he first came to



LEFT: The new high school includes a barbershop that three students can work towards getting their state barbering license. RIGHT: Students work in the wood shop, making a variety of products including pens and cutting boards. The school partners with a winery to sell the students' creations.

Rogue Valley on a five-year sentence, he would sleep through his classes. Because school was within his living unit, it didn't feel like a separate learning space. However, now he said that he enjoys waking up and coming to school each day.

Because many of the inmates are under 18 and can get their juvenile record expunged, the Oregon Youth Authority asked that the students not be referred to by their full names.

The school operates on a

five-period day, with the classes youth take customized based on the credits that they have already completed. Students can earn their high school diploma or GED, as well as take part in a dual-credit college program.

There are also opportunities for vocational education, with some students working toward their barbering license or learning wood manufacturing. The school has a partnership with a vineyard to sell wooden ballpoint pens and cutting boards that students make.



Photos by ZOE MORGAN/Daily Courier

vate," O'Leary told the Daily Courier.

The school is run by the Three Rivers School District, with support from the Oregon Youth Authority, the state agency that operates the youth prison.

Joe O'Leary, director of the Oregon Youth Authority, came down from Salem for the dedication ceremony. He said that part of the goal of the new space is to create a less correctional and more therapeutic environment.

"If you treat kids like villains, they are going to become villains and recidi-

On the other hand, he said that if you treat the youths like victims and fail to hold them accountable, they are disempowered and lack motivation.

Instead, O'Leary said that research supports a developmental approach, where it is understood that juveniles brains are still developing. Part of this approach is accommodating the developmental state of the youths and creating an environment that doesn't feel as institutionalized.

"What I heard today from the two student speakers is that they feel valued, they feel like they can succeed," O'Leary said. "And I hope we've created an environment where they can reach their full potential."

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



Siskiyou Community Health Center

WALK-IN CLINIC

1701 NW HAWTHORNE AVE • GRANTS PASS • 541-472-4777
OPEN MON-FRI 8AM-6PM • SATURDAY 9AM-1PM