

Today in Classifieds:
1988 FORD TAURUS, 2 door, straight body, Auto. Doesn't run. \$500 OBO. Call 541-287-0324.

75 cents

Weather



A little warmer

After the fog, we should see some sun and a high in the mid-50s. See Page 2A.

Overnight low 40
Thursday's high 56

What's inside

Hiring teachers

The Grants Pass School District is ready to begin a teacher recruitment process in preparation for a move to full-day kindergarten.

Page 5A

More trees

This year's annual Youth Tree Plant was soggy, but successful. Plus, it's more than 20 years since local Girl Scouts planted trees along the Grants Pass Parkway as part of tree planting weekend.



Page 7A



Skyline champs

The North Valley High boys' basketball team clinched the Skyline Conference regular season title outright after beating Hidden Valley.

SPORTS / Page 1B

Concert series



The Siskiyou Music Project will begin its 2015

series with special guest, two-time Grammy winning pianist Taylor Eigsti.

ENTERTAINMENT / Page 5B

What's online

Raft video

Check out a video of three men rafting the raging Rogue River at ...

thedailycourier.com

A look ahead

Keeping history

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival is having its 80th anniversary, keeping its archivists, led by Debi Griffith, even busier than usual.



THURSDAY

Where to find it

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- Entertainment5B
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- Stock markets10A

Call us at 541-474-3700
email news@thedailycourier.com

Volume CV
No. 102 Issue 31584
2 Sections, 20 Pages



Animal advocates seek changes



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Oreo, a pit bull mix at the Rogue Valley Humane Society, is being treated for heartworm.

Group upset over euthanized dog plans to petition commissioners

By Ruth Longoria Kingsland
of the Daily Courier

A group that remains upset with county Animal Control over the decision to put down a stray dog plans to petition the Josephine County Board of Commissioners seeking policy changes. A kick-off rally is scheduled for noon Saturday in front of the county courthouse.

The group calls itself "Riley's Hope," a reference to a stray 8-year-old border collie that was euthanized last month at the county animal control shelter in Merlin despite having willing adopters lined up.

Members of "Riley's Hope" and other local animal advocates, including volunteers from the Rogue Valley Humane Society, decided to petition the Board of Commissioners after meeting last week with the Josephine County Animal Shelter Advisory Committee. The advisory committee was created as part of the passage in November of a tax levy to help fund the county's animal shelter.

At Tuesday's meeting, county Public Health Director Diane Hoover said she didn't believe anything inappropriate had been done.

"We have policies and procedures, standardized ways to deal with animals," Hoover said. "As a county animal shelter, it's a liability, an animal that's aggressive."

Animal Control held Riley in quarantine for 12 days before euthanizing her. She was put down, authorities said, because she was old, had fleas, ticks and heartworm, and also showed signs of being aggressive.

Animal Control Advisory Committee member Cortney Buckmaster, wife of fellow committee member and large animal veterinarian Gary Buckmaster, argued that Riley was a danger to the community because "heartworm is contagious."

However, heartworm is treatable and transmitted by mosquitoes, not by dogs to humans, countered Fred Friedman, a retired pediatrician and Rogue Valley Humane Society board member.

The Rogue Valley Humane Society operates a "no-kill" shelter, and deals with about four cases of heartworm in dogs each year. Each of those dogs is treated with heartworm medication. Dogs at the Humane Society are put down only if they suffer from a terminal illness, Friedman added.

In the more than four years Friedman has volunteered at that shelter, only one dog has died from heartworm, he said.

The Rogue Valley Humane Society currently has a pit bull mix named Oreo, who is "sweet as hell," he said. Oreo is about 5 years old and has heartworm.

Turn to CHANGES, Page 10A



Photo by WILL VOLPERT

Aaron Lieberman pulls hard on the oars while running the Rogue River Saturday between Almeda and Foster Bar, a trip that lasted a mere 4½ hours in exceptionally high flows — flood stage on the lower Rogue.

