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DUTCH BROS. COFFEE

Oh, sure, Dutch Bros. coffee stands are located all over the place, from California to Colorado, but all the company's coffee is roasted in the North Valley Industrial Park in Merlin.

This week the company's corporate team completed the move to its new headquarters in downtown Grants Pass. Founded by brothers Dane and Travis Boersma in 1992, the company has 230 employees at headquarters and the North Valley site.

Some of them run the roasting operation. Angi Veek of the public relations team likened the roasting equipment "to a Willy Wonka-type machine" when it's fully operational.

Pallets are stacked almost to the ceiling with burlap bags filled with coffee beans from El Salvador, Columbia and Brazil, waiting to be roasted.

According to John Diaz, lead roaster and warehouse production manager, around 80,000 pounds of coffee beans are roasted weekly, or 4.2 million pounds per year.

After roasting and packaging, the beans are shipped by truck to 292 Dutch Bros. locations in its seven-state territory, all west of the Mississippi.

PLAYCRAFT SYSTEMS

While the Dutch Bros. campus has recreation opportunities for its employees, Playcraft creates them for children.

Playcraft, formerly known as Krauss Craft, makes playground equipment — jungle gyms, swing sets, components for fitness courses and even artificial turf.

The company's commercial-grade playground systems — offered in a number of themes, such as Circus, Castle, Pirate, Treehouse — are used by schools, parks and even military bases.

A number of playgrounds in the Grants Pass area feature Playcraft Systems, including schools, Schroeder and Riverside Parks.

Originally the outdoor play structures were made of lumber, but went to more durable molded plastics many years ago.

Founded by Kurt Krauss in his Selma garage over 25 years ago, the company moved to the North Valley Industrial Park in 2003 and currently has close to 200 employees.

In January, Playcraft was acquired by PlayCore Holdings, a Tennessee-based playground equipment maker.

MARIJUANA

A sign arching over Sixth Street in downtown Grants Pass proclaims "It's the Climate" for good reason.

Long before it was legal, Josephine County, with its mild climate and sunny summers, has been celebrated as a great place to grow marijuana. With over 3,000 registered medical marijuana grow sites, we're second only to neighboring Jackson County in Oregon.

"Our product is fresher, it has better visual appeal, it has better aroma, it has better flavor and it's more potent," says Pete Gendron, president of the Oregon SunGrowers Guild.

"Our sun-grown cannabis is the finest. It's highly sought after. That's been common knowledge for decades."

Marijuana grown in the sun enhances a plant's smell and flavor while producing a wider range of compounds viewed as beneficial to health, Gendron says.

The guild's budding certification program ensures that participating growers follow responsible practices.

"The gardeners are more attentive to their plants and more attentive to their land," Gendron says. "They put love into the production."

ROGUE VALLEY DOOR

It's only fitting that a company that makes doors with beautiful woods is located in scenic Grants Pass, surrounded by the forest.

If you shop at Fred Meyer, you've driven by the 17-acre site on Northeast Beacon Drive that is home to Rogue Valley Door and its 350,000 square-foot manufacturing facility.

Rogue Valley Door makes interior and exterior doors with hard and softwoods, from lumber grown in the United States. The company manufactures many stock patterns as well as custom doors and distributes its doors nationwide.

Employing around 325 people, it's one of the largest private employers in town. If you don't know somebody who works there, chances are you know somebody who knows somebody.

Founded in the early 1980s, for years the company was known as Rogue Valley Sash & Door. Now it's just "Door."

"We removed sash from the name," explained founder John Dunkin, "because we don't make windows."

Dunkin said he's not interested in selling the company, and has no plans to retire.

"I still enjoy it," he said.

Daily Courier reporter Shaun Hall contributed to this report.

Pavilion From Page 1A

This resulted in the designs being redrawn from the original concrete amphitheater structure to a less obstructive and expensive one that can be modified for events throughout the year. The two-tiered structure will feature removable tarp roof structures that can provide shade in hot summer months or protection from the elements in winter months.

