

A learning lesson

Legion baseball teams learn on the fly, **A8**



The World



MOSTLY SUNNY 64 • 52 FORECAST A9

TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021

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\$2

Southern Coos Hospital CEO ousted

By **DAVID RUPKALVIS**
The World

A split board of directors for the Southern Coos Health District voted to terminate the employment of CEO Eugene Suksi during a special meeting Wednesday.

By a 3-1 vote, the board terminated Suksi as CEO Of Southern

Coos Hospital & Health Center without cause. The decision went into effect immediately.

After the vote, the two dissenting members of the board turned in their resignations, with board President David Allen and Treasurer Edie Jurgenson stepping down from their positions.

Brent Bischoff, the secretary

of the board, said the board began looking into complaints about Suksi last month.

“Right after our June board meeting, the board engaged with a special HR attorney to conduct an investigation into multiple HR complaints the board had received,” Bischoff said.

Last week, the board met in

executive session to review the results of that investigation. When the board returned to public, it took two votes.

The first vote, decided by a 3-2 decision, was to keep the results of the investigation private under the attorney-client privilege.

Bischoff, Norbert Johnson and Mary Schamehorn voted to keep

the records private while Allen and Jurgenson voted against it.

After the vote, Jurgenson submitted her resignation from the board, citing health reasons.

Bischoff then made a motion to exercise the termination clause in Suksi’s contract. The vote

Please see **HOSPITAL**, Page A10



Contributed photo

Bert Davis will return to the Coos County Fair and Rodeo this week with his show highlighting his dogs.

Rodeo stars come home to Coos County for 2021 Fair

By **DAVID RUPKALVIS**
The World

Bert and Frannie Davis have seen and participated in the biggest rodeos in the world. National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas? Been there, done that. Massive shows in Oklahoma, Texas, California? Every single year.

But one small-town rodeo stands out for the Bert and Fran-

nie, the Coos County Fair and Rodeo. The two met there in 1974, Bert’s first year as a rodeo clown. Two years later, Frannie was named the fair queen. They have performed in Myrtle Point several times through the years and will be returning home this year to entertain crowds at the 2021 Coos County Fair and Rodeo.

Yes, Myrtle Point is home, a place Frannie grew up and a

place they both have spent a considerable amount of time during the offseason.

Bert Davis was born to be a rodeo clown. Growing up in Oakdale, California, Davis was a frequent visitor to the Oakdale Rodeo. But he never was into watching the horses or even the participants. Another thing caught his attention.

“Rodeo clown, that was it for

me,” Bert said. “You could find me at the Oakdale Rodeo, at the clown trailer.”

In Oakdale, a larger-than-life rodeo clown caught Bert’s attention. Wild Bill Lane lived just miles down the road from his house, and Bert remembers being fascinated with the different animals and creations at Lane’s

Please see **RODEO**, Page A2

Drought heightening already dangerous wildfire conditions

JEREMY C. RUARK
The World

Over half of Oregon is now facing extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Extreme, record-breaking heat has resulted in rapid deteriorations in drought conditions across the Pacific Northwest. Fire concerns remain high across the west. There have been nearly 40 new wildfires reported since July 10 (a total 89 as of July 14). The largest of those fires, the Bootleg Wildfire in Klamath County has burned over 200,000 acres is was considered the nation’s largest wildfire this week.

In Portland, National Weather Service Meteorologist John Bumgardner said there is a slight chance of some light drizzle in the region on Friday.

“Right now we are sandwiched between two systems,”

Please see **DROUGHT**, Page A10

Shutter Creek proponents wait on governor

By **DAVID RUPKALVIS**
The World

Shutter Creek has made its case and now community is waiting for Gov. Kate Brown to make a final decision on the future of the state prison.

State Rep. Boomer Wright said he remained hopeful after the meeting, saying he felt Brown came in with an open mind and listened as community members made a case to keep the facility open.

“I think it went very well,” Wright said. “The people we had talking did an excellent job pleading our case. She asked questions that I thought were reasonable. She said it would take a couple of weeks to make a decision.”

Wright said the governor said after the recently-finished legislative session, she would be busy signing bills and implementing new laws, so a decision would not be immediate.

But Wright said Brown listened and asked questions that showed she was considering the arguments made by

Please see **GOVERNOR**, Page A6



CRBQ ready to get back on stage

By **DAVID RUPKALVIS**
The World

While many areas were impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, one area few talk about is the music industry.

When COVID hit last year,

many local bands and performers had shows scheduled out for months, only to see each one canceled as COVID shut down all major events.

With COVID restrictions now lifted, those musicians are gearing up to get back in front of fans. One

such group is the Coos Rhythm & Blues Quintet. Made up of five veteran musicians, the quintet, better known CRBQ, is working overtime to prepare for a series of shows in the coming weeks.

On Thursday, the five men, pianist and singer Alec Berfield, gui-

tarist and singer Michael Wesley Hughes, guitarist and singer Rudy Alaniz, drummer Tom Beckstrom and percussionist Dan Neal, were back together to get ready for their upcoming concerts.

Please see **CRBQ**, Page A10



Photo gallery: Open beaches at Devils Kitchen
Photo gallery: UTV Takeover draws huge crowds

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OPINION	A5	SPORTS	A8
OBITUARIES	A6	CLASSIFIEDS	A7
WEATHER	A9	COMICS	A3



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

7			6		9			
5	1		3	7	4	6	9	2
9		6						7
8		9		2	5			3
	5			6			1	
6			9	8		2		5
1						3		4
3	8	2	5	4	6		7	1
			2		1			6

7/20

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

1	2	9	8	5	4	3	7	6
5	4	3	9	6	7	2	1	8
7	8	6	3	1	2	4	5	9
4	7	2	5	8	6	1	9	3
3	1	5	2	4	9	8	6	7
9	6	8	1	7	3	5	2	4
2	5	4	7	9	8	6	3	1
8	9	1	6	3	5	7	4	2
6	3	7	4	2	1	9	8	5

HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

ACROSS

1 Sportscaster — Allen

4 That girl

7 Lose freshness

11 Pub order

12 Afro or updo

14 Casanova type

15 Famous Chairman

16 Indian noblewoman

17 Mine and thine

18 Reply

20 Microscope parts

22 Possessed

23 EPA figure

24 Sadness

27 Heavy-duty engine

30 Gentle exercise

31 Napa Valley product

32 — Wiedersehen

34 Stooge with bangs

35 Playing card

36 Baja Ms.

37 Conical shelters

39 Upset

40 Shinto or Zen (abbr.)

41 Small cask

42 Relax

45 Like some battles

49 Part to be played

50 Island off Italy

52 Garden-planting time

53 Before long

54 Surrealist painter

55 Kerouac's "Big —"

56 Crawling insects

57 Walk barefoot

58 Tribute in verse

DOWN

1 One of the Three Bears

2 Pizzazz

3 Many August people

4 Summon help

5 Squirrel away

6 German article

7 Injurious acts

8 Chits

9 Enticement

10 Harper in "Far North"

13 Making a movie

19 Rider's shout

21 Rapier's kin

24 Locker locale

25 Raid

26 Type of arch

27 Uproars

28 Countess's husband

29 Mandolin cousin

31 Brandished

33 Pet rock or mood ring

35 Quick-witted

36 Sound bored

38 Admires oneself

39 Returned the favor

41 Coleridge's Khan

42 Bear, to Brutus

43 Time to eat

44 Soak up moisture

46 "— — Excited"

47 Extol

48 Orpheus' harp

51 Racing circuit

Answer to Previous Puzzle

WHO		MLB		WEB
OILY		OPAL	AYE	
KLEE		UNDO	RED	
STOLEN		WANDS		
	PET	GEM		
LEVEL		DISARM		
AXED		COST	YAK	
BEE	PART	EASE		
CREAKY	DINKY			
ACE	JET			
ALARM	UNHAND			
MAC	AMEN	EVER		
ICH	NEAT	ROME		
DYE	ATA	WOW		

DILBERT

WE COME FROM A DISTANT STAR TO DESTROY YOUR CIVILIZATION.

