

TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Single-use plastic bags will no longer be available for use at grocery stores, restaurants and certain retail locations come Jan. 1, under a new state law. Stores can set their own prices for paper or reusable plastic bags, but must charge at least 5 cents. Shoppers, of course, can bring their own.

Single-use plastic bags to be phased out Jan. 1

New Oregon law bans them from grocery stores, restaurants and some retail locations

By Jason McMillen of the Daily Courier

Under a new, statewide law effective Jan. 1, single-use plastic bags at grocery stores, restaurants and retail locations will no longer be provided and paper and reusable plastic bags will cost you at least 5 cents.

The ban, similar to ones already enacted in California, New York and Hawaii, is designed to reduce waste, mostly plastic, that has been accu-

mulating in landfills, on public land and in the world's oceans for decades.

By law, stores must charge at least 5 cents for paper bags or reusable plastic bags. There is no charge, of course, if you bring your own.

Grants Pass Grocery Outlet customer Virg Lemley, a long-time resident of Josephine County, said that he approves of the ban and that he usually uses cloth bags to carry home his groceries.

However, as is the case for

many shoppers, the eco-friendly habit still needs time to cement itself in daily life. On Friday, he had forgotten to bring them

"I think it's a good thing that there will be alternatives," Lemley said. "Plastic is pretty much killing the world.

Jalanena Boucher and her boyfriend, Sean Spinney, a couple in their 20s, came to Grocery Outlet prepared with a clutch of durable canvas bags.

Boucher, who has lived in the Grants Pass area for most of her life, said she works at Murphy Hemp and Wellness. Spinney said he spends his days as a hand at a hemp farm.

"I think it's good — our Earth is really hurting, and the bag alternatives are cheap," Boucher said. "They sell these ones here for a dollar, and they last for years."

Spinney threw in his 2 cents. "It just needed to happen, it was long overdue. The one thing I hope though is that

Turn to PLASTIC, Page 7A

Judge revokes grazing permit for pardoned ranchers

The Hammonds were convicted for setting fire to federal land in 2012

Associated Press

PORTLAND — A judge on Friday revoked the grazing permit of two ranchers who were pardoned last year by President Donald Trump on an arson conviction for setting fire to federal lands.

U.S. District Judge Michael Simon ruled in the long-running case after hearing arguments from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which granted a 10-year grazing permit to Dwight and Steven Hammond after Trump's July 2018 pardon. The renewal prompted a coalition of environmental groups to sue.

Simon in July limited where the Hammonds could graze their cattle, but let them continue to use other portions of the public allotments for their ranching operation in remote southeastern Oregon while the environmental groups continued with their legal

In his ruling Simon said then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's decision to restore the Hammonds' permits was "'arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, not rat nally connected to the facts."

The Hammonds, a father and son who raise cattle near Diamond, were convicted of arson in 2012 for setting a fire on federal land

Turn to PERMIT, Page 7A

No wrongdoing in deaths of migrant children, DHS watchdog says

By Colleen Long Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Department of Homeland Security's internal watchdog found no wrongdoing or misconduct by immigration officials in the deaths of two migrant children last December.

The Inspector General for the Department of Homeland Security released two brief statements Friday evening on the deaths of Jakelin Amei Rosmery Caal Maquin, who died Dec. 8 at age 7, and Felipe Gómez Alonzo, who died Dec. 24 at age 8.

Their deaths ushered in a growing border crisis that caught immigration officials unprepared to manage a crush of Central American families seeking asylum in the U.S. and raised questions on medical care and treatment. Border crossings have since declined in recent months following major crackdowns.

"We are still saddened by the tragic loss of these young lives, and we continue to bolster medical screenings and care at DHS facilities on the border," a spokeswoman for Homeland Security said. "The men and women of Border Patrol are committed to the highest standards of professionalism and care.

Both children made their way over the U.S.-Mexico border with a parent. Jakelin was part of a large group that crossed in an extremely remote location and it took hours for her to be transported to a hospital. Some seven hours later, she was put on a bus to the nearest Border Patrol station but soon began vomiting. By the end of the two-hour drive, she had stopped breathing.

Turn to DHS, Page 5A

Quirk in city adult business ordinance allows racino near YMCA



Dutch Bros Coffee CEO Travis Boersma is moving forward with plans to build a gambling, restaurant and bar facility known as a "racino" at this location adjacent to the YMCA (in background at right) and the Josephine County Fairgrounds racetrack. Bars and gambling establishments are considered adult use and typically not allowed near parks and recreation centers, but a loophole in Grants Pass city code apparently will allow the 22,000-square-foot facility.

Spaces 10,000 square feet or larger can operate in places smaller adult businesses are not permitted

By Shaun Hall

of the Daily Courier

When it comes to the city's adult business ordinance and Travis Boersma's proposed "racino," size matters.

An obscure provision in the ordinance is providing a improbably probable way for Boersma to avoid restrictions that other businesses in

town have faced and build his proposed Grants Pass Entertainment Venue on fairground property next to the YMCA.

The never-before-used provision allows adult businesses that are big enough — 10,000 square feet or larger — to locate in places where smaller adults businesses are not allowed.

City Community Development Director Lora Glover said she has

never had a business use the loophole in her 12-plus years with the city, nor does she know why the provision is in the ordinance in the first

"I honestly don't know where that language came from," she said. "We are working our way through the language.

Boersma is proposing to build a 22,000-square-foot gambling hall, bar and restaurant on land he leases at the fairgrounds, where he recently began operating commercial horse racing under the name TMB Racing. He'll need permits and other permis-

sions from the city to go forward. The Dutch Bros Coffee co-founder and CEO has said he expects to install hundreds of terminals that

Turn to RACINO, Page 5A



Slash piles like this one, pictured earlier this year on Briggs Valley Road west of Grants Pass, are typically covered in plastic to keep them dry. Contractors say it is not practical to remove the plastic before setting the slash on fire, raising concerns about toxic fumes and pollution.

Concerns raised over burning slash piles covered in plastic

By Jeff Duewel of the Daily Courier

Christina and Butch Martin said they can see hundreds of piles of limbs known as slash, waiting to be ignited, above their Applegate Valley property, on Bureau of Land Management land.

At some point the Martins found out that slash piles are usually covered in plastic to keep them dry, and when it's time to light them, the plastic is burned right along with the

The agencies that handle fuel reduction say they're questioned all the time about the practice, which has gone on for decades.

The Martins certainly question it. "They've got everybody convinced this whole thing is safe," Christina Martin said. "They're doing a great job thinning, we're in favor of that, but as soon as people find out they burn plastic, they're horrified."

Slash piles come from excess wood debris from logging, and from thinning of vegetation to reduce catastrophic fires in the summer.

After terrible wildfire smoke seasons recently in Oregon, the goal is to do more of it, resulting in more pile burning in the offseason. The Oregon

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Racino From 1A

resemble slot machines. The machines, called historic racing terminals, are allowed at statelicensed race tracks that operate commercial meets. Such facilities are commonly known as racinos, a combination of racing and casino.

Under a plan submitted to the city, the racino building would be 600 feet west of the YMCA, and about the same distance from large synthetic turf play fields Boersma is building nearby, in the infield of the fairground's race track.

The racino, which is considered an adult business because people under 21 are restricted from its gaming floor and bar areas, would be allowed despite the city ordinance, which prohibits bars, strip clubs, marijuana dispensaries and gambling halls from being closer than 1,000 feet from parks, daycare centers and schools. The YMCA provides daycare and preschool programs.

YMCA CEO Matt Lund did not return a call for comment for this story, although he has spoken in favor of other Boersma projects and has said in the past he's looking forward to using the turf fields, which Boersma said last week would be finished sometime this spring. The fields are being constructed by Love Abounds,

a charitable arm of Dutch

The loophole in the ordinance is this: It allows adult businesses that are in excess of 10,000 square feet in size, without regard to proximity to schools, parks and the like, if the building also has a restaurant with an appropriately sized floor area.

Under the ordinance, the restaurant must be at least as big as the adult-only area of the business. In the case of the racino, the age-restricted portion of the premises would be the gaming floor, lounge and service bar area, covering 8,151 square feet. The restaurant and a coffee shop would use 2,100 square feet, although banquet rooms that might be part of the facility would be considered restaurant space, according to

Glover guessed that the framers of the ordinance included the restaurant provision as an offset to adult uses. The city first passed an adult business ordinance in 1994, in an effort to discourage strip

"My assumption for the larger facilities and the inclusion of a restaurant was to balance out the use and provide an area that was not restricted," she said, in a written statement.

She said Boersma's representatives are aware of the adult business provisions.

"I told them from the get-go they've got to be careful of the adult-use provisions," she said.

Project engineer Justin Gerlitz last month submitted a preapplication for the racino, including 10 pages of documents. The city responded with a 29-page staff report that stated decisions would have to be made by Glover, the city's planning commission and the City Council.

Glover would decide a lot line adjustment that would put the parcel containing the racino more than 200 feet away from surrounding residental properties. The distance also is required by the adult business ordinance.

The planning commission would decide on a site plan, while the council would decide on a Boersma request to modify or eliminate the requirement for restaurant space equal to the adult-use space.

One conference on the proposal was held at Dec. 5, with another set for Jan. 16. The Daily Courier incorrectly reported in its Dec. 15 edition that the meeting was to be held last Monday. The Oregon Department of Transportation, which has expressed concern about the location of the building due to possible realignment of Redwood Avenue, is expected to attend the Jan. 16 meet-

The proposal listed TMB Racing and project coordinator Kendra Lellis as applicant. Neither Boersma nor Lellis responded to messages left for comment.

"It is unknown why [the restaurant requirement] currently exists in the Development Code in its current form," according to the application..

The proposal stated there will be a pedestrian walkway from parking areas between the racino and YMCA that pass under the race track to the play fields. It also stated that the River City BMX track there now would be relocated, and that sidewalks would be installed along Redwood Avenue. A "substantial number of jobs" will be created, it said.

In recent years the adult-use ordinance has proven an obstacle to smaller businesses, especially those located in the down-

town business area and because the City Council has been reluctant to modify it.

Sean Vice, owner of a small pub downtown called Vice Brewing, has said he is having a difficult time finding a new location if he loses his lease because of the ordinance. Nearby residences, tiny Debo Park on the west side of downtown, and the Boys & Girls Club all constrict where adult businesses can be located. Vice's current location, at 220 S.W. H St., is grandfathered in, but not if he moves.

Ironically, a business the size of Vice Brewing, at less than 10,000 square feet, wouldn't be allowed where the racino is going, because of the ordinance and the proximity to the YMCA, according to Glover.

"They would need to qualify

the same as the TMB Venue regarding size and restaurant," she said, in an email exchange.

The City Council last month held a workshop about its ordinance and how it affects downtown businesses, but took no action. City Manager Aaron Cubic said at the time that staff would look into options and draft a new ordinance for consideration.

Glover said that if one adult business is restricted, they all must be. The city can't restrict marijuana dispensaries and strip clubs while allowing bars and gambling halls the size of casinos.

"We can't discriminate between adult uses," she said.

> Reach reporter Shaun Hall at 541-474-3726 or shall@thedailycourier.com.



DHS From 1A

Lawmakers and immigrant advocates questioned the care she received and criticized the immigration agency's thenleader Kevin McAleenan for not alerting lawmakers to the death during his testimony before a Congressional committee. Customs and Border Protection said that the girl initially appeared healthy and that an interview raised no signs of trouble.

The watchdog said it had conducted a detailed investigation in coordination with the local medical examiner's office. The girl died from Streptococ-

Felipe was taken with his father to a hospital in Alamogordo, New Mexico, where he was diagnosed with a common cold. He was released just before 3 p.m., about 90 minutes after he had been found to have a fever of 103 degrees Fahrenheit, CBP said at the time. He was prescribed amoxicillin and ibuprofen and taken with his father to a holding facility at a highway checkpoint.

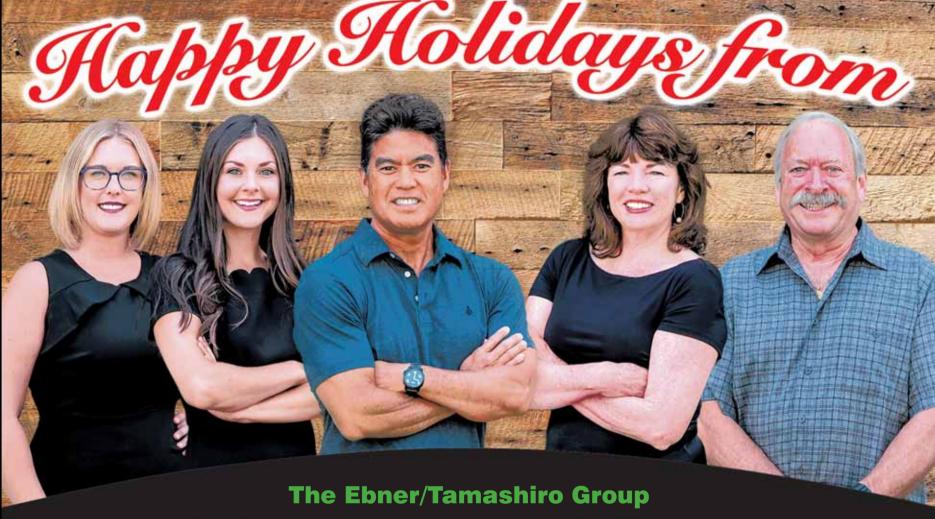
At about 7 p.m., agents helped clean up the boy's vomit. By about 10 p.m., the boy "appeared lethargic and nauseous again," the agency said, and agents decided to have him taken to the hospital. The boy died shortly before midnight.

