

Fair Complex Board Meeting Notice

Washington County Fair Complex Board

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Capital Center, 18640 NW Walker Rd
Conference Room 1411 East and West

Chair
W. Rafe Flagg

Vice Chair
Dan Logan

Treasurer
Vacant

Secretary
Kathy Christy

Board Member
A. Richard Vial

Board Member
Herbert Hirst

Board Member
Michael Steward

Executive Director
Don G. Hillman

Standing Committees

Airshow & Airport Interface
Herbert Hirst

Booster /Coalition Liaison
Dan Logan
Michael Steward

Development Committee
A. Richard Vial , Chair
Herbert Hirst, Board Member
W. Rafe Flagg, Board Member

Fair Visioning Committee
Kathy Christy, Chair
Dan Logan, Board Member

The Washington County Fair Complex Board is comprised of seven members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Each Fair Complex Board member is appointed for a three-year term.

The Fair Complex Board has the exclusive management of the grounds, and all other property owned, leased, used or controlled by the County and devoted to the use of the Fair Complex, and is entrusted and charged with the entire business management, and financial and other affairs of the Fair Complex.

The Fair Complex, a division of the County, produces the annual County Fair & Rodeo and manages year-round facilities rented for consumer shows, public expositions and special gathering. The Fair Complex Board meets monthly or as necessary, develops the Fair Complex's annual operating budget, and provides overall policy direction for the management of Fair Complex activities and facilities. The Fair Complex's day-to-day activities are the responsibility of the Complex Executive Director, who serves at the pleasure of the Fair Board.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), this material, in alternate formats, or special accommodations for the meeting, will be made available by calling (503) 648-1416 at least 48 hours prior to this meeting

All public meetings are recorded.

The agenda items listed below are provided in PDF format. The latest free Acrobat reader may be downloaded from:
www.adobe.com

Fair Complex Board Agenda
Oral Communications
Consent Agenda
Special Reports
Old Business
New Business
Announcements
Correspondence
Other Matters of Information
Oral Communication
Executive Session
Meeting Procedures

FAIR COMPLEX BOARD AGENDA



Call to Order

Oral Communications for Non-Agenda Items

Oral Communication is limited to two minutes per individual, ten minutes total. Individuals may select only one oral communication opportunity.

Consent Agenda



All Consent Agenda items shall be approved without discussion and with one motion except those items removed from the Consent Agenda by a Board Member or a member of the public attending the meeting so requesting. If a matter is removed, the Chair will indicate when it will be discussed in the regular agenda.

1. Financial Statements ([PDF](#))
 - a. Budget Overview - February and March 2007 ([PDF](#))
 - b. Balance Sheet - February ([PDF](#)) and March ([PDF](#)) 2007
 - c. Other, if any
 2. Fair Complex Board Minutes - March 2007 ([PDF](#))
 3. Facility Use Schedule - May 2007 ([PDF](#))
 4. Other, if any
-

Special Reports



1. Airshow & Airport Interface Committee - Herbert Hirst, Board Member
 2. Fair Visioning Committee - Kathy Christy, Board Member
 3. Booster/Coalition Liaison - Dan Logan, Board Member
 4. Treasurer's Report - W. Rafe Flagg, Chair
 5. 4-H Report - Terry Palmer, OSU Extension Agent
 6. Operations Report - Don G. Hillman, Executive Director ([PDF](#))
 7. Other, if any
-

Old Business



1. Redevelopment Update, if any
 2. Other, if any
-

New Business



1. Rodeo Office Update - Staff ([PDF](#))

2. 4-H Memorandum of Understanding - Staff ([PDF](#))
 3. 2007 County Fair Update - Staff ([PDF](#))
 4. Other, if any
-

Announcements



1. Calendar of Events ([PDF](#))
 2. Other, if any
-

Correspondence



1. Letters and Cards, if any ([PDF](#))
 2. Other, if any
-

Board Oral Communications



Other Matters of Information



1. Booster Meeting Minutes - March ([PDF](#)) and April ([PDF](#)) 2007
 2. OSU Newsletter ([PDF](#))
 2. Newspaper Articles ([PDF](#))
 3. OFA 2007 Impact Report ([PDF](#))
 4. Other, if any
-

Oral Communications



Limited to four minutes per individual - twenty minute total. Individuals may select only one oral communication opportunity.

Executive Session, if necessary



Pursuant to ORS 192.610 - 192.690

Adjourn



County of Washington

**Washington County Fair Complex
873 NE 34th Avenue
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
Phone: (503) 648-1416
Fax: (503) 648-7208
donh@faircomplex.com
www.faircomplex.com**

FAX MEMORANDUM

Date: April 26, 2007

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

From: Don G. Hillman, Executive Director
Washington County Fair Complex

Re: February and March 2007 Financial Statements

Find attached the February and March 2007 Budget Overview and Balance Sheets. They were produced by the Washington County Finance Department's WIZARD program and reflect accounting activity for February and March 2007.

The Fair Complex continues to maintain a strong fund balance with an ending fund balance for February and March in excess of \$650,000.

	WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX Budget Overview July 2006 - June 2007														
	Description	March 2006	July 2006	August 2006	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007	February 2007	March 2007	Year to Date 2006/07	Budget 2006/07	%	COMMENTS
1	Opening Balance	\$ 506,251	\$ 634,348	\$ 717,630	\$ 681,571	\$ 638,504	\$ 719,828	\$ 729,998	\$ 691,880	\$ 681,807	\$ 682,259	\$ 634,348	\$ 469,660		
2	Interim Operating Revenues														
3															
4															
5															
6															
7	Parking	\$ -	\$ 11,086	\$ 740	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,826	\$ 21,000	56%	Lower Air Show Parking Receipts. No July 4th Event.
8	RV Park	740	360	1,440	1,180	740	470	810	940	600	880	7,420	10,000	74%	
9	Rentals	18,452	6,256	4,440	38,576	(964)	9,535	22,671	8,430	23,058	9,404	121,406	235,000	52%	
10	Concessions	256	-	124	1,029	-	-	-	100	100	-	1,353	6,000	23%	
11	Misc Income	416	3,188	4,067	(447)	2,333	4,172	680	(362)	522	1,408	15,561	7,000	222%	
12	Total Interim Operating Rev.	\$ 19,864	\$ 20,890	\$ 10,811	\$ 40,338	\$ 2,109	\$ 14,177	\$ 24,161	\$ 9,108	\$ 24,280	\$ 11,692	\$ 157,566	\$ 279,000	56%	Includes Salaries Applicable to Development Activities. September - ME Modification moved to Line 121. Premiums Paid Annually. Split Between County Fair and Interim Programs.
13	Interim Operating Exp.														
14	Personal Services	\$ 40,644	\$ 14,462	\$ 27,955	\$ 41,980	\$ 28,038	\$ 28,028	\$ 27,893	\$ 28,012	\$ 28,018	\$ 41,883	\$ 266,269	\$ 379,842	70%	
15	Supplies	2,282	1,842	9,456	2,693	4,102	1,316	211	1,856	387	557	22,420	20,000	112%	
16	Professional Services	-	918	1,810	3,261	237	865	840	472	1,968	609	10,980	12,500	88%	
17	Advertising	77	-	-	-	-	472	476	-	-	-	948	5,000	19%	
18	Communications (ATM)	87	-	85	10	70	-	-	-	-	-	165	500	33%	
19	Utilities	7,630	31	759	3,061	2,061	7,282	3,159	8,919	4,566	7,970	37,808	71,000	53%	
20	Repair and Maintenance	4,367	12,901	17,415	(11,392)	9,610	8,255	860	6,527	3,374	1,778	49,328	54,000	91%	
21	Rentals	215	-	959	-	95	-	-	414	188	188	1,844	5,000	37%	
22	Dues and Memberships	204	60	-	-	-	-	175	-	93	303	631	1,750	36%	
23	Training and Travel	332	-	-	-	-	348	287	-	474	998	2,107	1,500	140%	
24	Insurance	-	-	14,212	211	-	169	532	-	-	532	15,656	14,500	108%	
25	Postage	-	-	38	-	38	-	102	-	39	21	238	1,000	24%	
26	Printing internal	-	29	18	-	-	-	-	-	(29)	-	18	750	2%	
27	Telephones	588	-	-	-	566	594	590	597	1,029	769	4,145	6,500	64%	
28	Special Expenses	47	926	909	1,001	636	650	204	289	78	13	4,706	5,000	94%	
29	County Legal	203	-	-	2,044	6,273	1,727	-	2,855	-	-	12,899	5,000	258%	
30	County Indirect Cost	1,242	1,494	1,494	1,494	1,494	1,494	1,494	1,494	1,538	1,494	13,490	17,925	75%	
31	Total Interim Operating Exp.														
32															
33															
34															
35	Net Interim Rev/Exp.	\$ (38,054)	\$ (11,773)	\$ (64,299)	\$ (4,025)	\$ (51,111)	\$ (37,023)	\$ (12,662)	\$ (42,327)	\$ (17,443)	\$ (45,423)	\$ (286,086)	\$ (322,767)		

	WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX Budget Overview July 2006 - June 2007														
	Description	March 2006	July 2006	August 2006	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007	February 2007	March 2007	Year to Date 2006/07	Budget 2006/07	%	COMMENTS
72	Rodeo Revenues														
73	Admissions	\$ -	\$ 4,398	\$ 21,485	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,923	\$ 30,000	86%	Rodeo Sanctions Changed to NPRA.
74	Sponsorships	-	14,250	4,225	2,000	-	-	1,000	-	1,700	-	23,175	47,500	49%	
75	Queen Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
76	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
77															
78	Total Rodeo Revenues	\$ -	\$ 18,648	\$ 25,710	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,040	\$ -	\$ 1,700	\$ -	\$ 49,098	\$ 77,500		
79															
80	Rodeo Expenses														
81	Supplies	\$ -	\$ 82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 82	\$ 1,000	8%	Rodeo Sanctions Changed to NPRA.
82	Professional Services	-	27,500	5,458	-	123	-	-	-	-	-	33,081	57,000	58%	
83	Advertising	-	-	2,770	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,770	5,000	55%	
84	Rentals	-	-	2,479	-	-	705	-	-	-	-	3,184	5,000	64%	
85	Training and Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	Saving Used to Increase Prize Money.
86	Other Misc Expenses	-	1,712	900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,612	10,000	26%	
87	Awards/Prizes	-	4,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000	-	0%	Fair Complex Contributed \$500 per Event.
88															
89	Total Rodeo Expenses	\$ -	\$ 33,294	\$ 11,607	\$ -	\$ 123	\$ 705	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,729	\$ 78,000	59%	
90															
91	Net Rodeo Rev/Exp.	\$ -	\$ (14,646)	\$ 14,103	\$ 2,000	\$ (123)	\$ (705)	\$ 1,040	\$ -	\$ 1,700	\$ -	\$ 3,369	\$ (500)		
92															
93	Frite Lites Revenue														
94	Admissions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,955	\$ 2,508	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (139)	\$ -	\$ 41,324	\$ 65,000	64%	Includes Haunted House.
95	Concessions	-	-	-	-	-	-	741	-	-	-	741	4,000	19%	
96	Sponsorships	3,500	-	-	-	5,023	-	-	-	-	-	5,023	30,000	17%	No Title Sponsor in 2006.
97	Other Revenue	-	-	-	-	376	585	-	-	674	-	1,635	1,000	164%	Glow Sticks, etc.
98	Total Frite Lites Revenue	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,354	\$ 3,093	\$ 741	\$ -	\$ 535	\$ -	\$ 48,723	\$ 100,000	49%	
99															
100	Frite Lites Expenses														
101	Personal Services (Temp Sal)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47	\$ 1,227	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,274	\$ 2,500	51%	Includes Haunted House.
102	Supplies	-	-	-	-	2,923	408	-	-	-	-	3,331	5,000	67%	
103	Professional Services	-	-	-	-	394	5,853	77	12,298	-	3,234	21,856	40,000	55%	
104	Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	14,596	150	-	-	-	14,746	35,000	42%	
105	Other Expenses	-	-	-	1,503	208	-	2,570	-	-	-	4,281	2,500	171%	2006 - Rented Tents due to Inclement Weather.
106	Total Frite Lites Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,503	\$ 3,525	\$ 20,904	\$ 4,024	\$ 12,298	\$ -	\$ 3,234	\$ 45,488	\$ 85,000	54%	
107															
108	Net Frite Lites Rev/Exp.	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,503)	\$ 40,829	\$ (17,811)	\$ (3,283)	\$ (12,298)	\$ 535	\$ (3,234)	\$ 3,235	\$ 15,000		

	WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX Budget Overview July 2006 - June 2007															
	Description	March 2006	July 2006	August 2006	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007	February 2007	March 2007	Year to Date 2006/07	Budget 2006/07	%	COMMENTS	
109	Non-Operating															
110																
111	Hotel/Motel Taxes	\$ 8,212	\$ -	\$ 14,848	\$ 9,321	\$ 145,390	\$ 51,698	\$ 7,121	\$ 109,599	\$ 40,343	\$ 8,472	\$ 386,792	\$ 550,000	70%	Loan from County if necessary - Fire Hydrant Project. Higher Interest Rates and Higher Cash Balances.	
112	Transfer from General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	0%		
113	Interest	1,699	2,557	2,617	2,256	2,506	2,648	2,538	2,633	2,393	2,461	22,609	7,500	301%		
114																
115	Total Non-Operating Rev.	\$9,911	\$2,557	\$17,465	\$11,577	\$147,896	\$54,346	\$9,659	\$112,232	\$42,736	\$10,933	\$409,401	\$1,057,500	39%		
116																
117	Non-Operating Expenses															
118																
119	Purchase/Lease	\$ 613	\$ 613	\$ 10,510	\$ 1,116	\$ 503	\$ 10,400	\$ 503	\$ 53,640	\$ 503	\$ 503	\$ 78,291	\$ 100,563	78%	Quadrant Property/Equipment/Light Displays/Bleachers.	
120	Special Project - Fire Hydrant Project	-	-	-	1,090	68	-	-	-	9,897	250	11,305	600,000	2%	Bid Awarded in February 2007.	
121	Special Project - ME Hall Fire System	-	-	-	11,613	-	857	-	-	2,200	-	14,670	20,000	73%	Modifications Required by Fire Marshall.	
122	Equipment	-	-	-	5,240	800	3,375	-	-	-	-	9,415	15,000	63%	Includes Concepts and Study on Proposed Renaissance Festival.	
123	Development Reserve	358	-	805	207	148	-	5,790	553	-	3,500	11,003	65,000	17%		
124																
125	Total Non-Operating Exp.	\$971	\$613	\$11,315	\$19,266	\$1,519	\$14,632	\$6,293	\$54,193	\$12,600	\$4,253	\$124,684	\$800,563	16%		
126																
127	Net Non-Operating Rev/Exp.	\$8,940	\$1,944	\$6,150	(\$7,689)	\$146,377	\$39,714	\$3,366	\$58,039	\$30,136	\$6,680	\$284,717	\$256,937			
128																
129	Net Fair Complex Rev/Exp.	(\$41,600)	\$83,282	(\$36,059)	(\$43,019)	\$81,348	\$12,920	(\$37,918)	(\$9,905)	\$485	(\$63,617)	(\$12,484)	(\$164,980)			
130																
131	Ending Fund Balance/Cont.	\$464,651	\$717,630	\$681,571	\$638,552	\$719,852	\$732,748	\$692,080	\$681,975	\$682,292	\$618,642	\$621,865	\$304,680			

Adjustment to BFB for 47.88 due to prior period adjustment in Oct 06
Adjustment to BFB for 23.35 due to prior period adjustment in Nov 06
Adjustment for BFB due to Oct County Counsel charge of \$2749.50 not recorded until Jan 07
Adjustment for BFB due to Central Services charges of \$200.01 not recorded until Feb 07 back to December 06.
Adjustment for BFB due to Central Services charges of \$167.99 recorded in Feb 07 for Jan 07.
Adjustment for BFB due to cell phone charges of \$31.97 recorded in March for February 07.