BEFORE WE GET INTO ALL OF THAT, WHAT ARE YOUR PRONOUNS?

SOMEONE BEAT US TO IT.

CLASSIC PEANUTS

HELLO? MY NAME IS CHARLIE BROWN. YES, I'M THE ONE WHOSE FEELINGS YOU DENTED AT THE PARTY...

IT WAS A GIRL! SHE WANTS ME TO GO OVER TO HER HOUSE SO SHE CAN APOLOGIZE TO ME IN PERSON!

A REAL GIRL? WHAT KIND OF GIRL WOULD WANT TO SEE YOU? SHE MUST BE FAT AND SKINNY!

OR TALL AND SHORT!!

FRANK AND ERNEST

BOOKS

ERNEST HEMINGWAY FESTIVAL

DID YOU READ HEMINGWAY'S BOOK "ACROSS THE RIVER AND INTO THE TREES"?

NO. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE PLAYED GOLF.

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

		8		4	5	2	9	
	5							
			3	7			5	8
		6	7	8			2	4
	8	7		3		5	6	
4	1			2	6	9		
8	2			9	7			
							7	
	7	5	2	1		8		

7/21

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

7	2	4	6	5	9	1	3	8
5	1	8	3	7	4	6	9	2
9	3	6	8	1	2	4	5	7
8	4	9	1	2	5	7	6	3
2	5	3	4	6	7	8	1	9
6	7	1	9	8	3	2	4	5
1	6	5	7	9	8	3	2	4
3	8	2	5	4	6	9	7	1
4	9	7	2	3	1	5	8	6

HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

ACROSS

1 "— House"

7 Consomme

12 Team spirit

13 Weep noisily

14 Is of use

15 Discernment

16 Dapper

17 Havens

18 Cruising

19 Make tracks

20 Calls it quits

24 No future — —

26 Foal's parent

27 Kiosk buy, slangily

30 Pass a bill

33 Tampa Bay NFLer

34 Cassius Clay

35 Spirit in a bottle

36 Barracks off.

37 It may be read

39 Strong haulers

41 In — (as found)

42 A Little Woman

43 Sci-fi landers

47 Do in

49 Market worth

50 Dough

53 Treaty ratifier

54 Worm seekers

55 Sounded like a clock

56 Cactus defense

57 Mocks

DOWN

1 Fridge maker

2 Exploding stars

3 In a foul mood

4 Rum drink (2 wds.)

5 Join forces

6 "— Miserables"

7 Spring beer

8 Awakens

9 Resistance unit

10 Single digit

11 Sweetie-pie

13 Tractor's garage

17 Independence

19 Take a cab

21 Birds' beaks

22 Germ killer

23 Minority group

25 Complain persistently

27 Glove compartment items

28 Range in Asia

29 Thin gold layer

31 Elf (Var.)

32 Plumbing joint

38 Sheet material

40 Faint difference

42 Pleased sighs

44 Snow crystal

45 Toward the edge

46 Pits or stones

48 Bowling alley

49 Marble streak

50 Fem. title

51 Caveman Alley —

52 Geisha's tie

53 Urban rds.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

MEL		SHE		WILT
ALE		COIF		ROUE
MAO		RANI		OURS
ANSWER		LENSES		
	HAD	MPG		
GLOOM		DIESEL		
YOGA		WINE		AUF
MOE		KING		SRTA
TEPEES		RILED		
	REL	KEG		
UNBEND		UPHILL		
ROLE		ELBA		MAY
SOON		DALI		SUR
ANTS		PAD		ODE

DILBERT

WALLY, I NEED YOUR BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR.

PUT ME DOWN FOR AS MUCH AS I CAN GET.

YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING TO BE HELPFUL.

LET'S START WITH A TRILLION DOLLARS AND SEE HOW FAR THAT GOES.

CLASSIC PEANUTS

I'M SORRY YOU DIDN'T HAVE A GOOD TIME AT THE PARTY, BIG BROTHER

I SUPPOSE IT WAS REALLY MY OWN FAULT

WHAT'S THIS ON THE BACK OF YOUR SHIRT? IT LOOKS LIKE A NOTE...

"YOU DIDN'T SEE ME, BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO HURT YOUR FEELINGS AT THE PARTY... PLEASE CALL ME...762-6414"

I FEEL LIKE A DENTED FENDER IN A PARKING LOT!

FRANK AND ERNEST

THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE A RESERVATION....

THURSDAY

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING:☆☆☆☆☆

		8	3			4	7				
						1			2	6	
		1	9			5	2				8
8			2		5	6			4		
			4			8	1		3		6
3					4	9			5	7	
		4	1			3					
					1	2			8	3	

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HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION											
7	3	8	1	4	5	2	9	6			
9	5	4	8	6	2	7	1	3			
1	6	2	3	7	9	4	5	8			
5	9	6	7	8	1	3	2	4			
2	8	7	9	3	4	5	6	1			
4	1	3	5	2	6	9	8	7			
8	2	1	4	9	7	6	3	5			
3	4	9	6	5	8	1	7	2			
6	7	5	2	1	3	8	4	9			

- ACROSS
- 1 Long-handed implement
- 4 Ignited
- 7 Barbarian
- 10 Web addr.
- 11 Physicist Nikola —
- 13 Thurman of “Gattaca”
- 14 Affirmative vote
- 15 Oust
- 16 CD forerunners
- 17 Takes potshots
- 19 Dalai Lama’s city
- 21 Engage in rivalry
- 22 Sigma follower
- 23 Roomy
- 26 Pouring forth
- 30 Sketch
- 31 Pamplona cheer
- 32 Milne marsupial
- 33 That senora

- 34 Movie director — Craven
- 35 Emblem
- 36 Kiev locale
- 39 Inert gas
- 40 “Mystery!” channel
- 41 Nest egg letters
- 42 River floaters
- 45 Foul-ups
- 48 “Futureworld” name
- 49 Post or Dickinson
- 51 Spigot
- 53 Time span
- 54 Dressed to the —
- 55 USN officer
- 56 Mattress problem
- 57 “— It Be”
- 58 Kind of jump

DOWN

- 1 Very, in
- 2 Unrefined metals
- 3 Arrange for

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	N	I	M	A	L			B	R	O	T	H	
M	O	R	A	L	E			B	O	O	H	O	
A	V	A	I	L	S			A	C	U	M	E	N
N	A	T	T	Y		A	R	K	S				
A	S	E	A		R	U	N		E	N	D	S	
				I	N	I	T		S	I	R	E	
M	A	G		A	D	O	P	T		B	U	C	
A	L	I		G	E	N	I	E		S	G	T	
P	A	L	M		O	X	E	N					
S	I	T	U		A	M	Y		U	F	O	S	
				S	L	A	Y		V	A	L	U	
M	O	O	L	A	H			S	E	N	A	T	
R	O	B	I	N	S			T	I	C	K	E	
S	P	I	N	E				S	N	E	E	R	S

- 4 Sandbags, maybe
- 5 Osiris’ beloved
- 6 “Creep” group
- 7 Storytelling dance
- 8 Game officials

- 9 Cape Canaveral acronym
- 11 Halfhearted
- 12 Library tome
- 18 Russian name
- 20 “Say what?”
- 22 Calendar abbr.
- 23 Dressing cheese
- 24 Take a chance
- 25 Bradley or Sharif
- 26 Unbounded joy
- 27 Rust component
- 28 Down the tubes (hyph.)
- 29 Thug, slangily
- 31 Holds the deed
- 35 Plant part
- 37 Well-put
- 38 Norwegian playwright
- 39 ER pictures (hyph.)
- 41 Mooring site
- 42 Hearty loaves
- 43 Atmosphere
- 44 Grow weak
- 45 Calculator key
- 46 Sporty trucks
- 47 Went down
- 50 Wire measure
- 52 Air-pump meas.