Felipe and his father were detained by CBP for about a week and send to various facilities because of overcrowding, an unusually long period in custody at the time but something that later became more common as the agency struggled with a growing number of migrants detained.

The inspector general coordinated with the local medical examiner's office and said the boy died from sepsis caused by Staphylococcus aureus bacte-

The deaths pushed U.S. Customs and Border protection increase medical checks. But increasingly more family members would cross the border, overwhelming border facilities in the months after their deaths.

The inspector general in May criticized the Border Patrol for "dangerous overcrowding" in its El Paso-area detention stations. Several months after Jakelin and Felipe died, the Border Patrol had packed thousands of parents and children into cells unequipped to hold them.



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Protect Yourself Against Long-term Care Costs

If you're fortunate, you'll live independently and in good health throughout your retirement years. However, if you ever needed some type of long-term care, such as a stay in a nursing home, would you be financially prepared?

To answer this question, you may want to evaluate two variables: your likelihood of needing long-term care and the cost of such care. Consider the following: • Someone turning age 65 today has an almost 70% chance of eventually needing some type of long-term care, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human

• The average cost for a private room in a nursing home is about \$100,000 per year, while a home health aide costs about \$50,000 per year, according to Genworth, ar insurance company.

· Clearly, these numbers are worth thinking about. If you needed several years of longterm care, the expense could seriously erode your savings and investments. And keep in mind that Medicare typically pays only a small percentage of long-term care costs. Therefore, you may want to evaluate the following options for meeting these expenses:

 Self-insure – You could "self-insure" against long-term care expenses by designating some of your investment portfolio for this purpose. However, as the above numbers suggest, you'd likely have to put away a lot of money before you felt you were truly protected. This could be especially difficult, given the need to save and invest for the other expenses associated with retirement.

• Long-term care insurance - When you purchase long-term care insurance, you are essentially transferring the risk of paying for long-term care from yourself to an insurance company. Some policies pay long-term care costs for a set number of years, while others cover you for life. You can also choose optional features, such as benefits that increase with inflation. And most long-term care policies have a waiting period between 0 and 90 days, or longer, before benefits kick in. You'll want to shop around for a policy that offers the combination of features you think best meet your needs. Also, you'll want an insurer that has demonstrated strength and stability, as measured by

independent rating agencies. Here's one final point to keep in mind: Long-term care premiums get more expensive as you get older, so if you're interested in this type of coverage, don't wait too long to compare policies.

• Hybrid policy – A "hybrid" policy, such as life insurance with a long-term care/ chronic illness rider, combines long-term care benefits with those offered by a traditional life insurance policy. So, if you were to buy a hybrid policy and you never needed long-term care, your policy would pay a death benefit to the beneficiary you've named. Conversely, if you ever do need long-term care, your policy will pay benefits toward those expenses. And the amount of money available for long-term care can exceed the death benefit significantly. Hybrid policies can vary greatly in several ways, so, again, you'll need to do some research before choosing appropriate

Ultimately, you may decide you're willing to take the chance of never needing any type of long-term care. But if you think that's a risk you'd rather not take, then explore all your coverage options carefully. There's no one right answer for everyone but there's almost certainly one for you

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



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Racino within bounds of city rules

Adult-use ordinance won't stop planned gambling, dining facility at fairgrounds

By Shaun Hall of the Daily Courier

A gambling and restaurant venue proposed by Dutch Bros Coffee CEO Travis Boersma at the Josephine County Fairgrounds and near the Grants Pass YMCA won't be barred by the city's adult-use ordinance, according to the city's community development director, Lora Glover.

The venue still must meet a range of other city standards related to traffic, parking and design, but as proposed the ordinance won't block the project, which Boersma said would move forward once it receives necessary approvals.

"If we can get all of our approvals, it's going to happen," Boersma said Thursday after meeting with city, county and state planners at City Hall. "I think it's an economic game-changer for the community."

Boersma and several members of his team of planners presented revised plans for the venue to city planner Brad Clark, who said he'd have to check to see how the adult-use ordinance applied.

Glover said this morning that the venue is allowed under the ordinance, which generally prohibits adult businesses such as gambling halls, bars and strip clubs from locating within 1,000 feet of a day care, school, library, park or recreational facility serving youth. The YMCA is a few burdred foot away.

few hundred feet away.

However, an obscure provision of the ordinance gives a pass to adult-use businesses of 10,000 square feet or more as long as they have "restaurant accommodations" with a floor area at least as large as the floor area devoted to adult uses.

Boersma proposes that his entertainment venue — also

Turn to RACINO, Page 5A

Judge: Clarno improperly nixed ballot measures

A Marion County judge says Oregon's secretary of state was wrong in blocking climaterelated ballot measures. Story, Page 8A

Chateau's collection of rare furniture is growing



Photos by TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Sue Densmore, executive director of Friends of the Oregon Caves, is collecting original Monterey furniture for refurbishing. The group plans to place the collection in the Oregon Caves Chateau once the historic lodge reopens.

Oregon Caves nonprofit partner has acquired 100 Monterey pieces from far and wide to place in park's historic lodge

By Jason McMillen

The 1930s-era lodge called the Oregon Caves Chateau is closed down for extensive historic renovations until 2021, but a group called Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau has been busy nonetheless. Quite busy, in fact.

Since the chateau closed in October 2018, the Friends have been scouring the nation for a rare type of furniture known by the name of Monterey. It was in high fashion at the time of the lodge's founding, and was used to furnish the place — but much has been lost over the years.

Nowadays, the pieces come with a high price tag attached, but, in spite of that, the Friends have so far managed to collect, via donation, just over 100 pieces. The new collection will serve to complement the Chateau's nationally recognized

collection of around 200 pieces. The brand is characterized



Monterey furniture was mostly built in the 1930s and was inspired by Spanish Colonial styles. It is characterized by hand-painted designs and each authentic piece features a small branding mark of a horseshoe.

by rustic, West Coast stylization and hand-painted designs. Each piece is branded with the word "Monterey" and a horseshoe in a discreet location, so verifying authenticity is generally easy to do.

"We need more pieces to refurnish the place, so if you have this furniture ... and aren't using it, please contact us," said Sue Densmore, executive director of the Friends.
"We will take great care of it and put it on display for the public to enjoy."

The Monterey line of furniture, created by Frank Mason and his son George Mason under the working name Mason

Turn to FURNITURE, Page 5A



A snowstorm that hit Wednesday night caused numerous trees to fall across power lines, such as this one seen Thursday on Daily Lane west of Grants Pass.

10,000 remain without power across county

By Jason McMillen

of the Daily Courier

Utility crews continue to work to restore power after Thursday's snowstorm, with about 10,000 customers still without electricity as of 10:30 a.m. Some may not have power restored for days.

"Over the night there's been a good deal of progress, mostly in the general area of Grants Pass," Pacific Power spokesman Tom Gaunt said today. "But you're unable to do as much at night. We can do certain tasks, which are helpful for day crews."

In response to the crisis, Josephine County Emergency Manager Sara Rubrecht worked with the American Red Cross to set up warming shelters at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in Grants Pass and Illinois Valley High School in Cave Junction.

The shelters will remain open throughout the weekend, which corresponds with Pacific Power's timeline of repairs in the more rural areas of Josephine County.

"Sara keeps a close eye on that stuff and I talked with her briefly about some extenuating circumstances, and with the severity of the power outages she saw it necessary to call the

Turn to POWER, Page 5A

Trump campaign looks to expand his appeal to women, minorities

By Jill Colvin Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Selfies on a "Women for Trump" bus tour through Iowa. Volunteer training at a "Black Voices for Trump" organizing session in Philadelphia. A vice presidential headliner at a "Latinos for Trump" event in Florida.

President Donald Trump's surrogates fanned out across the country Thursday in a show of force that is part of an aggressive — and uphill — effort to stretch his appeal beyond the base of working-class white voters who propelled him to victory in 2016.

With a recognition that
Trump will need to turn out
new voters in November to be
reelected, his campaign has
dramatically stepped up outreach efforts to various constituencies, including African
Americans, Hispanics and
women, building a coalition
operation that officials believe
is the most robust of any
Republican campaign in histo-

The outreach marks a dramatic departure from 2016,

when Trump's volunteer "National Diversity Coalition" struggled to make an impact.

"There's no comparison between 2016 and now," said Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh of the effort. He described the outreach effort as "a significant department unto itself," complete with dedicated staff, resources and a budget that is expected to reach tens of millions of dollars.

"These are all well-financed, well-organized coalitions intended to reach out to the voters that they're targeting. And we know that no Republican campaign or president has ever had as muscular a coalitions outreach," he said.

The operation was in full force Thursday when the president's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump, senior campaign adviser Mercedes Schlapp and press secretary Kayleigh McEnany began a two-day "Women for Trump" bus tour through Iowa aimed at engaging women with training sessions, round tables and panel

Turn to TRUMP, Page 7A

Driver in DUII death sentenced to 10 years in prison

Freddie Louis
Tillett (left), a
repeat drunk driver, sits with his
attorney, Joseph
Maier, during sentencing Thursday
in Josephine
County Circuit
Court. Tillett got
10 years in prison
for killing a
woman in a
drunken driving
crash in September.

CASEY CROWLEY Daily Courier



46-year-old apologizes in court for September crash that killed mother of 3

By Casey Crowley of the Daily Courier

Freddie Loui

Freddie Louis Tillett teared up as he said he wished he could trade places with Brenda Reinert, the woman he killed in a drunken driving crash in September.

"I didn't mean for this to happen," he said during his sentencing Thursday in Josephine County Circuit Court. "It was a stupid choice to drive that night."

to drive that night."
Tillett, 46, had been convicted of DUII
four times before the night of Sept. 27, when
he crossed the center line on Rogue River
Highway east of Grants Pass and slammed
head-on into Reinert's car.

He was drunk again that night, too. At the time of the crash, he had a blood-alcohol level of 0.24%, three times the legal limit to drive, and was going close to 100 mph just prior to the crash, witnesses told police.

For his guilty plea to charges of first-

For his guilty plea to charges of firstdegree manslaughter and DUII, he was sentenced by Judge Matthew Galli to 10 years in prison. The sentence was in line with a plea agreement in the case.

Reinert, 39, was the mother of three children ages 19, 11 and 4, and was on her way home from work in Medford when she was killed. She and her husband, Sean Reinert, a local volunteer firefighter, were raising the family together.

Reinert's family didn't attend the sentencing Thursday. District Attorney Josh Eastman said Sean Reinert was worried about what he would say in court.

In an interview afterward, Eastman said

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OVERNIGHT SATURDAY HIGH

33° 43°

5-day forecast on Page 2A

Thawing out

WHERE TO FIND IT
Abby10A
Classified5B
Comics10B
Entertainment10A

Power From 1A

Red Cross and get something going," County Commissioner Dan DeYoung said.

Although reports of a second snowstorm at high elevations, along with low temperatures, was tentatively forecast by the National Weather Service, it appears to have blown over without effect.

Almost no precipitation of any kind was seen throughout the county.

"The largest amount of precipitation we saw was about a tenth of an inch on King Mountain," Meteorologist Sven Nelaimischkies said. "There could have been a tenth of an inch at the Illinois Valley Airport as well, but the sensor is unheated, so it could have been snow melt water."

Josephine County Public Works Director Rob Brandes said that many county roads remain closed because of downed power line, but that his department will be opening them up throughout the day as his staff identify ones where repairs have been completed.

As of Thursday afternoon, a total of 32 were blocked off. "Pacific Power's been running around like crazy, so we haven't gotten a full accounting of what they've gotten to yet this morning," Brandes said. "We're going to have our field crews go out and visually verify all the roads.'

Grants Pass High School reopened two hours late today after a rare snow day Thursday. All schools in the county's Three Rivers School district remained closed,

> Reach reporter Jason McMillen at 541-474-3718 or jmcmillen@thedailycourier.com



Brett Jensen cuts another tree limb Thursday morning on Weekly Drive on his way back from Grants Pass. "I had to cut nine trees to get into town this morning and my feet are soaking," he said.

Panel proposes ways to improve state's outdoor recreation

Associated Press

SALEM — A panel commissioned by Gov. Kate Brown aiming to improve recreation in Oregon's outdoors suggests creating an Oregon Outdoors Pass and getting more diversity in wild spaces.