Washington County Fair Complex

Balance Sheet

February 28, 2007

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash

Fairplex..Petty cash..	\$ 250
Fairplex..Petty cash.Finance- Petty Cash.	-
Fairplex..Cash drawer..	-
Fairplex..Cash drawer.Frite Lites.	-
Fairplex..General Cash Account..	97,680
Fairplex..USNB WASHCO ACH Clearing..	-
Fairplex..CCB-General Account..	2,916
Fairplex..CCB-Money Market Account..	570,040
Fairplex..CCB-ATM Account..	2,997
Fairplex..Gasb 31 cash general port..	-
Fairplex..CCB-ATM Cash Drawer..	4,040
Total Cash	<u>\$ 677,923</u>

Accounts Receivable

Fairplex..Accounts receivable - Sub..	22,045
Fairplex..Due from other funds.Other 4-H.	(10)

Prepays

Prepaid items	6,931
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Total Current Assets

\$ 706,888

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Fairplex..Accounts Payable..	\$ (300)
Fairplex..Accounts payable- other..	-
Fairplex..Deposits payable-subsidia..	(200)
Fairplex..Retainage payable..	-
Total Payables	<u>\$ (500)</u>

Other Current Liabilities

Fairplex..Amounts due to others..	\$ (802)
Fairplex..Conversion Account..	-
Fairplex..Payroll payable..	-
Fairplex..Due to other funds..	-
Fairplex..Deferred revenue- unavail..	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue..	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Main Exhibit Hall.	315
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Cloverleaf Building.	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Grounds/General.	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Parking-Operations.	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Parking-Airshow.	75
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Rodeo Admissions.	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Advertising Inco.	-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Airshow Income.	(75)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Commercial Exhib.	8,150
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Concession Reven.	(3,500)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Sponsorship Inco.	(10,503)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Facilities Renta.	(17,801)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Livestock Entry Fees.	3
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Camping Fees.	40
Total Deferred Revenues	<u>\$ (24,097)</u>

Total Liabilities

\$ (24,597)

Equity

Fairplex..Fund Balance..	\$ (681,807)
Net (Income)/Loss for the Period	(485)
Net Equity	<u>\$ (682,291)</u>

Total Liabilities and Equity

\$ (706,888)

Washington County Fair Complex

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2007

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash

Fairplex..Petty cash..	\$	250
Fairplex..Petty cash.Finance- Petty Cash.		-
Fairplex..Cash drawer..		-
Fairplex..Cash drawer.Frite Lites.		-
Fairplex..General Cash Account..		64,968
Fairplex..USNB WASHCO ACH Clearing..		-
Fairplex..CCB-General Account..		2,573
Fairplex..CCB-Money Market Account..		576,652
Fairplex..CCB-ATM Account..		1,214
Fairplex..Gasb 31 cash general port..		-
Fairplex..CCB-ATM Cash Drawer..		6,120
Total Cash	\$	651,777

Accounts Receivable

Fairplex..Accounts receivable - Sub..	\$	8,422
Fairplex..Due from other funds.Other 4-H.	\$	(10)

Prepays

Prepaid items	\$	6,931
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Total Current Assets

\$ 667,120

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Fairplex..Accounts Payable..	\$	-
Fairplex..Accounts payable- other..		-
Fairplex..Deposits payable-subsidia..		(500)
Fairplex..Retainage payable..		-
Total Payables	\$	(500)

Other Current Liabilities

Fairplex..Amounts due to others..	\$	(802)
Fairplex..Conversion Account..		-
Fairplex..Payroll payable..		-
Fairplex..Due to other funds..		-
Fairplex..Deferred revenue- unavail..		-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue..		-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Main Exhibit Hall.		315
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Cloverleaf Building.		-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Grounds/General.		-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Parking-Operations.		-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Parking-Airshow.		75
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Rodeo Admissions.		-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Advertising Inco.		-
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Airshow Income.		(75)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Commercial Exhib.		(14,025)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Concession Reven.		(6,250)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Sponsorship Inco.		(10,503)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Deferred Facilities Renta.		(16,756)
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Livestock Entry Fees.		3
Fairplex..Unearned Revenue.Camping Fees.		40
Total Deferred Revenues	\$	(47,977)

Total Liabilities

\$ (48,477)

Equity

Fairplex..Fund Balance..	\$	(682,260)
Net (Income)/Loss for the Period		63,617
Net Equity	\$	(618,643)

Total Liabilities and Equity

\$ (667,120)

Minutes
Washington County Fair Complex Board
Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Convened: 4:30 pm

FAIR COMPLEX BOARD:

Chairman Rafe Flagg
Vice Chairman Dan Logan
Board Member Rich Vial
Board Member Kathy Christy
Board Member Ken Madden - Excused
Board Member Herb Hirst
Board Member Mike Steward

STAFF:

Don Hillman, Executive Director
Lisa DuPre, Marketing/Events Director
Leah Perkins, Fair Coordinator

Chair Flagg called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and welcomed the audience. Chair Flagg opened public oral communication time for comments not on the regular agenda.

Merle Eakin – Stated that along with everyone in the room, he is appalled at the article in the Oregonian regarding the proposed Renaissance Festival. Eakin stated that they were told that there would be a public hearing and there has been no public hearing. This was supposed to go before the revitalization committee. There has been no traffic impact study or a discussion on how it would impact the Airshow, County Fair and Horse Fair. This is a red flag. The money was supposed to be \$500,000, then \$250,000 and now it's just a percentage of the gate. This is a red flag. It's un-real. It started as 25 acres and now it's more. This needs to be figured out before it goes to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). One hundred and fifty people camping for 90 days, it may not even be allowed. Many questions need to be solved before it goes to the BOCC.

Debbie VanRoekel – (Presented a handout to the board) – Asked the Board to read the concerns in the handout. Lots of homework that still needs to be done. What kind of research has been done on the financial aspect of Royal Faires? What kind of debt do they have?

Linda Mokler – Informed the Board that she has had a record request in from of the staff since the 19th. Documents are being withheld. She has contacted the District Attorney (DA). Staff has received a letter from the DA and records were taken to the DA yesterday at 3:00 p.m. Mokler also stated that they are being charged for spoiling public records. There was just a misunderstanding and they offered to put it back. They have strong concerns about the public process. Waiting to see how the DA rules on the withheld documents and the waiver of fees.

Board Member Logan asked what the fee was.

Mokler reported that it is \$40 for 45 minutes of reassembling documents and copying fees which totals \$122.00. Mokler reported that they are not allowed to review documents until the fees are paid. They are looking at their options.

Board Member Logan asked if she compared the rates to other jurisdictions.

Mokler stated that per the ORS, it's an optional fee. Also noted that everything they have asked for is related to the Renaissance Faire.

Chair Flagg noted that the County has upheld the rate being charged.

1. Consent Agenda

Motion by Board Member Vial to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Special Reports

A. Airshow & Airport Report – Board Member Hirst stated that he had nothing to report.

B. Fair Visioning Committee Report – Board Member Christy stated that she had nothing to report.

C. Boosters/Coalition Liaison Report – Board Member Logan reported that he was unable to attend last month's meeting and that the Boosters minutes are in the Board packet.

D. Treasurer Report – Board Member Madden is absent. Chair Flagg stated he had nothing to add.

E. 4-H Report – Terry Palmer, OSU Extension Agent, reported that they have found a beef superintendent, but they are still looking for a few others in different project areas. There will be 20 – 25 supers overall. The Jeanie Leeson scholarship package went out to all the 4-H seniors. Podcast Training is part of the 4-H after school program and they are hoping to use this technology at the County Fair.

Board Member Logan asked who the Beef Superintendent was.

Palmer reported that it is Sandy Gardner.

Board Member Steward said that the numbers were down at the beef weigh-in and asked for a final number.

Palmer reported that is was 22.

Board Member Steward also noted that the Wiley's education program was great.

F. Operations Report – Executive Director Hillman reported that the Fire Hydrant project has started. Staff has found and repaired water leaks behind the Floral Building. The Boosters are having the leaks in the fountain looked at.

Hillman also reported that the May Board Meeting needs to be moved to an off-site location due to facilities rentals.

Board Member Vial asked Terry Palmer, OSU Extension Agent, if the Capitol Center could be used.

Palmer said that it could.

Hillman reported that a contractor will be working on removing some of the corrals in the rodeo grounds starting next week.

Hillman noted that John Growney is in the audience and reminded the Board that staff met with Growney about this last month.

Board Member Steward stated that he had hoped that we could wait and our rodeo would grow into needing them.

Chair Flagg asked John Growney to come up and address the Board.

John Growney – Reported that staff had asked him to come up and look to see what is needed. Growney explained to the Board that he had originally encouraged all of it to be built about 15 years ago, but for the past several years it has not been needed. He noted that it may be needed in the future, but with rodeo numbers failing every where, we can get by with out them.

Growney explained that he is on two Fair Boards and understands that having this next to the parking lot isn't really pretty to look at.

Board Member Logan asked if portable corrals could be used if expansion is needed in the future.

Growney stated that it would, and that more and more fairgrounds are going to portable corrals and arenas. The number of stock currently being used does not warrant it.

Chair Flagg asked if other stock contractors would agree.

Growney said that he has been around this community for 20-plus years and knows what's going on in the industry, and that his answer is the most honest that the Board is going to get.

G. Other, if any – None

3. Old Business

A. Redevelopment Update – Chair Flagg reported that the BOCC is convening the Revitalization Task Force. The first meeting will be April 4th.

B. Renaissance Festival – Executive Director Hillman referred to page 41 in the Board Packet noting that we have received a request from the Oregon Renaissance Festival. They know that this has to be acted upon by the BOCC and the Revitalization Task Force, and they have asked that it be forwarded it to the BOCC by the Fair Complex Board for final consideration and disposition.

Hillman then went over the report and the due diligence done by staff, and the list, and details for the research.

Hillman also noted that a delegation went to Arizona to visit the Arizona Renaissance Faire and had a chance to talk with people on the grounds, at the County, and in the area.

Hillman reminded the Board that this is just one step of the process; the BOCC will make the decision on this request.

Hillman also noted that the Task Force will be looking at all of the property and they need to feel comfortable with the proposal from the Oregon Renaissance Festival.

Staff recommends that this is moved forward to the next two levels. If this is approved by the BOCC, an agreement would be provided to the public at that time.

Motion by Board Member Vial to accept the recommendation of staff and refer the matter to the Board of County Commissioners for negotiation with the Oregon Renaissance Festival. Second by Board Member Christy.

Discussion ensued regarding if a public hearing needs to be conducted. Board Chair Flagg stated that there will be plenty of opportunity if this item is forwarded to the BOCC, and there is also the Revitalization Task Force, and they are the ones that need to hear the public comments.

Board Member Vial explained that any further deliberation by this Board is of no consequence. The BOCC has made it clear that they will be making the decision. Staff has answered the questions that have been asked. The other alternative is that we don't refer it to the BOCC.

Board Member Hirst explained that this is just a concept, the letter they sent is just a concept, moving it forward is just a concept, not the final deal. Hirst asked that if we move this forward, that before any final lease agreement is signed, that it comes back to this board for review to make sure we don't see something glaring.

Board Member Vial asked if he was amending the motion.

Amended Motion by Board Member Hirst to qualify the referral conditioned by it coming back to the fair board before a final decision is made. Second by Board Member Vial.

Board Member Steward agreed that we all like the concept; we just haven't defined whether the concept fits the property. There has been lots of good work from the staff to move us forward, just wants to see more specific wording. It's great if we are agreeing upon on the endorsement and accepting to move it to the BOCC for further investigation and taking it to the next level.

Chair Flagg noted that it would go to the Revitalization Task Force too.

Board Member Vial stated that the BOCC can choose to vet it through the Revitalization Task Force or not. All we are doing with the motion is accepting the staff's research and report, and moving it to the BOCC for further action with the qualifier that we request that it comes back to this Board before the final contract is entered into.

Board Member Steward asked if it was in our best interest as to whether it would behoove us to get behind our Board Chair and make a recommendation; or move it into his hands as he sits on the Revitalization Task Force and give him the authority to move it forward and represent the Fair Board.

Board Member Hirst said we aren't moving it to the Revitalization Task Force, that that is up to the BOCC. They can then move it to the Revitalization Task Force and ask them for their opinion.

Board Member Vial said he thinks what Board Member Steward is saying is that we could take action that essentially limits what our recommendation to the BOCC is by saying we want it to move forward, but only move forward with the Chair of the Fair Complex Board's influence in connection with the Revitalization Task Force. Vial states that the problem is it's out of this Board's hands. The BOCC has made it clear that we have gone as far as they are going to allow us to go. Having done that there is nothing more that we can do except listen to the staff report and take whatever action they are going to take.