1	2	3			4	5	6		7	8	9
10				11				12		13	
14				15						16	
	17		18					19	20		
			21				22				
23	24	25				26			27	28	29
30					31					32	
33					34					35	
36			37	38				39			
			40				41				
42	43	44				45			46	47	
48				49	50				51		52
53				54					55		
56					57				58		

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DILBERT

I'M HAVING TROUBLE PROPERLY ANNOYING OUR REMOTE WORKERS.

HAVE YOU TRIED RANDOMLY DROPPING INTO ZOOM MEETINGS YOU WEREN'T INVITED TO ATTEND?

HEY, EVERYONE! IT'S ME AGAIN!

SOMEONE PLEASE KILL ME.

CLASSIC PEANUTS

THERE'S HER HOUSE...IT'S A NICE HOUSE...

WHY WOULD SOME GIRL WHO LIVES IN A NICE HOUSE LIKE THAT WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO A NOTHING-PERSON LIKE ME?

HER VOICE ON THE TELEPHONE SOUNDED VERY NICE...SHE'S PROBABLY REAL CUTE...WELL, THAT MEANS THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR ME TO DO...

CHICKEN OUT!

FRANK AND ERNEST

SO MUCH FOR THE STATUS QUO.

7-22 THAVES

FRIDAY

DILBERT

WELCOME TO THE FIRST OF WHAT WILL BE WEEKLY STAND-UP MEETINGS BY ZOOM.

I TRUST ALL OF YOU TO NOT GAME THE SYSTEM JUST BECAUSE I CAN'T SEE YOUR LOWER BODIES.

WALLY, ARE YOU SITTING ON SOME-THING?

I'M DEEPLY OFFENDED THAT YOU ASKED.

CLASSIC PEANUTS

WHY AM I ALWAYS AFRAID?

SOME GIRL I'VE NEVER MET ASKS ME OVER TO HER HOUSE TO APOLOGIZE FOR SOMETHING SHE SAID TO ME BEHIND MY BACK.

WHAT IS THERE TO BE AFRAID OF? MAYBE SHE'S JUST KIND OF LONELY...

RING!

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE SHE ISN'T LONELY...

FRANK AND ERNEST

CREATIVE WRITING

I'VE LEARNED A LOT IN THIS CLASS. I USED TO USE CLICHES LIKE THEY WERE GOING OUT OF STYLE, BUT NOW I WOULDN'T TOUCH ONE WITH A TEN-FOOT POLE.

7-23 THAVES

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING:☆☆☆☆☆

3				5				7
6				3		4		
9			2	7			3	8
		6	8	2				
		3				7		
				6	5	8		
2	5			1	4			6
		9		8				4
8				9				5

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HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION											
2	8	3	6	4	7	1	5	9			
4	7	5	8	1	9	2	6	3			
6	1	9	3	5	2	7	4	8			
8	9	2	5	6	3	4	1	7			
1	3	6	2	7	4	9	8	5			
7	5	4	9	8	1	3	2	6			
3	2	8	4	9	6	5	7	1			
5	4	1	7	3	8	6	9	2			
9	6	7	1	2	5	8	3	4			

ACROSS

- 1 Scott Joplin piece
- 4 Stuck-up person
- 8 Small music maker
- 11 Leaf through
- 12 Joke response (hyph.)
- 13 Edmund Hillary’s title
- 14 Nearly shut
- 15 Poet’s black
- 16 “Foucault’s Pendulum” author
- 17 Trills
- 19 Twitches
- 21 Mr. Woosnam of golf
- 22 Zippy’s word
- 23 Domain
- 26 Riddles
- 29 Lb. or oz.
- 30 Nautical marker
- 32 Fly like an eagle

- 34 Med. plans
- 36 Make dinner
- 38 Assist
- 39 Horrify
- 41 Garden spots
- 43 Peron or Gabor
- 44 Prefix for “pod”
- 45 Newlywed
- 48 Apprehensive
- 52 Root vegetable
- 53 Refusals
- 55 — fide
- 56 Start to fall
- 57 Flood the market
- 58 Bohemian
- 59 Bradley and McBain
- 60 Bandleader — Duchin
- 61 Prism maker

DOWN

- 1 Indian royal
- 2 Seaweed extract
- 3 Small pet

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	O	P			L	I	T			H	U	N	
U	R	L			T	E	S	L	A		U	M	A
Y	E	A			E	V	I	C	T		L	P	S
	S	N	I	P	E	S			L	H	A	S	A
			V	I	E			T	A	U			
B	R	O	A	D			G	U	S	H	I	N	G
L	I	M	N			O	L	E			R	O	O
E	S	A				W	E	S			L	O	G
U	K	R	A	I	N	E			X	E	N	O	N
			P	B	S			I	R	A			
R	A	F	T	S		S	N	A	F	U	S		
Y	U	L			E	M	I	L	Y		T	A	P
E	R	A			N	I	N	E	S		E	N	S
S	A	G				L	E	T			S	K	I

- 4 Luster
- 5 Catches a crook
- 6 Taunting cry
- 7 Twangy instruments
- 8 Net surfer
- 9 Go for a field goal
- 10 Mythical archer
- 11 Cat’s foot
- 18 Gentle person
- 20 Flock members
- 22 Seesaw (hyph.)
- 23 “Go team!”
- 24 Jane Austen heroine
- 25 On the summit
- 26 Billiards
- 27 Ocean sound
- 28 Reported
- 31 Bruins’ sch.
- 33 Hwys.
- 35 Lost no time
- 37 Actress — Sedgwick
- 40 Get even for
- 42 Car safety feature (2 wds.)
- 44 Short-tempered
- 45 Data unit
- 46 Police action
- 47 Bratty kids
- 48 Long-running tiff
- 49 Golfer’s yell
- 50 A law — itself
- 51 Reclined
- 54 Antique

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Opinion

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GUEST COLUMN

Note to Joe: try these two easy tricks to promote freedom in Cuba

By THOMAS L. KNAPP

“We stand with the Cuban people,” U.S. President Joe Biden said in an official White House statement, responding to protests across the Caribbean island country, “and their clarion call for freedom and relief from the tragic grip of the pandemic and from the decades of repression and economic suffering to which they have been subjected by Cuba’s authoritarian regime.”

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel disagreed as to the nature of the protests. “All this discontent, these feelings of dissatisfaction, what is the ultimate cause of all that?” he asks. “It’s the blockade. This is part of the U.S. playbook to destabilize us, to generate chaos, to break our will and spirit.”

Diaz-Canel has a point. There’s no actual “blockade,” but there is an embargo, now yearly 60 years long, under which most trade with Cuba is forbidden to American businesses (and foreign business which operate the U.S.).

The supposed purpose of the embargo has been, simply put, to make life hard enough on the Cuban people that they rise up and overthrow the communist regime. So, when Diaz-Canel blames the embargo for popular discomfort and dissatisfaction, a U.S. claim that he’s wrong is essentially an admission that the embargo serves no worthwhile purpose whatsoever.

Which seems to be the case. Six decades of failure to achieve its purpose kind of speaks for itself, don’t you think?

If Biden really wants to “stand with the Cuban people,” there are two easy steps he can take to do so in an honest way.

First, he can ask Congress to lift the embargo and declare a policy of unilateral free trade with Cuba. If Cubans aren’t going to be permitted to trade with Americans, let the Cuban regime, not the U.S. regime, be the ones to say so - and to pay any price in popularity that comes with the decision.

