

Grants Pass

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Medford City Council plans Fourth of July pool party at Rogue X event center

By Emma Maple
of the Daily Courier

MEDFORD — Fourth of July fans in the Rogue Valley will have a new event to attend this year: a Medford pool party or, as Parks Director Rich Rosenthal called it, “red, white and pool.”

After Central Point announced that this year will be its last Fourth of July Boomfest fireworks show due to increasing fire risks, Medford decided to add a celebration.

On July 4, Medford will offer hot dogs, free pool access, music, activities and more at the Rogue X aquatics and events center, according to Rosenthal.

“Typically, the city of Medford hasn’t done anything,” Rosenthal said during a city council meeting Wednesday night.

After city councilors expressed interest in hosting an event, Medford staff developed the Rogue X open house event that is scheduled to run from 1-3 p.m.

“We know fun, we like fun, it will be fun,” Rosenthal said.

The city plans to offer larger events in the future, when there is more time to plan.

“We’ll be on to bigger and better things in 2027,” Rosenthal said.

In other news Wednesday night, the council:

- Was informed by interim City Manager John Vial that the United Soccer League, which had expressed interest in January in creating a Medford team, decided not to continue with the idea. The market for soccer in Medford wouldn’t be

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Supreme Court seems poised to reject limits on birthright citizenship

President attends arguments in person

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court seemed poised Wednesday to reject President Donald Trump’s restrictions on birthright citizenship in a momentous case that was magnified by his unprecedented presence in the courtroom.

Conservative and liberal justices questioned whether Trump’s order declaring that children born to parents who are in the United States illegally or temporarily are not American citizens comports with either the Constitution or federal law.

Arguments lasted more than two hours in a crowded courtroom that included not only Trump, the first sitting president to attend arguments at the nation’s highest court, but also Attorney General Pam Bondi and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, and in seats reserved for the justices’ guests, actor Robert De Niro.

The case frames another test of Trump’s assertions of executive power that defy long-standing precedent for a court with a conservative majority and a robust view of presidential power, which has largely ruled in the Republican president’s favor. In the notable exceptions when the court has not, Trump

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‘It is just absolutely phenomenal’



Photos by CHRIS O'MEARA / Associated Press

NASA’s Artemis II moon rocket lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center’s Launch Pad 39-B Wednesday in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Artemis II crew safely on the way to moon

Discomforts in capsule, but all systems go

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA’s moonbound astronauts have reason to celebrate, and not just because their launch went so well. Their toilet is now working.

The so-called lunar loo malfunctioned as soon as the Artemis II crew reached orbit Wednesday evening. Mission Control guided astronaut Christina Koch through some plumbing tricks and she finally got it going.

The bad news is that it’s so cold inside the Orion capsule — 65 degrees Fahrenheit — that the four astronauts are digging into suitcases for long-sleeved clothes. Mission Control is trying to warm things up.

The three Americans and one Canadian are on track to zoom to the moon for a lunar fly-around. It will be Mission Control’s first translunar injection since Apollo’s swan song in 1972.

Until then, the astronauts are savoring the views of Earth from tens of thousands of miles high. Koch told Mission Control that they can make out the entire coastlines of continents and even the South Pole, her old stomping ground.

“It is just absolutely phenomenal,” radioed Koch, who spent a year at an Antarctic research station before joining NASA.



Astronauts (from left) Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen of Canada, Pilot Victor Glover, Commander Reid Wiseman and Mission Specialist Christina Koch pose for a photo ahead of loading into NASA’s Artemis II moon rocket at the Kennedy Space Center.

The mission is due to end with a Pacific splashdown on April 10. NASA is counting on the test flight to kickstart the entire Artemis program and lead to a moon landing by two astronauts in 2028. Orion’s toilet may need some design tweaks before that happens.

Located in the floor with a door and curtain for privacy, the capsule’s lone toilet is based on an experimental commode that launched to the International Space Station in 2020. That station potty barely saw any use and has been out of order for years.

Known as the universal

waste management system, the compact toilet uses air suction instead of water and gravity to remove waste, similar to earlier space toilets. It’s also designed to better accommodate female astronauts.

Koch and her crewmates had to resort to a bag and funnel system for urinating until she got the toilet working overnight.

Any toilet — even a fitful one — is better than none if you ask any of the six surviving Apollo astronauts.

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JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

Emigrant Lake east of Ashland is 56% full this week, with little snow in the hills to replenish water levels this spring.

Jackson County declares drought emergency

By Vickie Aldous
of the Daily Courier

With little snowpack in the mountains to feed creeks and irrigation reservoirs this spring and summer, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners unanimously declared a local drought emergency on Wednesday.

Commissioners are also asking the governor to declare a drought emergency for the area, which would allow for greater flexibility on how water sources are used.

Municipal water systems, farmers, ranchers and vineyards that depend on creeks that feed the Rogue and Applegate river systems — rather than reservoirs — may see tributaries start to dry up, according to the county.

In order to keep running, those creeks rely on snow in the hills and mountains gradually melting in the spring and summer.

“Hopefully we don’t see that widespread, substantial economic damage come to fruition — but at least this move could give some resources and tools to help mitigate it if necessary,” Commissioner Rick Dyer said of the drought declaration.

Growers who get irrigation water from reservoirs could be in a better position than those who rely on creeks.

The Talent Irrigation District thinks it can get its customers through to harvest season this year by drawing down reservoirs that accumulated water from previous winters with more snow.

“There’s nothing to put in the reservoirs now because all the snow is melted off — unless Mother Nature changes and puts snow in the mountains and rain in the valley,” TID General Manager Brian Hampson said in an interview on Wednesday. “We’ll be running the reservoirs hard this season.”

Thanks to stored snowmelt from past years, he said TID expects to have a fairly normal season, with irrigation water likely to flow into mid-September.

TID serves 3,000 landowners with 16,300 acres in and around Medford, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland.

The Rogue River doesn’t run through those cities, leaving many irrigators in Jackson County reliant on creeks or reservoirs.

The Grants Pass Irrigation District serving areas of Josephine County taps into the Rogue.

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Trump says US will ‘finish the job’ in Iran, but light on details

By Will Weissert, Jon Gambrell and David Rising
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said U.S. forces will “finish the job” in Iran soon as “core strategic objectives are nearing completion,” offering a full-throated defense of the war Wednesday night in his first national address since the conflict began more than a month ago.

He used his platform before a wide audience to tout the success of the U.S. operations and argue that all of Washington’s objectives have so far been met or exceeded, but said Iran would continue to face a barrage of attacks in the short term.

“We are going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks,” Trump said. “We’re going to bring them back to the Stone Ages, where they belong.”

But Trump also spent much of an address that lasted just under 20 minutes repeating many things he had already said in recent weeks and providing few new details. The speech appeared unlikely to move the needle of public sentiment at a time when polling shows many Americans feel the U.S. military has gone too far in Iran and as gas and oil prices remain high.

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