Riding the raging Rogue

Local men zip down flooding river

By Jeff Duewel
of the Daily Courier

Will Volpert, Aaron Lieberman, and Hunter Connolly say they're not crazy. They just wanted to experience the full force of the Rogue River, which raged at flood stage by the time they got done with their 4½-hour express raft trip Saturday afternoon at Foster Bar near Agness.

It's typically a two- or three-day excursion in summer, covering 35 miles. They even arrived before their shuttle driver, as they careened down the mocha-colored, frothing, log-laden mess of a river.

"There were small moments of terror in places, but for the most part we did a great job of being in control," said Volpert, a 28-year-old veteran river guide from Ashland. "I've heard from a few folks that it's the first time it's been done (this high). It might be."

It was so high Rainie Falls may as well have been Rainie Flats, not even noticeable, Volpert said.

Inspiration Point, that popular vista high above Mule Creek Canyon during summer? Under water.

The toilets at Foster Bar, normally 200



Photo by WILL VOLPERT

Flora Dell Creek rushes into the churning lower Rogue River, upstream from Foster Bar.

feet from the bank? Nearly float-up access. More than 10 inches of rain fell in three days in the mountains feeding the Rogue's lower tributaries. When the trio put in at Almeda Park below Galice Saturday morning, the flow was around 25,000 cubic feet

per second. When they beached at Foster Bar, the nearby gauge at Agness indicated flows still above 90,000 cfs, after peaking at over 100,000 cfs Friday night.

Turn to ROGUE, Page 10A

Most kidnapped Nigerian girls still missing

Boko Haram sees abductions as success symbol

Associated Press

YOLA, Nigeria — When Islamic extremists snatched more than 270 girls from the Chibok boarding school in Nigeria in the dead of night, protests broke out worldwide. The U.S. pledged to help find them, and the #BringBackOurGirls hashtag was born.

Some 10 months later, most are still missing. The Boko Haram extremist group sees the mass kidnapping as a shining symbol of success, and has abducted hundreds of other girls, boys and women. The militants brag to their new captives about the surrender of the Chibok girls, their conversion to Islam and their mar-

riage to fighters.

"They told me the Chibok girls have a new life where they learn to fight," says Abigail John, 15, who was held by Boko Haram for more than four weeks before escaping. "They said we should be like them and accept Islam."

The kidnappings reflect the growing ambition and brazenness of Boko Haram, which seeks to impose an Islamic state across Nigeria, Africa's most populous country. Some 10,000 people have died in the Islamic uprising over the past year, compared to 2,000 in the previous four years, according to the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations.

Turn to NIGERIA, Page 10A



Associated Press

In this Jan. 31 photo, Dorcas Aiden, 20, speaks to a journalist in Yola, Nigeria. Aiden was one of the girls caught in Boko Haram's siege who escaped.

Name the JoCo Fair and win some prizes

Manager looking for 'something catchy we can use as a theme'

By Jim Moore
of the Daily Courier

What does a county fair mean to you? Specifically, what ideas and images does the Josephine County Fair inspire?

The person who can answer that last question with a concise catch phrase that can be used as a theme for the fair this summer will reap some nice booty courtesy of the Josephine County Fair Board.

"We are looking for great ideas for a short, snappy sounding theme that can include fun, community, animals, kids, agriculture, art, home GROVES



arts, motor sports, and carnival," said Fairgrounds Manager Mary Groves.

The winner will receive two season passes to the fair, a parking pass and two unlimited rides passes for one day at the carnival.

People can email their ideas to ourjocofair@gmail.com or drop them off at the Fairgrounds.

Groves said the deadline is March 6.

The Fair Board will review all of the entries and select the theme.

Having a contest to come up with the fair's theme isn't new.

Groves said she and members of the fair committee were kicking around potential ideas for a theme when somebody remembered that holding a contest had been done in the past.

Voila! Choosing the theme for this summer became a contest.

This year's fair is scheduled to run from Aug. 19 through Aug. 22.