Chair Flagg states that that is a fair summary.

Interruptions from the audience asking that public comments be taken on this agenda item.

Motion by Board Member Vial to allow 10 minutes of public comment time on this agenda item. Second by Board Member Hirst. Motion Carried 6-0.

Ed Kristovich – One question. Is this being done under the agreement of confidentiality? What has been discussed about today not another soul in this room knows anything about. Are the recommendations of our staff being published or not.

Chair Flagg explained that in today's Board packet, there is a complete summary of all of the work that staff has completed to date and it is a public record.

Board Member Logan added that having reviewed the Board communications, everything is how it's been represented to him for the last 3-4 months.

Board Member Vial responded that we have received in public, numerous reports from staff, we have seen in our Board packets numerous reports from staff that are part of the public record and knows of no other communication or recommendation that staff has prepared or disseminated to any member of the Board and everything has been public to the best of his knowledge.

Board Member Christy stated that the lease agreement has not been made public.

Board Member Vial corrected that the contract itself is the only thing that has not been made public.

Judi Palumbo – Presumes that staff is doing its due diligence. Last month we found out that the hydrant project was going to cost 1/6 of what we had been told. Recently found out the \$500,000 that we were supposed to get from Royal Faires became \$250,000 and some parking receipts, and now it appears that the lease payment will be a small minimum payment plus gate receipts and craft exhibitor fees. Not sure where the due diligence is. Palumbo stated that she is very concerned that they will be involved in the scheduling and operation of the annual County Fair, the Airshow and the Horse Fair, joint use of parking and other events of mutual concern. Not sure what this means, hope that you guys do this before it goes to the BOCC.

Chair Flagg explained that this is a concept; there is no contract or agreement on how it will operate. That is up to the BOCC to finalize any details. The letter is a request; it's simply them asking for what they want. It's not in any written contract that has been signed, nor has it been written in any contract and sent back to them to sign.

Board Member Hirst reminded them that last month this was said, the \$500,000 was just a figure that was thrown out. Palumbo stated that the Arizona Renaissance Faire pays out \$63,000 per year; what are we going to get. It's all going to work in their favor and nothing is going to work in ours.

Kathy Wnoraski – Concerned about the numbers that are being thrown out. You are voting on a hypothetical, and doesn't understand how you can be voting on something like that. There are no hard figures. Suppose they don't make anything, there will be no return and you've just given up a portion of the fairgrounds. Traffic will be backed up for no return. Pointless, there is nothing to vote on. You are voting on a whim.

Board Member Vial replied that the motion is to refer it, with all of the information that we have to the BOCC for them to make all of those decisions. We are not making any decisions, we are not voting on anything, except to refer it to the BOCC.

Merle Eakin – Agrees with Board Member Vial. It's great to pass on the recommendation to the BOCC, but think that the recommendation should have the problems and questions in it instead of just the picture that the staff is presenting. It needs to have both sides.

Board Member Flagg closed public comment time.

Board Member Christy talked about the trip to the Arizona Renaissance Faire. Christy explained that the community is involved in the festival. They use local clubs, volunteers, vendors and artisans. It also has an educational program associated with it and works with the schools. It's a great success and of great interest to the people who live there. If we get to have something like this in our community it gives opportunity for arts & culture and local business people. She also noted that Robert Levine of Royal Faires says he needs 25 acres, but would start off smaller. It would be a huge mistake to not forward this to the BOCC.

Motion by Board Member Vial to forward the report of staff to the BOCC with a recommendation to enter in an agreement with the Renaissance Faire with the provision that any final agreement come back to Fair Board before being entered into. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion Carried. 4-2. Board Member Logan and Steward voted in opposition of the motion.

Board Member Logan questioned why the motion has changed from just forwarding to the BOCC for continued work and now it's recommending that they enter into an agreement.

Board Member Vial explained that's what the staff's report recommends and we are just forwarding staff's report with a concurrence. It's a legislative act.

C. Budget Committee – Chair Flagg talked about the discussion on budget items at last month's meeting. Flagg explained that he and Treasurer Madden have spent the last month discussing how we should further research those suggestions that were given to us. Flagg stated that he is going to appoint the Treasurer as a one-person committee, to prepare a report for the Board and staff on all of those suggestions and

any recommendations that he may have with regards to whether we adopt them pending his research or not and have it due at the May meeting.

Board Member Steward asked that we be considerate of Board Member Madden's time and allow one person to help support him if necessary.

Chair Flagg said he would leave that up to Board Member Madden.

D. Other, if any – Board Member Christy stated that we received an announcement about the Hillsboro FFA Alumni Auction & Fun Night on Saturday May 19th and would like to have the Fair Complex donate a basket for this event.

Motion by Board Member Christy to have staff prepare a basket with a \$50 value. Second by Board Member Logan. Motion carried. 6-0.

4. **New Business** – None.
5. **Announcements** – None other than what was in the packet.
6. **Correspondence** – None other than what was in the packet.
7. **Board Oral Communications** – Board Member Christy thanked Boosters Members Lyle Spiesschaert and Dave Rohrer for joining them in Arizona to visit the Arizona Renaissance Festival.
8. **Other Matters of Information** – None other than what was in the packet.
9. **Oral Communications – Second Session**

John Growney – Noted that we have been keeping the finances on the rodeo to a minimum and still put on a great rodeo. There are still things that we can do for the quality of our rodeo. We have the chance to get the One-Armed Bandit; his cost is \$3000. Also, Philippe Ortega, the trick roper, is available which gives us the opportunity to reach the Hispanic audience in this area. He is really good and his cost is \$2000. We can put on an amateur rodeo, but we don't have to be an amateur rodeo.

Board Member Vial asked about another Hispanic trick roper at the Canby Rodeo that put on a great performance.

Discussion ensued regarding professional specialty acts.

Board Member Vial encouraged staff to work with Growney to find a specialty act.

Growney talked about how we can still be a major rodeo and can give the audience a PRCA-quality rodeo within in our budget.

Board Member Vial asked the staff if Growney was managing the rodeo this year.

Executive Director Hillman explained that Growney will be handling the rodeo again and that this is the next logical step that we want to take. Hillman also explained that some of the sponsors that had gone away in the past are back for this year.

Discussion ensued on how the turnkey rodeo contract works.

Board Member Steward asked if Brian Love would be involved again this year since he was ready to quit last year and now he is really excited for this year after last year's success.

Hillman stated that Mr. Love would be returning.

Growney said that he has spoken to Brian Love also.

Board Member Steward asked what the percentage of Hispanic's in the audience for the rodeo is.

Fair Coordinator Perkins and Marketing Director DuPre' reported that it's very minimal for all arena events.

Discussion ensued on how to get the Hispanic audience interested in arena events.

Chair Flagg directed staff to evaluate the options. If it turns out that it can't be worked into the existing budget, then we can come back and make a motion at a later date.

Debbie VanRoekle – Thanked the Fair Board for allowing public comment. Maybe the secretary could take the names because there were still people who wanted to speak.

Linda Mokler – Understand that the trip to the Renaissance Festival in Arizona on a cold rainy February weekend was a lot of fun. I have no doubt that it is a great event. The reality is that we live in Hillsboro and no one on this Fair Board lives in Hillsboro proper. This would consist of 150 itinerate people camping on our Fairgrounds for ten weeks out of the summer. If any of you would like to put up your farms for this or maybe the park next to your house to invite that in and the corresponding traffic, then we welcome you to do that. But this is a community and we live right here and it does affect our livability in a very huge way. Guessing that most of you faced with the prospect of 150 people camping ten weeks out of the year right next door to your house would not jump-up and down and say what a great educational experience this is.

Board Member Vial asked that she identify herself and provide an address since she has spoken twice without doing so.

Mokler provided the information requested.

Board Member Steward stated that this is not the first time he has heard this concern. Questioned if there were a lot of people camping on the facilities, what the look and feel and atmosphere was around that.

Chair Flagg responded that the questions were asked. Royal Faires reported that they do have a number of people who utilize the camping facilities during the event; it is mainly the professional actors, professional vendors and some workers. Don't recall that Robert Levine reported any real issues with the camping; believed that he said they did not.

Discussion ensued regarding camping for the Renaissance Faire.

Steve Griffels – Asked if the Arizona Renaissance Faire is located on a fairgrounds location.

Chair Flagg said that its BLM property on a long-term lease.

Board Member Vial asked if he could bring something up that he forgot to bring up under new business.

Chair Flagg said that it was fine.

Board Member Vial explained that he thinks we need to seriously consider and ask staff to tap the resources of the County, and in doing so, authorize a non-profit foundation, that runs parallel with the Fair Board, that would be entitled by IRS regulations and County authority, be chartered to receive donations to be used specifically in connection with the improvement of the Fair Complex facilities. The Boosters have certainly generated a significant amount of money and labor; and thinks that we have seen some evidence that those organizations have the ability to generate funds. We have been told many times that the solution to our redevelopment desires is to solicit and use donated monies. Vial thinks that we should pursue that and see if our community is in a position to provide grant money or donated money that could be used. Vial stated that he suspects that even though we may be able to accept donations as a Fair Board, the creation of a very special, single purpose foundation to accept those kinds of donations might generate an additional interest in doing so among the public. Requested that the Chair ask staff to investigate and prepare a report on the formation of a foundation.

Chair Flagg asked staff to do the research and find what other fairs have foundations, and how successful they have been.

Vial asked specifically on how the foundation interfaces with the Fair Board and what the relationship is.

Sharron Cornish – What kind of police enforcement would we have for that many people camping? This will be putting a burden on the police department.

Discussion ensued regarding security for camping.

Lyle Spiesschaert - Went to Arizona and was impressed with the event. It's worthy of serious consideration. That said there are lots of things that still need to be addressed. This had not been debated enough in public. Understand the need to pass it on, but it would have been helpful had there been an open debate and discussion about something so paramount to our future. Hopefully the process will allow for that. Hopes that sometime during the on-going process that this body has more public discussion on items that are important like this.

Board Member Steward asked if there would be open forum discussions at the Revitalization Task Force sessions.

Chair Flagg said that it's still to be determined at this time.

Glenna Dryden – Asked what other things are going to be done in relation to upkeep and maintenance.

With no further business before the Board, Chair Flagg adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Board Member Hirst to adjourn. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 6 -0.

Don G. Hillman
Recording Secretary

Rafe Flagg
Board Chair

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX EVENT SCHEDULE

May-2007

(Highlighted events are no-charge)

Tuesday, May 01, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Wednesday, May 02, 2007

Outside on lawn Dog Training Class

Cloverleaf Building Martial Arts Class

****Entire grounds 4-H Night**

Friday, May 04, 2007

Main Exhibit Hall Gem Faire
West parking lot ATV Safety Class

Saturday, May 05, 2007

Friendship Square Plant Sale

Main Exhibit Hall Gem Faire

Quadrant Property Oregon Rally Cross

West parking lot ATV Safety Class

****Cloverleaf Bldg. 4-H Small Animal Show**

Sunday, May 06, 2007

Main Exhibit Hall Gem Faire

Quadrant Property Oregon Rally Cross

West parking lot ATV Safety Class

Friendship Square Plant Sale

****Cloverleaf Bldg. 4-H Tailblazers**

Tuesday, May 08, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Wednesday, May 09, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Main Exhibit-North Dog Training Class

Cloverleaf Building Martial Arts Class

****Entire grounds 4-H Night**

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Main Exhibit/Lawn UPL Largest Yard Sale

****Cloverleaf Bldg. 4-H Parrot Pals**

****Barns Sheep weigh-in**

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Cloverleaf Building Martial Arts Class

****Main Exhibit-South Task Force Meeting**

****Entire grounds 4-H Night**

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Friday, May 18, 2007

Main Exhibit-South Tool Sale

Saturday, May 19, 2007

Main Exhibit-South Tool Sale

Main Exhibit-North Rose City Exotic Bird Show

****Cloverleaf Bldg. 4-H Wagon Train Box Social**

Sunday, May 20, 2007

Main Exhibit-North Rose City Exotic Bird Show

****Cloverleaf Bldg. 4-H Tailblazers**

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Cloverleaf Building Martial Arts Class

****Entire grounds 4-H Night**

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Tuesday, May 29, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

Cloverleaf Building Martial Arts Class

****Entire grounds 4-H Night**

Thursday, May 31, 2007

Floral Building School Classes

County of Washington

Washington County Fair Complex
873 NE 34th Avenue
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
Phone: (503) 648-1416
Fax: (503) 648-7208
donh@faircomplex.com
www.faircomplex.com

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 26, 2007

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

From: Don G. Hillman, Executive Director
Washington County Fair Complex

Re: March/April 2007 Operations Report

Fire Hydrant Project – For the most part, this project has been completed except for some minor items being reviewed by the City of Hillsboro Fire Department as well as the execution of an easement with the City of Hillsboro. The system has been tested and energized.

The project was expanded to upgrade and expand the existing main waterline, reset and move piping, reset the existing meter, and adds a new backflow valve and boxes. In doing so, it was discovered that the existing main waterline was leaking near the existing fire hydrant tee, which at some point in the future, would have had to be excavated and repaired.

Given the menagerie of existing underground utilities, the Contractor had to repair some utility lines as they were crossed-over. The Contractor also found underground utility lines that were not identified on our existing plans. In one case, a live waterline was found only three inches underground.

Rodeo Office/Museum – In March, staff discovered a leak in the northeast corner of the Rodeo Office/Museum. The water had penetrated the ceiling with some of the ceiling tile becoming saturated and falling to the floor. Some items left on the floor in that area became saturated too. There has also been some water damage to items hanging on the wall in that portion of the facility.

Given the age of the facility, there was a concern as to asbestos having been used in some of the building materials. Working with the County, some of the building materials were

tested and portions of the ceiling and flooring were found to contain asbestos. A County-approved contract has been contracted with to abate the asbestos.

No access has been permitted in to the facility since there was a presumption that asbestos may be present in some of the material dislodged from the ceiling. Since it has been confirmed that asbestos is present in the facility, no one has been allowed in the facility until the asbestos is abated.

Addressing the future of this facility is an agenda item in the May 2007 Board Packet.

Rodeo Pens and Corrals – Most of the posts and cables necessary to downsize the rodeo pens and corrals have been removed. Staff is currently filling in post holes and removing concrete debris.