The 33-person Governor's Task Force on the Outdoors released a draft report Thursday.

The Salem Statesman Journal reports the goal is to recommend to Gov. Kate Brown policies, legislation

and initiatives that would boost Oregon's recreation economy, improve resources, and boost outdoor participation, especially among youth and underserved communities

To that end, they came up with 30 initial ideas under five broad categories that will be discussed at a final meeting Jan. 23 in Salem. Final recommendations will come this spring. The hope is that the rec-ommendations are applied in the next five years. Among the recommendations is to encourage diver-

sity by reaching out to minority communities to have

a hand in land management planning or hiring more diverse people in state agencies. Another plan would seek to make state parks more accessible — or highlight accessibility — to disabled visitors.

Another idea is to look at ways to bridge the gap

between state and federal lands policies — given over half of Oregon's outdoors is managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The panelists also propose a \$100 million fund to improve trails, campgrounds and other projects through a constitutional amendment.

Furniture From 1A

Manufacturing Company, flourished in California from 1929 to 1943. A national fascination with ranch life and the American cowboy during that time was the key factor behind its

The furniture's design is primarily inspired by Spanish Colonial styles, California Mission architecture and furnishings that seem right at home at an old-time ranch.

'There are many different styles, because it was essentially a small family business trying to make a product that was going to be of interest to people," Densmore said. "They tried all sorts of things to catch people's eye.'

Densmore said that the goal is to find at least another 200 pieces, which she believes is enough to fill out every room in the chateau with a full set of Monterey furniture.

"I'm hoping to put together a complete set for each of the ooms that people can stay in Densmore said. "It would make them all unique, and really get people's attention."

In addition to expanding the collection, the Friends have also been raising funds to hire skilled woodworkers and artists to faithfully restore damaged or altered pieces both new and old at the

chateau. Densmore reported that her group has raised 93% of projected costs needed to bring existing Monterey furniture and other historic items and materials, back to good condition. Still, further donations will be appreciated.

"People who donate either furniture or money will be credited on a wall listing we're planning on putting up at the chateau," Densmore said.

Although most of the furniture will be Monterey if the Friends meet their target goal, some will have to be replicated — mostly the numerous dining chairs and tables which were lost in the Christmas flood of

1964, according to Densmore. But 1930s photographs featuring the chairs exist, so they will be reproduced, but in a way that makes clear they are

not true Montereys. "As the story goes, there was ice and snow slowly coming down from the canyon. They saw it coming, panicked and smashed out all the windows on the dining level so the ice and snow could flow through the building," Densmore said.

"Afterward, they found out the foundation was pushed off center a little bit, and they were worried they would have to knock the chateau down, but they were able to put it back with heavy equipment and it's been fine ever since.'

Brad Niva, executive director of Travel Southern Oregon, said he's excited about the project because additional Monterey furniture will add to the charm of the chateau and give business a boost.

He also said he's excited for new concessionaire Aramark to take control of the chateau after it reopens because the national company's sphere of influence is larger than the previous operators and will



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Sue Densmore says the actor Bela Lugosi, known for portraying Dracula, had these identical Monterey-style chairs in his Hollywood home.

"Monterey furniture is an integral part of the history of the Chateau. It was the largest single purchaser of Monterey furniture that the company ever had."

GEORGE KRAMER

Historical preservation consultant

spur interest in the area. Marketing will be more easy with more historic furniture, he noted.

"The historical nature of the furniture is going to make the lodge even more unique, which is what people are looking for when they look into visiting and staying there," Niva said. "An experience with a unique story behind it."

George Kramer, a historical preservation consultant who has had a hand in projects across the state, including the G Street Historic District in Grants Pass and the chateau's renovations, is thrilled by the Friends' success so far.

"Monterey furniture is an integral part of the history of the chateau. It was the largest single purchaser of Monterey furniture that the company ever had," Kramer said.

"So restoring what we've got, and adding to the collection so that the chateau's history can continue, is just a great

The storage facility, on the southwest side of town, will sometimes double as a private showroom complete with a television for presentations, bathrooms and an office.



Densmore says some of the furniture in this early photograph from the Oregon Caves Chateau are now in the collection she is organizing for refurbishing.

It was rented out by the Friends so that the collection, and their effort to preserve and expand upon it, could be shared with interested members of the community.

Densmore said it will likely host open houses about once a month, with visits by reservation only. To book a spot, call 541-944-1139 or email sue@FriendsOCAC.org.

"Everything at the caves was originally built by business people out of Grants Pass, not the park service," Densmore said. "So while the lodge is closed, we thought it would make sense to share the furniture and the history of the Oregon Caves with the community that established it.'

Reach reporter Jason McMillen at 541-474-3718 or jmcmillen@the daily courier.com



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

The distinct Monterey brand that includes a horseshoe on the back of larger pieces proves it's the real deal.

Racino From 1A

known as a racino — has 6,938 square feet of restaurant space and 6,700 square feet of gaming and bar area. The racino is a key component of expanded horse racing at Grants Pass Downs put on by Boersma's fledgling TMB Racing venture.

"The facility will qualify under [the ordinance]," Glover said in an email, citing the provision allowing an adult business of 10,000 or more square feet as long as it has all-ages "restaurant accommodations" at least equal in size to the adult-use portion of the business. Banquet rooms and assembly areas qualify as restaurant accommodations, according to Clark and Glover. Clark initially suggested

that the gaming and bar area might need to be 10,000 square feet in order to qualify for the exception, but Boersma said that wasn't his interpretation. Clark eventually will issue a report on how well the project meets city requirements. Thursday's meeting reviewed Boersma's preapplication for the project, with a formal application expected in coming weeks.

"It sounds like we're wrapping up and we're going to see an application soon," Clark said.

In related matters: • Oregon Department of Transportation planner Micah Horowitz said he welcomed Boersma's decision to move the proposed location of the venue to the east a few hundred feet in order to accommodate a possible realignment of nearby Redwood Avenue.

"This is a lot more in line with what we were hoping,' Horowitz said. "We'll want to get this proposal in front of our design folks."

A traffic study expected to be completed in a few weeks by Boersma's team will be reviewed by ODOT, too.

• Boersma is planning 200 "gaming stations" in the venue similar to slot machines and technically known as historic racing terminals. Such machines can be allowed at licensed horse race tracks.

• Boersma said he no longer has plans to build a tunnel under the racetrack allowing access to the track's infield, where sports playfields are under construction by Love Abounds, the charitable arm of Dutch Bros Coffee. Instead, he said the track will be bridged.

Reach reporter Shaun Hall at 541-474-3726 or shall@thedailycourier.com.



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Macklemore joins INSIDE, 3A



Daily Courier \$1 FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2020 **Grants Pass**

Racino plans, fairgrounds improvements move forward

Boersma says gambling hall, restaurant could open in 2021

By Shaun Hall of the Daily Courier

Dutch Bros Coffee CEO Travis Boersma said a casino-like facility that he's proposing to build at the Josephine County Fairgrounds might be open by the summer of next year.

"We're probably somewhere in June of 2021," Boersma said Thursday when asked by county Commissioner Darin Fowler when to expect a grand opening.

The facility is known as a racino because of its association with horse racing and its likeness to a casino, complete with gambling devices similar to slot machines. Boersma currently calls it the Grants Pass Entertainment Venue, but says a new name is in the

Boersma's TMB Racing, doing business as Grants Pass Downs, is footing the bill for the facility and a host of related fairgrounds improvements, including a paved parking project at the nearby YMCA that is due to get underway this weekend.

Turn to RACINO, Page 5A

Cave Junction man pleads guilty to threatening YouTube shooting

By Chris Bristol of the Daily Courier

A Cave Junction conspiracy theorist angry about restrictions on his YouTube channel was convicted Thursday of threatening a mass shooting at the company's California head-

> William Gregory Douglas, 37, faces up to five years in prison at sentencing in May out was released until then by



U.S. District Judge Ann L. Aiken following his guilty plea in federal court in Medford to one count of making interstate communications with the intent to extort. **DOUGLAS** Douglas originally was

charged with cyberstalking following his arrest by the FBI on Sept. 20, 2018. He had remained in custody until Thursday, a period

Months prior to his arrest, the video-sharing platform had begun a crackdown on hate speech and misinformation that eventually ensnared the defendant's channel, which included conspiracy theories, references to the "deep state," and his self-described membership in the "truth community."

Online, he posted complaints that he had been "shadow-banned" from YouTube, which he described as a government operation.

"Return my channel before someone else comes and shoots more of your employees,' Douglas posted, according to court records in the case. "You want a bigger mass casualty aka shooting let's see what I can do."

Turn to GUILTY, Page 5A

Russia interfering in 2020 election, US officials say

New intelligence shows an attempt to boost Trump's reelection campaign. Story, Page 5A

Rural governments unite against cap-and-trade bill

By Connor Radnovich Salem Statesman Journal

SALEM — Local and regional governments across Oregon have weighed in over the past week on the potential costs and benefits of a

controversial greenhouse gas emis-

sions cap-and-trade bill, with oppo-

• Governor works to keep GOP in Salem. Page 6A.

sition and support falling mostly along rural and urban lines.

Seven largely rural counties have filed opposition to Senate Bill 1530, along with the Eastern Oregon Counties Association, which repre-

sents 14 counties.

These counties include Josephine, Curry, Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Linn and Polk.

about SB 1530 increasing utility and

"We worry that Central Oregon will suffer and see jobs lost as local Their letters raise concerns

Turn to RURAL, Page 7A

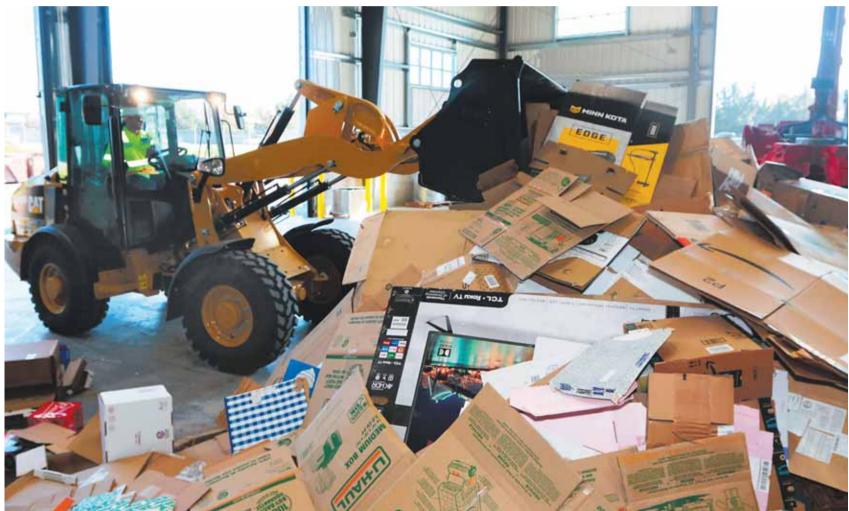
fuel costs, harming agricultural businesses and stifling economic

justify the consequences.

growth. They wrote that the benefits

of the bill are in dispute and do not

New SOS facility speeds recycling work



Southern Oregon Sanitation employee Steve Williams uses a front-end loader to scoop cardboard into a baler conveyor belt at the company's new 14,000-square-foot recycling facility on Redwood Avenue.

Company hopes it can accept more plastics in the future

By Jason McMillen of the Daily Courier

The agitated hum of heavy machinery accented by the roar of dump truck engines united in chorus as Southern Oregon Sanitation's new 14,000-square-foot recycling facility on Redwood Avenue came alive this week.

More specifically, it's a baling station, a place where a huge trash compacting machine squashes recyclable items into bricks the size of refrigerators, then ties them off with metal cordage and pushes them out onto the floor for collection.

Facilities manager Steve Keen said each bale of cardboard is about 1,600 pounds, though weight of course differs depending on the material.

His crew is brand new to both the machine and the process, so they're learning on the job.

We had a guy out today training us up a little more on the wire tying part of the machine,' Keen said. "We basically started two days ago, after a little practice run. But so far everything is working out great."

Ben Bese, operations manager at SOS, said the facility was built in part as a reaction to 2018's global recycling industry meltdown, which occurred after China stopped accepting U.S. recyclables due to high rates of contamination.

Currently, only four types of items can be recycled streetside in the Grants Pass area.



JASON McMILLEN/Daily Courie

Facilities manager Steve Keen operates the baler inside Southern Oregon Sanitation's new recycling facility on Redwood Avenue.

Curbside recyclables

Source: City of Grants Pass

- Here's what can be placed in curbside bins: Newspapers and inserts (no magazines, no junk
- · Corrugated cardboard (must have wavy interior
- Milk jug-style containers (clear or white, no lids,
- rinse thoroughly) Tin and aluminum cans (no lids, rinse thoroughly)

Those items are: corrugated cardboard; newspaper and advertising inserts; aluminum and tin

cans; and milk jug-style plastic containers. At SOS's transfer station, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and motor oil are also accept-

ed. But that's it. Most plastics are still off-limits. The reason for the shortlist is because those are the only products that there's much of a mar-

ket for locally, the company says. But that may change in the future as the domestic recyclables market takes shape. "We're just getting started, but we are still

entertaining the idea of potentially taking #1 and #2 plastics," Bese said. "A lot of that revolves around a conversation between us and our peer carriers, and it also depends on the market. We'll just have to see what is available to us domestically.'