As for what the theme should be, Groves doesn't have any preferences.

"Just something catchy we can use as a theme. We'll try to decorate around it," she said.

Food for thought: The theme last year was "100 years of American Pride." Of course that means this is year 101.

Over the years the themes have varied.

Groves remembers seeing a poster that said "Have a wheelin,' squealin' good time," and one year when it was simply "Come to the fair to have fun."

The theme in 2013 was "99 Years of Country Charm" and in 2012 it was "Oregon Legends in a New Era."

Reach reporter Jim Moore at 541-474-3721 or jmoore@thedailycourier.com

Changes From Page 1A

Like many animals, Oreo probably had fleas, but all dogs and cats are treated for fleas and ticks when they arrive at the Humane Society shelter, Friedman told the Daily Courier.

At Tuesday's meeting, the advisory committee directed Hoover to look into a volunteer ombudsman position to interact with staff and the community on behalf of shelter animals. Those involved with Riley's Hope don't consider this a solution.

- The group's petition requests:
- An on-site employee supervisor at the animal shelter.
 - Improvements in the animal holding area.
 - Define and improve cleaning protocols at the shelter.
 - Offer cross-training to staff to improve

care for animals.

• Develop and implement veterinary policies to improve the health of the animals and prevent unnecessary euthanasia.

The saga concerning Riley began in December, when a Hugo family found a stray border collie wandering along Interstate 5 in the Merlin area.

According to Charlyn Witcher, a Hugo resident who was involved in the effort to find the dog a home, the dog lived with the family for about three weeks and was good with children and the family's pet dog.

The dog, dubbed Riley, apparently wandered away one day and was picked up near Red Mountain Golf Course and taken to Animal Control in Merlin. When Witcher and the foster family contacted Animal Control, they were not allowed to visit the dog

because it had been placed in quarantine.

Witcher said she unsuccessfully tried to visit Riley every day for two weeks. She and other animal advocates then contacted Josephine County Commissioner Cheryl Walker.

Outside the courthouse on Jan. 26, Witcher and others showed up to protest and appeal for the dog's life. However, at the rally they learned, through a memo written by Walker, that Riley had been euthanized three days earlier.

The county animal shelter, located in Merlin, had 336 dogs adopted in 2014 and had to euthanize 133, according to county officials.

Reach reporter Ruth Longoria Kingsland at 541-474-3718 or rkingsland@thedailycourier.com

Colorado's pot tax tally a lesson for others

Associated Press

DENVER — Marijuana makes money. But legalizing it doesn't eliminate the black market or solve a state's budget problems.

Those are the lessons from Colorado's first full year of tax collections on recreational pot. The year-end report, released Tuesday, tallied about \$44 million in new sales taxes and excise taxes from recreational pot.

Add fees and pre-existing taxes from medical pot, which has been legal since 2000, and Colorado's total 2014 pot haul was about \$76 million.

Colorado was the first government anywhere in the world to regulate marijuana production and sales, so other governments are watching closely. Estimates varied widely for how much money Colorado would make, and the final hard numbers have important lessons for other states considering legal weed markets.

• **THE MONEY DOESN'T COME OVERNIGHT.** Colorado started selling recreational weed on Jan. 1, 2014. But its first month of sales resulted in only \$1.6 million for the state. By December, that figure was \$5.4 million.

The reason for the increase? Regulatory delays. Red tape meant stores opened slowly, with many municipalities waiting months before allowing pot shops to open.

In Washington state, delays were even more pronounced.

Washington voters legalized pot at the same time Colorado did, in 2012. But retail sales in Washington didn't start until June, with stores slowly opening and sales increasing each



Associated Press

In this Sept. 18, 2012 photo, a caregiver picks out a marijuana bud for a patient at a marijuana dispensary in Denver. The Department of Revenue has posted its first full year of pot tax data for 2014 on Tuesday.

month.

Things will speed up as more states legalize pot and can look to Colorado and Washington for regulatory guidance. But legal weed isn't an overnight flood of tax money.