The design is also expected to be conducive to other kinds of events, such as Back to the '50s and for concerts. However, it will require a trial run to see how well the platform accommodates other interests.

That design was approved by the Urban Area Planning Commission on Wednesday.

However, residents on the other side of the river — the same neighbors who successfully appealed The Lodge at Riverside expansion in August — have concerns about what the structure will attract. Namely: noise and unsavory activity.

Arden McConnell lives in her family's house that was constructed in 1936 on Southeast Eighth Street, just across the river from where the structure will be. She says that the various activities that

already happen at Riverside Park can often generate excessive noise.

"Normally, all the sounds of lively activity is welcome," McConnell told the planning commission. "Even Boatnik, which the races rattle my windows, can be tolerated once a year. But lately there have been instances where music in the park was so loud it would bring you to your knees. I think this pavilion will only increase the likelihood of loud activities there year-round."

McConnell said that one of the concerts in June was so loud she called the police. But an officer told her the concert had a noise permit and there was nothing police could do.

She called for some sort of code amendment that would make it easier for the Department of Public Safety to enforce, and other assurances by the city that loud activities would be limited.

Parks Director Lora Glover said the city will look into ways to mitigate the sound that echoes off of the river to nearby homes.

"We want to look at maybe making sure that the speakers during concerts are facing away from the river, as well as drafting some other wording in the code that might make sound ordinances clearer," Glover said. "We want to be good neighbors."

Currently, the city has noise ordi-

Fires From Page 1A

"I have good insurance, everything," she said. "All the kids, grandkids, great-grandkids are fine. I'm OK with that."

Firefighters spent much of the last week digging defense lines to keep the flames from spreading. On Friday, they tried to fortify the edge of Sonoma using bulldozers and other heavy equipment.

But if winds push the flames over that barrier, neighborhoods including some of the town's costliest homes were in the path, along with a historic central plaza built centuries ago when the area was under Spanish rule.

The renewed strength of the winds was "testing the work that we accomplished," Berlant said. The greatest risk was that winds would blow embers across the firebreaks and ignite new blazes.

Winds gusting up to 40 mph were expected to continue throughout the day and into the evening.

Also Friday, a lucky few of the 100,000 people who have fled from their homes got to return, and examples of charity were everywhere, along with a sign that began popping up in more and more places: "The love in the air is thicker than the smoke."

Astonishing video released from the fire's hellish first night showed the courage of the deputies and firefighters working amid the flames.

"Go! Go! Go! Go! Go!" an unidentified Sonoma County deputy can be heard yelling in the body-camera video released by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. The footage was recorded as he urged hesitant drivers to speed out of a town that was being devoured by flames.

The deputy is shown lifting a disabled woman out of her wheelchair and into an SUV to rush her out of town. And he drives through walls of flame looking for more people to help.

"And that's just one person," Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano said at a news conference.

At an RV evacuation site at Sonoma Raceway, evacuees counted their blessings, trying not to think about what they had lost and what they might yet lose.

The mood at sunset Friday was upbeat, even cheerful, as children and dogs played in the twilight. More than 100 campers were parked by the side of a highway. There were portable bathrooms and tables groaning from donated water bottles, stuffed animals and food.

Ron Vitt, 75, and Ellen Brantley, 65, sat in chairs watching the cars go by, a small table between them holding drinks: gin with cocktail onions for him and gin with lime for her. They joked as their dog bounced about happily.

"There is a sun that's going to set. There's a dog who is really happy," Vitt said. "So you got to bring some sanity into this whole

thing."

At Sonoma Valley High School, the parking lot was packed with cars and vans. Middle school Principal Will Deeths supervised volunteers and made sure people had plenty of water and a filter mask. He said more than 100 people spent Thursday night at the school, which has been converted into a shelter.

