



\$1.00
GRANTS PASS, ORE.

HOTEL UPDATE

What's going on with the 'tall building?'



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CAVE OPENING

Oregon Caves' spring tours will start on Saturday

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ENTERTAINMENT, 1B



'Music Man'
One Eleven Theatre opens its big show

THURSDAY
MARCH 23, 2017

Daily Courier



GOAL!

Travis Boersma of coffee empire Dutch Bros. of Grants Pass will be funding a soccer field on the infield of the Josephine County Fairgrounds, after a lease agreement was approved by county commissioners on Wednesday.

FILE/Daily Courier

Dutch Bros. inks deal with county for artificial turf soccer field at fairgrounds; plans for more

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

An ambitious plan proposed by Travis Boersma of Dutch Bros. Coffee took another step forward Wednesday, when the Josephine County Board of Commissioners authorized a lease agreement for an artificial turf athletic field at the fairgrounds.

Dutch Bros. is prepared to spend \$565,000 to build the field on the infield at the Grants Pass Downs horse racing track, along with paying for upgrades to some other facilities at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

There could be three more fields in the future, two of which could accommodate baseball and softball. All would be artificial turf, easing the current heavy load on

Boersma still hopes to move company HQ downtown

Travis Boersma's dream for his hometown isn't limited to the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

During an appearance last week before the Grants Pass Historical Buildings and Sites Commission, the Dutch Bros. Coffee co-founder repeated that he's serious about moving his company's headquarters to downtown.

He even went so far as to put a loose timetable on those plans.

"I am really optimistic ... of relocating (to) downtown in six months to a year," he said.

Relocating, he said, is his way of "showcasing" pride in his hometown, which he said can help sell the Dutch Bros. story and help the city at the same time, especially the downtown core.

It's where he and his late brother, Dane, started the company with a single cart in 1992. It's why the company recently bought the Town Center Plaza, where the cart got its start.

Asked directly if he meant to relocate headquarters to the plaza, Boersma said no. He has other "dreamy" plans

for the plaza, he told the commission, adding that he's still working that part of it out.

Pressed to say where else Dutch Bros. could move, he demurred — except to note that he has 164 employees at the company's current headquarters in the North Valley Industrial Park.

That number could grow to 250 in two or three years, he said. In other words, he needs elbow room.

Said Boersma: "We are growing at a pretty significant rate."

— Chris Bristol

grass fields, which can deteriorate with use in wet weather.

"Travis has very aggressive plans to have this up and running by fall," Jennifer Wheatley, Dutch Bros.

spokesperson, told commissioners.

Mike Watson, property manager for the county, said Boersma got letters of support from the YMCA, local school

districts, the KidZone Foundation, and even the owner of the Portland Timbers and Thorns professional soccer teams.

"It's just a very exciting

project that will serve a lot of our youth," Watson said. "There are over 2,000 kids in soccer in Josephine County."

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Students with learning disabilities bolstered by court ruling

It strikes down lower standard endorsed by high court nominee

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A unanimous Supreme Court has bolstered the rights of millions of learning-disabled students in a ruling that requires public schools to offer special education programs that meet higher standards. The court struck down a lower standard endorsed by President Donald Trump's nominee to the high court.

Chief Justice John Roberts said that it is not enough for school districts to get by with minimal instruction for special needs children. The school programs must be designed to let students make progress in light of their disabilities.

The Wednesday ruling quickly led to tough questions at the confirmation hearing of Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch. Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois said the high court had just tossed out a standard that Gorsuch himself had used in a similar case that lowered the bar for educational achievement.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court sided with parents of an autistic teen in Colorado who said their public school did not do enough to help their son make progress. They sought reimbursement for the cost of sending him to private school.

The case helps clarify the scope of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, a federal law that requires a "free and appropriate public education" for disabled students. Lower courts said even programs with minimal benefits can satisfy the law.

Roberts said the law requires an educational program "reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress appropriate in light of the child's circumstances." He did not elaborate on what that progress should look like, saying it depends on the "unique circumstances" of each child. He added there should also be deference to school officials.

TOP SENATE DEM VOWS FILIBUSTER. The top Senate Democrat said today he will oppose Gorsuch and lead a filibuster of the choice, setting up a politically charged showdown.

New York Sen. Chuck Schumer criticized Gorsuch, saying he "almost instinctively favors the powerful over the weak" and would not serve as a check on Trump or be a mainstream justice.

"I have concluded that I cannot support Neil Gorsuch's nomination," Schumer said on the Senate floor. "My vote will be no and I urge my colleagues to do the same."

Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey, who faces re-election next year in a state Trump won, also announced his opposition. Casey said he had "serious concerns about Judge Gorsuch's rigid and restrictive judicial philosophy, manifest in a number of opinions he has written on the 10th Circuit."

Democrats are still furious that Republicans blocked former President Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland, and the seat on the high court has remained vacant for 13 months and counting.



ROBERTS



GORSUCH

Downtown could get its first marijuana retailer in May

By Lisa Whiting
of the Daily Courier

Weeks after the City Council denied an application for the first recreational marijuana store in downtown Grants Pass, another one is popping up.

Diamond Cannabis, located at the corner of Sixth and H Streets, has taken the space formerly occupied by the Bead Merchant and will be sharing the block with Rogue Barbers and start-up company Bradley Putters.

Slated to open in May, the shop plans to offer recreational and medical marijuana once it gets its permit from the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

Business partners Carrie Boltz and James Sparman introduced themselves to the Grants Pass City Council at last week's meeting. Both stated their intention to be a good neighbor.

The City Council had previously banned all forms of cannabis commerce within city limits after the 2014 passage of Measure 91, which legalized recreational marijuana and took effect in June 2015.

City voters struck down the ban in November, but so far no



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Diamond Cannabis is slated to open in May at 300 S.W. Sixth St., the city's first cannabis retailer.

business has successfully cleared the regulatory process.

This includes an application for a recreational retail store in the Redwood Towers, also known

as "The Tall Building." Classified as adult-use businesses, marijuana stores are banned from locating within 1,000 feet of certain public facilities, such as schools

and libraries. The downtown library is just over 500 feet away from the Redwood Towers.

Apparently the location found by Boltz and Sparman does not

violate the 1,000-foot rule. City officials did not return several calls seeking confirmation.

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