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M's edge Tigers in 15 to reach their 1st ALCS in 24 years

SPORTS, 1B



Grants Pass

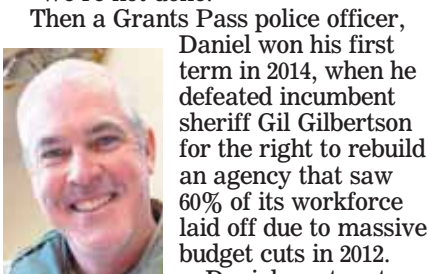
Daily Courier

\$1.50
WEEKEND
OCTOBER 12, 2025

Josephine County sheriff files to run for a 4th term

By Chris Bristol
of the Daily Courier

Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel has filed for a fourth term, saying he has unfinished business. “We’ve come a long, long way, especially the last seven years,” he said. “But promises have been made and there’s still work to be done. “We’re not done.”



DANIEL

Then a Grants Pass police officer, Daniel won his first term in 2014, when he defeated incumbent sheriff Gil Gilbertson for the right to rebuild an agency that saw 60% of its workforce laid off due to massive budget cuts in 2012. Daniel went on to win a second term in 2018 and a third in 2022, both times easily defeating Jonathan Knapp, a retired sheriff’s sergeant from Maricopa County, Arizona. He averaged 70% of the vote both times.

The fortunes of the sheriff’s office began to change in 2017, when voters approved a property tax levy that stabilized funding for the jail and juvenile detention services.

It further improved in 2023, when voters narrowly approved a service district with a permanent property tax rate of 99 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Voters renewed the jail levy in 2021, but it expires next year. He said losing the levy, which carries a rate of 93 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, would blow a huge hole in his budget and set back his effort to restore 24/7 patrol coverage that was lost as a result of the bloodletting in 2012.

In fact, he said, the levy needs to increase. He didn’t cite a number, except to say 93 cents doesn’t buy what it used to thanks to inflation. “It’s going to cut it,” he said of the 93-cent rate. “That’s just crunching the numbers. It’s not feasible.”

“We’re right around the corner from 24/7,” he added. “This is not the time to step back.”

Now 55, Daniel said he’s been able to retire for some time now but enjoys the work, sees value in continuity, and feels strongly about rebuilding the sheriff’s office.

He has a reputation for not being deskbound and was interviewed by phone as he returned from a pot bust. “I love this community, I love this county, but there’s still some work to do,” he said.

At present he does not have a challenger. The filing deadline is months away, March 10.

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Grants Pass receives new applications for homeless site

By Vickie Aldous
of the Daily Courier

In response to an offer of up to \$1.2 million, the city of Grants Pass received four applications from people and organizations interested in creating a managed homeless shelter site — but one applicant withdrew Friday.

The Roseburg-based company Elk Island Trading Group, thrift store and recycling service owner Konnor Kirkpatrick, the local coalition group Pathways to Stability and Tender Technologies submitted applications by the Thursday deadline.

Bernie Woodard of Elk Island Trading Group said the company withdrew its application in order to focus on

Roseburg homeless issues and its proposal to turn the historic Caretaker’s Cottage in Riverside Park in Grants Pass into a tourist lodging and event space. The company hopes to renovate the cottage in partnership with the city of Grants Pass and also install yurts for lodging.

Woodard said he didn’t want people to be confused and think the company

wants to use the cottage and yurts to shelter homeless people.

He wished the Grants Pass City Council and community members well as they attempt to launch a managed homeless shelter site.

“I think Grants Pass has a way forward if they can make this thing work

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1 year after the removal of Pomeroy Dam, Illinois River now a more fish-friendly refuge



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

Jim McCarthy, the Southern Oregon program director for WaterWatch, details Thursday how the ecosystem along the Illinois River and its tributaries has benefited since the removal of Pomeroy Dam last year.

By Chrissy Ewald
of the Daily Courier

CAVE JUNCTION — One year after a concrete irrigation dam that spanned the Illinois River was demolished and removed, it is hard to tell the dam was ever there.

It was too early in the season on Thursday to see fall chinook salmon, but small juvenile fish were visible in some of the stiller pools below boulders at the former Pomeroy Dam site.

Where the 10-foot tall dam once arced 270 feet across the Illinois now lies an island of cobble, and where the reservoir pool used to be is now a mix of cobble, exposed bedrock and scour pools.

“You can see it’s got a whole bunch of complexity now,” Jim McCarthy of WaterWatch of Oregon said on Thursday, gesturing at the riverbank in the

former reservoir. “You’ve got the cobble beach still, but now you’ve got all these nooks and crannies and this side channel. This is all habitat and rearing for small fish — same thing downstream.”

WaterWatch, a nonprofit organization with offices in Portland and Ashland, spearheaded the dam removal as part of an ongoing project to free the Rogue River and its tributaries of human-made barriers to native,

migratory fish.

The dam, which dates back to the 1940s and was built for irrigation, was for years listed as a priority barrier to fish passage by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

ODFW found the dam was a barrier to fall chinook, coho, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, suckers and Pacific lamprey, a species of jawless fish.

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Town hall meeting on Creekside Quarter project set for Thursday

By Emma Maple
of the Daily Courier

MEDFORD — Medford residents with questions or opinions on the proposed increase of the city’s lodging tax and a corresponding downtown redevelopment project are invited to attend a town hall meeting Thursday.

About two-thirds of the time will consist of presentations from four panelists on the lodging tax and the proposed Creekside Quarter redevelopment project, with about 30 minutes

reserved for attendees to ask questions and share opinions, according to Isis Thornton-Saunders, Creekside Quarter political action committee campaign manager.

The town hall will be held from 5:30 to 7 pm. at the Higher Education Center in downtown Medford, 101 S. Bartlett St.

The biggest goal for the night is to address misinformation, Thornton-Saunders and City Councilor Nick Card said.

“We’ve seen a lot of examples

where residents are concerned about the Creekside Quarter proposal,” Card said. “Most of those concerns center around misinformation or a lack of information on the project.”

In addition to Card, the other three panelists are: Eli Matthews, president and CEO at The Chamber of Medford & Jackson County; Annie Jenkins, executive director of the Downtown Medford Association; and Allan Benavides, former general manager of the Eugene Emeralds.

Key points of discussion will include

an overview of the project, an explanation of the lodging tax and a discussion on the potential economic impact the project could have, according to the Creekside Quarter PAC, which is hosting the town hall.

The panelists will not present any new information about Creekside Quarter, Thornton-Saunders said.

Here is what is currently known about the project: the proposed \$500 million redevelopment would encompass Hawthorne Park and the surrounding area, bounded by Hawthorne

Street, Jackson/Fourth Street, Main Street and Highway 99.

It is set to include a baseball stadium that would serve as the new home of the minor-league Eugene Emeralds as well as a hotel, a conference center, parking and more.

The city is hoping that the redevelopment will be a public-private partnership, with 90% of the funding coming from private sources.

The redevelopment’s linchpin is

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