Cloverleaf Building – Staff has discovered portions of the stucco siding needing repair. Staff has talked to a number of contractors regarding the problem, and although stucco is a good building material in such instances, they have concluded that it may not have been installed properly.

We have asked assistance from the County to have the problem areas inspected by personnel at LUT. Early estimates to repair the problem are under \$5,000, but actual repair costs will not be determined until some of the stucco siding is removed and the studding behind the stucco siding is inspected.

Files containing construction documents for this facility have not been located.

LUT – Personnel from LUT have been on-grounds recently to grade some of the exterior gravel roads and parking lots. They will be asked to return just before fairtime, to grade the roads again in preparation for the 2007 County Fair.

County of Washington

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Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
Phone: (503) 648-1416
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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 26, 2007

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

From: Don G. Hillman, Executive Director
Washington County Fair Complex

Re: Rodeo Office/Museum Update

As reported in the May Operations Report, the Rodeo Office/Museum has experienced some water damage due to a roof leak in the northeast corner of this facility. The facility was subsequently found to have asbestos present in some of the building materials used in its original construction.

The asbestos should be abated by May 1, 2007, at which time staff will be permitted back inside the facility to assess any other damage that may have been sustained from the water leak.

Given the age and use of this facility, the question arises as to how much public funds, if any, should be used to repair the facility and/or make this facility suitable to be occupied in the future by members of the public, volunteers, contractors, staff, etc.

A Facility Analysis and photo essay is attached to this report for those that may not be familiar with this facility.

Background – This facility has been on the Fair Complex for some time, perhaps even moved from the previous fairgrounds located near Shute Park. It is believed that it was used as the Fair Office and located on the west side of the Main Exhibit Hall when the Cloverleaf Gate was used as the primary entrance to the Fair Complex. Pictures showing damage from the Columbus Day Storm shows this facility at that location.

When the current facility was purchased for the Fair Office in 1987, it is believed that the previous Fair Office, now the Rodeo Office/Museum, was moved to the south end of the

Rodeo Arena. Since being moved to that location, the facility's primary use was to augment activities of the Rodeo Committee.

The facility is divided into two sections with each section having its owned keyed entrance.

The larger section, often referred to as the museum, consists of a main room, with some tables, chairs and a couch, and two adjacent storage areas. This section was used for meetings of the Rodeo Committee when weather permitted. The "museum" designation is somewhat a misnomer. Except for items of sentimental value, staff is unaware of any items in this portion of the facility that may be considered museum pieces or items of historical significance. To our knowledge, the "museum" was not open to the general public at any time, even during fairtime. Perhaps a more descriptive connotation of this section of the facility would be to say it's a meeting room decorated in western motif and rodeo memorabilia such as photos, posters, newspaper articles, banners, etc. It's important to note that prior to late 2004, staff did not have keys or access to this facility as it was controlled by the volunteer Rodeo Committee.

The smaller section, often referred to as the Secretary's Office, is located at the south end of the facility. It contains some office furniture and file cabinets. This section of the facility is also used by 4-H during their Horse Fair.

The facility has a raised covered deck on the west side where the single entrance to the two sections is located. There is also a covered raised deck on the south side of the Secretary's Office where cowboys' entries are accepted and payouts made.

The facility has no restroom facility or water service. Neither of the raised covered decks meet current ADA standards. The facility does not have an additional emergency exit from the Museum or Secretary's Office portion of the facility.

Action to be Taken – Given the facility's age, condition, and limited use, it may not be advisable to have the facility repaired. The Complex is part of the County's self-insurance pool, and moneys would be available from the pool to repair the facility back to its pre-damaged condition. This would basically include that portion of the roof where the leak is found and any collateral damage inside the building due to the roof leak.

Once repaired to its pre-damaged condition, the facility would not meet generally acceptable public facility or ADA standards. To bring this facility up to generally acceptable public facility and ADA standards may exceed the value of the facility, currently listed on the County's insurance rolls at \$29,248.

From a program perspective, it may be a better use of public funds to rent a trailer or other temporary structure for the limited-duration use by the Rodeo Secretary (two days) or 4-H Horse Show programs (five days).

As to the items remaining in the facility, it must be assumed that these items are property of the County and if there are really items of value, they should be inventoried, removed, and stored elsewhere to prevent any further damage. Assistance from Rodeo volunteers, under the supervision of our Rodeo Volunteer Coordinator and staff, is advisable. Enlisting the assistance from the Washington County Historical Society may also be necessary.

Shed/Warehouse – Adjacent to the Rodeo Office/Museum is a storage shed or warehouse. It was used to store items associated with the rodeo. Most of the items previously stored in this facility have been removed and integrated within the Operations Program and stored in the Operations compound.

This facility is of questionable value, both monetarily and program-wise, given its current condition. It may very well be unsafe in that the logs being used for the foundation are deteriorating and the building is listing to the south having been placed on uneven ground.

Conclusion – Staff requests advice from the Board as to the proper disposition of these facilities. This could range from putting the Rodeo Office/Museum in to pre-damage condition, upgrading either or both facilities, deconstructing either or both facilities, to having either or both facilities donated to the City of Hillsboro Fire Department to be used in a “Learn-Burn.”

From a financial perspective, having either or both facilities donated to the City of Hillsboro Fire Department to be used in a “Learn-Burn” would be the least expensive at a fee of \$500 plus to cost to remove the debris remaining.

Washington County Fair Complex Facility Analysis



Building Name:	Rodeo Office and Museum	Year Constructed:	Pre-1960
Building Age:	More than 50 years.	Acquisition Cost:	Unknown
Size:	990 sq. ft.	Foundation:	Concrete Block
Construction Type:	Wood Frame. Siding on Studs.	Siding:	T-One-Eleven
Roof:	Flat - Lower Portion Composition	Entrances:	Single Door on West Side
Insulation:	Unknown	Heating System:	Electric Forced Air
Gutters:	No	Windows:	3 - Office, 1 - Museum
Restrooms:	No	Electrical System:	200 amp panels
Water Service:	No	Fire Alarm System:	No
Water Meter:	No	Sprinkler System:	No
ADA Compliant:	No	Floor:	Wood Sheathing.
Other:	Roof Mounted AC with roof-top venting to interior. Venting not insulated.		
Operating Costs:	Minimal - No water or sewer service to building.		
Maintenance Costs:	Minimal - Building used for 4H Horse Fair (5 days) and Rodeo (2 days).		
Life Expectancy:	Limited - Maybe beyond its useful life.		

Building History: May have been moved from Shute Park in early 1950's. Was first used as Fair Office located west of Main Exhibit Hall. Building was moved to its current location in 1987 when new Fair Office was purchased.

Building Maintenance Summary:

Exterior Structure - Siding Condition:

Consists of T-One-Eleven siding. Some areas are deteriorating.

Exterior Structure - Painted Surfaces:

Some areas show signs of peeling. Painted surfaces may have not been prepared properly.

Structure Perimeter:

Building on block foundation. Rain water not diverted by gutters.

Roof/Gutters Condition:

Flat Tar Roof. No gutters. Some Composition. AC and roof-top venting add sometime ago.

Electrical Service - Panel and Subpanels:

200 amp service.

Electrical Service - Plugs, Switches, Junction Boxes:

Numerous outlets. Some exterior outlets are damaged. No GFCI outlets.

Heating System:

Electric Forced Air. System of questionable age and reliability.

Other:

No restroom. Does not comply with ADA. No secondary exit in case of emergency.

Does not meet general occupancy standards for public facilities. Cost to bring structure up to general occupancy standards maybe cost prohibitive given the extent of needed repairs and limited use of the facility each year.

Adjacent Shed/Storage Facility:

This facility is used as a storage shed. Most of the items have been previously moved to the Operations Compound for general use by the Fair Complex.

This facility has been placed on logs to act as a foundation. The logs are deteriorating and the facility shows considerable wear and tear, including what appears to be fire marks indicating the building may have caught fire at one time.

Washington County Fair Complex

Facility Analysis



Washington County Fair Complex Facility Analysis



County of Washington

Washington County Fair Complex
873 NE 34th Avenue
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
Phone: (503) 648-1416
Fax: (503) 648-7208
lperkins@faircomplex.com
www.faircomplex.com

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 26, 2007

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

From: Leah E. Perkins-Hagele, Fair Coordinator
Washington County Fair Complex

Re: 2007 4-H Memorandum of Understanding

In this board packet you will find the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding between the Washington County 4-H Leaders Association and the Washington County Fair Complex.

The idea behind this agreement has been circulating for a number of years. After the 2006 Fair, Extension Agent Terry Palmer and staff met on working ways to streamline and make more efficient the planning and implementation of the 2007 Fair.

The Washington County Fair Complex entirely funds the 4-H fair time operation, which includes contracting judges, purchasing ribbons, tents, and various other supplies. Many fairs give 4-H these funds for 4-H to entirely manage on their own at their own discretion giving 4-H the freedom to budget and allocate the funds as they see fit. After speaking to other fairs and extension agents, it appears this type of system work very well.

On July 1st, staff will issue the allotted funds to Terry Palmer and the Washington County Leaders Association and they will administer the 4-H programming on their end and will work in cooperation with Fair Complex Staff.

This new program will be fully evaluated by staff and 4-H at the conclusion of the 2007 fair, please note that already all parties are feeling the benefits of this system.

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX
873 NE 34th Street
HILLSBORO, OR 97124
PHONE 503-648-1416 FAX 503-648-7208

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

RECITALS

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Washington County Fair Complex, a department of Washington County, a political subdivision of the State of Oregon, and hereafter referred to as “Complex,” and the Washington County 4-H Leaders Association, a non-profit organization, duly recognized by the State of Oregon, and hereafter referred to as “4-H”.

This MOU is intended to outline the roles and responsibilities of the Complex and 4-H, collectively referred to as the “Parties,” as they apply to 4-H operations during the 2007 Washington County Fair.

This MOU is not intended to provide the 4-H or the Complex with any obligation or right to provide similar services in the future.

BACKGROUND

4-H has expressed an interest to procure the necessary services and personnel for the 2007 Washington County Fair, and as such, the Complex has expressed approval.

Meetings between representatives of the Complex and 4-H have taken place recently to discuss this matter. Both parties have agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to outline the roles and responsibilities of the Complex and the 4-H as they apply to the 2007 Washington County Fair and the 2007 4-H Horse Fair.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Both Parties agree to work in a spirit of cooperation.
2. Both Parties agree that the area to be managed by the 4-H will consist of the items described in this document.
3. Both Parties recognize that 4-H will be the organization on record as being responsible for the production and management of 4-H activities for the 2007 Washington County Fair and the 2007 4-H Horse Fair.

4. Both Parties agree that this MOU covers 4-H activities associated with the County Fair and 4-H Horse Fair and that the Complex retains all rights to all other fair related activities, management, etc.
5. Both Parties agree to identify two individuals, associated with each Party, who will act as liaisons and primary contacts for all matters related to this MOU, and will discourage communications between both Parties by others not so identified.
6. Both Parties agree that all policies currently adopted by the Fair Complex Board related to the annual County Fair shall remain in affect and apply to the implementation of this MOU, however the Complex reserves the right to modify policies prior to the 2007 County Far which may apply to this MOU.
7. Subject to the limitations of liability for public bodies set forth in the Oregon Tort Claims Act, ORS 30.260 to 30.300, and the Oregon Constitution, each party agrees to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify each other, including its officers, agents, and employees, against all claims, demands, actions and suits (including all attorney fees and costs) arising from the indemnitor's performance of this MOU where the loss or claim is attributable to the negligent acts or omissions of that party.

Complex – To support the execution and success of this MOU, the Complex shall do the following:

1. Provide 4-H \$15,000.00 by July 3, 2007, for the purpose of carrying out assigned duties and purchasing goods and services and hiring judges.
2. Provide appropriate portable restrooms and sink units for campground for the County Fair.
3. Licensing of the Livestock Scales.
4. Tents and Canopies for the County Fair consistent with prior years and as mutually agreed upon.
5. Provide all shavings and shavings removal for County Fair consistent with previous years.
6. Provide twice daily rounds by a licensed Veterinarian during County Fair. Any actual services required by the individual exhibitor will be at their own expense.
7. Provide a Nextel Radio to 4-H designee for purpose of communicating with Fair staff during County Fair.
8. Provide one roll of white vinyl for decoration purposes.

9. Provide a working telephone line or cell phone in the Cloverleaf Building Office beginning July 1.

4-H - For the 2007 Washington County Fair and the 4-H Horse Fair, the 4-H shall serve as the organization of record for, and have the obligation and responsibility to produce and manage 4-H activities with regards to the 2007 County Fair and 2007 4-H Horse Fair. The 4-H obligation and responsibility to produce 4-H Activities is all-inclusive and includes, but not limited to the following:

1. Provide and pay premiums for 4-H exhibitors.
2. Contract and pay judges for 4-H activities.
3. Procure all ribbons, trophies and other awards as needed for 4-H exhibitors.
4. Procure all shavings/bedding for the 2007 4-H Horse Fair
5. Remove all used shavings/bedding from the 2007 4-H Horse Fair within 4 business days from Horse Fair ending.
6. Procure portable restrooms and sinks for 4-H Horse Fair, if needed.
7. Procure overnight security for 4-H Horse Fair, if needed.
8. Procure Cash Registers, if needed.
9. Procure hotels as needed for 4-H purposes, except where hotel needs overlap with Open Class or FFA judge requirements.
10. Provide a recap of the \$15,000 allocation to the Complex staff by August 27th, 2007 for inclusion in the September Board Meeting packet. The \$15,000 is to be used only for 4-H activities associated with the 2007 County Fair and 2007 4-H Horse Fair.

OTHER PROVISIONS

DISPUTE RESOLUTION. Should a dispute arise regarding the execution or application of this MOU, such dispute shall be submitted to a committee of the Complex Board, consisting of no more than three members of the Complex Board, for resolution. If the committee so appointed by the Complex Board cannot resolve the dispute, the dispute shall be forwarded to the Complex Board for resolution, and whose decision shall be final.

INSURANCE. 4-H, through the Oregon State University, shall purchase and maintain, comprehensive general liability insurance covering personal injury and property damage with a combined single limit, or the equivalent, of not less than \$500,000 with Washington County, Washington County Fair Complex, its officers, employees and volunteers listed as

additional insured for the time period in which 4-H will be having activities associated with the 2007 Washington County Fair and the 4-H Horse Fair.