He said the community response has been phenomenal. Hairdressers from Oakland came to fix people's hair and a young man played guitar to entertain families, he said. They even had a birthday party for a 5-year-old boy, complete with a donated cake from a local bakery.

"Two days ago we were in need of size 5 diapers," he said. "Someone put it on Facebook and within an hour, four or five cars pulled up, two or three boxes. Boom, boom, boom, here you go."

More than a dozen fires broke out nearly simultaneously on Oct. 8 and people had little time to escape. Most of the deaths were elderly people.

In all, 17 large fires still burned across the northern part of the state, with more than 9,000 firefighters attacking the flames using air tankers, helicopters and more than 1,000 fire engines.

Individual fires including a 1991 blaze in the hills around Oakland killed more people than any one of the current blazes, but no collection of simultaneous fires in California ever led to so many deaths, authorities said.

People remained on edge, worried about the wind shifting fires in their direction, said Will Deeths, a Sonoma middle school principal helping to supervise volunteers at Sonoma Valley High School, now an evacuation shelter.

"In the afternoons we start looking up at the flag pole and we start looking to see, is the wind blowing? Is the flag moving?" he said. "It's been really crazy."

Video was released of body camera footage on the first night of the fire, showing an unnamed deputy braving wild flames and thick smoke to clear out a community already being devoured by the flames.

"Go! Go! Go! Go! Go!" the Sonoma County deputy yells to drivers who are hesitating and moving slowly as they flee.

The deputy, wheezing and coughing, runs to several doors shouting "sheriff's office!" for anyone who may be in earshot.

He then comes across another

deputy with a woman in a wheelchair right next to a house that is burning and lifts her into an SUV to take her away.

On Friday dozens of search-and-rescue personnel at a mobile home park in Santa Rosa, also in Sonoma County, carried out the grim task Friday of searching for remains. Fire tore through Santa Rosa early Monday, leaving only a brief window for residents to flee, and decimated the park, which was known as Journey's End and was home to hundreds of people.

Workers were looking for two missing people who lived at the park. They found one set of remains, mostly bone fragments, and continued looking for the other, said Sonoma County Sgt. Spencer Crum.

To help in the search, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office near San Francisco sent specialized equipment, including drones with three-dimensional cameras and five dogs trained to sniff out human remains.

The city is looking into ways to make the platform appealing with the tarps off, like stringing lights to the beams or adding some other kind of ornamentation to the beams.

City officials say they don't know how much the structure will cost until the project goes out for bidding. However, the original amphitheater structure called for an estimated \$700,000 and the new removable tarp structure design is expected to be considerably cheaper than that.

Also in the air is what else the \$500,000 lottery grant can be used for, as the city still plans to build a concert viewing structure where the old Isaak Walton Building used to be.

Money is already set aside for other projects at the park, but leftover cash from the pavilion project would be welcomed for other projects the park needs.

Residents opposed to the project have 12 days after a notice is sent in the mail to appeal the planning commission's approval of the pavilion project.

Firmer planning for the project apparently will start after that process is concluded.

Reach reporter Troy Shinn at 541-474-3806 or tshinn@thedailycourier.com

Join Us For This Interfaith Celebration

Global Oneness Day

Unity of Grants Pass Celebration

October 22nd • 4-6pm

Join us for an international celebration of prayer, music and fellowship as we honor the spirit of Interconnectedness, Collaboration and Oneness around the world.

Following the service, enjoy a sampling of foods from different lands.

Offered in partnership with the Assoc. for Global New Thought.
1027 SE "M" St., Grants Pass • unityofgrantspass.org

Rates From Page 1A

There are about 117,000 enrollees in silver plans, though not every one of those plans will increase, said agency spokesman Jake Sunderland. Silver metal tier plans are the only plans that have cost-sharing reductions. The CSRs, as they're known, are offered to middle-income consumers and have lower maximum out-of-pocket limits, deductibles, copays, and co-insurance. About 50,000 Oregonians were enrolled in cost-sharing reduction plans. It was not immediately clear how many Oregonians would be subjected to the rate increase, or what the average dollar amounts would be.