The other reason for the restrictions: Southern

Turn to RECYCLE, Page 5A

At least \$1 million from River Road Reserve sale will go to Dollar Mountain

By Sean Bassinger of the Daily Courier

city for the land.

Following the sale of the River Road Reserve, members of the Grants Pass City Council will now decide what to do with the lion's share of the \$3.5

million Travis Boersma is paying the

Projects on the 444-acre Dollar Mountain, repairs to the aging Caveman Pool, and other parks maintenance projects top the list of goals for the city this year. But Dollar Mountain will take precedence, thanks to a previously approved council resolution that authorizes the use of surplus land sales to pay for the project.

"Off the top, \$1 million of that's going to pay for Dollar Mountain," Council President Tyler Flaming said in a phone call Thursday.

With that in mind, Flaming said that the council must decide where to put the remaining chunk of money

The City Council voted 8-0 to sell

231 acres at the River Road Reserve, including a 4-acre parcel on the Rogue River that encompasses the Lathrop Boat Ramp, to Boersma, co-founder and CEO of Dutch Bros Coffee. Boersma has said he has plans to build an equestrian horse training facility at the site to help bolster Grants Pass

City Finance Director Jay Meredith said that approximately \$1.1 million would go toward paying off the Dollar Mountain loan. Meredith said that the City Council will then decide what to do with the remaining \$2.4 million. That's close to the \$2.5 million cost

Turn to SALE, Page 5A



3 Sections, 40 Pages Volume CX No. 112 Issue 32888

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SATURDAY 60 5-day forecast on Page 2A

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US intelligence says Russia boosting Trump candidacy

By Mary Clare Jalonick and Michael Balsamo

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Intelligence officials have warned lawmakers that Russia is interfering in the 2020 election campaign to help President Donald Trump get reelected, according to three officials familiar with the closed-door briefing.

Trump pushed back today accusing Democrats of launching a disinformation campaign.

"Another misinformation campaign is being launched by Democrats in Congress saying that Russia prefers me to any of the Do Nothing Democrat candidates who still have been unable to, after two weeks, count their votes in Iowa. Hoax number 7!" Trump tweeted.

The officials, who asked for anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence, said Thursday that the briefing last week focused on Russia's efforts to influence the 2020 election and sow discord in the American electorate. The intelligence warning was first reported by The New York Times and The Washington Post.

A senior administration offi-

cial told The Associated Press that the news infuriated Trump, who complained that Democrats would use the information against him. Over the course of his presidency, Trump has dismissed the intelligence community's assessment of Russia's 2016 election interference as a conspiracy to undermine his victory. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to

describe the private meeting. A day after the Feb. 13 briefing to the House committee, Trump berated the then-director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, and he announced this week that Maguire would be replaced by Richard Grenell, a Trump loyalist.

Moscow denied any meddling. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said today that the allegations are "paranoid reports that, unfortunately, there will be more and more of as we get closer to the elections (in the U.S.). Of course, they have nothing to do with the truth."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi tweeted that, "American voters should decide American elections — not Vladimir Putin." She "We count on the intelligence community to inform Congress of any threat of foreign interference in our elections."

> **REP. ADAM SCHIFF D-California**

added that all members of Congress "should condemn the President's reported efforts to dismiss threats to the integrity of our democracy & to politicize

our intel community." Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the chairman of the House intelligence committee, tweeted: "We count on the intelligence community to inform Congress of any threat of foreign interference in our elections. If reports are true and the President is interfering with that, he is again jeopardizing our efforts to stop foreign meddling. Exactly as we warned he would do."

U.S. intelligence agencies say Russia interfered in the 2016 election through social media campaigns and stealing and distributing emails from Democratic accounts. They say Russia was trying to boost Trump's campaign and add chaos to the

American political process. Special counsel Robert Mueller concluded that Russian interference was "sweeping and systematic,' but he did not find a criminal conspiracy between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Republican lawmakers who were in last week's briefing by the DNI's chief election official, Shelby Pierson, pushed back by noting that Trump has been tough on Russia, one of the officials said.

While Trump has imposed severe economic sanctions on Russia, he also has spoken warmly of Russian leader Vladimir Putin and withdrawn troops from areas, like Syria, where Moscow could fill the vacuum. He delayed military aid last year to Ukraine, a Russian adversary — a decision that was at the core of his impeachment proceedings.

The Times said Trump was angry that the House briefing was made before Schiff, the panel's chairman, who led the

impeachment proceedings. Trump on Thursday formally appointed Grenell, the U.S. ambassador to Germany, to replace Maguire as the new acting director of national intelligence. Maguire was required to step down soon under federal law governing acting appointments. The Times cited two administration officials as saying the timing, after the intelligence briefing, was coinciden-

Grenell's background is primarily in politics and media affairs. He lacks the extensive national security and military experience of Maguire, as well as previous holders of the position overseeing the nation's 17 intelligence agencies.

His appointment does little to heal the president's fraught relations with the intelligence community, which Trump has derided as part of a "deep state" of entrenched bureaucrats that seek to undermine his agenda. The administration has most notably feuded with the intelligence community over the Russian interference and the events surrounding Trump's impeach-

Pierson told NPR in an interview that aired last month that the Russians "are already engaging in influence operations relative to candidates going into 2020. But we do not have evidence at this time that our adversaries are directly looking at interfering with vote counts or the vote tallies."

Pierson, appointed in July 2019 by then-Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, works with intelligence agencies like the CIA, the FBI, the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security to identify anyone seeking to interfere with U.S. elections.

Pierson told NPR that the U.S. doesn't know exactly what the Russians are planning, but she said it's not just a Russia problem.

"We're still also concerned about China, Iran, non-state actors, hacktivists and frankly - certainly for DHS and FBI even Americans that might be looking to undermine confidence in the elections.'

Recycle From 1A

Oregon Aspire, a nonprofit port to people with intellectual discontinued its recycling pro-

its recyclables far and wide to get them sorted and baled, meaning the company had little control over the end product even as transportation costs increased.

The additional transportation mileage also meant increased carbon emissions, which Bese felt was sort of defeating the purpose of the

to ship all of our material within Oregon, while before it was sometimes four or five different states," Bese said. "We did a lot of research to find a balance between environmental impacts and at the same time keep costs down within the community.

According to Amy Roth, resource director of the Associaproposals being worked up at

She said that the Depart-

steering committee to research and help deal with the issue.

But recycling plastic is easier said than done. That's because of its generally slim profit margin when compared to other materials.

"A lot of plastics recycling has to do with demand. When we have cheap oil and a lot of natural gas available to create virgin plastic, it drives the price down and makes recycled plastic not very competitive," Roth said. Despite the tight market,

Laura Leebrick, community and governmental affairs manager of Rogue Disposal & Recycling, said that regional demand for #1 and #2 plastic indicates that disposal companies will likely be accepting it again in the near future.

However, other types of plastics, or other materials that aren't particularly in high demand, may never be accept- not without serious changes in the market anyway.

With China closing its doors a few years ago, we've found that a lot of materials we previously assumed were being recycled were not being recycled, because there just wasn't a demand for it," Leebrick said. "So we here in Southern Ore-

gon took a very conservative approach and stopped accepting a lot of stuff in curbside

upgrades costing \$28 million to

plant, and new headquarters for

To me, the last thing I want

the Department of Public Safe-

ty that have gone several mil-

the city's water restoration

lion dollars over budget.

to do right now is get into

another expensive project,"

lots floating around anyway.

he would expect to see parks

probably the No. 1 place to

start with," Eames said.

"I think Caveman Pool is

Councilor DJ Faszer shared

similar thoughts, adding that he would like to see the pool

city's \$700,000 in deferred parks

repaired and, if possible, the

maintenance wiped out. He

added that the City Council could consider holding on to the

money for other purposes.

discussion," Faszer said.

wanted to be careful about

Reserve money on mainte-

nance, arguing that assets

recurring expenses.

should seldom be sold off for

spending the River Road

"It really needs to get

fleshed out in a council body

Councilor Joel King said he

projects take priority.

Roler said. "We've already got

Councilor Barry Eames said

bins to reduce contamination."

Leebrick believes two things need to be done at the legislative level, either in Oregon or nationwide, to secure the future of domestic recycling, mainly focusing on plastic products.

Much of it would address the underlying problems that got the United States into the recycling holdup to begin with.

The first is encouraging, if not forcing, manufacturers of packaging to put truthful recycling labels on their products. Leebrick says existing labels are often misleading.

"We also need to encourage manufacturers to use recycled plastic as well," Leebrick said. "If we could accomplish those two things, it would do a lot to create a healthier domestic market for it."

In addition to the construction of the baling facility, SOS also fine-tuned its transfer station with a more efficient entrance and exit roundabout.

It should serve to make the station a bit more traversable and reduce traffic disturbances on Redwood Avenue.

'When everyone gets used to it, the flow will be a whole lot smoother," Bese said.

Reach reporter Jason McMillen at 541-474-3718 or jmcmillen@thedailycourier.com.

"Because if you sell off assets to pay maintenance, pretty soon you run out of

assets," King said. King added that he wanted additional input from the Parks Advisory Committee.

Councilor Rick Riker, meanwhile, said he wouldn't mind staying away from parks expenses.

That would be my wish list," Riker said, adding that he supported paying off parks maintenance costs as well. "Whether it has any support or

not, I don't know.' Flaming floated the idea of more public forums to gather input on what to do about the city's Caveman Pool issue. The pool is a community asset to many, though the 66-year-old facility needs extensive repairs that could cost up to \$2.5 mil-

"But I don't know [if the] pool will get fixed or renovated," Flaming said. "It might be somewhere else — I just don't know.'

"That's why I'm looking forward to diving into this, and seeing exactly what the community thinks would be good," Flaming added.

Reach reporter Sean Bassinger at 541-474-3806 or sbassinger@thedailycourier.com.

Racino From 1A

The YMCA work, which will add parking for disabled persons and others, is being prompted by work currently underway to widen the fairgrounds horse racing track by 12 feet, to accommodate two more lanes for horses. Boersma holds a state license to conduct commercial horse racing at the track.

In another related development, artificial turf is expected to be installed possibly beginning next week for athletic fields in the infield of the track. Love Abounds, the charitable arm of Dutch Bros. is paying for that work, estimated to cost \$5 million, according to Kendra Lellis, vice president of Grants Pass Downs.

Work at the fields includes a dozen new lights, including bases and poles. Yet to be decided is how to get over the dirt race track without ruining it. A proposed tunnel has been scrapped, and the shadow of an overhead bridge would spook horses, Lellis said.

"We've got a team of engineers scratching their heads," she said. "It's not an easy thing."

Boersma, Lellis and engineer Justin Gerlitz met with commissioners Thursday to present their plans for the racino and get county approval to submit plans to the city of Grants Pass for approval. Commissioners unanimously agreed to pursue city approval, which would include a planning commission review.

Commissioner Dan DeYoung said the racino will help fund improvements at the fairgrounds.

"The money has to come from somewhere," he said.

NEWSWATCH

"The fairgrounds as a whole is going to get a facelift. This is kind of a start."

JUSTIN GERLITZ

Engineer

"This right here is step No. 1. None of this stuff we dream about can happen unless we have a resource. I can appreciate the start of something

big."
"We're just waiting for the hotel ... the concert venue," Commissioner Lily Morgan chimed in, prompting laughs.

"One step at a time," Fowler told her.

There's been some discussion, most prominently from DeYoung, about a possible hotel and convention center near the fairgrounds, possibly where the county's public works facility is located. There's also been talk about a possible event venue along the nearby Rogue River, where the county has a 4.2-acre parcel of property it bought in 2018 for \$625,000, at 980 West Park St.

The county currently is undertaking a master planning process for the fairgrounds, with public sessions yet to be announced as part of that plan-

The commissioners welcomed Boersma's investments, made possible by leases he has with the county, including \$50,000 a year he pays to use the track infield for the new play fields, and \$175,000 a year to lease the land for the racino. Once it's built, the lease amount goes to \$275,000 a year for that land.

Fowler welcomed the idea of a restaurant that is part of the new facility.

"I know people on that side of the river also will be glad to have another restaurant choice," he said.

Morgan, however, noted that she's been getting some complaints about gambling

"We're getting more pushback as the community becomes aware," she said.

Plans call for a building in the Northwest or Pacific lodge-style look, with the restaurant and banquet facilities on the side facing the

"Ideally, something like a Texas Roadhouse," Boersma said, referring to a well-known steak-and-ribs chain of restau-

The racino would be built west of the YMCA, in what is now a gravel lot near the River Čity BMX bicycle racing track, which Boersma would pay to relocate, under terms of his lease. Curbs, gutters, sidewalks and landscape strips would surround the facility.

