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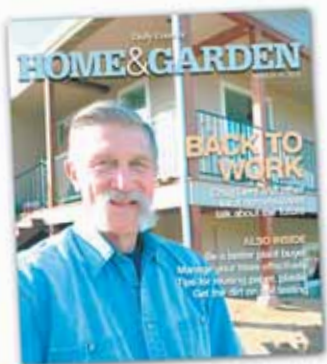
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FRIDAY
MARCH 16, 2018

State of the City: Public safety is a top priority

By Troy Shinn
of the Daily Courier

Public safety and infrastructure topped the agenda of the well-attended and first public State of the City address at Grants Pass City Hall on Thursday.

The city years ago used to do an annual State of the City for the Grants Pass Association of Realtors, but the speech by Mayor Darin Fowler was the first that was open to the general public.

The city's No. 1 priority of keeping citizens safe was discussed at length, with Fowler speaking about some of the moves the city has made to improve the atmosphere downtown and pass key levies.

The mobile soup kitchen, created by a partnership with the city and St. Vincent de Paul, went live last year.

It serves food to the needy at various locations around town, borne out of an effort to reduce the concentration of street people at the St. Vincent de Paul downtown soup kitchen location.

Officials say the effort has been successful.

"It really helped them get services to those who need them," Fowler said. "It's part of the effort to improve the atmosphere downtown ... because when we drive bad behavior out, our businesses are more successful."

He also mentioned the passage of both the city and county public safety levies.

"We had tremendous support ... and the county levy wouldn't have passed if it weren't for the support of Grants Pass," Fowler said, referencing the approval split between city and county residents.

However, he made sure to point out that these are just the first of many steps to a fully funded criminal justice system.

"People often talk about how now it's fully funded, but it's not," he said. "We still don't have full patrols (in the county) and the city still does most of the detective work out in the county, meaning we are spending money and resources that we shouldn't have to."

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Oregon high court suspends judge who refused to marry gays

Three-year suspension of Vance Day is the longest handed down by state Supreme Court. **Story, Page 3A**



'Wonder of Flight' event encourages local youth to believe they can fly



Photos by TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Students line up to try out the cockpit of a Erickson Air-Crane helicopter named "Incredible Hulk" at the Discover the Magic and Wonder of Flight event held at the Dutch Bros. hangar at the Grants Pass Airport on Thursday.

Students gathered at the Grants Pass Airport to learn about opportunities available in the aviation industry

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

MERLIN — North Valley High School sophomore Skylee Sansaver hopped into the cockpit of an Erickson Air-Crane helicopter prior to Thursday's "Discover the Magic and Wonder of Flight" event at the Grants Pass Airport.

Then she talked to an Oregon Air National Guard recruiter.

Then she heard keynote speaker Shaesta Waiz tell how she was inspired to fly, and became at age 30 the youngest woman in history to fly solo around the world in a single-engine plane.

Sansaver's goal of becoming a pilot took deeper root, even though she's just 15.

"That was amazing," Sansaver said afterward. "It makes me want to do it even more."

About 75 students and an equal number of others heard the hour-long program inside the Dutch Bros. Coffee hangar at the airport, put on by the Southern Oregon Education Service District. Attendance was about the same for a second evening session.

Waiz told of her shy youth, in a family of six girls that emigrated from Afghanistan to Richmond, Calif., in 1987, to escape their war-torn homeland.

"When I found aviation at age 18 my life changed right before my eyes," Waiz said. "I suddenly realized something in that airplane. Where you're from, the challenges you faced, your background, it's all irrelevant. The only thing that matters is the pilot's ability to fly the aircraft. That empowered me to do more in aviation."

She founded Dreams Soar, a program to reach out to children. She contacted 3,000 of them on her journey around the world that ended May 2017 in Daytona, Florida, her starting point.

She flew in a Beechcraft Bonanza 836, a single-engine plane.

Turn to AVIATION, Page 7A



Shaesta Waiz, an Afghan-American pilot, is the first female Afghan certified civilian pilot and became the youngest woman to fly around the world solo in a single engine aircraft. She was a keynote speaker at Grants Pass Airport's Discover the Magic and Wonder of Flight event Thursday.



EVAN VUCCI/Associated Press

President Donald Trump talks with reporters during a meeting with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar in the Oval Office of the White House on Thursday.

White House on edge as Trump weighs yet more staff changes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump consumed Thursday morning's TV headlines with amusement. Reports of tumult in the administration were at a feverish pitch — even on his beloved Fox News — as the president reflected on the latest staff departures during an Oval Office conversation with Vice President Mike Pence and Chief of Staff John Kelly.

With a laugh, Trump said: "Who's next?" It's the very question that has the whole White House on edge. In recent weeks, the president's top economic adviser has resigned over a policy dispute, the secretary of state he long clashed with was fired and a slew of top aides headed for the exits. An increasingly confident Trump is privately weighing still more changes, expressing frustration with certain advisers and sifting through possible replacements.

Many close to Trump think more upheaval is coming soon. The president is moving toward replacing national security adviser H.R. McMaster, but has not settled on exact timing or a successor, said four people with knowledge of White House deliberations. Kelly has also worn on the president, confidants of the president said. And Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, under fire for ethics violations, appears to be grasping to keep his job.

Turn to STAFF, Page 7A

JoCo Commissioners will have a say in Kruse's replacement

By Shaun Hall
of the Daily Courier

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners will have a say, albeit a small one, in choosing who will replace state Sen. Jeff Kruse of Roseburg.

Commissioners in five counties containing parts of the Republican's sprawling District 1 will have a say, based on the number of voters living in the district in each county.

Kruse's district dips in northern Josephine and Jackson counties. It also extends into Coos and Curry counties.

Turn to KRUSE, Page 7A

Local artist puts finishing touch on GPHS informational murals

By Edith Decker
of the Daily Courier

This week Grants Pass High School students stopped to notice some new artwork down the hall from the college and career center.

Over the weekend, professional artist and sign painter J Marshall had swooped in and completed a long-planned mural on three walls to represent the many options for further education that Grants Pass graduates have.

"It gave them food for thought, which is what the idea was supposed to be," says Marshall.

GPHS Principal Ryan Thompson had the idea

for the project after a walking tour of the building with a site committee.

"We have really blank wall space in our interiors and we felt like there was a lot we could do to promote a college and career environment within our walls," Thompson said. "We want students to be thinking about what their next destination is."

Marshall worked and reworked the plan for the mural, beginning with a list of the 65 colleges, vocational and technical schools in Oregon that offer further education.

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Artist J Marshall (left) speaks with Grants Pass High School Principal Ryan Thompson in front of part of the mixed media mural Marshall created last week end in one of the school's long hallways.

TIMOTHY BULLARD
Daily Courier



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