

UK, EU reach tentative Brexit deal

Ratification by Parliament is next hurdle for Johnson

By Raf Casert, Jill Lawless and Lori Hinnant
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's career of disdain for the European Union was a thing of the past today as he and the bloc's leaders celebrated their tentative Brexit deal. He now faces an opponent closer to home: his own Parliament.

With the ink barely dry on the proposal and Johnson still happily backslapping EU leaders at a summit in Brussels, a chorus of British party leaders said they would vote against the deal. Crucially, the Northern Irish party that supports Johnson's minority government said it would not support the deal, leaving the prime minister uncertain of getting the votes he needs to ratify it.

After an intense week of technical talks and with only two weeks to go until Britain's scheduled departure on Oct. 31, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker broke the tension with a tweet this morning: "We have one! It's a fair and balanced agreement for the EU and the UK and it is testament to our commitment."

Johnson tweeted that the two sides had struck a "great new deal" and urged U.K. lawmakers to back it in a special session being held Saturday — the first time since the 1982 Falklands War that the House of Commons has sat on a weekend.



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, center, is greeted by Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel, center left, during a round table meeting today at an EU summit in Brussels.

European leaders unanimously endorsed the tentative deal today, formally sending it to the British Parliament.

But Johnson will face a struggle to get his deal approved. All the major opposition parties condemned the agreement, and Johnson's key Northern Irish ally also said its lawmakers would oppose it.

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Brexit party leader Nigel Farage all announced they could not back the deal.

"It seems the prime minister has negotiated an even worse deal than Theresa May's, which was overwhelmingly rejected," Corbyn said, referring to Johnson's predecessor who failed to get her agreement through Parliament.

Many opposition lawmakers

want to oppose the deal and then seek to delay Brexit while new terms are negotiated.

But Juncker ruled out any new postponement, leaving British lawmakers with a simple choice: deal, no deal or revoke Brexit.

"If we have a deal, we have a deal, and there is no need for a prolongation," he said. The ultimate decision on any extension though does not rest with Juncker. It's a decision for the other 27 EU countries.

Johnson's 10 Downing Street office put it even more succinctly with the mantra: "New deal, no deal but no delay."

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said Johnson "told President Juncker this morning that he believed he was able to get the deal approved" in Parliament, adding that Johnson said he was "confident about

his capacity to convince a majority."

Johnson began his career as a Brussels-based journalist spinning exaggerated tales of EU excess for British readers, and as a politician helped lead the campaign to take Britain out of the EU, but that acrimony was nowhere in sight today.

Instead, relief was palpable in Brussels as leaders happily mingled in the summit room of Brussels' Europa building, which has all too often been ground zero for European crises. Johnson cheerily saluted French President Emmanuel Macron, who responded with the heartiest of handshakes.

The jubilation soon turned bittersweet, with EU leaders bemoaning the impending loss of a major member state — a military, economic and diplomatic juggernaut that had joined 46 years ago.

At the same time, they were clearly delighted to end the ugly recriminations and insults of months of Brexit bickering.

"I'm satisfied that we were able to find a deal, but I'm sad about the fact that Britain is leaving the European Union," Juncker said.

The pound hit a five-month high against the U.S. dollar on news of a Brexit deal, then sank back as traders heard Johnson's Northern Irish allies were still unhappy with the way the deal handles the border between EU member state Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K. — long one of the thorniest issues of an exit.

The new deal is broadly similar to the 585-page withdrawal agreement that May hammered out, with the only major changes on the Irish border issue.

Selma man faces drug, eluding and reckless driving charges

Daily Courier

A Selma man arrested Oct. 7 at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction faces drug charges and three counts of eluding police, along with reckless driving.

Buddy Jeremy Ingram-Thorn, 32, ignored an Oregon State Police trooper with overhead lights on, on Jan. 15 and sped away on Mill and J streets in Grants Pass.