4-H, through the Washington County 4-H Leaders Association, shall purchase and maintain appropriate assurity insurance coverage for the County funds held by 4-H.

WHOLE AGREEMENT. This MOU is the complete and exclusive statement of the agreement between the parties relevant to the purpose described and supersedes all prior agreements, oral or written, and all other communication between the parties relating to the subject matter of this MOU unless specifically provided for herein.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS. 4-H shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, rules, and regulations. All provisions of ORS Chapters 279A, 279B, and 279C (Public Contracts and Purchasing) are incorporated herein to the extent applicable to this MOU.

NONDISCRIMINATION. No person shall be denied or subjected to discrimination in receipt of the benefits of any services or activities or activities made possible by or resulting from this MOU on the grounds of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or marital status. Any violation of this provision shall be considered a material breach of this MOU and shall be grounds for cancellation, termination, or suspension of this MOU, in whole or in part, by the Fair Complex.

SUBCONTRACTING/ NONASSIGNMENT. No portion of this MOU may be subcontracted or assigned to any other individual, firm, or entity without the express and prior approval of Fair Complex.

FOR FAIR COMPLEX:

_____ Signature	_____ Date
Executive Director	
_____ Title	

FOR CONTRACTOR:

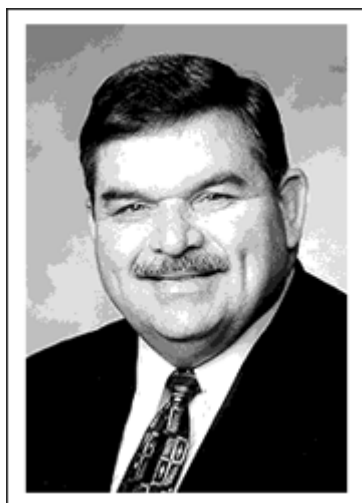
_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Title	
_____ Address	
_____ City/State/Zip	
_____ Social Security No. or Tax Identification	

Calendar of Events
May – September 2007

Date	Event	Location
May		
2	Board Meeting	Capital Center (4:30 PM)
2	Booster Meeting	TBD (7:00 PM)
16	Revitalization Task Force Meeting	South End – ME (1:00 PM)
28	Memorial Day	Office Closed
June		
6	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
6	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
July		
4	Fourth of July	Office Closed
9 - 15	4H Horse Fair (Includes Prep Days)	Arena and Barn Area
11	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
11	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
21 – 22	County Fair Entry Days	Main Exhibit Hall
26 – 29	County Fair & Rodeo	All Areas
August		
10 – 12	No Board Meeting	
29	Oregon International Air Show OFA Combined Area Meeting	Parking Lots Open State Fair
September		
3	Labor Day	Office Closed
5	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
5	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)

Subject to Change Monthly

Washington County, Oregon

**County Administrative Office***last modified: 02/23/2007 15:06:55***Robert Davis, County Administrator**

State of the County 2007

*delivered by Tom Brian, Chairman,
Washington County Board of Commissioners,
February 22, 2007, Westside Economic Alliance*

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[A Quality Community](#)
[Priorities for 2007](#)
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[Quality and Affordable County Services](#)
[Looking to the Future](#)

This morning I will reflect on 2006, talk about our goals for 2007 and discuss what I think is the greatest single challenge for our Board and our community. We have a lot of material, so let me just dig in.

Achievements in 2006



First, I want to touch on the highlights of a remarkable year for Washington County. It's too rare in this business that we get to check off a box and say "I think we've got that one done." But we have two significant multi-year projects that you have probably heard about every year that are near the finish line.

Commuter Rail

Thanks to U.S. Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden and Congressman David Wu and the other members of our federal delegation, we obtained final congressional approval for the Washington County commuter rail line in 2006. Construction is underway. This rail project will link the job centers and populations of Wilsonville, Tualatin and Tigard to Beaverton at the Beaverton Transit Center and the light rail system. As the few remaining issues are resolved, we anticipate ridership to begin in 2008. We especially also want to thank our Oregon legislative delegation from Washington County who committed to partial funding of this project in 1999 and have continued their support to this day.

There has been a great story of collaboration among many partners. I especially want to acknowledge Tri-Met; they are the national leaders on how to put rail projects together. The smartest thing we did on the project was to contract with Tri-Met for project development and operations. They are a first-class operation from their general manager, Fred Hanson, to Neil McFarland and several of their staff who have worked so hard to make this project a reality.

Stewart State Park

The second checkmark goes to our new state park. This has been a priority of mine since taking office eight years ago. With the strong support of our Board and the work of our state legislators and the Oregon State Parks Department, Washington County will be home to Oregon's first full-service state park in three and one-half decades. After eight years of working and planning and lobbying, the Stewart Memorial State Park will be opened this summer. This 1,800-acre camping and hiking site will be a great asset to Washington County families and our organizations.

Support from Voters

We can thank the residents, voters and volunteers of Washington County for the next significant accomplishment and that is the voter-approved renewals of our Public Safety Levy and our countywide Cooperative Library Levy. These were both critical to our safety and quality of life. Voters also approved a lodging tax increase to implement the Tourism 2015 plan, which we'll discuss a little more later, and the regional greenspaces bond levy.

Genentech

In 2006, we also landed a new community partner and the global leader in biotech research and production of pharmaceuticals that fight some of the worst diseases in the world. We are proud to welcome Genentech to the community. And we welcome the jobs and the economic diversity they bring to Washington County. They will be a high-quality partner and we believe they will prosper and grow here.

Investments in Transportation

And, of course, we continue to work to improve transportation and reduce congestion on all fronts. From increased connectivity of roads and bikeways, to support of transit, to using our MSTIP funds—that's the property tax Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program—using that funding to undertake projects such as the \$18 million improvement to Oleson Road. By the way, when we finish the current MSTIP Work Program, we will have invested \$555 million of local funding in our local system. No other county has made a stronger effort to help meet its own transportation needs, even though we have something close to a \$1.5 billion gap in our Transportation Plan over the next 20 years.

These achievements, and many others, reflect far more than the work of a Board of Commissioners and a dedicated staff. They reflect our community and our core values it embraces.

Clearly, Washington County residents value a high quality of life—from grade schools to exceptional recreational facilities, from an improved transportation system to expansion of the arts and libraries and natural spaces. We are building ties to China with our relationship with Yichang. We are witnessing university expansions in Washington County and the expansion of the Washington County Historical Museum.

We also are a community that has kept a focus on the basics—an array of public services at a reasonable cost, safe streets, quality libraries, economic growth and diversity, and family wage jobs.

And, we are a community where Latino, Asian and Middle Eastern populations are growing rapidly, reflecting the changing face of the American workforce and increasingly rich cultural mix of our communities and our schools.



I'm very proud to serve such a quality community and, as a result of the 2006 elections, I am grateful for the opportunity to extend my service as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for another four years. I do not mean proud in a boastful sense, but in a sense of how proud I am of those around us. I am proud of the thousands of citizens who generously volunteer their time with the County, with their schools, their churches, their non-profit organizations and youth sports. I am proud of our citizens, who also support the public institutions with their votes, who remain active to ensure that our government priorities match their priorities. I am proud of our business community, which has consistently demonstrated far-sighted leadership in promoting economic growth as well as a quality education system and cultural and recreational opportunities. I am proud of the men and women I work with at Washington County and other levels of government.

As I've said before, Washington County has over 1,700 employees who work quietly and diligently every day keeping us safe, serving those in need, inspecting restaurants and construction projects, planning for better communities, maintaining our roads and many, many other services.

I want to acknowledge my good friend and former colleague, John Leeper. John is a wonderful human being and made a great Commissioner. And again, John, we thank you for your service. And of course I have several notable entries in my book of clever sayings from John!

And, of course, I am proud of our Board. We have our differences, as it should be, but we have our debates in a civil manner and keep our eyes on what is best for our community. My fellow commissioners—Roy Rogers, Andy Duyck and Dick Schouten—have been a pleasure to work with. They all work hard and bring so much to the debate and to our decisions. And joining our Board last month—Commissioner Desari Strader—who brings new energy and ideas to the County Commission. Desari has assured us that she will be fair with us, even though she has us outnumbered—one woman to four men.

Priorities for 2007



That brings us to the priorities for 2007.

Long-term Water Supply

As an ongoing project, we energetically continue to pursue developing a long-term water supply for the west side and the region. As you may know, this involves raising Scoggins Dam and enlarging Hagg Lake to double its capacity. The increased water resource will provide clean, reliable water for our residents, our businesses, agriculture and environmental applications, such as stream-flow augmentation. It will also diversify the region's water supply and make us less dependent on the Bull Run watershed.

Clean Water Services, of which our Board serves as the Board of Directors, manages the project. Tom VanderPlaat is here—he is the project manager for this very complex and very important project. Clean Water Services is actually the minority partner that manages this, but the cities and the water districts are the majority. And we work closely with the Irrigation District.

As you may know, Hagg Lake is a federal property owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. An exciting option we have discussed with the national Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and our federal delegation is the possibility of transfer of title, the ownership, to a local entity. This will lower the cost of the project, save time and allow local control in the future. I think it makes a lot of sense and the partnership will continue exploring that option. Our goal is to have this major

project providing water by July 1, 2016, which in federal and water development terms is lightning fast.

Tourism 2015

As I mentioned, voters approved an increase in the lodging tax to help increase our focus on tourism. Working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, who brought us the Tourism 2015 concept, the Chambers of Commerce, the Lodging Association, and many others, we will help create a tourism in three key niches: nature, amateur sports and our rapidly growing and exciting wine industry. This represents a significant potential economic gain and diversification for our restaurants, hotels, wineries, cultural attractions and new businesses that will come as a result. Of course, all of these exciting venues will serve our residents as well as our visitors.

Fairgrounds Revitalization

Seeking a broad consensus from the community, our Board agreed to facilitate a process to revitalize the Washington County Fairgrounds. You may have read a little about this. This property is a diamond in the rough. It is about 104 acres, level, dry, with its own light rail stop, across the street from Oregon's second busiest airport. Our challenge will be to develop a plan that maintains and improves the traditional County Fair and traditional uses while increasing the capacity and adding community value as a place for expositions, wine festivals, employment fairs, high school graduations, home and garden shows, etc. So our Board will be appointing a Revitalization Task Force shortly—a broadly representative group countywide. And hopefully we will have a positive outcome with something that we can implement and afford to implement. I think that's an exciting prospect for us and 2007 is the year to act.

Drive Less, Save More

And we continue to support a program to use our highways, arterials, and our own neighborhood streets more wisely. Warning: this is a blatant plug for the Drive Less, Save More campaign. Washington County was the lead advocate of this concept. It took root in the 2005 Legislature and was developed through a very good pilot project with ODOT, Metro, Tri-Met and local partners such as the Westside Transportation Alliance.

The idea is to use education and advertising to get people to think about how they use their cars. For example, by planning our errands, we can reduce just two trips per week in our household. That's about a 4 percent reduction in the use of our cars on the road. Four trips per week, one trip every other day, would save about 8 percent, which is more than the trips taken on bus, rail, bike and other modes all together. And it's free, just by thinking.

Can we change behaviors by education and advertising? It has worked on recycling, seatbelts, smoking, littering—why not convincing ourselves to combine our trips? Remember, about two-thirds of our trips are non-work—they are errands and personal trips. So save gas money, save parking costs, save time while doing your part to reduce congestion and air pollution. Drive less, save more. This is something you can help do and you can start it today.

Legislative Agenda

Now, of course 2007 is a legislative year and we'll ask our state partners to help us with several important items. We will urge lawmakers to approve a second round of lottery-backed bonding for ConnectOregon II to improve freight mobility. We'll also join the region in requesting \$25 million in lottery funding to debt service approximately \$300 million in lottery-backed bonds for tri-county transit investments. We will also ask legislators to raise the gas tax to cover the increasing costs of maintaining and preserving our existing roadways and bridges. This tax has not been increased since 1993 and its buying power is about 45 percent of what it was. We need to protect the

investments already made.

We also asked for legislative support to prioritize construction of the I-5/99W connector, which received a \$10 million authorization in federal funds last year and is in the environmental impact stage at this time. And again, we thank our federal delegation—both Senators Wyden and Smith, Congressman Wu, Congressman DeFazio (who now chairs surface transportation for the nation) for this investment with us, this authorization.

Finally, we will work with lawmakers to gain the financial tools and authorities we need to accommodate growth, including ways to pay for infrastructure and needed services.

How Shall We Grow?



And this brings me to what our Board considers the largest and most complex challenge facing our community.

The challenge is "how shall we grow?" Experts tell us that Washington County will add 400,000 residents to our current 505,000 in the next 23 years or so. The projections, by the way, are usually low. So that is an 80 to 100 percent growth coming to Washington County. We are currently growing by about 1,000 new residents per month. If current patterns hold, our County unincorporated area alone would have more residents by the year 2030 than any city in the northwest, except Seattle and Portland. If we merely expand the UGB and develop at the edges, it will be worse. I call it worse. We will have far more residents outside of cities than in, which is a whole policy discussion and our preference is that they be in cities. We're not built to do municipal service.

So, how shall we grow? Where shall we grow? What should that growth look like? How shall the infrastructure be paid for? How much of the population should be accommodated by UGB expansion versus infill and redevelopment inside the existing UGB? Where will these people work or go to school? Who will provide services and in what form of governance? Cities, new cities? County? Special service districts? And, of course, how do we protect existing neighborhoods and quality of life? Will we be a high-quality and exciting place to live and own a business or one large, sprawling traffic jam?

With the prospect of continuing population growth, Washington County—with all of its citizens and partners—must decide on strategies to accommodate this growth. We must put in place realistic, achievable plans to manage this growth, to manage congestion and to retain a high quality of life. We must find practical, affordable ways to invest in the urban infrastructure we will need to fulfill our plans, once determined.

These are not easy decisions. Our ability to retain a quality community will depend on how well we answer these questions and address these formidable challenges. And we cannot afford to wait. I view it as part of our leadership responsibility to talk openly and often about these challenges and the options open to us.

Our community enjoys a legacy of anticipating and meeting future challenges with creative ideas and collaboration. Over time, this approach has positioned Washington County as a forward-thinking, attractive place to live, work and operate a business. Many of the creative ideas we will need are yet to be discovered, much less agreed upon.