In addition, a walkway is envisioned to eventually stretch from near the YMCA and toward the center of the fairgrounds, with some plaza areas along the way. A paddock building next to the YMCA would be relocated as part of that walkway work.

The walkway and plaza areas would serve to help dress up what is now a dreary paved area between the grandstands and the Redwood High-

"The fairgrounds as a whole is going to get a facelift," Gerlitz said. "This is kind of a

> Reach reporter Shaun Hall at 541-474-3726 or shall@thedailycourier.com.

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SPORTSMEN'S & OUTDOOR



RV SHOW & SALE

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organization that provides supand developmental disabilities, gram in 2016. Ever since, SOS had to take

Earth-conscious practice. "We're now going to be able

tion of Oregon Recyclers, there are several recycling-related both the state and national level.

ment of Environmental Quality has even formed a recycling

the city has undertaken in Sale From 1A recent years, including a proposed \$81 million water treatment plant project, recent

"The rest would be available to be allocated to the highest priority projects, as decided by the City Council," Meredith said, referring to the council's top goals for 2020.

to repair Caveman Pool.

Councilors will formally begin those talks at a March 2 workshop.

Meanwhile, Flaming said the money could go toward any project that the council desires since it will return to the general fund. He added that it might make the most sense to fund

parks projects. "Nothing's set in stone, by any means," Flaming said. "But those are the kinds of conversations that have happened."

Other councilors suggested that the \$2.4 million should go toward parks projects, park maintenance or other current expenses.

Councilor Dennis Roler said he would rather not see the money go toward another new project, such as talk of an indoor aquatics center that's been estimated to cost upward of \$35 million to build.

Roler referenced other expensive public works projects

he posted a direct threat at

Susan Wojcicki, the CEO of

YouTube, saying "Susan I'm

coming for you today #pray."

In pretrial maneuvering,

court to dismiss the case, argu-

ing his threats were against a corporation, not a person, and

that many of the defendant's

tected free speech.

posts were constitutionally pro-

Douglas' attorneys asked the

The FBI arrested him three

Many people make money on Guilty From 1A YouTube, and restrictions on posting videos can have a serious effect on someone's livelihood without recourse. The woman That threat appeared to be a reference to a shooting in April who opened fire at YouTube 2018 in which a woman upset headquarters had a sizeable following, particularly among viewthat YouTube had restricted her

videos opened fire at the compaers in her home country of Iran. ny's headquarters in San Bruno, Prosecutors countered that California, wounding three peo-Douglas' threats were not mere ple before she killed herself. hyperbole and that threatening a mass shooting is a serious According to federal prosecutors, Douglas' increasingly crime regardless of whether vitriolic threats on Twitter culsomeone plans to act. minated on Sept. 17, 2018, when

This is a crime that undermines Americans' fundamental right to live and work without fear," Billy Williams, U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon, said in a statement Thursday. "We will continue to diligently respond to and prosecute criminal threats of violence to

The defendant's courtappointed attorney has previously said Douglas had no prior felony convictions, although he was arrested in 2010 for driving

the fullest extent of the law."

with a suspended license and 17 years ago for theft. Prosecutors, however, said

Douglas had been arrested several times for weapons violations, including once when he was a teenager for possession of an explosive device.

They said Douglas was not employed, that he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, and that he abused marijuana and alcohol. Other records indicated he had training as a certified medical assistant and had hopes of working some day for Siskiyou Medical Health Center in Cave Junction. In addition to prison time,

to \$250,000 and three years of supervised release. He will be sentenced by Aiken on May 14. Prosecutors said they would seek the lowend of the sentencing range.

Douglas also faces a fine of up

Reach city editor Chris Bristol at 541-474-3716 or cbristol@thedailycourier.com.

An extra burden for local exchange students

Coronavirus outbreak causes some to depart US early

By Casey Crowley of the Daily Courier

Like most seniors at Grants Pass High School, Jette Hagelberg was looking forward to the pomp and circumstance of graduation in a couple of

But Hagelberg won't be here for it because on Monday she went back to her home country of Germany.

"I didn't expect this," Hagelberg said last week, as she prepared reluctantly to return home to Braunschweig, also known as Brunswick, a city in north-central Germany. "I didn't think I would be going home for a long time.

Hagelberg is an international who has been studying at the high school this year through the Rotary Club's student exchange program.

After seven months living in Grants Pass with two host families, the last few weeks have been filled with uncertainty as Hagelberg and her parents in Germany discussed bringing her home early because of the impacts coronavirus has had on travel.

"I feel like I can't really say goodbye," Hagelberg said. "It's not easy to leave."

Ultimately, Hagelberg and her parents agreed it was best for her to come home, so that she doesn't get stuck in the United States because of travel restrictions.

Across the county, international students have been faced with the same decisions as Hagelberg and her family, while some have been ordered to

"Right now it just makes me sad and makes me feel kind of bad about leaving," Hagelberg said. "It's the right decision for me."

Hagelberg and two other exchange students in the Grants Pass area are being hosted by members of local Rotary Clubs.

"We are allowing students who should be here until June to decide with their natural parents whether or not they should stay," said Ann Bauer, youth exchange officer for the Rotary Club of Grants Pass.

Bauer said that Rotary has councilors who are checking in regularly with the students to make sure they are doing well.

"I think they kind of think the same thing all teenagers are thinking," Bauer said. "Their life is kind of in quarantine, just like everybody else."

The other two Rotary exchange students are staying, for now. That includes Silvi Fonseca Barrera, a student from Bogotá, Colombia. She has been thinking about going home, but hasn't



German exchange student Jette Hagelberg, 17, poses for a portrait at her host family's home. Hagelberg departed for her hometown of Braunschweig on Monday because of uncertainty caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

yet made a decision.

"I've been considering that because of all that I've been hearing," Fonseca Barrera said. "I'm

"There were times I thought I was going to stay here forever," she added, "because it was going to be closed forever."

Hagelberg said she has spent much of the last few days packing, going on walks and watching

movies with her host family. "They gave me a second home," Hagelberg said of her host families. "They are sad about it,

but they understand the decision." With over 100,000 confirmed cases, Germany is fourth in the world with COVID-19 infections

after the U.S., Italy and Spain. But the country has a remarkably low mortality rate, just 1.4%, compared to 2.5% in the Unit-

ed States, 12% in Italy and around 10% in Spain. Hagelberg was scheduled to be in Grants Pass until the first week of July, but with her leaving early she will miss out on the experience of

American graduation, prom and other extracur-"Prom, graduation — those were some things I was looking forward to," she said. "We're just

missing out on a whole lot of experiences. Hagelberg said that while Germany has graduation ceremonies, she was especially excited to

experience an American one because of the size of the class and the signature caps and gowns. "It's such an American experience," Hagelberg said. "I can't even explain how it's differ-

She said that overall she has enjoyed her time in the U.S. and hopes to return to visit some day. "Oregon is not what most people think of when they think of America," Hagelberg said.

Reach reporter Casey Crowley at 541-474-3813 or ccrowley@thedailycourier.com.

32,282-square-foot racino goes before planning panel

By Shaun Hall of the Daily Courier

Planning commissioners for Grants Pass are scheduled to review and possibly approve plans Wednesday for Travis Boersma's proposed gambling, bar and restaurant building at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

The 32,282-square-foot facility, which would take up an area that's a bit more than half the size of a football field, is officially dubbed the Grants Pass Entertainment Venue, but it's also known as a racino, because it mixes horse racing culture with a casino-like atmosphere.

The building, proposed for the northeast corner of Redwood Avenue and Allen Creek Road, is slated to contain 200 historic racing terminals, which are similar to slot machines. City of Grants Pass planners are recommending conditional approval. Construction might begin sometime later this year.

Boersma, CEO of Dutch Bros Coffee, is leasing the property long term from the county for \$175,000 a year, which would jump to \$275,000 a year when the facility becomes operational. Doing business as TMB Racing, Boersma last year was given Oregon Racing commercial horse racing at the track. He currently is renovating the track area, with plans to renovate the grandstands and adjacent area.

Love Abounds, which is the charitable arm of Dutch Bros, also is building a \$5 million sports field complex in the racetrack's infield.

According to plans for the racino, it will:

• Contain a 6,384-square-foot gaming floor with a 400-squarefoot central bar, all separated from the other areas of the building because the gaming and bar are adult-use only.

Contain a 6,300-square foot restaurant, 1,200-square-foot banquet area and coffee shop. Those areas will be on the building's east side, facing the nearby YMCA, racetrack and grandstand.

• Be designed in a Northwest lodge style, including timbers and a covered drop-off area near the front entrance to the gambling area, facing south, toward Redwood Avenue. A prominent 41-foottall chimney is proposed, but it's 6 feet too tall for standards and will have to be shortened unless exceptions or other changes are made.

• Have 441 paved parking spaces, in addition to 94 at the YMCA. Access to Redwood

ways and Pansy Lane. The facility would generate about 800 vehicle trips daily.

 A huge conifer at Redwood Avenue and Pansy Lane is slated for removal to make way for parking, although planners suggest it be retained as shade. Grants Pass is a designated Tree City USA, they

The building location was moved 100 feet to the east to leave room to realign Redwood Avenue if needed in the future.

According to TMB Racing's proposal, the new venue will create jobs, add a year-round tourist destination, support the fairgrounds and support horse racing.

The city's Urban Area Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. to consider the proposal, which is the second item on its agenda, following a decision on an unrelated matter: a 17-lot subdivision proposed on 2.83 acres at the east end of Raydean Drive. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the public may not attend the meeting in person, but may view it and comment online. For more information, call the city's planning department at 541-450-6060.

> Reach reporter Shaun Hall at 541-474-3726 or shall@thedailycourier.com.

Mayor breaks council tie to OK extra \$50K for tourism contractor

Bv Sean Bassinger of the Daily Courier

It's official — tourism contractor Jon Bowen and Experience Grants Pass will receive an extra \$50,000 to pay for what Bowen says is a shortfall from extra events he's taken on in recent years

On Monday, the Grants Pass City Council voted 3-3, with Mayor Roy Lindsay breaking the tie, to approve a \$50,000 cash infusion to Bowen, director of Experience Grants Pass, for expenses to finish out his contract through June 30. Bowen turned in his official resignation eight days ago.

During a meeting conducted remotely, councilors Clint Scherf, Rick Riker and Valerie Lovelace approved the \$50,000 contract change, while Dennis

Roler, Joel King and Tyler Flaming voted no. Councilors Barry Eames and DJ Faszer were absent from the teleconference at the time of the vote. Lindsay said that he voted yes to move everything along following weeks of discussion and turmoil related to the subject.

The city hired Bowen in 2014 and paid him a \$290,000 annual contract for tourism and marketing services. He now receives about \$300,000, plus another \$65,000 for the downtown Welcome Center, each year. He approached the City Council on Feb. 24 with news that he and the city's tourism budget were about \$42,000 short in expenses for taking on new events.

But with the continued coronavirus outbreak stifling profits left and right, Bowen's budget and situation have continued to change. Flaming questioned an increase in the wages and taxes category to \$6,500 in June, which had previously been reduced to about \$3,500 in months prior.

"No one's answered why that is," Flaming said. "I need to have that explained to me."

Some of Bowen's staff, according to Parks and Community Development Director Lora Ğlover, will work to oversee the transition from Experience Grants Pass back to the city until another tourism contractor can be brought on.

"We have a lot of things up in the air right now," Glover told the council.

Reach reporter Sean Bassinger at 541-474-3806 or sbassinger @the daily courier.com.











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Daily Courier **Grants Pass**

Warming center faces shortage of volunteers

By Sean Bassinger of the Daily Courier

The Grants Pass Warming Center is at its capacity of 40 people each night now. It also has fewer than 10 regular volun-

On Wednesday, the Josephine County Emergency Operations Center reported that the warming center was looking for ways to deal with what were described as "capacity issues" at the center, 531 N.E. F St., since it started its seven-day nightly openings last week to help prevent coronavirus spread among the homeless population.

Kelly Wessels, chief operations officer at United Community Action Network, or UCAN, confirmed that the warming center continues to work with volunteer shortages. Wessels serves as a liaison between UCAN and the social services branch of the county EOC. She offered no additional details as of Friday.

Turn to CENTER, Page 6A

Coronavirus in Oregon

Josephine County cases: 19

Josephine County deaths: 1 Josephine County negative tests: 832

Statewide cases: 1,785

Statewide deaths: 70

Statewide negative tests: 34,603

Counties with positive cases: Multnomah (467), Washington (383), Marion (317), Clackamas (153), Deschutes (61), Linn (57), Jackson (48), Lane (46), Yamhill (35), Polk (31), Klamath (29), Benton (27), Umatilla (23), Douglas (22), Josephine (19), Columbia (14), Wasco (10), Clatsop (6), Tillamook (6), Malheur (5), Morrow (5), Lincoln (4), Hood River (4), Union (4), Curry (3), Coos (1), Grant (1), Sherman (1), Crook (1), Wallowa (1), Jefferson (1)

Source: Oregon Health Authority



Courtesy of Rollins Machiner

The Grants Pass City Council will be asked Monday to approve the \$89,000 purchase of a Jacobsen mower identical to this one.