He later passed a sheriff's deputy on Redwood Highway at Riverbanks Road, despite the deputy activating siren and lights.

The deputy said Ingram



INGRAM-THORN

was crossing into oncoming lanes and driving 85 mph.

Ingram-Thorn is accused of selling 2.9 grams of heroin to a drug team informant at Walmart earlier that day.

On May 7 he eluded another deputy on Lakeshore Drive, then was driving 100 mph through Selma on the Redwood Highway.

Ingram-Thorn was bailed out of jail on Oct. 11.

Police

Grants Pass Department of Public Safety

A man who was yelling at customers in the parking lot of Jack In The Box restaurant, 120 N.E. Hillcrest, was arrested at 6:21 p.m. Wednesday. Police and others were unable to catch his blue heeler dog, which ran to the vicinity of Morgan Lane and Washington Boulevard.

A rollover crash near the intersection of Grants Pass Parkway and Rogue River Highway landed one man in jail and another in the hospital Wednesday night at 11:40 p.m.

Driver Lee Alan Adkins, 39, Grants Pass, was jailed on suspicion of DUII and third-degree assault, and a passenger was taken to Asante Three Rivers Medical Center with lacerations, according to logs.

Other DUII arrests:

- Perry Travis Paine, 39, Grants Pass, after a rear-end collision at Williams Highway and Harbeck Road, at 5:36 p.m. Wednesday.

- Jerry Castaneda Sanchez, 32, after a traffic stop at Bridge and Fourth streets, at 9:21 p.m. Wednesday.

Josephine County Sheriff's Office

A resident in the 400 block of Northwest Scenic Drive said two packages, contents worth \$350 to \$400, were stolen off the porch earlier this week.

Oregon State Police

Raffi Dario Sapio, 28, no address listed, was arrested on suspicion of DUII in connection with a crash involving an SUV and a fence on Rockydale Road at 10:56 p.m. Tuesday.

Skeleton unearthed beneath California peak

By Brian Melley
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The climbers were closing in on the top of California's second-highest peak when they came upon the grisly discovery of what looked like a bone buried in a boulder field.

Closer inspection revealed a fractured human skull. Tyler Hofer and his climbing partner moved rocks aside and discovered an entire skeleton. It

appeared to have been there long enough that all that remained were bones, a pair of leather shoes and a belt.

The discovery a week ago beneath Mount Williamson unearthed a mystery: Who was the unfortunate hiker? How did he or she die? Was the person alone? Were they ever reported injured, dead or missing?

The Inyo County Sheriff's Department doesn't have any of those answers yet. But it retrieved the remains Wednesday

in the hopes of finding the identity and what happened. There's no evidence to suggest foul play, spokeswoman Carma Roper said.

"This is a huge mystery for us," Roper said.

The body was discovered Oct. 7 near a lake in the remote rock-filled bowl between the towering peaks of Mount Tindall and Williamson, which rises to 14,374 feet. Hofer and a friend had gone slightly off the trailless route as they picked their

way through boulders when they stumbled upon the shocking find.

Sgt. Nate Derr, who coordinates the county's search and rescue team, said bodies found in the mountains are typically connected with someone they know who has gone missing.

They plan to use DNA to try to identify the remains.

Because the body was so decomposed, investigators believe it's possibly been there for decades.



LEFT: Travis Boersma, owner of TMB Racing and the CEO of Dutch Bros Coffee, lays out the details of his plan for a horse-training facility on the River Road Reserve property. RIGHT: Councilors Clint Scherf (left) and Valerie Lovelace at Wednesday night's City Council meeting.

Reserve From 1A

the fate of the reserve was revived in December 2016 when the city's parks advisory board announced it thought the land should be sold and that there was a buyer for it.

They didn't say who at the time, and neither did the City Council, which began discussing the fate of the reserve secretly in executive session in 2017.