Second, he can ask Congress to end all restrictions on travel



Thomas L. Knapp

and migration between Cuba and the U.S. If you’re a Cuban who wants to visit or live in America, or vice versa, and if you can find a way to make the journey, the U.S. government won’t stand in your way (again, if the Cuban government does, that’s on them).

Will those two things happen? Not likely. Florida’s a swing presidential state with a strong lobby and associated Cuban-American voting bloc that favors economic protectionism in the name of an “anti-communism” that aims to keep Cuba’s Communist Party in charge at all costs.

But if he dares risk it, Biden can actually stand up for freedom - in a way that invites the Cuban people to reveal and act on their true preferences, whatever those preferences may be - instead of just mouthing dishonest platitudes.

Thomas L. Knapp (Twitter: @thomaslknapp) is director and senior news analyst at the William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism (thegarrisoncenter.org). He lives and works in north central Florida.



GUEST COLUMN

Our infrastructure should go back to the future

By STEVEN BERGLUND

America’s infrastructure is taking a beating - and not just from wear and tear. As Congress continues its negotiations over infrastructure, it’s hard to find an article about U.S. roads, bridges or transmission lines that doesn’t describe them as “crumbling.”

It’s not that the original projects were poorly built. On the contrary, 20th Century U.S. infrastructure includes a long list of iconic marvels. These projects were imaginative, technologically bold and transformative.

But concrete and steel wear out. While “crumbling” is perhaps rhetorical overkill, much of our 20th Century infrastructure is aging and struggling to meet current needs.

To that end, the president has challenged Americans to “build back better.” But what does “better” mean in the context of our bridges, roads, ports and other infrastructure elements?

Today’s political momentum behind infrastructure has been absent for decades. It would be unfortunate if we lost this opportunity by reverting to the traditional thinking on what constitutes infrastructure. A transformative strategy must include an aggressive use of technology in the design, construction and operation of new projects.

By integrating the digital and physical worlds, it’s possible to develop solutions that have no historical precedent. Digital construction, in the form of smart machines and site management tools, has already demonstrated potential. It can achieve project cost reductions of up to 25 percent, by improving productivity and reducing waste.

Meanwhile, the availability of cost-effective sensors coupled with reliable wireless connectivity, cloud-enabled access to data bases and AI capabilities provide a platform for improvements in operating costs, project life and user benefits.

While much of these technologies are still nascent, early developments are already in play

across the country. Santa Clara County uses sensors and cloud-based calculations to adjust traffic lights on major roads, accounting for car volume as well as bicycles and pedestrians. Early tests of a similar system in Pittsburgh found that it cut travel times by a quarter and idling by almost a third.

Smart water systems, such as the one being implemented in Louisville, Kentucky, detect leaks and hasten repairs. Real-time monitoring of dams and bridges provides status updates that allow the prioritization of maintenance and the avoidance of catastrophic failure.

Examples such as these are proliferating. So, any infrastructure legislation that doesn’t anticipate a continuing flow of innovation and provide appropriate incentives will fail.

Properly anticipating the trends that will challenge our future infrastructure is equally crucial. As a recent report from the Brookings Institution stated, our country “cannot simply react as the pace of digitalization accelerates.”

Constructing new versions of old infrastructure, however sensational it was for its era, will be insufficient to meet these challenges. Technology will future-proof our systems by enabling them to better adapt to changing conditions, and thereby extending their effective life.

The challenge of future-proofing our infrastructure will require imagination and vision from Republicans and Democrats. Some aspirational elements should be easy to agree on - namely, the need to build smart infrastructure.

By getting that strategy right, Congress will be making a wise investment - whatever the monetary amount. And the infrastructure we build today will sustain us long into the future.

Steve Berglund is the Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors at Sunnyvale-based Trimble Inc. He is the Chair of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers. This piece originally ran in the Mercury News.

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U.S. SENATORS

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D) 107 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-3753 Fax: 202-228-3997 Website: merkley.senate.gov/contact	Sen. Ron Wyden (D) 223 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510-0001 Phone: 202-224-5244 Fax: 202-228-2717 Website: wyden.senate.gov/contact
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U.S. REPRESENTATIVE - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4

Sen. Peter DeFazio (D)
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001
Phone: 202-225-6416
Fax: 202-225-0032
Website: house.gov/formdefazio/contact

Letters to the Editor

Shame on NB residents?

Our May election in North Bend was a good example of what happens when only 1,960 voters out of 7,034 registered voters bother to vote. As a result of this low turnout, the Pool Tax Levy passed and all NB property owners will now pay a “pool tax” (above the usual 3% increase allowed by law) for the next five years.

NB taxpayers already pay over \$350,000 per year for the pool. Now, we’ll pay a second annual tax, plus admission to use the pool. The city also received over \$100K of so-called “free” grant money for the pool.

Shortly before the pool levy was passed, the City Finance Director “reported” a \$1,045,000 (not a typo) beginning balance

“mistake” in the city’s 2020-2021 budget. This “error” was brought to the attention of former City Administrator O’Conner and city council last June by a qualified NB citizen before the May 2021 election. Our mayor and several current council members were aware of the balance error long before it was publicly disclosed in an April council meeting—held just before the election. Apparently, none of the council members listened or read their email...or did they? Some councilors knew the money was there all along, but didn’t want you to know.

Instead, the pool was closed and then “held hostage.” pass the “Pool Tax Levy” or you don’t get the pool. This tax is nothing

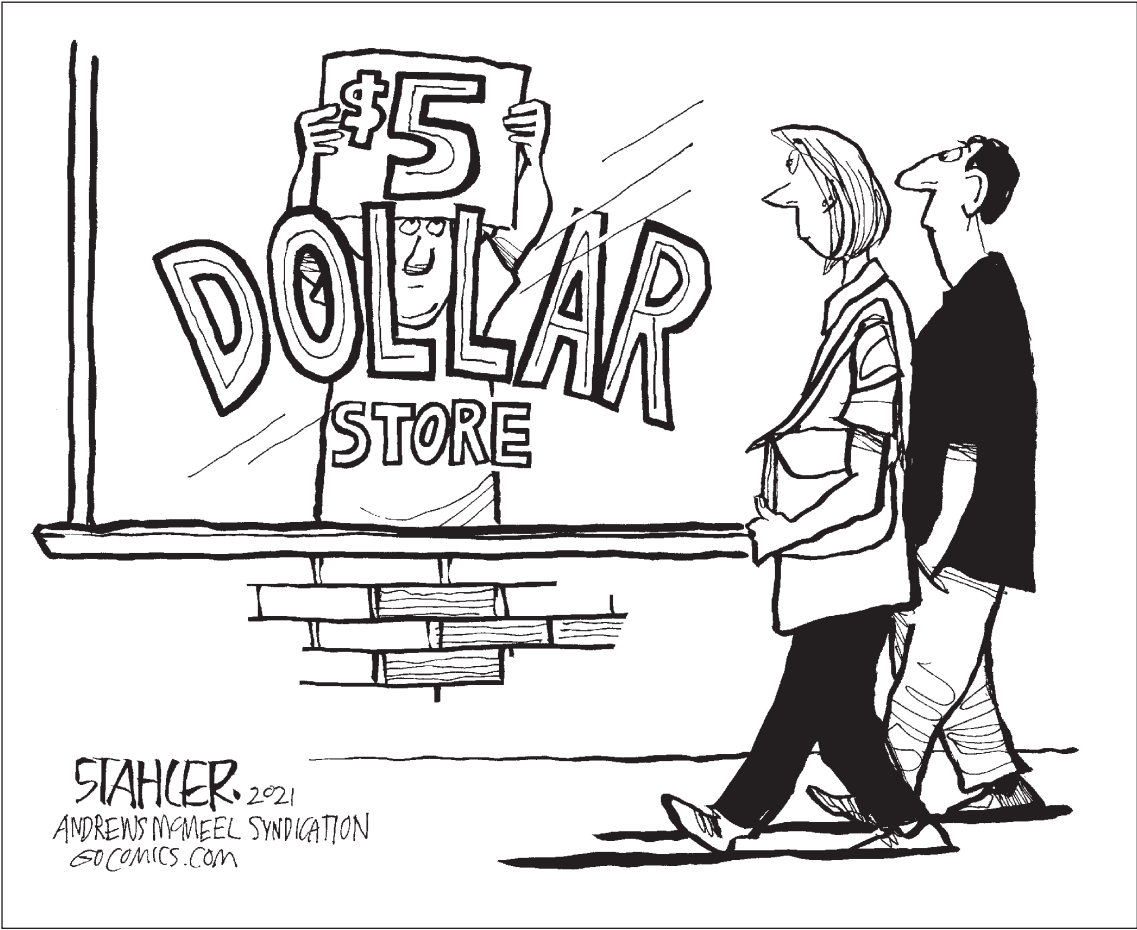
more than a sleight of hand to retrieve the \$180 Public Safety Fee that voters overwhelmingly took back from the city in the May 2020 election.