"Everyone who thinks Colorado's rollin' in the dough because of marijuana? That's not true," said state Sen. Pat Steadman, a Denver Democrat and one of the legislature's main budget-writers.

• **FIGURE OUT HOW TO TAX IT.** Washington and Colorado set vastly different tax rates, both based on a percentage of the pot's value.

The states then had to immediately set a value for a product with no legal sales history. What's the right price?

Colorado's pot regulators have struggled to establish a wholesale pot price to collect excise taxes.

"Taxing a percentage of price may simply not work," said Pat Oglesby, a former congressional tax staffer who now studies marijuana's tax potential at the Chapel Hill, N.C., Center for New Revenue.

He pointed out that the two latest legal weed states — Alaska and Oregon, both still working on retail regulations — will tax marijuana by weight, similar to how tobacco is taxed.

• **NOT EVERYONE WILL PAY.** Every state in the union, liberal to conservative, has a market for marijuana. And making pot legal doesn't guarantee those consumers will

leave the black market and happily sign up to start paying taxes.

In Washington state, medical marijuana isn't taxed. It is in Colorado, but all adults are allowed to grow up to six plants on their own.

That means the states' new marijuana markets had legal competition from Day One. And that doesn't account for the black market, which of course is completely free of taxes and regulations.

Lawmakers in both Colorado and Washington are looking for ways to drive pot smokers out of the lower-taxed medical pot market and into the recreational one. But obstacles are stiff.

"If there is untaxed medical pot, the taxes are voluntary. When you make it voluntary, people won't necessarily pay," Oglesby said.

• **THINGS WILL CHANGE.** The marijuana market is far from settled.

Colorado benefited from first-in-the-nation curiosity and marijuana tourism. As more states legalize, Colorado and Washington will face competition.

"Colorado is probably kind of a best-case scenario" for pot tax collections, said Jeffrey Miron, a Harvard University economist who studies the drug market.

"If a number of other states legalize — and two of them already have — then bit by bit, Colorado revenue is likely to decline."

There's an even bigger uncertainty looming for states considering legal weed — a new president in 2016.

"The huge unknown is still federal policy," Miron said. "A new president can radically change state policies toward legalization."

| WALL STREET WATCH | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| DOW JONES INDUSTRIALS | NASDAQ | |
| 17,834.34 - 34.42 | As of midday Eastern time today | 4,805.86 + 18.22 |
| 17,868.76 + 139.55 | Tuesday's closing | 4,787.64 + 61.63 |

New York Exchange

| NEW YORK (AP) -- | CocaCola | 41.86 | -54 | HeclaM | 3.30 | ... | Penny | 7.88 | -17 |
|---|----------|-------|------------|--------|-------|------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Today's noon New York Stock Exchange selected prices: | ColgPalm | 69.45 | +01 | Hess | 72.75 | -04 | PepsiCo | 99.97 | +1.98 |
| ConEd | 67.87 | -12 | HewlettP | 38.23 | +34 | Pfizer | 34.45 | +29 | |
| CurtisWrt | 65.91 | -109 | HorwillInt | 102.29 | -15 | Praxair | 124.44 | -47 | |
| Deere | 69.20 | +41 | Idacorp | 62.89 | -1.19 | ProctGam | 85.86 | +47 | |
| Disney | 88.40 | -35 | IBM | 158.51 | -05 | Questaar | 24.52 | -35 | |
| DowChm | 101.51 | -41 | IntPap | 55.39 | +24 | RockwAut | 114.32 | -68 | |
| LockhdM | 48.12 | -38 | JohnJn | 100.24 | -11 | SempraEn | 107.88 | -2.51 | |
| LockhdM | 75.20 | -31 | Loews | 41.50 | -01 | SouthCo | 47.80 | -89 | |
| EdisonInt | 64.66 | -134 | LaPac | 15.73 | -67 | 3M Co | 164.22 | -57 | |
| ExxonMbl | 90.40 | -61 | MDU Res | 21.67 | -37 | TimeWar | 80.58 | -23 | |
| FMC Corp | 61.68 | +12 | MarathnO | 27.95 | -43 | Timken | 40.94 | +16 | |
| FootLockr | 53.54 | +25 | McDnlds | 93.75 | -27 | TriContl | 21.53 | ... | |
| FordM | 16.08 | -01 | McKesson | 223.85 | +140 | UnionPac | s122.00 | +1.13 | |
| Gannett | 34.15 | -01 | Merck | 58.90 | +05 | Unisys | 23.36 | +50 | |
| GenCorp | 18.82 | +22 | NCR Corp | 26.76 | -81 | USSteel | 24.24 | -19 | |
| GenDynam | 137.12 | -1.04 | NorfolkSo | 109.25 | +65 | VarianMed | 92.30 | -23 | |
| GenElec | 24.73 | +01 | NorthropG | 166.09 | +1.20 | VerizonCom | 49.30 | -21 | |
| GenMills | 53.06 | -17 | OcciPet | 79.89 | -1.42 | ViacCorp | 25.70 | +32 | |
| GenMotors | 37.41 | -11 | Olin | 26.97 | +10 | Walmart | 86.50 | -79 | |
| Hallibrtn | 42.21 | -39 | PG&E Cp | 55.81 | -1.01 | WellsFargo | 53.94 | -63 | |