At no point has the council formally voted to get rid of the land. However, this summer the council voted to entertain offers on at least 227 acres of the land. The balance, about 20 acres, is leased long-term to the Josephine County Food Bank.

Although zoned for farm use, there is wiggle room under land-use rules that may allow a variety of park-like uses of the reserve, such as walking paths and tie-ins to agribusiness and agritourism. Most of it is currently leased to Fort Vannoy Farms, which in turn has subleased some of it to groups like the Rogue Valley Flyers and for events like the Balloon & Kite Festival.

The use of executive sessions and blunt notices between public meetings has been highly criticized in the River Road Reserve land process by some who spoke Wednesday night, including resident Chip Dennerlein, a member of the city's Bikeways/Walkways committee who has previously called out the council for its lack of transparency on such an important subject to the city's future.

"I'm sorry, but this process is nothing short of shameful," he told the City Council.

Boersma, who made a personal appearance at the hearing, did not specify how much of the River Road Reserve he would need. When asked for more information by the City Council, he told councilors he and his colleagues were still very early in the planning stages and did not have additional information.

LaPlante, meanwhile, shot for the stars as he described a state-of-the-art UAV training facility, adding that students who learned at the Southern Oregon Air Academy post could even go on to work with unmanned technologies needed for future missions to the moon or Mars.

LaPlante also received notes of support from Ashland-based Timberland Helicopters, the Josephine County Airports, Rogue Community College and other groups.

Meanwhile, other residents voiced support for both TMB Racing and Fort Vannoy Farms without leaning more toward one way or the other.

"This is difficult, because there are two very strong proposals," said Ward Warren, a business owner and former city councilor.

Most people at most meetings have said they prefer that the city retains ownership the River Road Reserve.

"There are enough doubts and pushback from the community on this that a decision should not be made until additional options make themselves

available," said Brian DeLaGrange, who also sits on the city's Parks Advisory Committee and the Grants Pass School Board.

At least three others Wednesday said they would prefer that it become a designated riparian wildlife reserve to help spur healthier avian wildlife.

Some councilors were surprised to see this proposed use pop up at all.

"I've heard of dog parks, but not bird parks," said Councilor Dennis Roler.

After the hearing, LaPlante said he is convinced more than ever that the fix was in to sell

off the reserve from the moment it first came back up for air almost three years ago.

Said LaPlante, "They obviously had this predetermined."

Boersma, meanwhile, pledged to work with Crouse and others to keep current activities, such as the Balloon & Kite Festival, at the reserve, but added that he could make no guarantees about the proposed skypark.

"That's all out of my hemisphere, man," he said.

Reach reporter Sean Bassinger at 541-474-3806 or sbassinger@thedailycourier.com

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Charlie West
May 31, 1935 - October 4, 2019

Charlie West, age 84, of Grants Pass, Oregon, sang his last song on Earth, October 4, 2019. He will now be singing his gospel songs in Heaven. Charlie was born May 31, 1935, in Gurdon, Arkansas. He spent his childhood there, as well as the beginning of his early adult life. He later moved to Oregon in 1954. He lived and worked in Glendale, Oregon, for many years, and spent the years following in Grants Pass.

Charlie played country music wherever he went, and always ended his performances with a gospel song. He was a child of God and a man of faith. Throughout his life, Charlie was a volunteer fireman, and participated in other services to the community. He loved music, hunting, fishing, and spending his days as a loving husband and father to four children.

He is preceded in death by his mother and father, Otto and Blanch West; late wife, Ethel West, and four brothers Westley, Willis, Alfred and Cecil West of Oregon and Alaska.

He is survived by his adoring wife, Linda West; daughters, Rhonda Turnman, Pamela Hillis and Trisha West; as well as his son, John West. He is also survived by six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the "barn," 4697 Rogue River Hwy., on Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 2 p.m. Arrangements with Stephens Family Chapel www.stephensfc.com/.

Charlie will be loved always, and dearly missed.