With the passage of this levy, the city has managed to bamboozle voters again. Our city continues to dig into our pockets when they seem to be unable to keep track of the money they already have. Starting this October, property taxes will be increased more than usual for the next five years.

Fellow NB residents, please pay attention to your city council and make sure to vote.



Fool me once, shame on you.... Fool me twice, shame on me. Your vote really does matter.

Debra Bankler
North Bend



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<div><div>150</div><div>Misc Services</div><div><p>U-Pick Certified Organic Blueberry Farm. Located in Fairview. By appointment only. Call for more info between 10-5 pm 541-396-1899</p><div>311</div><div>Announcements</div><div><p>Black Forest & Double Blueberry are the cheesecakes this week at The Fleet Deli! Come try our best selling fish tacos. 1/\$5 or 2/\$9. We will be open Wed - Sat, 11 - 5. Located next to the cheese factory in Bandon. 541-290-7030.</p><div>515</div><div>Employment Opps</div><div><p>Applications for the position of Water Utility Operator will be accepted by the City of Reedsport, 451 Winchester Avenue, Reedsport, Oregon 97467 until 5:00 PM, Friday, July 30, 2021. A complete job description and required City application is available at Reedsport City Hall or online at www.cityofreedsport.org. The salary range for this position is \$3,004.77 - \$3,975.49 per month with a full competitive benefits package. This position is covered by a collective bargaining unit agreement. Please mail or hand deliver completed applications and materials to Kim Clardy, Public Works Director, at 451 Winchester Ave., Reedsport, Oregon 97467 or email to kclardy@cityofreedsport.org The City of Reedsport provides equal employment opportunity to all qualified employees and applicants without unlawful regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable federal, Oregon, or local law.</p></div></div></div><td><div><div>515</div><div>Employment Opps</div><div><p>South Coast Head Start is hiring! Teacher/Advocates, Teacher Assistants, Classroom Assistants, Inclusion Classroom Specialist, Assistant Cooks www.orcca.us/careers 541-435-7080</p><div></div><div>University of Oregon, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Charleston</div><div>Custodial Services Coordinator</div><div>Works a flexible work schedule. 2 years prior experience in custodial service work is needed for this position. Pay \$15.81 - \$23.49 per hour. This position is located in Charleston, Oregon. Please fill out the UO online application at https://carrers.uoregon.edu/en-us/job/527692/custodial-services-coordinator. EO/AA/ADA institution committed to cultural diversity. The University encourages all qualified individuals to apply, and does not discriminate on the basis of any protected status, including veteran & disability status</div><div>Small, local company seeking welder-fabricator for full-time/- permanent position. Our ideal candidate is looking for long term employment, to be part of a good crew, and is certified D1.1 or with equivalent experience. You will be working with a small, experienced, and dedicated team. Please email resume to jack@watchtechnologies.com or call 541-479-2427.</div></div></div><td><div><div>515</div><div>Employment Opps</div><div><p>Part-time head housekeeper and housekeepers wanted. Starting wage \$15+ hrly. Apply at the Bandon Beach Motel. References required. 541-347-9451.</p><div>Wastewater Plant Operator - Port Orford</div><div>(Salary range \$3,901.66 - \$5,080.00 per month DOQ plus excellent benefits)</div><div>City of Port Orford, a Southern Oregon coastal community of 1,200 with interests including arts, recreational fishing, hiking, boating and hunting. Fresh water lake, ocean beaches, plus two nearby wild rivers. Seeking qualified applicants to fill a Wastewater Plant Operator position. 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The University encourages all qualified individuals to apply, and does not discriminate on the basis of any protected status, including veteran & disability status</div><div>Small, local company seeking welder-fabricator for full-time/- permanent position. Our ideal candidate is looking for long term employment, to be part of a good crew, and is certified D1.1 or with equivalent experience. You will be working with a small, experienced, and dedicated team. Please email resume to jack@watchtechnologies.com or call 541-479-2427.</div></div></div> <td><div><div>515</div><div>Employment Opps</div><div><p>Part-time head housekeeper and housekeepers wanted. Starting wage \$15+ hrly. Apply at the Bandon Beach Motel. 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Questions may be obtained at the address above or by calling (541) 269-1181 ext 2224. Published: July 13 and July 20, 2021 The World & ONPA (ID:320414)</p><div>Unclaimed Personal Property 07.20.2021</div><div>The North Bend Police Department (NPBD) has in its possession unclaimed personal property as described, below:</div><div>Backpacks * Cell Phones * Cash * Tools * Clothing * Keys * Bikes * Wallets/ Purses * Jewelry</div><div>If you believe you have ownership in any of the unclaimed property listed above, you must file a claim by completing a "Property Claim" form with NPBD within 30 days of the date posted on this notice. Failure to file a claim within this 30- day time frame forfeits all rights to posted property. Property Claim Forms can be picked up at the NPBD Lobby located at 835 California Avenue, North Bend, OR 97459. You may also obtain a form by visiting the NPBD webpage at http://northbendoregon.us/police Published: July 20, 2021. The World & ONPA (ID:306499)</div></div></div><td><div><div>999</div><div>Legal Notices</div><div><p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD The North Bend City and Coos-Curry Housing Authorities will be accepting written and oral comments on the Annual PHA Plan and Capital Fund Program at a public meeting to be held on August 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM at 1700 Monroe Street, North Bend. Both documents as well as supporting information can be reviewed, or a copy requested, at the same address. For more information, call 541-751- 2042. Published: July 16, July 20, July 23, July 27, July 30, August 3, August 6, August 10, August 13, August 17, August 20, August 24 and August 27, 2021. 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Legion teams learn lessons in doubleheader split

JOHN GUNTHER
The World

COOS BAY — The American Legion baseball season provides an extended opportunity for high school players to learn for their future seasons.

In the eyes of North Coos coach Brad Horning, both his squad and their neighbor South Coos learned valuable lessons about the team nature of the game during the opener of their doubleheader Thursday at Marshfield High School.

“I think they learned the first game, you keep coming at it and good things can happen,” Horning said of the Nooks’ 13-9 win in the opener, a game North Coos had led 7-2 until an explosion of runs in the fifth and sixth innings by South Coos. “We learned the first game there is no clock (in baseball). You need to keep getting outs, or at least pad the lead.”

North Coos turned the tables in the nightcap, with the Waterfront winning 9-3 by holding South Coos scoreless over the final four innings.

