Grants Pass
July 5, 2015
Weekend

Daily Courier

75 cents

Today in Classifieds:
Wicker Qn. 4 piece bedroom set & mattress, $300. Qn. sofa bed, brown, 2 yrs. old, $300. Cash Only. 541-226-9507

Weather

Slightly cooler

Expect highs in the 90s with a chance of isolated storms for the next few days. Page 2A.

Sunday's high	**99**
Monday's high	**99**

What's inside

Legislature OKs $500K grant for sobering center

By Chris Bristol
of the Daily Courier

Backers of the proposed Grants Pass Sobering Center got some good news Friday in the form of a $500,000 grant approved by the Oregon Legislature.

The money will come in handy and will be used to retrofit a 4,700-square-foot warehouse on Southwest Foundry Street that organizers are negotiating to buy from the Grants Pass Gospel Rescue Mission.

"We had hoped for more, but beggars can't be choosers,"

LANDIS

STARK

quipped Bill Landis, director of the city's Department of Public Safety and a key figure in the effort to establish the center.

"Every little half-million helps," added an equally voluble Jim Brumbach, a member of the Sobering Center board of directors.

The appropriation was announced Friday by Rep. Duane Stark, R-Grants Pass, who said fellow lawmakers in Salem were impressed by the Sobering Center board's previous fundraising efforts, which have exceeded $140,000 and showed that civic leaders and the business community in Grants Pass have some skin in the game.

"It was my hope to match that effort with dollars from the state," Stark said in a written statement. "Several legislators in the Southern Oregon Caucus stepped up to the plate to make it happen."

• More Legislature news. Page 3A.

The money will come in handy now that the Legislature has also extended legal protection to sobering centers similar to protections already enjoyed by detox facilities that provide on-site treatment.

As envisioned by proponents, sobering centers are intended to be places where intoxicated people can be lodged until they are sober.

They are not more comprehensive detox centers, although guests will be advised of treatment options.

The next challenge will be generating the revenue to operate the facility, estimated at about $250,000 a year.

Landis said the Legislature has bolstered appropriations for addiction and mental health programming, and he hopes some of that money will go to Grants Pass to match local donations.

Said Landis, "We'll definitely be applying."