



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.

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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.

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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.

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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.
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"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"

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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

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