North Coos turned to a pair of younger pitchers in the second game, Jake Newsum and Knoll Gederos.

“Jake scrapped to keep (the score) where it was,” Horning said. “That gave us a chance to get the lead.”

Gederos came in with the bases loaded and two outs and North Coos trailing 3-1 in the fourth inning and got Wyatt Peck to ground out to second. He then retired nine of the final 10 South Coos batters as North Coos rallied for the win.

“He’s throwing great there,” said Horning, who didn’t get a chance to see Gederos pitch much during the high school season, since his pitching came with North Bend’s junior varsity team.

It took five tries, but the Waterfront finally beat the Nooks after South Coos had won all four earlier meetings this year.

“It was fun,” Gederos said. “I think we needed to do better defensively in the first game. The second game, we got some good hits, played good defensively and our pitchers threw a lot of strikes.”

Gederos had a sacrifice fly in the first inning and singled and scored one of five North Coos runs in the fifth inning as the Waterfront took the lead for good in the second game.

Cooper Peters and Ian Sissell had RBI singles and scored in the big inning, when North Coos did



Photos by John Gunther/The World

Knoll Gederos follows through on a pitch for North Coos against South Coos on Thursday. Below, Cooper Peters slides home for North Coos as South Coos catcher Henry Rankin waits for the throw.

a lot right.

Carter Brock opened with a single, Sam Mickelson walked and Beau Ericson hit a sacrifice bunt. Jack Burgmeier provided a key run when he hit a sacrifice fly to center in a long at-bat that included fouling off four straight two-strike pitches and was rewarded by extensive congratulations from his teammates when he returned to the dugout.

Brock doubled and scored in a two-run sixth and Jason Garcia singled and scored in the seventh as North Coos padded the lead it had failed to enhance in the first game.

Peck had an RBI single in the first inning for South Coos and singled and came home, along with Luke Parry, on a two-run single by Landon Croff in the third.

Peck was a little disappointed in the nightcap, especially given the successful season for South Coos, which has included just four losses.

“The season has been going pretty good,” he said. “Today wasn’t good. We had a lot of errors.”

It was North Coos errors and timely hitting by the Nooks that enabled South Coos to rally for the win in the opener.

Starting with one out in the fifth inning, Cobin Bouska, Croff and Henry Rankin had consecutive singles for South Coos, though Croff was thrown out attempting to steal second by Brock. Dean Tucker, Joseph Herbert and Drake Rogers then walked. Jonathan Calvert added a double.

The five runs South Coos

scored in that inning were followed by six more in the sixth. Rankin had a one-out single and Herbert singled with two outs. Rogers and Calvert both reached by errors and Parry provided the big blow, a three-run home run.

Bouska later added an RBI double to score Peck, who had reached by walk.

Rogers doubled and scored on a sacrifice fly by Calvert in the first and Tucker had a sacrifice fly in the second to score Bouska, who had walked.

North Coos built its lead in the opener with an RBI groundout by Nick Williams and RBI single by Jacob Chaney in the first, RBI singles by Mickelson and Sissell in the second, RBI doubles by Gederos and Peters in the fourth and a double by Garcia and RBI single by Gederos in the fifth. David Roberts had two runs.

Though both teams have players from several schools, the day felt much like a North Bend-Marshfield rivalry game.

“I’m glad we split with North Coos,” said Peck, who will be a senior for the Pirates next year. “Taking four out of five makes me happy.”

He has seen South Coos develop from a program that won just a few games its first summer season a few years back to one that has had a strong summer this year.

“We went from an all right team to a pretty good team,” he said, adding that he is excited about Marshfield’s potential next spring. “I’m hoping we will at least take league next year,” he said.

South Coos also includes



Colton Siewell and Daniel Cabrera from Bandon. Tucker is from Coquille and Rankin from Siuslaw.

While most of the North Coos roster is from North Bend, Chaney and JB Noel are from Reedsport, Peters is from Elkton and Ericson, Sissell and Garcia all are from Siuslaw.

The multi-school aspect has made the season fun, Gederos said.

“Playing with this group of kids enabled us to get better defensively and offensively,” he said. “We can take that back to our high school teams next year.”

Horning agreed the players can learn from each other.

“You’ve got to love the enthusiasm of Sissell and Garcia,” he said. “They are always cheering for everybody.”

Horning and South Coos

coach Chilly Peck said they both are excited about the summer and how it has helped the players from all the schools.

“Summer ball is a great time to work on one’s craft of the game as well as working to become a better team player,” Peck said.

“We have had a few players play many positions. We’re trying to push a few players’ comfort level as they may need to become that utility player. It’s also a good time for some of the younger players to feel comfortable with the older players.”

North Coos finishes the season with a doubleheader at Brookings on Saturday, while South Coos has three more twin bills, all on the road against Dr. Randal’s in Roseburg on Monday, Newport on Wednesday and Roseburg Pepsi next Saturday.

As The World changes: Gunther says goodbye after 29 years

Once upon a time, there was a high school senior in Coquille pondering what to do about his future — should he pursue a career in education or a career in newspapers.

That young man (I still consider myself young even though I am north of 50 now) chose newspapering. And thought it wasn’t my intention at the time, I ended up at The World for more than 29 years.



John Gunther
Sports Editor

My tenure as a full-time employee, including more than 25 years as sports editor, ended last week as I shifted to a new career following a challenging year when the COVID-19 pandemic led to dramatic changes at the newspaper I toiled so many years building up.

It was a difficult decision, but one I don’t regret. After years of late work nights with the most supportive bride in the world, it is time to shift my focus to a career with predictable hours and the chance for more family time, including vacations put off too often.

But I also don’t regret my long career at The World, bringing community and sports news to readers on the South Coast. I started at the newspaper one week after graduating from the University of Oregon, more than

10,600 days ago. All the time, I had the same parking spot, the same phone number and the same desk (though that moved within the office several times).

Along the way, I had lots of people who helped form me into the sports editor I became.

Charlie Kocher took a chance on an unproven college student when I wandered into the office for the first time asking for an internship before my senior year in school, and then held a job open for me my final term.

Once I got started, Linda Meierjurgan took me under her wing, showing me the ropes and encouraging me on the tough days as an early reporter. Then news-editor Jerry Stonebraker, affectionately referred to as Stoney by us in the office, entertained us with his early morning humming as he put together the inside pages of the paper. (I more recently learned Stoney was a business reporter for The World 50 years ago.)

Later, editors Kathy Erickson and Clark Walworth helped me become a better writer. In addition to being a superb editor, Kathy was a phenomenal columnist and helped me craft my own columnist skills. Clark, also a wordsmith and stickler for grammar, pointed out the South Coast has no prep schools so to call high school sports prep sports was inaccurate. Since then, I have never used the phrase except when referring to La Salle Prep of the Portland area.

Over a quarter century, I had a bunch of great sports writers



The World file photo

As part of a special section celebrating the 20th anniversary of Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in 2019, John Gunther, left, spent time interviewing resort owner Mike Keiser.

who helped provide coverage of everything South Coast. The longest-tenured of those were Jamie Lawson and Rachel Finney, and I was both saddened and understanding when they each left for greener pastures. I knew my various assistants would all eventually leave for other opportunities and I hope I helped make them into better writers. They included Andrew Greif, who I had the pleasure of covering as a state champion long jumper at North Bend, and who later joined me for a summer as an intern when he was at the University of Oregon, just as I had done years earlier. I watched his career rise in dramatic fashion through several stops, the current one the

Los Angeles Times beat writer for the Clippers.

My most treasured colleague was Ron Jackimowicz, who joined us after in 2005 after a career covering sports in California. I never had to worry about him wanting my job — he had spent more than enough nights covering sports — and cherished his abilities as a page designer, helping our best features stand out in print. He became my golf partner and writing confidant and we spent a few years dining together for his cuisine column, which became probably the most popular part of the paper (certainly in terms of feedback I got from the public).