City Council sounds ready to OK purchase of \$89,000 mower

By Sean Bassinger of the Daily Courier

The Grants Pass City Council may approve an \$89,000 lawn mower for city parks, but not before debating the pur-

chase one more time on Monday.

At issue is the city's request to buy a 14-foot Jacobsen HR-700 mower from California-based Garton Tractor. The city says its current mower, a 2011 Toro 5900 Batwing, is failing and costs about \$10,000 to repair annually.

Several councilors have balked at the new mower's price tag. Councilor Rick Riker told councilors that he wanted to see the item, which was scheduled for routine approval on the city's consent agenda, debated further.

Councilor Valerie Lovelace also has some questions about the purchase, although she said she understands the city's need to purchase the mower.

Turn to MOWER, Page 8A

SOTAR is one of a number of local companies pivoting to help fight COVID-19 pandemic



Jeremiah Lewman, manager of SOTAR, demonstrates a helmet ventilator he's prototyping at the company's manufacturing plant in Merlin. Lewman estimates the raft manufacturer could produce 15 ventilators per day to supply hospitals during the coronavirus pandemic.

Raft builder crafts inflatable ventilator

By Jeff Duewel of the Daily Courier

MERLIN — Glenn Lewman started Whitewater Manufacturing out of his garage in Grants Pass 40 years ago, and the company eventually gained a reputation for building world-class rafts.

Now his son Jeremiah, chief operations officer of the company, is using the same tools, materials and expertise used in raft building to produce an innovative, pressurized ventilator that can help COVID-19 patients breathe.

It's a clear, plastic, pressurized helmet, which reminds him of Mr. Freeze on

"It's an inflatable bubble that goes

over a patient's head," Lewman said. "It can be pressurized with a rich oxygen environment, to get more air in their

'It's being used in Europe with a pretty high success rate," Lewman said. "They're less invasive than a regular ven-

tilator. Whitewater Manufacturing, known more commonly as SOTAR, short for State of the Art Raft, is one of numerous companies around the country and right here in Southern Oregon racing to use oldfashioned American know-how to ramp up production of emergency medical equipment during the coronavirus pandemic.

Turn to SOTAR, Page 6A



Lewman works on a prototype of a helmet ventilator at SOTAR's manufacturing plant in Merlin on Friday afternoon.



The racino proposed by TMB Racing would include 200 slot machine-like devices known as historical racing machines.

Racino charging toward regulatory finish line

Proposal will receive a second hearing before city planning panel Wednesday

By Shaun Hall of the Daily Courier

Travis Boersma's proposal to build a racino at the

Josephine County Fairgrounds is due to get a second hearing Wednesday before Grants Pass planning com-The racino, which would be built at the northeast corner of Redwood Avenue and Allen Creek Road, is

being touted as a boon for jobs, the fairgrounds and the local economy, as well as a support for the flagging horse racing industry. And it comes at a time of deep worry about the nation's economy due to the coron-Boersma, a big horse racing fan, is co-founder and CEO of Dutch Bros Coffee. He grew up locally, watched horse racing at the fairgrounds as a young person, and

started his coffee business here with his brother, Dane. Last year, he was granted a three-year state license to operate horse racing meets at the fairgrounds, and he views the racino as critical to his efforts.

While there's some grumbling about gambling at the racino — so named because it involves elements of racing and a casino — no significant opposition to the project has surfaced. Wagering on horse races already is

Turn to RACINO, Page 8A

Testing troubles in US cloud Trump recovery effort

State and local officials say more supplies are needed before virus testing can expand

By Matthew Perrone and Michelle R. Smith Associated Press

The United States is struggling to test enough people to track and control the spread of the novel coronavirus, a crucial first step to reopening parts of the economy, which President Donald Trump is pushing to do by May 1.

Trump on Thursday released a plan to ease business restrictions that hinges on a downward trajectory of

But more than a month after he declared, "Anybody who wants a test, can get a test," the reality has been much different. People report being unable to get tested. Labs and public officials say critical supply shortages are making it impressible to impress testing to the levels. are making it impossible to increase testing to the levels experts say is necessary to keep the virus in check.

"There are places that have enough test swabs, but not enough workers to administer them. There are places that are limiting tests because of the CDC criteria on who should get tested," said Dr. Megan Ranney, an emergency physician and associate professor at Brown University. "There's just so many inefficiencies and problems with the way that testing currently happens across this country."

Trump's plan envisions setting up "sentinel surveil-lance sites" that would screen people without symptoms

Turn to TESTING, Page 7A



2 Sections, 20 Pages Volume CX No. 153 Issue 32929

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Cooler, but plenty of sun SUNDAY MONDAY

5-day forecast on Page 2A

WHERE TO FIND IT Obituaries.....5A Abby......**5B** Opinion4A Classified6B Police8A Comics.....3B Sports......**1B** Entertainment......4B Sunday Health......10A

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Fire calls

Grants Pass Fire Rescue

4:47 a.m. Friday, 1400 block Northeast D Street, large vehicle fire.

- 5:10 a.m. Friday, Grants Pass Parkway at Agness Avenue, vehicle crash. 7:34 a.m. Friday, 2000 block Northwest Highland Avenue, fire alarm. 2:37 p.m. Friday, Northeast Seventh Street at D Street, vehicle crash.
- 8:51 p.m. Friday, Drury Lane at Idle Court, vehicle crash. 10:09 p.m. Friday, Grants Pass Parkway at M Street, vehicle crash.

Rural/Metro Fire 5:10 a.m. Friday, Grants Pass Parkway at Agness Avenue, vehicle crash.

- 12:11 p.m. Friday, 500 block Hugo Road, grass fire. 5:52 p.m. Friday, Redwood Highway at Airport Drive, grass fire. 7:11 p.m. Friday, 500 block Kerby Mainline Road, outdoor smoke.
- 7:20 p.m. Friday, 4200 block Azalea Drive, public assist.

Illinois Valley Fire District

- 1:34 p.m. Friday, 25600 block Redwood Highway, grass fire. 5:52 p.m. Friday, Redwood Highway at Airport Drive, grass fire. 7:11 p.m. Friday, 500 block Kerby Mainline Road, outdoor smoke.
- **Wolf Creek Fire District** 2:21 p.m. Friday, 7700 block Lower Grave Creek Road, vehicle crash.

Rogue River Fire District 1:25 p.m. Friday, 1000 block Rogue River Highway, vehicle crash.

*All other calls not listed here were for medical aid or non-emergent smoke

Police

Grants Pass Department of Public Safety

Lela Smith, 35, was arrested in the 500 block of Northeast F Street on suspicion of seconddegree assault and the unlawful use of a deadly weapon after it was reported by multiple witnesses that she had attacked a man in the street Friday around 5:30 p.m.

She was lodged in the Josephine County jail.

Matthew R. Steddum, 36, was arrested on Grants Pass Parkway near Southeast M Street on suspicion of DUII following a vehicle collision around 11 p.m. Friday

Josephine County Sheriff's Office

A caller at the Illinois Valley Fire District reported that a woman was shouting and screaming expletives at their building at the corner of Lone Mountain Road and Redwood

Highway around 11:15 a.m.

She was told not to return.

A caller in the 2400 block of West Side Road near Cave Junction reported around 2:45 p.m. Friday that four people appeared to be illegally moving into a vacant house.

The people were told to leave and not to return, and the homeowner was notified of the situation.

Oregon State Police

Jose Israel Ortiz-Adata, 25, was arrested on suspicion of DUII around 8:50 p.m. Thursday at milepost 39 of Redwood High-

He was lodged at the Grants Pass Sobering Center and his vehicle, which was parked off the side of the highway when the investigation began, was

No logs were available for

Mower From 1A

"It can't just be a consent item that we don't have a discussion about," she said.

Part of the debate is how much money the city could save with fewer bells and whistles. The mower itself costs \$86,755 with a climate-controlled cab, in addition to \$2,300 in accessories for a mulch kit and tire protection.

The city received quotes from two Jacobsen dealers, Garton Tractors and RMT Equipment, with both saying that models without the climate-controlled cab often cost between \$8,000 to \$10,000 less. depending on the type of

canopy installed. Jason Dwellar of Garton Tractor, the company that won the bid, said that the same mower without a cab could cost up to \$79,000 before adding accessories. Dwellar added that most companies or governments go with the climate cab due to safety concerns.

Typically, the HR-700 models may cost around \$10,000 less without such a cab, according to Jason Aguirre with RMT Equipment. The quote from RMT also included \$4,586.80 for

accessories. Representatives from the manufacturer, Jacobsen, did not return a call seeking further information.

Despite any extra expenses, several councilors agree that the purchase is much needed and will benefit the city in the long run.

That included Riker himself, the councilor who asked for a second look. He said he now agrees the climate-controlled cab will protect workers from bee stings and other harm.

"That seems like a wellworth investment to protect your employee and make sure they can get the job done," Riker said. "If you get a couple bee stings, you could put some-body out of commission real

Councilor Barry Eames said he took a double-take at the nearly \$90,000 price tag, but realized that a smaller mower, or number of smaller mowers, would require more staff time to cover more acreage.

"I got to thinking about it and we can do as much work with that one [mower] as two or three guys can do with a regular lawn mower machine,'

Councilor Joel King shared similar thoughts, adding that a more expensive mower "doesn't go on vacation, it doesn't go on sick days."

"Unfortunately, that's the kind of world we live in," King said of rising employee expenses. "Because the personnel costs are so expensive and the retirement costs are so expensive."

Councilor DJ Faszer said that the mower price tag surprised him when he saw it in March, adding that the purchase likely gained attention because it exceeded the threshold of \$50,000 that the city can spend without council approval.

"Public Works assures us that the purchase is necessary," Faszer said.

Meanwhile, Councilors Tyler Flaming and Clint Scherf say they're ready to pull the trigger and just buy the mower.

"I kind of think it's a waste of time to discuss it more," Scherf said. "As far as I understood it, the money's in the [equipment] budget for that. We just need the final approval for the budget to buy it.

Flaming agrees, but said that he's also fine with additional discussion.

"That's a lot of money for a mower, no question about it," Flaming said. "If it makes everyone feel good to talk about it, let's talk about it again.'

Monday's meeting, which is remote-by-phone, begins at 11:45 a.m. Monday and can be viewed on RVTV.sou.edu.

Reach reporter Sean Bassinger at 541-474-3806 or sbassinger@thedailycourier.com.

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"A QUILTER'S HAVEN"

Murphy man in armed standoff was upset over losing job, girlfriend, weapons

By Sanne Godfrey Roseburg News-Review

Cedar Cascade Higgs, the 24-year-old Murphy man who was arrested following a fivehour armed standoff with police in Canyonville, was arraigned on two counts of unlawful use of a weapon, menacing, recklessly endangering another person and seconddegree disorderly conduct Thursday.

Court documents show several of Higgs' weapons were seized during a traffic stop around 11 p.m. Tuesday. A passenger at the time of the traffic stop was a convicted felon and prohibited from possessing

A roommate of Higgs told the Douglas County Sheriff's Office that Higgs had been upset about a breakup with a woman and losing his job.

"The traffic stop in which several of his guns were seized the previous evening infuriated Higgs," the affidavit said "Higgs had been drinking heavily since the traffic stop, and hadn't slept."

Higgs refused to make a statement, according to the court document.

Around 8:30 a.m., Higgs

called the sheriff's office to file a personnel complaint because his weapons were taken.

"Higgs was mostly upset about the \$100+ dollar knife that was not given back to him when he legally purchased it in Medford," the affidavit said. "Higgs became very upset and yelled and cussed during our conversation."

The sergeant making the call allegedly asked Higgs to calm down, but ultimately hung up the phone. Dispatchers were notified Higgs may be a hazard and around that same time a call came in about an armed shooter in Canyonville.

Multiple people called in reports of shots fired at 420 SW Fourth Place in Canyonville.

Deputies, Oregon State Police troopers and Myrtle Creek police officers set up a perimeter and tried, but failed, to negotiate with Higgs via the

A search warrant for the property was granted and served around 3:45 p.m. Higgs came out at that time and was taken into custody.

During the search of the property, deputies found the front door destroyed, shell casings on the deck and numerous firearms.

Racino From 1A

allowed at the fairgrounds racetrack.

Two hundred gaming machines called historical racing terminals are proposed. The machines, similar to slot machines, are allowed at racetracks by state statute.

"This was created through the state of Oregon to help the horse racing industry, Boersma consultant Justin Gerlitz told planning commissioners last week. "There won't be any card or dice games. This won't be a casino that you would see at

Seven Feathers. The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, which operates Seven Feathers Casino Resort in Canyonville, did not respond to a request for comment. The Coquille Indian Tribe, which operates a casino and hotel in North Bend and has proposed a casino for Medford, referred calls to Judy Duffy, CEO of Tribal One, the tribe's economic development enterprise.

