

Briefly

Physical therapist to speak at Garden Club

Physical therapist Doranne Long, author of “Your Body Book,” is the guest speaker at Wednesday’s meeting of the Grants Pass Garden Club. She will talk about how to deal with the aches and pains of gardening.

The meeting is at the Fruitdale Grange, 1440 Parkdale Drive in Grants Pass. It starts with a social at noon, followed by the program at 12:15 p.m.

For more, contact Carole Genovesi at 541-218-3453.

DivorceCare workshop is planned on Sept. 9

Looking for help and healing from the hurt of separation or divorce?

Parkway Christian Center is offering DivorceCare, a seminar followed by weekly support groups led by people with experience of the issues surrounding divorce. A free workshop introducing the program is being held Sept. 9, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the church, 229 N.E. Beacon Drive in Grants Pass.

The workshop is free; a workbook, which is optional but recommended, is available for \$15.

Weekly support group sessions will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 13.

For more information about the program or to register, call the church at 541-479-2639.

City Council to meet in a workshop on Tuesday

The Grants Pass City Council will meet in a workshop on Tuesday to discuss Fifth Street lighting options, tourism and Chamber of Commerce quarterly updates.

Following the workshop will a groundbreaking ceremony at the Water Restoration plant at 1200 S.W. Greenwood Ave. to kick off the Phase 2 upgrades that were recently approved by the city.

The workshop gets underway at 11:45 a.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall,

101 N.W. A St.

Sports Complex Taskforce to meet

The Sports Complex Taskforce will meet on Tuesday to discuss developments with the new artificial turf soccer field at Reinhart Volunteer Park as well as future funding.

The meeting kicks off at 5 p.m. in the Courtyard Conference Room at City Hall, 101 N.W. A St.

Hydroplane boat races set for Labor Day

Hydroplane boat races on Monday on the Rogue River will close the water between Baker Park and Griffin Park, roughly between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Check signs at area boat ramps for more information. All boaters are strongly advised to avoid this section of the river.

Drowning victim’s body found in Rogue River

GALICE — The body of a woman who drowned after going under at Indian Mary Park last weekend was found on the Rogue River Friday morning downstream of Morrison’s Lodge.

Passersby who were floating the river noticed the body, two miles downstream of where she went in, and about a mile upstream of Ennis Riffle, said Marine Deputy Ernie Fields of the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office. The office got the information at 10 a.m.

Fields and other personnel responded to the scene in a jet-boat, and confirmed it was Hannah McGuire, 28, of Philomath.

The body was released to Hull & Hull Funeral Directors, and next of kin were notified.

McGuire attempted to swim across the river toward a rope swing on the north side of the river, and went under. Attempts to save her by bystanders failed, and she was presumed drowned. Three days of searching, including with divers, turned up nothing.

Group hires consultant to evaluate public safety system

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

A local group has signed a contract with a Portland research firm to study Josephine County’s public safety system.

A kickoff event to herald the effort is set for 11 a.m. Wednesday outside the county’s Juvenile Justice Center, Fourth and F streets. The exact location of the gathering might have to be near the JJC’s front lawn or across Fourth Street in the city’s “Growers’ Market” parking lot, since business is being conducted at the center at that time.

County Sheriff Dave Daniel, Grants Pass Public Safety Director Bill Landis and Juvenile Justice Director Jim Goodwin are expected to speak, as is Nate Gaoiran, director of the county’s parole and probation department.

After years of defeat at the polls, the county in May won voter approval for a five-year property tax levy to fund county jail and juvenile detention programs. But, there’s more work to do, according to members of Securing Our Safety,

the nonprofit group that has commissioned the \$60,000 study by NPC Research.

“Now is the time to work together to establish longer-term planning for when the levy funds end,” the organization said in a news release.

A goal of the effort is to gather reliable information.

“Let’s develop objective criteria,” said SOS board member Keith Heck, a former county Board of Commissioners member. “Where do we stand?”

“It’s an opportunity for us as a community,” Heck continued. “Let’s get this done.”

The study will be paid for by community donations yet to be raised, he said.

SOS is about six years old and has supported past levy efforts, along with creation of a sobering center and an opiate treatment program in Grants Pass. Chairman of the SOS board is Jay Meredith, the city’s finance director.

For more information, contact Cheri Adkins, at 541-441-0740.

Reach reporter Shaun Hall at 541-474-3722 or shall@thedaily-courier.com.

Second phase of Sand Creek repairs begins

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

The second phase of a project begins next week to permanently fix damage along Sand Creek and the Highline Canal of the Grants Pass Irrigation District west of Grants Pass.

Well over 1,000 patrons of the district will lose irrigation a month early. They are the same people who started a month late because of the first phase.

The Highline Canal west of Allen Creek will be shut off on Friday, said GPID Manager Don Miller.

No other patrons of the district will be affected, and irrigation normally lasts through September.

A devastating rainstorm in December started the damage, followed by massive snow and rain in January, the heaviest in over 30 years.

The section along Sand Creek eroded into a canyon 25 feet deep in places after an old concrete GPID spill structure gave way during a storm that brought more than 3 inches of rain.

Dozens of large trees toppled, and several property owners suffered loss of land.

An 875-foot-long pipe, 60 inches in diameter, now carries Highline Canal water through the canyon. The creek and canal have combined in that segment since GPID formed nearly a century ago.

In the second phase, the pipe will be taken apart, then rebuilt and buried under the current level, said Justin Gerlitz of Gerlitz Engineering. Diversion boxes for property owners will also be built.

When that’s done, Sand Creek will be restored, with earth fill, then boulders and logs, Gerlitz said.

Siskiyow Cascade Construction is the contractor, and this phase is expected to cost \$1.23 million.

The National Resources Conservation Service is paying for the pipe-burying phase, some \$659,700, but the work must be done by Nov. 1, Gerlitz said. The remaining \$568,000 is expected to be covered 75 per-



JEFF DUEWEL/Daily Courier

This long section of irrigation pipe, a temporary solution to heavy erosion on the South Highline Canal and Sand Creek last winter, will be buried and Sand Creek restored in the permanent phase of the project which begins next week.

cent by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is paying 75 percent of the first phase also, with a price tag over \$600,000.

Miller said because of financial uncertainty related to Hurricane Harvey afflicting Texas that the FEMA money for the second phase may be delayed, and GPID needs to secure a loan.

Assistant GPID Manager Debbie Tarr added that a loan from Business Oregon — the state’s economic development agency — is in the works. Business Oregon also has helped GPID cover the 25 percent of the first phase not covered by FEMA, according to Tarr.

The heavy winter made for a difficult spring and summer of

slides and broken pipes, Miller said. Also, a lightning storm in late June knocked the Jerome Prairie pump station out of commission, extending the dry period for another 500 patrons in the Jerome Prairie area.

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

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