I admired the skills of our

many photographers over the years, especially Lou Sennick, who was with us two decades. I appreciated their abilities even more the past year, when I was trying to take pictures of sports events, something I rarely had to do before. I’ve done what I could, sacrificing how I like to cover events to try to make suitable photos, a tall task, especially for sports like volleyball, soccer, basketball and football.

In my early years, I loved the scent of hot wax in the mornings. The method of page production then included printing out the text for stories and having our composing staff paste them onto

Please see **Gunther**, Page A9

NORTHWEST STOCKS				LOTTERY			
Friday opening and closing quotes				Xerox 23.32 22.56	MegaMillions		Powerball
Stock	Open	Close		Levi Strauss 28.41 27.93	July 16		July 17
Intel	55.81	54.96		Dow Jones opened at 34,987.02	24-25-47-52-57		15-22-38-54-66
Kroger	38.18	39.36		Dow Jones closed at 34,686.57	Megaball: 24		Powerball: 3
Microsoft	281.07	280.70		NASDAQ opened at 14,543.14	Multiplier: x4		Multiplier: x2
Nike	161.01	159.84		NASDAQ closed at 14,427.24	Jackpot: \$128 million		Jackpot: \$161 million
NW Natural	52.94	52.84		S&P 500 opened at 4,360.03			
Skywest	41.65	39.40		S&P 500 closed at 4,326.97	Megabucks		Win For Life
Starbucks	118.97	118.73			July 17		July 17
Umpqua Hldgs	18.28	17.83		Provided by Coos Bay Edward Jones	5-19-34-42-43-46		31-57-58-60
Weyerhaeuser	34.63	34.01			Jackpot: \$5.2 Million		

Gunther

From A8

page templates before the press crew converted them into the plates that went onto the press.

The hot wax went away years ago, but I still loved the hum of the press on the other side of the wall from the newsroom, especially when it was first starting up with each run. That ended when The World moved printing operations early this year.

Along the way, there were warning signs of the challenging future for the newspaper industry. When I started, we were printing some 17,000 copies of the Saturday paper on Friday nights and our penetration in the greater Bay Area was over 80 percent of households.

The emergency of the internet revolutionized much in our industry, but also how people got their news, and circulation started falling. Recessions proved challenging for retailers, the lifeblood of the newspaper with their advertising, and the South Coast lost some of our major advertisers including The Emporium, Macy’s and JC Penney’s.

During my tenure, the paper had four different owners and numerous publishers and ad directors.

Through it all, I loved my day (and night) job, bringing sports news to the South Coast.

There is nothing like high school sports and the impact sports has on the various communities. And the unique variety of community sports on the South Coast is great.

Since my own kids weren’t into sports, I got to live vicariously through the athletes I covered, many of whom became good friends along the way in their post-high school days.

I had the opportunity to cover numerous state champion teams. In fact, all 11 schools in our coverage area (we used to deliver all the way from Siuslaw in Florence to Brookings-Harbor near the border) won team titles in multiple sports. All, that is, except my own high school, Coquille. Like the others, though, the Red Devils enjoyed numerous champions in the individual sports of cross country, track and field and wrestling.

I loved visiting all the South Coast schools and

covered state championship events in Corvallis, Monmouth, the Salem area, Portland, Forest Grove, Gresham, Beaver-ton and Eugene.

I got to cover a few college national championships for SWOCC and for bigger schools, including football-placekicker-turned-javelin-thrower and Marshfield graduate John Stiegeler at the University of Oregon and golf phenom Monica Vaughn of Reedsport at Arizona State University.

I probably wrote too many personal columns and features over the years, but reader complaints generally were about stories I didn’t get to, or perceived biases in our coverage.

The community sports section was one of my focal points, trying to get as many results and stories for swimming, bowling, running, auto racing, marital arts and golf in the paper as I could.

My tenure included covering the entire development of Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, from what I originally considered a crazy a proposal in the 1990s to the golf mecca with five of the nation’s highest-rated golf courses that it is today.

I covered the building of Bandon Crossings, Salmon Run near Brookings and Florence Golf Links (originally Sandpines), as well as the expansion of Coos Golf Club and Sunset Bay Golf Course, with its now unique 12-hole layout. Sadly, along the way we lost both Kentuck Golf Course and Face Rock Golf Course, later Bandon Golf Links.

I look forward to the proposed Pacific Gales near Port Orford becoming a reality.

I built good relationships with colleagues at several other newspapers (too many too mention) and officials at the Oregon School Activities Association.

It never was my goal, but along the way I won my share of writing awards in regional newspaper competitions as well as statewide writing awards from other groups for our coverage of swimming and our coverage of the Class 3A state basketball tournament, an award I am particularly proud of since I was nominated by coaches from outside the South Coast.

Far more important to me than the awards, of course, are the relation-

ships forged with coaches, athletic directors, athletes, parents and community members.

I appreciate all the comments of support I have received over the years, and especially the past few months as my time at the paper was running out.

When Marshfield and North Bend recognized their senior swimmers recently, Mira Matthews, one of the standout Pirates, included a picture of me interviewing her in her photo collage, and I immediately wondered just how many pictures like that are out there in the South Coast photo collections of parents and athletes.

It’s rewarding knowing the positive impact the newspaper’s coverage has on students and their families.

I will always regret not getting to some of the stories I wanted to write, including about Myrtle Point runner Jerry Roberts and his impressive collection of age-group wins in the half marathon in his late-60s.

I also never quite figured out how to write about how proud retired Coos Bay teacher Gladys Kelly is of her grandson Josh Heupel, a former Uni-

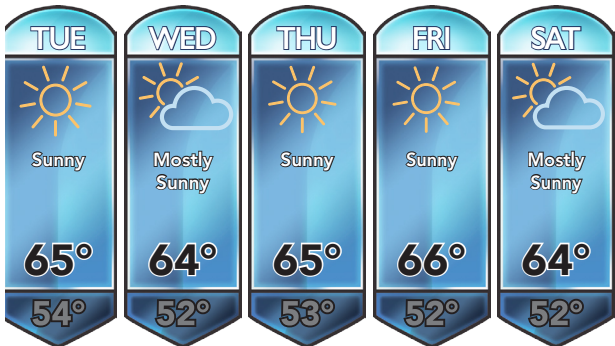
versity of Oklahoma star and the new head football coach at the University of Tennessee. Heupel’s mom Cindy is a Marshfield grad and Kelly made sure I knew about Heupel’s rise to the prestigious coaching post. You can bet she’ll be proudly pulling for the Volunteers.

You’ll still see my name in the paper some. I have offered to write a few stories to keep local sports coverage going while the paper looks for my replacement.

And though I am leaving daily newspaper life, I still believe in community journalism and hope The World continues to be a mainstay on the South Coast. I have confidence in both Editor David Rupkalvis and Publisher David Thornberry, both newcomers to the South Coast with extensive newspaper backgrounds.

As for my own newspaper history, my heartfelt thanks to all of you readers for allowing me to be a part of your lives for so many years.

The hours were long and the pay wasn’t always great, but that’s the way with many rewarding careers. And it’s a career choice I will never regret.



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CRBQ

From A1

When COVID hit last year, it shut down CRBQ completely. Because the group is older men, some with health conditions, they took the precautions seriously. They didn't practice together, isolated in their own homes and only went out as necessary. When vaccines became available, they all got the shot, so, when restrictions were eased they were ready.

And Berfield said the time spent apart was good for the band.

"The pandemic calmed every one of us down," he said. "We walked in here and started playing again and said, 'Man, this is what it's all about.'"