We may want to identify three or four places around the County at which to develop our own versions of Pearl Districts, where we can plan for high-density housing units in a community designed for people who want that lifestyle while minimizing impact on existing neighborhoods. We may want to look at older, undeveloped areas to examine if it is possible to redevelop those areas on a larger scale.

Clearly, we will have to work hard to decide how to accommodate significant growth within the existing UGB. But just as clearly, we will need to expand the UGB. Where should the expansions occur? How do we minimize the impact on farms and forest lands?

This will not be easy work, but I believe it is necessary.

I hope this year, working together with you, with the cities, special service districts, neighborhoods, Metro and many others, we will begin the process of mapping out how we choose to accommodate this growth. Like we in this county have done in the past on Title III, Goal 5, jobs-housing balance issues, and other matters, I believe we can and should work proactively to anticipate the issues, be creative and collaborate to make sure that we chart the course that works best for our community. There is nothing more important we can be working on for our community's future and we should ramp up this process in the next few months.

Quality and Affordable County Services



In the midst of this challenge, I want to repeat that our continuing priority will be delivery of our most basic priority: providing quality services at an affordable cost. Under the leadership of former County Administrator, Charlie Cameron, and past Boards, Washington County has one of the highest rates of competitively contracting out for services among all counties in Oregon. We also have the second lowest ratio of staff-to-population. We have operated this way on the belief that we should focus on the benefits provided instead of who provides the service.

We are fortunate, by the way, that for over 20 years, a key part of this effort has been Bob Davis. Bob has also been our new County Administrator for about one year now. Bob is doing an excellent job for all of us and I want to thank him publicly for his service. With his leadership, we will continue the distinction of operating at a high level of efficiency. And a year from now, Bob, I promise not to call you "new."

Looking to the Future



As we move through 2007 and look to the future, it is obvious that we are no longer a bedroom community or a sleepy suburbia. People often say we are the economic engine of Oregon and we are becoming more integrated into the global economy, which requires us to remain vigilant and remain competitive through world-class education, relevant workforce training and smart infrastructure investments. We are seeing Portland State University expand westward through cooperative arrangements with Portland Community College, Rock Creek. And we are seeing Pacific University expand eastward, through their efforts with the City of Hillsboro. The Regional Arts and Culture Council is expanding programs on the west side. And we are hosting a far-reaching student exchange program, currently through Sherwood School District and growing to others, of young men and women from China, whose destiny will influence our own.

In many ways, we are laying the groundwork for a more intentional, better planned, urban center that can flourish alongside prospering agricultural areas that produce high-quality nursery stock, fruits and vegetables and great wine.

We are privileged to live in one of the best places on earth.

To keep our corner of paradise, we must act as good stewards of the resources around us, from rich soils to quality water; from a skilled workforce and some of the world's most vibrant companies, to planning for the citizens who will inevitably join us.

We must also remember that not every Washington County citizen shares our prosperity. Many subsist on wages that cannot support their families. Others are seniors with limited means. Our stewardship must extend to investments in affordable housing and affordable health care to ensure safety, security and dignity so that all of us have an opportunity to succeed.

Recently, Washington County joined the Bridges to Housing Program and we are working with our partner counties and non-profits in the region to expand access to housing and other services needed to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. We are also supporting the Governor's Healthy Kids Plan to provide access to health care for uninsured children.

Collectively, our achievements are significant. But the challenges are formidable. This is a moment to celebrate what we have accomplished together. And it is a moment to commit to working equally hard to meet the challenges ahead that will define our community for a new generation.


Thank you.

Washington County
Administrative Office
155 N. First Avenue, Suite 300
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Phone: 503-846-8685

Fax: 503-693-4545

TTY: 503-846-4598

E-Mail to: cao@co.washington.or.us 



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Washington County Fair Complex Boosters
MEETING MINUTES - March 7, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Drew Ackerlund. Those present introduced themselves. Minutes from the last meeting were approved as mailed. Treasurer's report was distributed. Discussion ensued regarding approval of several bills that were paid. Motion was made and passed to have the Executive Committee/Board of Directors develop a written 'bill paying' policy. Treasurer's report accepted with corrections.

Lyle Spiesschaert reported for the **Strategic Committee**. The Fair Complex Revitalization committee is being formed. It will be composed of 14 people. The Commissioners will select the members. Chair will be Tom Brian, Co-chair, Tom Hughes (Hillsboro mayor). The intent is that members will report back, and discuss issues with the groups and/or organizations they represent.

Lyle presented a slide show of the Renaissance Fair that he, Dave Rohrer, Tom Brian, Andy Duyck, Fair Board and staff members attended. The presentation was very good, and showed the buildings, activities, and customers at a fair in the desert area at Apache Junction, Arizona.

Web Site update was approved. Tom Black is working with Ryan Schold. Tom asked Desi Kurtz, our Web Master to update the present calendar.

Inez & Steve Griffels reported on their attendance at the **Hillsboro Tuesday Market Luncheon**. It was held to recognize organizations/businesses that had a booth at the **2006 Market**.

Kathy Schmidlkofer provided information about the **2007 Hillsboro Tuesday Market**. We would have a booth on Main Street again. It has been suggested that we also assist with the June (free) Strawberry Shortcake serving. We would cover some of the cost.

Sheila Day reported on our entry for the **Hillsboro St. Patrick's Day Parade**. Sue Willhoite will be the responsible coordinator for our entry. Dave Rohrer will provide his truck, and be the driver-elf. Sue and others will decorate it. All those wishing to participate should be at the parking lot near Hare Field by 9:00am on March 17. A "hat was passed" at the meeting for funds to purchase candy for the parade. Thanks to Charlie Vandehey for initiating the collection, and to those that contributed.

Drew Ackerlund explained the new Charitable Tax Incentive that allows **tax free donations** from 401K's to non-profits, by those age 70 1/2 during 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Day, Secretary

NEXT MEETING April 4, 2007 7pm

Washington County Fair Complex Boosters
MEETING MINUTES - April 4, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Rohrer. Those present introduced themselves. Minutes from the last meeting were approved as mailed. Treasurer's report was distributed. Lyle Spiesschaert donated his compensation paid for the Arizona trip, back to the Boosters. Dave Rohrer announced the official Bill Approval Policy:

All bills will be presented to the Treasurer, for approval at the next meeting. Even if the expenditure was approved at a previous meeting, all bills must be presented in this manner.

Motion was made, and passed to approve \$300.00 for our Website update. Tom Black will work with the new web designer.

Linn County Fairgrounds (near Albany) approved a contract with the Renaissance Fair.

Discussed the Rodeo Museum - mold, rain damage to building and contents. Dave Rohrer will write to the Fair Board Chair regarding salvage effort.

Fountain maintenance is a concern. There is a leak problem and issues with the company that installed fountain. Committee formed to resolved problems: Bill Ganger, Chairman. Others on committee: Paul Goldmann, Tom Black, Ed Kristovich. The TV Garden Club with work on the plants around the fountain.

Dave Rohrer reported on the first meeting of the *Fairgrounds Revitalization Task Force* meeting which was held today - in Beaverton. Speakers were Don Hillman, Rafe Flagg, Dave Rohrer, Hillsboro planning, LRS architects, Bob Moore survey. Tom Brian, Co.Comm.Chair, said that all proposal letters will be reviewed and discussed. Next meeting will be 5/16/07, 1:00-3:00pm, then one on 6/20/07. Info, email address, and comments available at: www.co.washington.or.us/fairgroundstaskforce

The Boosters participation at the Murphy's/Hillsboro St. Patrick's Day Parade was successful and fun. Thanks to those that participated, and a big THANK YOU to coordinator Sue Willhoite, and her assistant Diane Steward.

Application is now available to submit entry for participation in the Hillsboro 4th of July Parade. Discussion held on what our entry could be. Dave will contact Draft Horse people. Someone will ask Joe Evers about availability of his old tractors.

Tom Black is interested in having a Rodeo Queen. More information is still needed to determine if it is reasonable, if time permits, and if finances are available to sponsor this effort.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Day, Secretary

Sheila Day

NEXT MEETING
MAY 2, 2007 7:00 pm

RECEIVED APR 26 2007

**OSU EXTENSION FACULTY
SERVING WASHINGTON
COUNTY***

Staff Chair, Forestry and Christmas Trees

Chal Landgren 725-2102

4-H Youth Development

Terry Palmer 725-2111

Lisa Conroy 725-2113

Citizen Involvement (CPO)

Linda Gray 725-2116

Patt Opdyke 725-2117

Family and Community Development

Jeanne Brandt 725-2107

Nutrition Education Program

Janice Smiley 725-2049

Maureen Quinn 844-7458

Watershed Health

Samuel Chan 722-6718

Commercial Horticulture 678-1264

Agriculture

Grass & Legume Seeds, Grains & Forages

Susan Aldrich-Markham 434-8917

Small Farms

Nick Andrews 678-1264 x 149

Commercial Tree Fruits/Nuts

Jeff Olsen 434-7517

Dairy

Troy Downing 842-3433

Livestock, Forage crops

Gene Pirelli 623-8395

Master Gardener Hotline 725-2300

General Information 725-2300

*All 503 area code

Email format:

firstname.lastname@oregonstate.edu

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Agriculture, Forestry, Family and Community Development, 4-H Youth, and Extension Sea Grant programs, Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Washington County cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

OSU to You

April / May 2007

OSU Extension Service engages the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education that focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals.

Farm Research Helps Blueberry Growers Manage Pests

Blueberries are a rapidly growing agricultural commodity in Oregon. In 2006, the estimated blueberry acreage is about 4,400 acres with a record crop of 35 million pounds, which ranks Oregon the third in the country in total blueberry production. The current estimated blueberry acres in Washington County are about 900, which is 20% of total state production. The increased acreage means a higher demand for cultural and pest management information. Blueberry extension agent Dr. Wei Yang at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) regularly visits blueberry farms in Washington County to answer production and pest-related questions. From 2004 to 2006, Dr. Yang conducted field surveys in Hillsboro and Forest Grove and confirmed the presence of blueberry gall midge (a new pest for blueberries) in Washington County. An ongoing trial has started in a large grower's field in Forest Grove to determine the best control strategy for this new blueberry pest. The goal of this on farm research is to teach growers how to monitor this pest, and timely treat the fields with low environmental impact chemicals. By far, the soil drench treatment in early spring has showed very promising results of control. The field surveys and on farm research are supported by a special grant program from the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research through USDA.



Field insect traps and yellow cards are used for monitoring blueberry gall midge flies.

Nutrition Program Graduate Joins Team



Matilde Rodriguez practices what she preaches, which works beautifully in the Extension model of teaching with experience while using research-backed information. The newest nutrition educator completed OSU's community nutrition classes, and then felt strongly called to a job to teach others after learning skills she felt helped support her family's health. "I want to help the community. I want people to know what nourishing foods are, and how to get them when you are in the campos (labor camps) or have very little money. I want to help Hispanic families have a healthy diet. I can teach some ways to use less fat, and to fight against obesity in our children. This is very important."

As a graduate of PODER literacy program in Cornelius, Matilde has chosen other growth experiences as well. She wanted to learn and to try new experiences. "I practice English, I go to new places, and I study. I have done it. I live in the community, and I can help my community, I want to do this. I will have more opportunities to grow, too. They (interested parties) can contact me in Spanish and I will be able to help them learn." **Welcome, Matilde!**

In other nutrition news, a nation-wide campaign to increase fruit and vegetable consumption includes local efforts. Washington County hosted three kick-off events on March 19 involving co-conspirators at OSU Extension and DHS. Fruit and Veggie "tastings" occurred at Tigard, Beaverton, and Hillsboro DHS offices while visitors and staff received tips about how to enjoy the prospect of more produce in a national Campaign "Fruits & Veggies- More Matters" which you'll be seeing in local stores, too. Cowboy Salad was a popular choice. For the recipe go to:

<http://healthyrecipes.oregonstate.edu/recipe1.php?lang=en&id=268>

EXTENSION EVENTS

Contact the Extension Office for details on the following events:

April 7. **4-H Spring Odyssey**, Rabbit and Poultry Show. Fairgrounds.

April 14. **4-H Market Swine Weigh-in**. Fairgrounds.

May 4. **Ties to the land: Keeping Family Forests and Farms in the Family**. Friday, May 4, 2007, 12:30PM - 4:30PM. Salem. \$50. 503-343-7517

May 4-6. **4-H Horse Pre-Fair Show**. Hillsboro.

May 5. **OSU Pond School 2007**. Create and Maintain Healthy Ponds. OSU, Corvallis.

May 12. **4-H Project Learning Day**. PCC Campus.

May. 12. **4-H Market Lamb Weigh**. Fairgrounds.

May 19. **"Wellness and Aging: The Wave of the Future."** 4th Annual Gerontology Conference. 8:30AM - 12:30PM. Intel, Hillsboro. Free.

Citizen Participation Organization (CPO) meetings. Monthly meetings in most areas of the county. Call 503-725-2124 for meeting information in your neighborhood or visit the website at <http://www.oregonstate.edu/extension/washington/citizen.htm>

The World is Run by Those Who Show Up: CPO Meetings Welcome Legislative Discussions

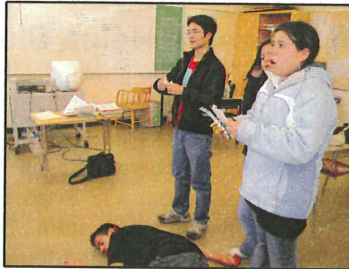
Oregon's citizen legislature finds a welcoming forum when Citizen Participation Organization (CPO) volunteers plan their monthly meetings around legislative updates. The community is accustomed to attending CPO functions and volunteers are experienced at facilitating and moderating discussions. Attendance is strong as neighbors appreciate the chance to visit with legislators in a relaxed and respectful setting. In turn, the legislators who participate on a regular basis in their CPO and provide periodic updates can benefit from an opportunity to meet with constituents to garner their perspectives on critical issues.

School funding and potential systems development charges (SDCs) to support a portion of the cost of constructing new school facilities were discussed at a recent CPO meeting. Measure 37 proposals, annexation legislation, and other legislation that affects how regional and local governments serve citizens will be discussed at upcoming CPO meetings. Please contact us for additional information and please, be one of those who show up!

