

Grants Pass

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Biden's son will plead guilty to federal charges

He will likely avoid jail time in deal that centers on tax and gun offenses

By Lindsay Whitehurst
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden's son Hunter will plead guilty to federal tax offenses and avoid prosecution on a separate gun charge in a deal with the Justice Department that likely spares him time behind bars. Hunter Biden, 52, will plead guilty to the misdemeanor tax offenses as

part of an agreement made public this morning. The agreement will also spare him prosecution on a charge of illegally possessing a firearm as a drug user, as long as he adheres to conditions set by prosecutors. It's somewhat unusual to resolve a federal criminal case at the same time charges are filed in court, but it's not unheard of. The deal ends a long-running Justice Department investigation into

Biden's second son, who has acknowledged struggling with addiction following the 2015 death of his brother Beau Biden. It also averts a trial that would have generated days or weeks of distracting headlines for a White House that has strenuously sought to keep its distance from the Justice Department. While it requires the younger Biden to admit guilt, the deal is narrowly focused on tax and weapons violations

rather than anything broader or tied to the Democratic president. Nonetheless, former President Donald Trump and other Republicans are likely to continue to try to use the case to shine an unflattering spotlight on Joe Biden and his family business dealings and to raise questions about the independence of the Biden Justice Department. Trump, in a post on his social media platform, likened the Hunter Biden deal to a "mere traffic ticket," adding, "Our system is BROKEN!" The White House counsel's office

said in a statement that the president and first lady Jill Biden "love their son and support him as he continues to rebuild his life." Two people familiar with the investigation said the Justice Department would recommend probation for the tax charges, meaning Hunter Biden will not face time behind bars. But the decision to go along with any deal is up to the judge. The people were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke

Turn to GUILTY, Page 6A

A DAY TO CELEBRATE



Photos by JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

ABOVE: Rogue Community College graduate Nick Johnson shares an emotional embrace with his mother, Kerri McGee, after commencement ceremonies on Saturday at the Redwood Campus in Grants Pass.

RIGHT: Andrew David Duden celebrates earning his degree in automotive technology and an automotive specialist certificate during Saturday's commencement ceremonies.



Missing woman's remains found near her Shan Creek home, sheriff says

By Chris Bristol
of the Daily Courier

The remains of an 80-year-old woman who disappeared in the rural Shan Creek area west of Grants Pass 12 days ago were found Sunday about a half-mile from her home, Sheriff Dave Daniel said. Daniel said the Josephine County Search and Rescue team had never stopped looking for Berna Leahy since she walked away from her home on June 6, and found her remains about 1 p.m. in between a creek drainage and Shan Creek Road.



LEAHY

Foul play is not suspected, although the scene was being processed for any other evidence, Daniel said. "It's a sad day that we found her, but it's a good thing," he said, adding, "for the closure, for her friends and family and, frankly, for our search and rescue personnel too." "Every day we've been looking for her." Leahy had struggled with the onset of memory problems, and her death adds to the list of major search efforts in Josephine County involving people suffering from mild to severe Alzheimer's and dementia since the mid 1990s. That includes six cases — now seven — where the missing person was found deceased.

Turn to FOUND, Page 5A

Juneteenth in Grants Pass: Locals celebrate inclusivity, hope to start a new tradition

By Nick Morgan
of the Daily Courier

Heavy rain couldn't stop dozens of people from turning out in Grants Pass to celebrate the newest federal and state holiday. A crowd of at least 50 people gathered at the Harry & David shelter at Reinhart Volunteer Park to drink strawberry soda, strike up conversations and play games such as an emancipation-themed game of bingo at Grants Pass' first Juneteenth celebration. Gabi Johnsen, who organized the event with the Grants Pass Remembrance Project and the related Sunrise Project, said she had hoped to have more lawn games, but the water dripping from the park shelter roof indicated that the weather would not be accommodating the early summer celebration organizers had envisioned. "We'll be doing a lot more talking than playing, I guess," Johnsen said. "We'll certainly mark this as a memory."

Turn to TRADITION, Page 5A

Porchfest fills neighborhood streets with sounds of music

By Lisa Dunlap
of the Daily Courier

Sipping lemonade and waiting on friends, Elizabeth Elliott said an event like Porchfest that offers a little of every type of music is perfect for her. "There are so many genres that have interesting songs," she said as she sat in front of a home on Washington Boulevard in northwest Grants Pass. "Sometimes you don't like a lot of songs in a genre, but you find some that are, like, yeah." Elliott, who hails from Veneta, a suburb of Eugene, has come to the laidback Grants Pass music festival twice, both times with friends who live in the Murphy area. She

was one of about 4,000 to 5,000 people expected at this year's festivities based on past attendance, according to James Dunn and Ellie McCoy, longtime members and volunteers with the Rogue Gateway Rotary, the lead organizer of the festival. "This is a good one," he said about the fundraiser that also includes numerous sponsors. "People are out and about, and it is just beautiful today." Hundreds of people walked along Northwest Washington Boulevard and side streets on Saturday, sampling a potpourri of music, from bittersweet ballads by solo performers and the "hallelujahs" of gospel music by a

Turn to PORCHFEST, Page 6A



Fred Pool (left) and Mike Smith, members of the band The Garland Pool, perform during Porchfest in Grants Pass on Saturday. Hundreds of people walked along Northwest Washington Boulevard and neighboring streets on Saturday to take in a variety of musical performances.

JULIE ANDERSON
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The sun's back
OVERNIGHT LOW 44°
WEDNESDAY HIGH 82°
5-day forecast on Page 2A

WHERE TO FIND IT
Abby8A
Classified5B
Comics4B
Entertainment.....8A

Fire calls3A
Opinion4A
Police3A
Sports1B
Stock markets5A

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