CRBQ had its first

performance in a year and a half last week in Bandon and has a busy schedule in the coming weeks. They are scheduled to perform at the Coos County Fair on Thursday, have a concert on Saturday, will perform at Little Theater on the Bay on July 30 and will join seven other local bands at the Silver Linings Concert at Mingus Park on July 31.

"There's a surge of people interested in entertainment and live music is more attractive than I imagined," Berfield said. "You want to look people in the face and play a little music. That's what we do."

The quintet is made up of musicians who have played for decades, most while working full-time jobs.

Berfield manages artists

and at one time traveled full-time with Lou Reed. He has worked with Ellis Hall, a Ray Charles' protégé, for 21 years.

"I've been booking since I was 15," he said. "I've been playing since I was 6. It's in our DNA."

In 2010, Berfield moved to Coos Bay and began looking for someone to play with. It took a while, but he eventually found Hughes. Together they worked to form a band that would honor their love of blues and rock with their own twist.

"We decided we were going to do something where we could always laugh on stage," Berfield said. "We play stuff with quality that we like the best."

That might mean a song many will know or a song

they heard from a regional performer in Portland. If they like it, they begin working on it. Right now, they are working on a piece that is one of the hardest they've done, Kashmir by Led Zeppelin.

"At this gig on the 31st, we're going to close with it," Hughes said. "It's a real piece of work. It's kind of a masterpiece song. It's a Stairway to Heaven type of song."

Like most of his bandmates, Hughes became a full-time entertainer while working a full-time job. For more than a decade, he played across Los Angeles.

"When I got out of the service in 1970, I played for the next 10 years," he said. "It was really, really busy at the time. We had some good songs."

He recalled a stretch where he had four concerts in four days. With his job at the postal service in between, he slept maybe seven hours in the four days.

While he doubts he could

pull that off today, he says music keeps him young.

"I've been doing it for 57 years," he said. "It's weird, it's like being a 15-year-old again in your imagination. You walk into a guitar store and you want them all."

Alaniz ran a vegetable farm in California for 50 years while still performing on the side. It wasn't easy, but his love for music kept him going.

"You're either in it or you're out," Alaniz said. "You have to schedule your days, so you have time to do it."

Neal started playing drums at 11, and still enjoys being part of a band.

"It never is just me," he said. "It's a group act, and it brings joy to people. It's social and it forces me to be with people."

He said being part of CRBQ has been a special treat.

"I love it," he said. "Everybody is at the same musical level, which is

important. Everybody is at the same point in their lives, we're either retired or semi-retired. It's fun and I enjoy it."

Beckstrom is the new-comer to the band, and is the least experienced. He got into music just a decade ago when he was asked to play percussion in a local performance. After the one show, he hasn't stopped.

"I've been doing this for about 10 years, and I love every moment of it," he said. "These guys are so much fun to play with. I feel like I get better and better at listening. Being around this level of music is amazing."

Berfield said he encourages the community to come out to the Silver Linings Concert. Put on by 7 Devils Brewery, Music on the Bay and KDock, the concert is free but is to honor local first responders. The concert runs from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. with CRBQ scheduled at 5:15.

Hospital

From A1

again passed 3-1, with Allen voting against it.

Bischoff said he was unable to discuss specific concerns related to Suksi, saying the language he used when making his motion included, "I have lost confidence in the CEO's ability to effectively lead the organization."

Bischoff said Thursday morning, Allen emailed the remaining board members and resigned after serving

for 17 years.

"It's sad for me to see him resign under a contentious manner," Bischoff said. "That's unfortunate. I have a lot of respect for David Allen and the work he has done for the district."

The board tasked hospital CFO Jeremiah Dodrill to serve as interim CEO for the immediate time. The board is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday to consider candidates to serve as interim CEO.

Bischoff said he expects to have a couple of candidates for the board to

consider.

Board members are also slated to discuss the two open positions on the board, but Bischoff said he did not anticipate naming new members at the meeting.

"I don't expect we'll be ready to replace board members," he said. "I think getting the interim CEO in place is the urgent matter, then we can move forward with filling the board."

Only after the board has been filled will it move forward with looking for a permanent CEO, Bischoff said.

Drought

From A1

he said. "One is a low pressure system to the far northwest that has brought in clouds and low temperatures overnight. The other is a high pressure system to the east that continues to produce warmer temperatures."

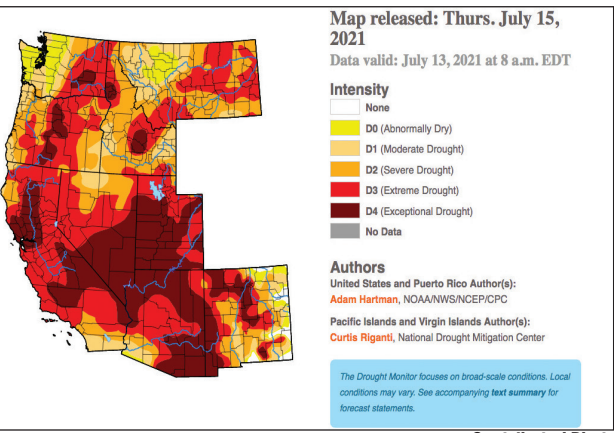
Bumgradner said one NWS forecasting model shows the low pressure moving slowly toward Oregon, which could bring some rain, but other models show the high pressure system dominating the next seven days promising continuing warm and dry conditions.

The continued dry and warm weather and winds are heightening the wildfire danger from the coast through the Cascades into eastern Oregon, according to local fire agencies. Human activity and dry lightning strikes are of prime concern, the fire agencies say.

Governor issues drought executive order

Governor Kate Brown has issued Executive Order 21-20, directing state agencies to curtail nonessential water use, implement water conservation measures and encourage drought resiliency.

The directive comes as a result of 19 Oregon counties already in declared drought



Contributed Photo

Just about all of Oregon is now facing some level of drought.

emergencies, and the rest of Oregon facing threats of drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

"Oregon has a strong history of managing and caring for water, but climate change and chronic drought require water conservation and a commitment to working together," Brown said. "Many state agencies already have taken steps to improve the sustainability of their operations, including actions to reduce water usage."

Brown said through her executive order, state government can respond to the growing crisis, lead by example, and show Oregonians that drought is a serious issue — but one that can be managed if we all work together.

"At the same time, it is critically important that we keep in mind how curbing water in public places may affect vulnerable Oregonians who may turn to public sources of water for relief from hot weather, and adjust as appropriate," Brown said. "Many local governments have also curtailed water use on city and county facilities. I appreciate their leadership and encourage all local governments in drought-stricken counties to conserve water and begin implementing drought resiliency strategies as we face a worsening drought together."

Brown is encouraging Oregonians to be conscious of water usage and to take steps to reduce water use whenever possible."

Brown's executive order directs state agencies that own or manage land or facilities to:

- Implement actions that

curtail or end the non-essential use of water for landscaping and other exterior features of buildings and grounds, including lawn watering, fountains that do not re-circulate water, and window washing.

- Institute a moratorium (where allowed) on the installation of new non-essential landscaping projects that require irrigation at state-owned buildings.
- Develop and place signs and other messaging within state-owned buildings to encourage state employees to reduce their non-essential uses of water inside state-owned buildings.

Where the drought map information comes from

Each week, drought experts consider how much water is available in streams, lakes, and soils compared to usual for the the current time of the year, according to NOAA. They evaluate how recent precipitation amounts across the country compare to their long-term averages, and monitor variables such as temperature, soil moisture, snow cover, and meltwater runoff.

Experts also check whether areas are showing drought impacts such as water shortages or business interruptions. Based on dozens of indicators and using a "convergence of evidence" approach, experts make their best judgments of regional-scale drought conditions.

The final step is to check their assessments with local experts who can check actual conditions. Once they gather and consider this input, they publish the weekly drought map.

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