Washington County OSU TO YOU is a bi-monthly publication of the OSU Extension Service in Washington County highlighting the activities and accomplishments of local programs. More information on all program areas and events can be seen on our website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington> or our location at 18640 NW Walker Road, Suite 1400, Beaverton, OR 97006 (CAPITAL Center Entrance D1).

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training

4-H Tech Wizards at Sunset High School in Beaverton and Hillsboro High School are acquiring skills to help their schools and communities during times of disaster! Using FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency, part of Homeland Security) approved curriculum and in partnership with schools and local fire departments, Tech Wizard youth are not only learning the skills to be community response team members, but also using powerful GIS (Geographical Information System) tools to help develop their school emergency response plan. Additionally, team members are volunteering in the community to help bring this vital information to Spanish speaking audiences.



(Left) 4-H Members at Sunset High School simulate an emergency with START (Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment) procedures.



(Right) 4-H Tech Wizard members teach other 4-H'ers podcasting at a recent workshop.

Washington County 4-H Tech Team Teaches Podcasting

The Washington County 4-H Tech Team is presenting workshops and skill-a-thons about the latest internet-based collaboration tools such as Podcasting, blogging, and wikis. Mass collaboration is reshaping the way goods and services are conceived, designed, developed, marketed, sold, supported and ultimately consumed. Collaborative networks where peer-production and content sharing is the norm – is replacing the information silo, and traditional project hierarchies are giving way to global, cross-functional teams working at their peak by sharing information. Intel volunteers and 4-H staff in collaboration with OSU specialists are developing a curriculum using platforms such as Intel's SuiteTwo to understand and utilize the internet as a platform and understand the rules for success on that new platform. Youth have been utilizing these collaborative technologies through social networking – in Tech Wizards they will be experiencing them as applied to the needs of enterprise.

Local Funding Supports Extension Efforts

The base funding provided by Washington County allows us to reach out to the community and multiply the efforts through grants and donations. A few examples from 4-H and the Extension Nutrition Education Program are great illustrations. The 4-H program involves 6,166 Washington County youth in projects teaching necessary life skills. The 4-H Tech Wizard program reaches out to Latino youth; fostering and mentoring the skills and confidence needed to move into college or new careers. A wide number of grants and partners support this program and allow community volunteers to be more effective. In addition, Federal Title III funds approved by Washington County will assist in two innovative 4-H projects involving the county, SOLV, the City of Hillsboro and 4-H youth in after-school projects. 4-H additionally receives \$100,000 to expand our work with youth from the Intel Foundation, United Way and private donation.

Extension Nutrition Education Program (NEP) received over \$413,000 in federal and state grants to reach limited-income families. Program highlights for the year include reaching over 2,620 youth with nutrition education in Washington County elementary school classrooms, after school, and summer programs, and involving over 275 adult homemakers in nutrition classes in community settings. Practical, hands-on NEP classes show consistent behavior change in participants. This past year, over 75% of youth participants enrolled in a series of classes reported improved practices in food preparation and safety; 46% increased their knowledge of nutrition concepts. Over 46% of adult participants enrolled in a series of nutrition classes reported running out of food less often before the end of the month; 35% reported eating more fruits and vegetables; 64% no longer thaw frozen foods unsafely at room temperature. (EFNEP Data, NW Metro Unit, 2006)



Fairgrounds task force meets May 16

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

The Hillsboro Argus

The Fairgrounds Revitalization Task Force will hold its second meeting 1 to 3 p.m., Wednesday, May 16, in the south end of the Main Exhibit Hall at the Washington County Fair Complex.

The fair complex is located at 873 NE 34th Ave., across Cornell Road from the Hillsboro Airport.

The task force wants to find fairgrounds solutions that reflect the agricultural history of the county, and are viable options for year-round, community use.

Additionally, the task force must formulate a financial plan to make sure the solutions are sustainable.

Agendas will be sent out in early May.

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Shockwave from Blue Angel jet crash jars Hillsboro

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

By Susan Gordanier
The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

Hillsboro's eyes turned eastward, stunned by Saturday's loss of a Blue Angel F-18 Hornet at an air show in Beaufort, S.C.

The pilot, Lt. Cmdr. Kevin J. Davis, was killed in the crash, which occurred near the show's end.

Reports indicate the jet may have clipped the tops of some tall pine trees before breaking apart in a neighborhood near the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort.

An investigation into the cause of the crash has begun, but is complicated by the number of plane fragments, which scattered over a wide area, according to reports from the scene.

Davis' plane, number 6, was one of two that break away from the pack for solo maneuvers.

The Blue Angels team has now returned to its base in Pensacola, Fla., to regroup after their loss.

Although they have reportedly canceled their next scheduled appearance at an air show in Vidalia, Ga., April 28-29, Steve Calloway, spokesperson for the Oregon International Air Show, said his organization has not been contacted by any representatives of the Blue Angels.

"At this point they are focused on what happened Saturday," Calloway said. "We're just waiting to hear from them."

Calloway said the air show community takes this loss very hard. "They've been part of our air show since 20 years ago when we first started," he said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of the pilot, the U.S. Navy and the Blue Angels crew."

The Oregon International Air Show is just one of a number of events awaiting word from the Blue Angels about possible changes to their 2007 summer schedule. Calloway said the team is scheduled to perform at Seafair in Seattle Aug. 3-5, just one week before the show at Hillsboro's airport.

Calloway said he left a message for his contact person with the Blue Angels organization, "but just to voice our support and prayers."

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Livestock scale accuracy questioned; officials say weights accurate

[BY JEFFREY GAUTREAUX, SUN STAFF WRITER](#)

April 22, 2007 - 11:20PM

While most people see only what happens at the Yuma County Fair, it takes months of work for local 4-H'ers and FFA'ers to prepare livestock to be shown at the fair.

The payoff for that effort is the auction when the time and money is paid back - at least partially - when a bidder buys the animal.

However, animals go on the auction block only if they pass the requirements to get into the fair.

Krysteena Blevins' steer came in under weight, and her parents, Vivian and Robert Blevins, blame the scale.

Vivian said her daughter, a member of Kofa FFA, lost out on \$4,000 the bovine could have garnered at auction because, she believes, the scale was incorrectly calibrated. "Kids are being cheated out of weight and money and their effort over the last eight months," she said.

She filed a grievance with the Yuma County Fair Board that said the steer weighed over the minimum of 950 pounds at two local truck scales but came in at only 932 at the fair.

However, Gary Hostetler, owner of Hostetler Scales and Industrial Controls of Imperial, Calif., says he calibrated the beef scale March 30. Hostetler said he had to dig out some dirt near the scale but otherwise it was a straightforward process.

"There shouldn't have been any problems at the fair," he said.

Every year after the fair, the Junior Livestock Committee (JLC) holds a fair critique meeting when JLC president Travis Smith said the committee asks to hear "the good, the bad and the ugly."

Robert Blevins made his complaint that the scale was off at that meeting Thursday. "What happened this year is over with. Basically, I want to make sure we don't run across this again next year."

Smith said the JLC and the fair were well aware of the situation, and they stood by the scale, the calibration and the weights it returned. Smith said Hostetler is a professional who has handled the scales for many area fairs for several years.

Hostetler's business is listed on the Arizona Department of Weights and Measures Web site as a registered service agent. This means he must pass a test, his equipment must be certified annually and he must follow all regulations related to weighing.

Steve Meissner, department spokesman, said Hostetler has been a registered service representative since 1990 and is in good standing with the agency.

"It's been a long time since I've had one questioned," Hostetler said of his calibrations.

Vivian Blevins says she weighed the livestock trailer with and without the steer inside at two local scales. It weighed 980 pounds before the fair on April 2 at Uni-Kool, 2210 E. 24th St., and, after animals were selected for auction, 940 pounds on April 5 at Cat Scales near Interstate 8 on Fortuna Road. She said this was consistent with weight loss during the fair.

Hostetler says a truck scale isn't the proper instrument to try to weigh a steer because the graduations are too large to provide an accurate number. He said a scale like the one at the fairgrounds - with much smaller graduations - is appropriate.

Smith said Hostetler has intimate knowledge of those other scales as well. "He actually certified and calibrated the scales you took your steer to and weighed it in the vehicle," Smith told Robert Blevins

The Blevinses' grievance called for the JLC to pay Krysteena what she would have made had the steer gone to auction or the difference between what it would have earned if it does get sold. An itemized bill lists the total investment in the steer at \$4,135. But the committee did not discuss any plans to do so.

Fairgrounds manager Kelly Watkins said he watched Hostetler calibrate the scale, and it is only fair to weigh all the animals on the same scale. "It's too bad this happened to the youngster, but it happens every year. There are some animals that are underweight and there are some that are over, too."

Also discussed at the JLC meeting were the judges' decisions as to how clean pigs had to be to get into the fair. Some parents and organization leaders felt that the rules had been enforced too strictly on some swine.

Family ties keep the fair together

Generations have grown up with it, seen it grow and remain involved with it to this day.

By MICHAEL KRUSE

Published April 20, 2007

Why, I wondered, as I traveled from fair to fair, are kids so important to fairs and to the people who attend them? Certainly these occasions provide us ... with a bridge between our past and our future. It is possible here we can pass on our traditions, our beliefs, and our customs to our next generation.

John McCarry in County Fairs: Where America Meets

BROOKSVILLE - The fair, folks say, is a family thing, and here in Hernando County Joy Jackson is the latest in a line of her kin to be in charge. This is her first fair as fairgrounds manager. She is doing now what her aunt and her dad did before.

"I feel like they're watching over us," she said the other day outside her office, "and making sure we're doing what they put their blood, sweat and tears into."

This county fair is in a good place right now.

After drawing just 7,000 people in 2002, the fair went up to 18,000 in '03, then 25,000, then 31,000, then 37,000 last year. At this year's fair, which opens this evening at 5, Jackson is shooting for more than 40,000.

The recent resurgence, say those associated with the fair, has to do with the can-do leadership of Deb Pedone, past president of the fair board who this year shifted to treasurer; the new, more varied roster of rides, games and food; and a wiser, wider marketing plan.

The fair, after those lean, indifferent years in the late '90s and in the early part of this decade, is no longer just hogs and cattle, the Ferris wheel and sketchy meats on sticks sold by huckster carnies. It's the demolition derby, and concerts, and the rodeo, and pro wrestling.

"There's enough for everybody there," said Dana Hurst, who's on the fair board and is the president of the county's Cattlemen's Association.

But the good vibes also say something about the hokey, idyllic purpose of any county fair, ever since way back when - the coming-together of a community, the celebration of a slower, seemingly simpler, even friendlier time.

"The fair," Pedone said, "is all about your roots."

And families.

Like the Jacksons.

Henry Jackson, Joy Jackson's father, was fifth-generation Hernando County. He was fair manager from 1986 to 1994. He died three years ago this week.

Evelyn Chapman, her aunt, was in charge from '94 to '97. She died in '97.

Now it's the turn of the next generations.

Joy Jackson has been fairgrounds manager since last May. And four generations of Jacksons have been helping her.

There's Jackson's mother, Virginia Jackson, who is also the director of the Hernando Historical Museum Association.

There's Jackson's daughters, Christa Murwin and Cherie Plourde, who help in the office and just about everywhere else.

There's even Jackson's daughters' daughters - Amber Murwin, 13; Sydney Murwin, 11; and Hayley Murwin, 8. Jacksons' daughters married brothers.

"We all kind of grew up here," Joy Jackson said.

"This," Plourde said this month, "was my home."

"It's just like anything else: It's all about the people running the fair," said Blair Hensley, the owner of the Coney Island hot dog place, the sponsor of the fair's first-ever Big Ole Red Neck Truck Show a week from Sunday.

"You've got to give people a reason to come, and they're giving people reasons to come. People want to go where the people are at.

"That's the thing about the fair. And they've created that excitement."

Along with that built-in family atmosphere.

"I feel like my dad would be very pleased, and my aunt," Joy Jackson said. "I think of my dad every day when I'm here. That's why I applied for this job.

"Because of the roots."

Michael Kruse can be reached at mkruse@sptimes.com or 352 848-1434.

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MISSOURIAN

Columbia, Missouri

County told to cut fair board from fairgrounds

Marketing, renovations and additions supposed to boost finances.

By KEVIN CROWE

April 19, 2007

One of the first steps to making the Boone County Fairgrounds more financially viable would be to cut the fair board out of the operation, a consultant hired by Boone County told members of the county commission and fair board Tuesday night.

Currently, the Boone County Agricultural and Mechanical Society, known as the fair board, contracts with George Harris to manage the grounds, although Boone County owns it. Rod Markin, a consultant from Maple Grove, Minn., said he thinks that the board has no interest in operating the grounds on a year-round basis, and that the county should contract directly with a management company to improve operations and profitability.

Markin also recommended the county make improvements to existing facilities, add staff to market, and maintain the facilities as well as construct an exhibition center and more horse stalls.

The improvements would include covering an outdoor warm-up arena, which, Markin said, would help attract more horse shows.

“You’ve got a base of business that can be built on,” Markin said.

He estimated covering the arena could cost anywhere from \$300,000 to \$800,000.

Horse shows have meant better pay days for the fair board in the past, but competing venues have slowly drawn them away from Boone County. Another 80 horse stalls, to add to the existing 224 stalls, would also make the fairgrounds a more competitive venue, Markin said. The additional stalls would cost between \$450,000 and \$550,000, he said.

While the fair board schedules just annually, operating costs and lack of marketing keep profits low. The board has continually counted on the annual county fair to cut the losses to a minimum.

Looking for a way to make the fairgrounds financially viable, the commission hired Markin for \$34,480 to make recommendations.

Some of what Markin said fell in line with the fairgrounds’ master plan approved by Boone County and the Columbia City Council in 2004. A new covered arena, for instance, and a new multi-purpose room

Landlocked

Boone County purchased the fairgrounds in 1999 from the Boone County Fair Board.

Little has changed since then. While the county owns the land, the board still manages it.

The county approved a master plan in 2004. Ground has yet to be broken on any of its ideas.

Last year, county commissioners hired a consultant to take a step back and see how, or if, the land can be made financially viable.

have long been identified as necessary improvements. More horse stalls, however, have not. Also, Markin has proposed placing a new exhibition center in the same place the master plan calls for baseball, soccer and rugby fields.

“We’re not recommending you do soccer fields on the southeast tract,” Markin said. “You may not have that piece available for soccer fields.”