"It is a casino," Duffy said, referring to Boersma's venture. "Call it what it is."

Duffy said she wasn't afraid of the competition from the racino, but was miffed that state government would allow casino-style gambling in Grants Pass while opposing the tribe's venture in Medford. The Coquille proposal is awaiting long-delayed action by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"I'm curious why the state is supporting that, but refusing to support our efforts," Duffy said.

Gov. Kate Brown in 2016 wrote the bureau opposing an expansion of casinos in the state.

"I believe that the State should as a matter of policy resist the building of additional casinos, because State support for even a single, modest, additional casino is likely to lead to significant efforts to expand gaming across Oregon, to the detriment of the public welfare," Brown wrote. "I believe it essential that the State 'hold the line' on the number of casinos within her borders whenever possible.

Brown's office did not respond to a request for comment. As governor, she appoints members of the Oregon Racing Commission, and the executive director of that panel, Jack McGrail, said the commission could be expected to support the racino when Boersma makes his applica-

"We would certainly look favorably upon it," McGrail said. "I think you need that to make the industry grow. They have the right to do it.

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This is not new territory." Historical racing machines

were used at now-demolished Portland Meadows, the track whose demise opened the door for Boersma last year to obtain a three-vear license to run commercial race meets. The first meet was run last fall in Grants

Pass, although a meet scheduled to start in early May was canceled due to the virus. Summertime fair-circuit meets have been run at fairgrounds around Oregon for years.

Officially, the racino has been named the Grants Pass Entertainment Venue by Boersma, whose TMB Racing company is leasing the fairgrounds racetrack, grandstands and gravel lot area west of the YMCA. The county Board of Commissioners last year approved a 99-year lease deal with the company. That will bring in \$275,000 a year after the racino is built. Until the building is done, TMB Racing is paying \$175,000 a year.

Meanwhile, Love Abounds, the charitable arm of Dutch Bros, has been constructing a \$5 million sports field complex in the racetrack's infield. The latest plans for that project call for a tunnel under the track, allowing access to the infield, according to Gerlitz. Recent track improvements include track widening, an extended gate area and a new tote board.

County Commissioner Dan DeYoung, a strident supporter of Boersma, isn't worried about any tribal opposition to the

"People have asked me, 'What does Seven Feathers think about his racino?" DeYoung told city officials in February. "If it comes down to the Indians swooping down out of the hills, and doing whatever they do, that's Travis' prob-

The Cow Creek Band, whose Canyonville casino has table games and 950 slot machines. has opposed the Coquille tribe's efforts to open a Medford casi-Matt Lund, CEO of the

Grants Pass Family YMCA, was asked if his organization's board of directors had taken a position on the racino.

"The YMCA supports community growth and financial sustainability with economic and social stability," Lund replied, in an email Lund did not reply to a

request for the chairman of the YMCA board to comment. Kendra Lellis, who is spearheading the racino project for Boersma, is a member of the YMCA board.

Former fairgrounds manager Peggy Anderson, who was on the state racing commission and voted for Boersma to get his racing license, still supports him. "He does everything first

class," she said. "He's such an economic driver for the community." Anderson also vouched for TMB Racing's newly appointed president, Randy Evers, a for-

mer racing commission director. "He's very, very qualified to be the president of TMB Racing," she said. "Nobody's better qualified."

The fair board has supported Boersma's efforts. The board currently is working with a Portland consultant, PLACE, to create a fairgrounds master plan, and a draft plan is due out soon. PLACE formerly did work for Love Abounds.

Monte Moore, who served last year as vice president of construction for Dutch Bros, was appointed to the fair board earlier this year.

Former fair board member Bob Nelson, who raises and trains horses, said he expects Grants Pass will become a destination for horse racing, particularly since the city in February agreed to sell Boersma 220 acres of the River Road Reserve property west of town to use as a training facility. Nelson, whose background also includes tourism promotion, said the ventures will benefit motels, restaurants and a range of businesses.

He's going to do a lot for this area," Nelson said. "I mean a lot. He did a ton of research. It could bring people from all

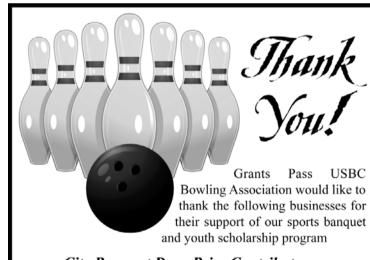
over the world."

The racino building, at nearly 33,000 square feet, would sport a restaurant, bar, banquet area and Dutch Bros Coffee shop, along with the gambling area. Gerlitz said construction could begin in late summer and

Last week, three planning commissioners complimented Gerlitz after he made a presentation about the project. Questions from commissioners mainly revolved around traffic, and the possibility that Redwood Avenue might someday be realigned to the north — and thus closer to the racino — to allow southbound traffic to back up on Allen Creek Road. The building location was moved to allow a realignment, and Gerlitz said any realignment likely would be minor compared to past plans, in part because a Dollar General store had been built nearby, constricting where a realigned road could go.

The public may make comments on the racino for the commission's consideration until 5 p.m. Tuesday, with the commission due to meet online at 6 p.m. Wednesday to possibly make a final decision on a site plan for the project. For more information, contact city planner Bradley Clark at 541-450-6061 or bclark@grantspassoregon.gov.

> Reach reporter Shaun Hall at 541-474-6726 or shall@thedailycourier.com.



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During this time, password-free WiFi is also available from the comfort of your car at all four library branches.







Three Rivers will address racism and inequality

School board set to develop plans for each school, establish committee to monitor progress

By Casey Crowley of the Daily Courier

Following the police killing of George Floyd and incidents of racism within its schools, the Three Rivers School District has announced new plans to try to combat issues of race in the district.

In December, the school board approved a new policy which specifically banned the Confederate battle flag, the swastika and other symbols associated with hate, but Superintendent Dave Valenzuela said that policies alone are not enough to fight racism.

"It's not good enough to just have a policy and think that is going to fix all the issues," Valenzuela said. "We feel like it's long overdue."

On Wednesday, Valenzuela briefed the school board on the district's plan to address racism and inequality among school communities.

Valenzuela said that changes could impact school curriculum, specifically surrounding African American and Native American history, but changes would be specific to each school.

"The only way we're going to make change is if we can engage with the stu-dents," Valenzuela said. "We want to make sure we are teaching our students to be culturally aware."

He added that starting or promoting student clubs that advocate for racial equality could be another part of the plan, but he hopes school administrators will come up with their own ideas.

The board as a whole was in support of the plan to address racism. Board Chairman Rich Halsted said that it is important to call out racist actions and hold those responsible accountable.

"If you are looking past this, then you are wrong," Halsted said. "If you're looking past this and not addressing the behavior, then you are part of the problem."

Valenzuela said that both as a student and employee in Three Rivers, most of the problem has soon and experienced has

racism he has seen and experienced has come from ignorance. He grew up in

"Some people just don't understand what comes out of their mouth sometimes," Valenzuela said.

The board passed the policy in Decem-

Turn to SCHOOL, Page 7A

Coronavirus in Oregon

Josephine County cases: 26

Josephine County deaths: 1

Josephine County negative tests: 3,863 Statewide cases: 6,366

Statewide deaths: 187

Statewide negative tests: 182,770

Counties with positive cases: Multnomah (1,665), Marion (1,244), Washington (975), Clackamas (538), Union (247), Lincoln (230), Umatilla (206), Deschutes (139), Polk (131), Linn (126), Yamhill (97), Lane (90), Hood River (85), Jackson (85), Jefferson (73), Klamath (68), Benton (66), Clatsop (46), Wasco (42), Malheur (42), Coos (32), Douglas (29), Columbia (26), Josephine (26), Morrow (22), Crook (9), Curry (7), Tillamook (6), Lake (6), Wallowa (4), Baker (1), Grant (1), Sherman (1), Harney (1)

Case totals include both presumptive cases and those confirmed by diagnostic testing. Presumptive cases are those without a test who present COVID-19-like symptoms and had close contact with a confirmed case Source: Oregon Health Authority; Josephine County

Pedestrian tunnel, racino still to come at Grants Pass Downs

By Shaun Hall

of the Daily Courier

A race of a different kind begins when the summer horse racing season ends July 8 at Grants Pass

The next day, July 9, work crews are scheduled to begin a project to tear up part of the racetrack and build a tunnel under it in order to

give pedestrians access to new playfields on the track infield.

Workers will have about seven weeks to finish before horse owners and trainers return on or about Sept. 1 in advance of the fall racing season.

The tunnel work — one of the final steps to take before the fields become operational — is one of several projects underway or recently completed at the track and nearby.

One huge project — construction of a 33,000-square-foot gambling, restaurant and bar facility known as a racino — might get underway this fall.

The work is being undertaken by Travis Boersma's TMB Racing and **Dutch Bros Coffee's Love Abounds** Foundation, which lease the track area from Josephine County for \$225,000 a year, an amount that is due to go up another \$100,000 a year when the racino is done.

Boersma owns TMB Racing and is the CEO and co-founder of Dutch Bros Coffee, whose charitable division is Love Abounds. TMB Racing holds a state license to operate commercial horse racing at Grants Pass Downs, located at the county fairgrounds.

Turn to DOWNS, Page 7A

Gun sales up; background checks bogged down



ELAYNA YUSSEN/Daily Courier

Chyane Lemasters (left) of Selma selects a holster to fit a new handgun with assistance from Ken Hutchison, owner of Doc Holliday's Guns in Grants Pass on Thursday. Lemasters stopped in to find out the status of his background check, which he learned was still 1,976th in the queue.

OSP processing about one background check per minute, which isn't enough to meet demand

By Jeff Duewel

of the Daily Courier

Lonnie Johnson came in to Doc Holliday's Guns on Thursday to see if the background check required for his purchase of a new pistol, a 9mm Springfield XDE, was

He already owns four handguns, but opted for another one.

"I was sort of biding my time, waiting for the right price," he said of the auction purchase. "But with all the stuff going on, I thought I'd do it now."

A run on guns in 2020 has been attributed to the coronavirus pandemic, the unrest across the nation and possibly more expendable income from pandemic relief. Gun sales — and the time it takes to get

a background check — are on the rise. Darin Hecker, an employee at Doc Holl-

iday's, located on Steiger Street in northwest Grants Pass, said the shop was "inundated" with people purchasing firearms. "The surge started around the coron-

avirus outbreak, and it's been building with the riots and stuff," he said. "It seems like the riots have triggered a whole new spree in gun and ammunition buying. We're running out of ammunition. We can't even get it."

Hecker said sales are up 20% to 30% or more since Feb. 1.

Store owner Ken Hutchison also estimated at least 30%.

"Once the violence started and the call to disband police departments, and general civil unrest, man, it really started to go bananas," Hutchison said. "I saw a giant uptick. I had back-to-back biggest days in the history of this shop."

More gun purchases means more work for employees of the Oregon State Police's Firearm Instant Check System, who do

Turn to GUN, Page 7A



Handguns seen in a display case on Thursday at Doc Holliday's Guns. Store owner Ken Hutchison estimated sales are up at least 30% since Feb. 1 of this year.

California now requiring people to wear masks in most indoor spaces

By Kathleen Ronayne and Amy Taxin

Associated Press SACRAMENTO, Calif. -California on Thursday started requiring people throughout the state to wear masks in most indoor settings and outdoors when distancing isn't possible as the coronavirus continues to spread.

"Science shows that face coverings and masks work," Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a

statement about the new order. 'They are critical to keeping those who are around you safe, keeping businesses open and restarting our economy."

States including Michigan, New York, Maine, Delaware and Maryland already have statewide mask orders in place.

The order came as California broadly reopens its economy. In most counties, people can now shop, dine in at

Turn to MASKS, Page 6A



People wearing face masks shop at the Arden Fair Mall in Sacramento, California. Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration on Thursday mandated that Californians wear masks in most indoor settings as the state continues to battle the coronavirus.

More than a quarter of virus deaths in US are nursing home residents

By Justin Myers and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nursing home residents account for nearly 1 in 10 of all the coronavirus cases in the United States and more than a quarter of the deaths, according to an Associated Press analysis of government data released Thursday.

As federal data collection becomes more robust, a clearer

picture is emerging of the ravages of COVID-19 in nursing homes. About 1.4 million older and medically frail people live in such facilities, a tiny share of the American population that has borne a crushing burden from the pandemic. Most residents have been in lockdown since early March, isolated from families and friends, even in death.

AP's analysis of data from

Turn to NURSING, Page 6A



3 Sections, 36 Pages Volume CX No. 197 Issue 32973

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Sunny glow

5-day forecast on Page 2A

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Gun From 1A

background checks.

Oregon law requires a background check for all gun transfers, including those that take place at a gun show and between private citizens.

Hecker said approvals are currently taking up to three days.