Commodities

| Gold | |
|--|--|
| Selected world gold prices, today. | Lead - \$1834.00 metric ton, London Metal Exch. |
| London morning fixing: \$1235.50 up \$1.00. | Zinc - \$0.9620 per lb., London Metal Exch. |
| London afternoon fixing: \$1223.75 off \$10.75. | Silver - \$16.890 Handy & Harman (only daily quote). |
| NY Handy & Harman: \$1223.75 off \$10.75. | Silver - \$16.857 troy oz., N.Y. Merc spot Tue |
| NY Handy & Harman fabricated: \$1321.65 off \$11.61. | Platinum -\$1200.00 troy oz., Handy & Harman. |
| NY Engelhard: \$1238.25 off \$3.01. | Platinum -\$1207.30 troy oz., N.Y. Merc spot Tue. |
| NY Engelhard fabricated: \$1331.12 off \$3.23. | n.q.-not quoted n.a.-not available r-revised |
| NY Merc. gold Feb Tue. \$1231.60 off \$9.20. | |
| NY HSBC Bank USA 4 p.m. Tue. \$1235.00 off \$6.00. | |

| Lumber | |
|--------------------|---|
| Chicago Mercantile | LUMBER 110,000 bd. ft. \$ per 1,000 bd. ft. |
| Open | High Low Settle Chg. |
| Mar 15 | 317.4 317.4 311.6 312.0 -5.8 |
| May 15 | 313.3 313.4 309.4 313.0 -5.2 |
| Jul 15 | 316.5 316.5 312.0 313.0 -5.1 |
| Sep 15 | 314.5 315.0 313.0 315.0 -3.0 |
| Nov 15 | 314.5 315.0 313.0 315.0 -3.0 |
| Jan 16 | 317.4 |
| Mar 16 | 316.6 |
| | Est. sales 366 Tue's sales 365 |

| Metals | |
|---|--|
| NEW YORK -- Spot nonferrous metal prices today. | |
| Aluminum -\$0.8355 per lb., London Metal Exch. | |
| Copper -\$2.5355 Cathode full plate, LME. | |
| Copper -\$2.5625 N.Y. Merc spot Tue. | |