Those under the bronze and gold plans will remain unaffected, the agency said.

Health insurance companies that sell plans on HealthCare.gov — the website created as part of former President Obama's Affordable Care Act where people can buy insurance plans and get finan-

cial assistance — can still sell plans off of HealthCare.gov. If the carrier participates on HealthCare.gov, they will have to increase silver plan rates, Sunderland said.

Rosenblum blasted Trump's action as "a rash, ill-conceived decision that will have a devastating impact on many vulnerable Oregonians."

"These ACA subsidies are a vital funding source that keep insurance premiums manageable," Rosenblum said in a statement.

"Oregon, along with 15 other states, is joining California's lawsuit against the President — defending ACA payments that help many families access affordable health insurance," she said.

The White House says the government cannot legally continue to pay the cost-sharing subsidies because they lack a formal authorization by Congress.

But several attorneys general say Trump is not following federal law in ending a legally mandated system that already is operating.

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Thank You For Your Support Of

Our 4th Annual "JOE's on the Green" was a huge success! The support we received from our community was awesome. We want to thank the many businesses and individuals who gave and supported this event.



Magic Man	Regeneration Day Spa	The Glass Forge
Tiera Del Sol	The Zoo Health Club	Pura Vida- Rogue River:
Bohemian Restaurant	Powderhorn Café & Pies	Michelle Cooper, Dusti
Lulu's Restaurant	Bigelow, Pastrell, Buchanan & Hartzell Dentistry	Nelson, Teresa Dunnick & Lorri Burkman
Herb's Restaurant	Mock's Ford Lincoln Mazda	Dan Scharf
Heidi Black	Casa Amiga	Paul & Marilyn Uribe
Les Schwab Tires	The Hair Channel, Jody	Cartwrights
Paradise Car Wash	Perry & Tammi Coleman	Studio 121, Angela Chandler
Point S Tire & Auto Service	Never a Bum Steer	Soloro Vineyard
Laughing Clam Restaurant	Creative Silver & Stones	Thrivent Financial Team
Lincoln Road Veterinary Clinic	Baskets & Beyond	Rick Saeman
Twisted Cork Restaurant	The Black Horse Boutique	Bradbury's Gun and Tackle
In His Time Frame	Scentsy, Jo Anne Pont	Hull Cummings Properties
Tap Rock Restaurant	The Kitchen Company	Stephen's Family Chapel
Thomason Hospitality Group	Hart Jewelers	Best of the Best, Inc, DBA Supercuts
Elmer's Restaurant	Carol Wilson	Edgewater Christian Fellowship
Gates Home Furnishings	Plaza Quilting	Kathy Simmons
Fiona Bean	Dutch Bros	Jim Sigel Automotive
Judy's Florist	Blue Roam Boutique	
	Ken Boozer	

2017 Josephine County Fair 4H/FFA Livestock Auction

For the last few years JOE's Place has received donated animals from the auction. This year we were truly blessed by the amount of meat that was donated. Our freezers are full and JOE's Place is eating well. It is so nice to go to the freezers and have meat that we can make into a great meal for the youth we serve.

JOE'S PLACE

JOE's Place Ministries • 541-476-4563
PO Box 1226, Grants Pass, OR, 97528 • www.joesplaceministries.org

The following businesses joined together to support a young family who recently lost their Mom and the animals/meat were donated to JOE's Place.

Affordable Truck & RV	Terry Larson
Baskin Robbins	Les Schwab
Cliff Woodruff Construction	Tom and Jen McGowan
Dairy Queen	Peter Allen Land Surveying
Evergreen Federal Bank	Quality Fence
Fields Home Center	Southern Oregon Sanitation
Active Club	Wild River Brewery
Grants Pass Water Lab	Young Farmers
Knife River	