"Before all this you'd come in to buy a gun and you'd leave with it in 30 minutes," Hecker said. "They'd do the background check, then release the gun or deny it.

'Now it could be three days." Oregon State Police spokesman Capt. Tim Fox declined to speculate on why, but confirmed that background checks for gun purchases are way up.

From Feb. 1 to April 5, OSP reported a 42% increase in background checks over the same time span last year, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting. Nationwide, industry research firm Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting estimated a year-over-year increase in firearm sales of 85% in March.

In Josephine County, there were 5,228 background checks between Jan. 1 and June 1 of this year, compared to 3,885 in the same period in 2019, a 38% increase, according to OSP statistics.

Meanwhile, more than 3.7 million background checks were done in March — the most for a single month since the system began in 1998, according to the FBI. It eclipsed the previous record, set in December 2015, when 3.3 million checks were conducted.

Dave Bradbury, owner of Bradbury's Gun-N-Tackle, said gun sales would be



Store owner Ken Hutchinson (center) shows shotguns to customers at Doc Holliday's Guns on Thursday. The Grants Pass gun shop has seen a surge in sales over the last few months.

even higher if more firearms were readily available around the country.

"It's a nationwide panic," Bradbury said. "They go out as fast as they

come in. I had six handguns come in Tuesday, and I sold four before I unpacked them. They never made the gun case.

"Small personal-defense guns and home defense shotguns are the guns in demand. They're also hard to come by." Bradbury said OSP's background

"In my history here, this is the most firearm sales to new gun owners."

DAVE BRADBURY

Owner, Bradbury's Gun-N-Tackle

check staff are processing about one transaction per minute. Which isn't

I'm having more delays than I normally get," Bradbury said. "Someone came in this morning, filled out the paperwork and they were 3,330-something in line."

He clarified that some background checks still go quickly, but if there are any questions to be answered, it kicks the transaction into the long line.

"I take their phone number and give them a call."

Another trend, according to Bradbury, is the volume of first-time gun purchasers

"In my history here, this is the most firearm sales to new gun owners," he said. "We've had gun surges in the past, but locally it wasn't so much new gun owners.'

Johnson, a retiree who lives in rural Josephine County, said he's also talked to a couple of women who decided to buy a gun for the first time for personal safety.

"I think it's a good thing," Johnson said. "People realize the value of self-

Reach reporter Jeff Duewel at 541-474-3720 or jduewel@thedailycourier.com.

School From 1A

suspended for wearing a shirt with the Confederate battle flag to school. The student appealed the suspension, but the school board upheld the discipline.

This week, school administrators were tasked with developing plans for each school to address racism when school starts again in August. As part of the district's efforts there will also be a district committee focused on monitoring the effectiveness of school-specific plans.

On Thursday, the district sent a letter out to parents notifying them of the plans, which include school-specific initiatives to address racism and improve inclusion.

While the district was already planning to make some changes to address racism in schools, Valenzuela said the death of George Floyd and the current protests have emphasized the

need for change. Floyd was killed by police May 25 when a white Minneapolis officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. Floyd's death has sparked weeks of protests across the country.

Three Rivers is concentrated on making sure racism is not a part of our community," Valenzuela

Protesters have called for expansive police reform, including defunding police departments, and Oregon's largest school district, Portland Public Schools, recently announced it would be ending its school resource officer

Valenzeula said that he is happy with the school resource officer program, which has uniformed officers patrolling schools, and would not be disbanding it.

Reach reporter Casey Crowley at 541-474-3813 or ccrowley@thedailycourier.com.

Trump says he'll be renewing effort to end DACA protections

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Undeterred by this week's Supreme Court ruling, President Donald Trump said today he will renew his effort to end legal protections for hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the United States as children.

Trump denounced the high court's ruling that the administration improperly ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in 2017. Splitting with Trump and judicial conservatives, Chief Justice John Roberts joined the four liberal justices in the 5-4 vote Thursday.

Through executive action, Trump could still take away the ability for 650,000 young immigrants to live and work legally in the United States. But with no legislative answer in Congress in sight, uncertainty continues for many immigrants who know of no other home except America.

In a tweet this morning, Trump said, "The Supreme Court asked us to resubmit on DACA, nothing was lost or won. punted", much like in a football game (where hopefully they would stand for our great American Flag). We will be submitting enhanced papers

Ken Cuccinelli, acting head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said today that the administration was starting over. "We're going to move as quickly as we can to put options in front of the president," but those are executive branch options, he told "Fox & Friends.

"That still leaves open the appropriate solution which the Supreme Court mentioned and that is that Congress step up to the plate," he said.

Cuccinelli said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., made some positive comments in that direction

on Thursday so the administration thinks it's possible for a constructive conversation with Congress. But experts say there isn't enough time to knock down the 8-year-old program before the November election and doubt the government would try because DACA is popular with voters.

Trump's tweet today was less confrontational than the one on Thursday when he slammed the high court ruling. "These horrible & politically charged decisions coming out of the Supreme Court are shotgun blasts into the face of people that are proud to call themselves Republicans or Conservatives." He apparently was referring to DACA and an earlier ruling this week where the court said it's illegal to fire people because they are gay or transgender.

Activists are vowing to keep fighting for a long-term solution for young immigrants whose parents brought them to the United States when they were children. They not only face a White House that's prioritized immigration restrictions but a divided Congress that is not expected to pass legislation giving them a path to citizenship anytime soon.

The court decision still elicited surprise, joy and some apprehension from immigrants and advocates who know it's

only a temporary solution. 'This is a huge victory for us," Diana Rodriguez, a 22year-old DACA recipient, said through tears.

Rodriguez, who works with the New York Immigration Coalition, said she hasn't been to Mexico since she was brought to the U.S. at age 2. The ruling means young immigrants can keep working, providing for their families and making "a difference in this country," she said.

Congressional Democrats, meanwhile, appeared satisfied to let the court's decision stand as the law of the land for now.

While Republicans protested that now, if ever, was the time for Congress to clarify the immigration system, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made it clear that Democrats were done with their legislation before the summer break and had little interest in meeting GOP demands to fund Trump's longpromised border wall as part of any comprehensive immigration overhaul.

"There isn't anybody in the immigration community that wants us to trade a wall for immigration," she said.

Pelosi was reminded that Trump has said he wants immigration reform. "We'll see," she said, noting how few days remain on the legislative calendar. "I don't know what the president meant — maybe he doesn't either."

Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden said that if elected, he would send lawmakers proposed legislation on his first day in office to make DACA protections permanent.

The program grew out of an impasse over a comprehensive immigration bill between Congress and the Obama administration in 2012. Under intense pressure from young activists, President Barack Obama decided to formally protect people from deportation and allow

them to work legally in the U.S. Immigrants who are part of DACA will keep those protections, but there are tens of thousands of others who could have enrolled if Trump didn't halt the program three years ago.

The Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank. estimates that about 66,000 young immigrants meet the age requirement to join the program — 15 — but haven't been able to do so because the government has only been renewing two-year permits for those already enrolled.

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erojetR	39.93	61	Disney	118.94	+ .57	JohnJn	144.87 + 1.46	Textron	34.94	07	
Itria	41.20	28	Dupont	53.53	+ .95	Loews	34.56 + .68	3M Co	158.97	24	
EP	80.98	79	Eaton	88.14	+ .61	LaPac	24.49 + .52	Timken	45.22 +		
mIntlGrp	32.55 -	+ .08	EdisonInt	58.67	17	MDU Res	21.61 + .16				
pldIndIT	61.88 -	+ .47	ExxonMbl	47.29	+ .37	MarathnO	6.55 + .06	TriContl	25.00		
P PLC	24.04 -	+ .35	FMC Corp	100.48	+ 1.49	McDnlds	189.99 + .50	UnionPac	169.45		
kofAm	24.94	11	FootLockr	29.73	+ .48	McKesson	156.75 + 3.33	Unisys	11.93		
arrickGld	24.75 -	+ .81	FordM	6.46	+ .13	Merck	76.54 + .32	USSteel	8.45	+.29	
oeing	192.36 -	+ .07	GenDynam	159.73	+ .67	NCR Corp	18.07 + .11	VarianMed	121.15 +	- 1.68	
rMySq	55.53	44	GenElec	7.34	+.06	NorflkSo	172.46 -1.92	VerizonCm	56.75	14	
runswick	60.44 -	+ .46	GenMills	61.79	+ .03	NorthropG	318.50 + .67	ViadCorp	19.64	18	
aterpillar	127.83 -	+ .24	GenMotors	27.22	+.13	OcciPet	20.63 + .96	WalMart	118.74	+ .75	
hevron	92.96 +	1.02	HP Inc	17.25	+.33	Olin	12.71 + .06	WellsFargo	27.61	+.06	

Commodities

Gold

Selected world gold prices, today. NY Handy & Harman: NY Handy & Harman fabricated: \$1908.64 NY Engelhard: \$1723.00 NY Engelhard fabricated: \$1852.23 NY Merc. gold: \$1724.80 NY HSBC Bank USA: \$1724.00

Metals

NEW YORK (AP) - Spot nonferrous metal prices today. Aluminum - \$0.7155 per lb., London Metal

Copper - \$2.5910 (pound) NY Merc spot

Silver - \$17.367 Handy & Harman Silver - \$17.493 troy oz., NY Merc spot Platinum - \$814.00 Handy & Harman Platinum - \$812.20 troy oz., NY Merc spot n.q. - not quoted n.a. - not available

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Zinc - \$0.9135 per lb., London Metal Exch.

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Downs From 1A

TMB Racing held its first meet last fall, and began its summer race season this week. Races are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but they're not open to the general public due to restrictions on gatherings to protect people from the coronavirus.

The projects at the track represent an investment of millions of dollars at a time when the economy is depressed, sports are limited and entertainment events are few due to the coronavirus outbreak.

"I care deeply about this community," Boersma told city planning commissioners in April. "We have an opportunity to do something extraordinary.'

Boersma didn't respond to a request for comment. His projects include the following:
• Track lengthening, widen-

ing and soil improvements were made over the last year. Also installed was a new safety rail and a new big-screen tote board and video display. The grandstands have been prettied up with new paint, signage and landscaping, with more grandstand renovation work to be

• Work on the playfields is nearly done, and includes restrooms, concession area, lights, underground utilities and

all-weather playing surfaces. Cost of that work is an estimated \$5 million.

• The tunnel will be west of the track grandstands, with one end near the grandstands and the other on the west end of the track infield. It will have a gradual slope to accommodate people in wheelchairs.

 TMB Racing has expressed an interest in leasing a countyowned building and the property it sits on just east of the grandstands that currently is leased out to a flooring business whose lease is up this fall. County commissioners on Wednesday authorized staff to negotiate the building's future.

• The racino, which is formally named the Grants Pass Entertainment Venue, would be located along Redwood Avenue and west of the YMCA, in what is now a big gravel parking lot that has the River City BMX racetrack in one corner. The track would be relocated at Boersma's expense.

Groundbreaking on the racino might take place this fall after city permits are obtained, according to Kendra Lellis of TMB Racing. The Oregon Racing Commission must approve, too. Boersma sees the venue as a key to making horse racing at Grants Pass Downs financially

According to plans, the facility will feature about 200 historic racing terminals,

which are similar to slot machines. In addition to a restaurant and bar, the venue would have banquet facilities and a Dutch Bros Coffee shop. The facility might employ as many as 150 people, according to Boersma. In other matters related to

fairgrounds projects:

 New grant-funded siding and renovations of the fairgrounds horse arena are nearly complete. A new roof was put on the huge building last

• The county fair board was told this week that a draft master plan for the fairgrounds is due to be released soon, according to engineer Justin Gerlitz, who is working on the plan for the county and working on the racino for Boersma.

• County property records show that Boersma purchased two lots in the last year just west of the fairgrounds along Pansy Lane. The two properties totaled nearly 4 acres and sold for \$805,000. It's not clear what the properties will be used for, but there might be a need for additional parking and horse stalls. More than 400 horses might be at the fairgrounds during race meets.

• Earlier this year, Boersma purchased the 231-acre River Road Reserve from the city for \$3.5 million. He has said he intends to use the property as a horse-training facility. As of

this morning, however, county tax records still listed the city of Grants Pass as the owner of

> Reach reporter Shaun Hall at 541-474-3726 or shall @the daily courier.com.

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tabby. Like most kittens, I am

curious about everything and

good on your window sill?

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COMET

Pets of the Week Did someone say "cute-asa-bug's-ear?' Yup, that's me! I'm Comet, a super sweet

and super playful kitten girl, only 13 weeks old and ready to come home with

animals or kids, so a solo BFF (Best Furr-ever Friend) who loves to play, play, play would be my dream situation. If you have a fenced yard, all the better!



I don't fancy being around other

certainly like me, too, since brother! I'm Pluto and I am super friendly and will play with anything that moves.

Hey, I have an idea, why don't you adopt BOTH of us?! We will amuse you to no end with our antics, I promise! And then we'll both cuddle together and purr contentedly on your lap.

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