



Weather Forecast

Today: Sunny / H: 91 L: 50
Tomorrow: Sunny / H: 83 L: 46
Thursday: Sunny / H: 84 L: 48
Friday: Mostly Sunny / H: 80 L: 52
Saturday: Partly Cloudy / H: 77 L: 51
• Detailed weather on A2

50¢

Hillsboro Argus



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Ye olde festival bids again at 'faire-grounds'

By Kurt Eckert
The Argus

A neighboring fiefdom has broken off negotiations with a large-scale Renaissance fair, reopening the possibility jousts, jesters and other characters of yore could come to Ye Olde Washington County Fair Complex.

Royal Faires, incorporated locally as the Oregon Renaissance Festival, broke off negotiations with Linn County Wednesday, Sept. 5, because there was no promise they could get building permits in time for their planned opening in July of 2008, said Linn County Administrator Ralph Wyatt.

Earlier this year, Linn County purchased a 175-acre farm for a county park where the fair would be held, along with space for an RV park and sports fields, Wyatt said.

"A county park is a permitted process," Wyatt said. "We'd still have to go through that process this fall, and there's no guarantee that would be in place by summer."

Royal Faires pulled out of negotiations with Washington County in March. Initially, Hillsboro's proximity to a major metropolitan area and the MAX light rail were big draws, said Bob Levine, who is spearheading Royal Faires' move into the Northwest.

However, with the doomed land-swap-for-new-buildings deal with developer Opus Northwest still fresh in their minds, county officials were unwilling to leap into a new fair-

grounds deal before really looking. So Levine said he decided to look elsewhere.

Washington County has had some time to heal since, freshening up the approach to fairgrounds redevelopment with the formation of the Fairgrounds Revitalization Task Force.

Levine said he has already contacted the task force to let them know Washington County is back in the running.

And there's no real hurry any more. He said he's come to the realization that opening in 2008 is probably unrealistic. Land-use restrictions and public process make for slower going in Oregon than in Arizona and North Carolina, where his company hosts two of the country's 17 major Renaissance festivals.

"I would be ready to go next summer," Levine said. "But all indications are that's not going to happen."

After building its other sites from the ground up, Royal Faires initially liked the Washington County site because it already has an existing amphitheater, exhibition hall and outdoor sports arena.

Of course the task force is now bandying about getting a new multi-million dollar events center and open-air stadium, though that's probably years away.

"They know we're interested, but I get the feeling they want to go with all new facilities," Levine said.

County Commissioner Andy Duyck said he didn't have the sense that's what

See **New bid** on A2



Let There Bead Light

Brian Holt, of Vancouver Sign Co., helps ease the new neon sign into place on the facade of the PlanetBead shop on Main Street Friday. Store owner Saxony Peterson took advantage of the city's new Downtown Hillsboro Storefront Grant Program, which will match one-third of the cost of approved improvements to businesses downtown. For more information on the program, contact Julie Nix, of the Economic Development Department, at 503-681-6207.

Susan Gordanier / The Argus

One dead, two injured in fiery Highway 47 wreck

One person died and two others were injured Sunday afternoon when a vehicle went off the road, rolled over and caught fire on Oregon Highway 47 south of Banks.

Steven Brandenberg, 23, who was seated in the rear of the vehicle, was pronounced dead at the scene, but it is not known if he died prior to the fire. An autopsy was scheduled for Monday.

Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies and Oregon State Police troopers responded to the scene at 5:42 p.m.

The car was completely engulfed in flames when rescue workers arrived, but fire crews were able to extinguish the fire before it spread to an adjacent cornfield.

The driver, David Baynes, 23, of

Hillsboro, and a 17-year-old female passenger were able to escape. They were taken to Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland with unknown injuries.

Preliminary investigation indicates the vehicle was traveling south before it crashed.

Deputies closed Highway 47 for several hours while the county's Crash Analysis and Reconstruction Team investigated.

Early results indicate alcohol and speed may have been factors, said WCSO Sgt. David Thompson.

Investigators would also like to speak to a witness driving a silver or light blue pickup truck who stopped at the scene just after the crash occurred. Police believe he saw the other vehicle prior to the wreck and could have information.



Michal Thompson / The Argus

Hub of attention

Wayne Beckwith is a passenger, not the braking system, as Rob Lewis' stagecoach makes its initial run Friday through the streets of Orenco. For more information and additional photographs, see page C8.

Library Foundation pays bill to Hillsboro

Hillsboro Library Foundation keeps its promises.

Tuesday during the city council meeting, Jerry Willey, foundation president, and Deborah Clarke, its capital campaign director, presented a check for \$50,000 to Mayor Tom Hughes. With this payment, the foundation has paid the City of Hillsboro \$400,000 toward its total pledge of \$1 million — money that made possible the outfitting of the Main Library at 2850 NE Brookwood Parkway.

Since the library's May opening, Willey said well over 3,000 new library cards have been issued to library patrons at the Main Library. This compares to 474 new cards given out during 2006 at the now-closed Tanasbourne branch library.

During the presentation, Clarke cited the contributions of Barbara Wright and other members of the Friends of the Hillsboro Library, who alone pledged \$250,000 toward the goal.



Photo courtesy of Denzil Scheller

Farewell to The Town

Denzil Scheller, left, and Gene Zurbrugg watch from below as work begins Thursday to remove the Town Theater's marquee, an important step in the building's transformation into The Venetian. For more, see today's Focus, Section C.

'Find it'

Then tell us

The first reader to correctly identify the object (and its location) in the photo at right (in its second week) will now win \$200. The winner's check may be picked up at the front desk of the Hillsboro Argus.



Here are the rules:

Eligibility: Everyone is eligible except Argus employees and their relatives. Argus employees are under strict confidence guidelines.

To enter: Send answers by e-mail only (which automatically lists time and date when received), with "Find it" in the subject field, to: newsclerk@hillsboroargus.com.

In the interest of fairness to valued subscribers, e-mailed guesses will henceforth only be accepted after 6 p.m. on day contest photo is first published, or on a Tuesday when the photo is enlarged and/or a significant clue is given, giving subscribers who receive the paper late on Tuesday afternoons an equal chance to enter.

Correctly identify the object in the photo and its location, and provide contact information other than an e-mail address. Answers will not be accepted by phone or at the front desk.

Deadlines: Contest photos will be published each Tuesday. If no one guesses the object, the \$100 prize is added to the following week's prize total. If there is a winner, the information will be announced in Friday's paper, and ...

Each week's winner will have his or her photo published the following Tuesday — along with a new contest photo.



The Hillsboro Argus is printed on recycled content newsprint



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