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Daily Courier

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 14, 2017

A HOT SLICE OF LAND

MOD Pizza might come to Grants Pass in a proposed development on Northeast Terry Lane



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

ABOVE: This property located between Parkway Christian Center and Carl's Jr. (background) is undergoing a site review process with city planners. **BELOW:** MOD Pizza opened in Medford's Northgate Shopping Center in February.

By Lisa Whiting
of the Daily Courier

Grants Pass may be getting its own MOD Pizza, if negotiations go as planned and the city gives a new commercial development project the green light.

The popular fast-casual pizza chain, based in the Seattle suburb of Bellevue, is one of several tenants set to occupy a strip mall planned for a large undeveloped lot behind the Carl's Jr. on Northeast Terry Lane, just off the Grants Pass Parkway.

The proposed site plans, drawn up by Gerlitz Engineering of Grants Pass, depict Aspen Dental and MOD Pizza as the building's anchor tenants, with Kay Jewelers and a wireless phone store occupying the remainder of the space.

Currently the project is undergoing a major site plan review by Aaron Anderson, a planner in the city's Parks & Community Development Department.

The 10,300 square-foot building will be situated on a combination of four lots totalling 2.43 acres, zoned both general commercial and residential.

LRG Investors, of San Mateo, Calif., is the developer for the project.

The land is owned by JCK Enterprises of Eugene, which owns a numbers of Carl's Jr. franchises in the region.

"Right now we're under contract to purchase the land, and the current owner is on board with the plans," said Michael Butler of LRG, the developer.

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LISA WHITING/Daily Courier

Generous tax cuts for corporations, wealthy

Merged House and Senate bills also include a repeal of health care insurance mandate

By Stephen Ohlemcher, Andrew Taylor and Marcy Gordon
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Generous tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans would be delivered in a sweeping overhaul of the tax laws, under a new agreement crafted by Republicans in Congress.

Middle- and low-income families would receive smaller tax cuts, though President Donald Trump and Republican leaders have billed the package as a huge benefit for the middle class.

The agreement reached Wednesday by House and Senate GOP leaders also calls for scrapping a major tax requirement of the "Obamacare" health law, a step toward the ultimate GOP goal of unraveling the law.

The agreement combines

key elements of separate tax bills recently passed by the House and Senate, striking compromises on some of them. The Republicans are pushing to deliver final legislation to Trump before Christmas as the first major legislative accomplishment of his presidency.

At the White House, Trump was eager to receive it. "The cynical voices that opposed tax cuts grow smaller and weaker, and the American people grow stronger, he said. "This is for people of middle income, this is for companies that are going to create jobs. This is for very, very special people, the great people of America."

The business tax cuts would be permanent, but reductions for individuals would expire after a decade — saving money to comply with Senate budget rules.

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Local firefighters are on California fire lines



KARI GREER/National Interagency Fire Center

The Thomas Fire in Southern California has consumed 237,500 acres near Ventura and Santa Barbara. It has already destroyed more than 700 homes, with 18,000 still threatened.

Fanned by high winds, 'flames are just incredible,' Illinois Valley captain says

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

Local firefighters aren't getting a break during the winter months because they've been sent in droves to help battle a massive wildfire in Southern California.

The Thomas Fire, the largest and most dangerous of dozens of Santa Ana wind-driven wildfires in the past 12 days, has consumed 237,500 acres.

Burning near Ventura and Santa Barbara, it has already destroyed more than 700 homes, with 18,000 still threatened.

Close to 8,000 firefighters are battling the fire, which is not only the fourth-largest fire in California history but also the only one to occur in December.

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No. 62 Issue 32322
The Daily Courier
www.thedailycourier.com



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