Northwest Stocks

| PORTLAND (AP) -- Closing quotations Tuesday from the National Association of Security Dealers. They do not include markup, markdown or commissions. | | Kroger | | 71.80 | | 71.36 | | 71.54 | | +04 +1 | |
|---|--------|--------|-------------|-------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Name | High | Low | Last Change | Ratio | LithiaMot | 88.79 | 87.08 | 87.11 | -1.62 | -1.8 | |
| Banner Cp | 43.91 | 43.34 | 43.75 | -05 | -1 | MentorGr | 24.41 | 24.15 | 24.27 | -12 | -5 |
| CascadeBcp | 4.71 | 4.60 | 4.66 | -04 | -9 | Microsoft | 42.65 | 42.27 | 42.46 | -14 | -3 |
| ColBnkng | 27.51 | 27.06 | 27.25 | -20 | -7 | NikeB | 92.75 | 91.26 | 91.49 | -1.26 | -1.4 |
| Costco | 148.48 | 147.30 | 147.30 | -56 | -4 | Nordstrm | 79.76 | 79.02 | 79.26 | ... | ... |
| FLIR Sys | 33.42 | 32.95 | 33.11 | -17 | -5 | NvstNG | 48.75 | 47.93 | 48.12 | -5.8 | -1.2 |
| Intel | 33.76 | 33.56 | 33.65 | -05 | -1 | OraSure | 8.00 | 7.80 | 7.99 | +1.4 | +1.8 |
| KeyTech | 12.50 | ... | ... | ... | ... | PrcCastot | 203.59 | 201.15 | 203.38 | +1.7 | +9 |
| Keycorp | 13.95 | 13.83 | 13.90 | -08 | -6 | StancrpFn | 67.49 | 66.80 | 67.35 | +4.3 | +6 |
| | | | | | | Umpqua | 16.55 | 16.30 | 16.40 | -1.4 | -8 |
| | | | | | | US Bancpr | 44.42 | 44.09 | 44.19 | -3.3 | -7 |
| | | | | | | WellsFargo | 54.26 | 53.86 | 53.94 | -6.3 | -1.2 |
| | | | | | | Weyerhrsr | 35.40 | 35.17 | 35.21 | -01 | ... |

Rogue From Page 1A

"For the most part, entire river bends were gone," Volpert said. "It was flowing almost in a straight line. Landmarks you'd normally use were completely gone. There were places we went, 'You think we're going over this right now? Uh, I think so.'"

They joked that from now on they'd camp at Horseshoe Bend only at flood stage, since the campsite was at river's edge on Saturday.

Volpert, owner of Indigo Creek Outfitters, took photographs and video, while Lieberman, 26, did most of the rowing in his 16-foot SOTAR raft he named Killum, after a rapid on Idaho's Salmon River. Lieberman, of Merlin, is operations manager for Orange Torpedo Trips, which specializes in inflatable kayaks. Connolly, of Grants Pass, guides for Orange Torpedo in the summer.

On Saturday the 18-year-old Connolly paddled a hard-shell kayak. Lieberman said "Hunter is going to be a name we hear in the future, in kayaking."

"Hunter had some interesting rides," Lieberman went on. "He probably had to roll four or five times. At one point he got stuck in an eddy line and went halfway under the raft."

They catapulted down the river fast enough to beat their shuttle driver Jeanne Fields, who drove through Brookings and Gold Beach, by 10 minutes.

"I can't definitively say this is the highest anybody's ever done it, but I don't know of anybody else who's run it that high," said Erik Weiseth, manager at Orange Torpedo. "There haven't been many opportunities when the water was that high."

Since 1960, the Rogue has hit 100,000 cubic feet per second at the Agness gauge in 15 different years, or almost once every three years, according to USGS records. Flood stage is approximately 55,000 cfs, which has happened in 36 years since 1960.

Five of those 100K-plus readings were epic floods, above 200,000 cfs, including the 290,000 cfs during the 1964 flood, and 240,000 cfs in the New Year's Day Flood of 1997.

Clearly the 100,000-cfs-benchmark is uncharted territory for rafting.

Volpert said it didn't feel that way the first 15 miles below Grave Creek, where the popular Wild Section starts. But at Quail Prairie, below Winkle Bar, a series of rocks the size of houses that please swimmers in summer turned the water into a swirling dervish.

"Both of us felt like if we made a mistake, put the boat in the wrong spot we could end up in the river and that's going to be a bad deal," Volpert said of he and Lieberman.

Mule Creek Canyon and Blossom Bar, the Rogue's most notorious rapids, were surreal. Lieberman said they got below the Coffee Pot at Stair Creek Falls — at flood stage no longer a falls — where there was "an incredibly ugly set of hydraulic rapids — these incredibly large boils and hydraulics like I've never seen before. We got caught on one and surfed in a way that's not even possible. It let us out after a couple of seconds."

They went left at Blossom Bar to avoid smashing along the outside of a sweeping curve, and avoided a wave train down the middle. At Foster Bar, Volpert said it was a feat for Lieberman to pull the raft into the bank.

Volpert said he's received mostly positive comments from folks who saw the photos and video online, along with some negative ones.

"That was from folks who are concerned about other people copying it, or who thought it was a stunt," Volpert said. "I've thought a lot about it. I don't think it was a stunt. The three of us have a tremendous amount of respect for the river. It would be a stunt if we weren't aware of the risks. But we were very much in tune with what we were doing."

Weiseth said it was quite an accomplishment. "It was three highly skilled paddlers who took on a big challenge and successfully navigated it," he said. "All three would admit it's a high combination of skill with a little bit of luck thrown in."

For a report on the trip, visit <http://indigocreekoutfitters.com/rogue-river-90000-cfs/>. To see the video, click on thedailycourier.com

Nigeria From Page 1A

"It's devastating," said Bukky Shonibare, an activist in Abuja, of the kidnappings. "It makes you wonder, what is being done?"

John was among three girls interviewed by The Associated Press who recently escaped from Boko Haram. The girls had no idea whether the militants were telling the truth or making up stories to taunt their victims. John says the fighters enjoyed relating how they had whipped and slapped the Chibok girls until they submitted.

When the Nigerian air force dropped a bomb on the house where John was confined, she tried to escape, she says. She wrestled with the fighters, but

they broke her arm and hauled her off to another house.

At the end of last year, the Nigerian army liberated the town where she was held. She is now in Yola with her father, sister and six brothers, in a house overcrowded with refugees. She finally was able to get medical attention for her fractured right arm, which remains in a cast.

The kidnappings of the Chibok girls in April brought Boko Haram to the world's attention in a way the group could not have imagined. The hashtag #BringBackOurGirls was tweeted more than 480,000 times globally in early May, and U.S. first lady Michelle Obama held it up

in a sign to television cameras. She said at the time, "In these girls, Barack and I see our own daughters ...we can only imagine the anguish their parents are feeling right now."

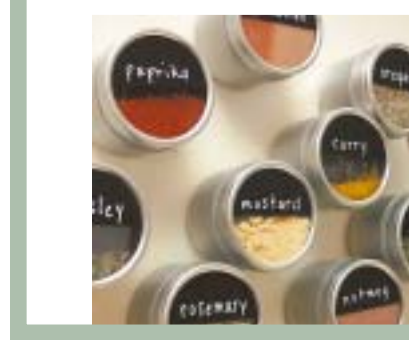
Yet in the 10 months since, Boko Haram has increased the tempo and ferocity of its insurgency. In August, it began seizing and holding towns, and — copying the Islamic State group — declared it would recreate an ancient Islamic caliphate in the region. The fighting has since spilled across Nigeria's borders, and the African Union this month authorized a multinational force of 8,750 troops to try to stamp it out.

Bright Idea? Brilliant Storage? Beautiful Display?

Do you brag about your backsplash? Have people given nods to your cabinet knobs? Have a hot idea for displaying your spices? Send in a photo of a home accent you adore for possible publication in the Daily Courier's Home & Garden magazine.



Email photos to Patricia Snyder, Home & Garden editor, psnyder@thedailycourier.com by Feb. 24 for publication in the March 13 Home & Garden magazine. Be sure to include your name, city and an explanation of why you like what is in the photograph.



Share with our readers how a bright idea has made a difference in how you show, store or showcase the unusual and handy in your home.