While the master plan does call for a new multi-purpose building, Commissioner Karen Miller said she was concerned the exhibition center Markin was recommending would not be able to be used as recreational space as the multi-purpose building might.

The exhibition building Markin’s recommending would cost between \$5 million and \$7 million. The multi-purpose building the city of Columbia and Boone County put in the master plan would cost about \$1.65 million.

But Markin said that within three years of the construction of the new facilities, the estimated net cash flow would increase to \$183,000.

In order to increase use of the new facilities, Markin said a marketing position should be created in order to attract new customers.

Miller said she agreed that a lack of marketing has been hurting business at the fairgrounds and that some improvements definitely need to be made.

“We’re not not willing to invest,” she said. But Miller said she wanted to be sure they take the right steps.

Markin also said the management at the fairgrounds should increase the prices it charges for stall space and arena space, among the other recommendations.

“Fairgrounds are notorious for not raising their prices,” Markin said.

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Published: 04.19.2007

Fair to say, this is a biggie

The Pima County Fair starts tonight and runs through April 29 at the Pima County Fairgrounds. This year's fair boasts more than 600 performances and demonstrations over the next 11 days — from cross-stitching demos to fire-breathing and bug eating, says Launa Rabago, the fair's marketing manager. About 250,000 people attended last year, and fair officials hope to exceed that figure this year. Look for the traditional county fair entries, such as baking contests, fine-arts exhibits and home arts such as quilting in Old Pueblo Hall. The Super Science exhibit is there as well. You can find the livestock exhibits and animal auctions in the barns and the ramada. For rodeo action, head to the arenas west of the barn.

— *Inger Sandal*

Highlights

April 19

- Opening night is Dr Pepper Wristband Night. The action begins at 6 p.m. Pay \$20 for a wristband and ride unlimited all night. Bring an unopened 20-ounce bottle of Dr Pepper and save \$5.

- Grab a fair program at the gate for opening night times.

April 20

- Military Appreciation Day. \$2 admission with any military identification.

MYTucson TV's crew will set up a booth where military families can videotape messages to their loved ones stationed abroad, Rabago says. This is a first for the fair.

- Freak Show and George the Giant, at 6, 8 and 10 p.m. daily, in Club Corona. Shows were standing-room-only last year.

- Hypnotist Tammy Barton performs (5, 7 and 9 p.m. daily) at the Central Park Stage.

- Magic Dance Theatre of Sarlot and Eyed (4:30, 6 and 7:30 p.m. daily) on the KLOVE stage.

- Sea Lion Splash — Watch them play in the tank all day, then catch the shows at 2, 5 and 9:30 p.m. daily. The bleacher seating goes fast. The White Tiger shows are at 3:30, 6:30 and 8 p.m. daily.

- Fishing demonstrations for kids 12 and under in Pima Hall.

- No Limit Texas Hold'Em Poker Tournament inside Pima Hall on Fridays and Saturdays. Register by 6 p.m.

April 21

- Demolition derby starts at 4 p.m. About 3,700 fans watched from the bleachers last year.

- No Limit Texas Hold'Em Poker Tournament inside Pima Hall and the Cantina.

- High School Rodeo and livestock shows in the barns and ramada.

April 22

- High School Rodeo in Manny's Arena.

Pima County Fair

- Where: 11300 S. Houghton Road.

- Admission: \$7; \$2 ages 6-10; free 5 and under.

- Parking: \$5.

- Main gate opens: 6 tonight; 11 a.m. weekdays (except Tuesday); 10 a.m. Tuesday and weekends.

- Carnival: 6 tonight; 2 p.m. on weekdays; 11 a.m. on weekends.

- Web site: pimacountyfair.com.

- Livestock shows in the barns and ramada.

April 23

Discount Day Family Day with \$2 parking and \$2 admission.

April 24

Discount Day with \$1 carnival rides.

- Senior Celebration with \$2 admission and free rides on the grand wheel, Ferris wheel and carousel for people age 55 and older.

April 25

Discount Coupon Night. Present a discount coupon from Wendy's Restaurant for 2-for-1 admission, and then you and a friend ride for the price of one. (Photocopies not accepted. Not good when combined with any other offer or discount).

April 26

- Dr Pepper Wristband Night. Pay \$25 for a wristband and ride unlimited all night. Bring an unopened 20-ounce bottle of Dr Pepper and save \$5. Admission is still a separate \$7 charge.

- Livestock shows in the barns and ramada starting at 9 a.m.

April 27

- Christian Karaoke at Central Park. Register at klove.com.

- No Limit Texas Hold'Em Poker Tournament inside Pima Hall.

- Bureau of Land Management registration for the Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 28

- No Limit Texas Hold'Em Poker Tournament inside Pima Hall and the Cantina.

- BLM Wild Horse and Burro Adoption begins at 9 a.m. Advance registration required.

- Livestock auction starts at 10:45 a.m.

April 29

- Family Fiesta Day.

- BLM Wild Horse and Burro Adoption starts at 9 a.m.

Pima County Fair

- Where: 11300 S. Houghton Road.

- Admission: \$7; \$2 ages 6-10; free 5 and under.

- Parking: \$5.

- Main gate opens: 6 tonight; 11 a.m. weekdays (except Tuesday); 10 a.m. Tuesday and weekends.

- Carnival: 6 tonight; 2 p.m. on weekdays; 11 a.m. on weekends.

- Web site: pimacountyfair.com.

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Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Last modified Wednesday, April 11, 2007 12:05 PM PDT

County sees fair as revenue source

by ian rollins
albany democrat-herald

Linn County Commissioner Roger Nyquist says a proposed Renaissance festival on part of 175 acres off I-5 could help pay for the county parks department.

"As we get more information, if it makes sense, we'll do it," Nyquist said this morning. "If it looks squishy, we won't do it."

The county on Monday announced a purchase agreement with Larry and Myrna Roth for their farmland south of Highway 34 and west of Seven Mile Lane.

According to the agreement, which is final 90 days from April 6, the county will pay \$1.25 million for the property.

Royal Faïres Inc., which operates Renaissance festivals in Arizona and North Carolina, would lease part of the park for a similar festival in the summer.

A Democrat-Herald story Tuesday about this prompted a few online readers to voice concerns and criticisms, mainly about the cost of the park.

Nyquist, chairman of the Board of Commissioners, who also responded online, said this morning the deal could be worth it from the standpoint of generating a new revenue source for the county.

"A partnership with Royal Faïres ... could have the county parks department operating with substantially less or no general fund money," Nyquist said.

The purchase money most likely will be borrowed from the county road reserve fund. It would be paid back with state economic development money, as well as the revenue from the Royal Faïres lease.

Bob Levine, a partner in Royal Faïres, said the company is negotiating the lease agreement with the county now.

"What we're doing here is negotiating a percentage (of festival proceeds) so the county will share in the revenue," Levine said, adding the festival hopes to be in operation by the summer of 2008.

Royal Faïres had been looking at two undeveloped sites in Linn County, as well as the Washington County Fair Complex in Hillsboro. Levine said the company chose the Roth site because of its direct access to I-5.

Levine said the Arizona and North Carolina festivals take up about 150 acres, with an English village built on 30 to 35 acres of each site. Parking takes up the rest.

He described the festivals as a "mom and dad and the kids event," like a county fair but with a European Renaissance theme. The festivals run for six to eight weekends, with 12 stages and constant performances each weekend, as well as vendors with arts and crafts.

Levine and Nyquist said they think people could use the park for other functions while the festival is going on. "All of that is up for discussion," Levine said.

"We've already talked about hot air balloon events and cycling events staged from that location," Nyquist said. "That location, with that much property, laying that flat, leads itself to all kinds of events that you can't do very many places."



Mark Ylen/Democrat-Herald
The proposed Renaissance festival site is planned for this grass seed field, which sits south of Highway 34, left, and west of Seven Mile Lane, top. The photo was taken last fall.

County Parks Director Brian Carroll said the property will provide for a regional park in the Albany area. He said that, and the need for more recreational-vehicle camping in the west end of the county, are identified in county and parks department plans.

"We're going off the information in the county master plan as well as what we've heard from the public recently," he said. "With our new master plan process underway, that's one thing we've heard from the public about, is the need for more things in the Albany area."

Nyquist said the county welcomes all comments and concerns about this possible park and festival. Anyone with concerns can call the commissioners' office at 967-3825.

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Mid-valley

Linn to buy farm for park, festival

By Ian Rollins
Albany Democrat-Herald

Linn County has reached an agreement to buy a 175-acre farm east of Tangent for a county park and Renaissance festival.

Larry and Myrna Roth own the farm off Seven Mile Lane and south of Highway 34. The county will pay \$1.25 million, which was the full asking price.

County Administrative Officer Ralph Wyatt said it hasn't been decided where the money will come from, but he said the county most likely will borrow it from the road department's reserve fund. Commissioner Roger Nyquist said the county could pay the road fund back with state economic development money, which he said comes in at \$400,000 to \$500,000 a year.

Royal Faïres, which operates large-scale Renaissance festivals in Arizona and North Carolina, wants to start a similar festival in Oregon. The company had been considering the Roth site, as well as the Washington County Fair Complex in Hillsboro.

"The Royal Faïres folks would like to come here," Nyquist said Monday. "We'd love to have them here, and we're working through the details to make things happen."

The Roths and the county reached an agreement Friday. The sale will be final 90 days from then.

Nyquist said the plan is to convert the Roth farm into a county park. Royal Faïres would lease a portion of the park for the festival, which would take place on six to eight weekends in the summer. The company hopes to be in operation by the summer of 2008.

This would be the second such festival in the region. The Shrewsbury Renaissance Faïre takes place in Kings Valley in September.

The Roth farm is zoned for exclusive farm use. County Planning Director Steve Michaels said the festival could take place on the land with an outdoor assembly permit in the short term while the county goes through the process of building a park in the long term.

Tuesday, .
Last modified Tuesday, April 10, 2007

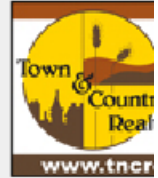
Michaels said a county park is allowed as a conditional use on EFU land. County Parks Director Brian Carroll said his staff is looking at a multi-use park on the land, with uses ranging from camping to sports fields to equestrian activities.

"There are a lot of ideas we've thrown around," he said, adding that a park would likely be developed in phases because of the land's size.

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Renaissance fair is history: Task force faces the future

Friday, April 06, 2007

By Kurt Eckert
The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

The possibility of a Renaissance Fair at the Washington County Fair Complex may be history, but a new multi-faceted task force finally met Wednesday, hoping to mark the first steps toward a viable future.

Robert Levine of Royal Faires, a promoter of large-scale Middle Ages festivals, confirmed Wednesday serious negotiations with Linn County are under way, because Washington County is not ready to commit to a long-term deal.

"If they were to come to us tomorrow, we'd listen to them," Levine said. "But I figured it out over the last few months. They're not ready to move forward yet."

Jan Taylor, marketing manager for the Linn County Fair & Expo Center, said because of ongoing negotiations, she could not comment.

Commissioner Tom Brian, co-chair of the task force, said he believed the Renaissance fair would have been worth the county's examination, but not at the expense of public process.

At the beginning of Wednesday's meeting, Brian encouraged the task force to listen to all sides, and note the similarities of the messages. Everyone wants a fairgrounds that reflects the agricultural history of the county, and everyone wants the fairgrounds to be a viable option for year-round use. Additionally, there must be a financial plan in place to make sure the solutions are sustainable, he said.

The 15-member task force then reviewed 55 years of fair history at the 101-acre tract south of Cornell Road. Though not everyone agreed on the details, it seems the issue of revitalization is something that has started and stalled for decades.

At least six master plans have been drawn up since 1952, but the structures have generally remained the same, said Chief Executive Officer Don Hillman.

Fair Board President Rafe Flagg said the aging buildings are the reason the board has such a tough time promoting the fairgrounds for year-round use. Prospective tenants have backed out of annual events when they see the sub-par accommodations, he said.

The Fair Boosters, established in the late 1940s, say they recognize the need to replace certain structures with new ones. They also support efforts to expand facilities for larger events. But they urged patience in finding financing.

"We believe that with the proper vision, strategic plan and dynamic leadership, several sources of revenue for capital construction will be identified," said Booster's president Dave Rohrer. "We believe that properly planned, the Fair Complex would become the pride of the region."

Some have blamed the fairground staff's performance and the county fair board's policies for the low revenues, but Brian urged attendees not to point fingers.

"We all want the fairgrounds to make more revenue," he said.

The county has contracted a consultant, and has hired a firm to conduct telephone research on the public's ideas.

Members of the public can e-mail comments to fairgroundscomments@gmail.com. Call 503-685-7574 with special needs for the next meeting, scheduled for May 16 at the fairgrounds.

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The Oregonian

Pursuit of festival at fair gets shaky

Event - The Renaissance festival official says he's tired of waiting is moving on

Wednesday, April 04, 2007

KATHLEEN GORMAN
The Oregonian

The leader of a Renaissance festival company said Tuesday that he is tired of waiting for a commitment from Washington County and will negotiate with other locations for the summertime event.

"We're back in play," said Bob Levine, chief financial officer of Royal Faires Inc.

If Royal Faires goes elsewhere, it will be the second time in the past year that a proposal from an outside company to revive the Hillsboro fairgrounds has expired without county leaders taking action.

The company, which has operated fairs outside Phoenix, Ariz., and Charlotte, N.C., for more than a decade, proposed bringing an annual event to the county fair complex in Hillsboro.

Last fall, Levine and other company leaders gave Washington County officials first dibs on the proposal, which could stretch for 10 years. But they also said they wanted an answer by this spring to have time to set up a festival by July 2008.

While the company plays the field, its proposal will be part of today's first meeting of the county Fairgrounds Revitalization Task Force. The group is charged with reviving the county fair complex.

For months, county officials have considered leasing as many as 25 acres of the fairgrounds to Royal Faires, over some strong objections from the public. The proposal could be worth as much as \$250,000 a year.

Andy Duyck, a Washington County commissioner, said he doesn't think the company's impatience for a deal will affect the county's deliberations.

"It hasn't changed anything," Duyck said. "We've made it clear from the beginning we have to go through this task force process."

In the past, Levine has mentioned Linn County as another possible location, but Tuesday he declined to say with whom the company would be negotiating.

Royal Faires approached the county shortly after the collapse of a private partnership that called for turning over to a developer a large part of the 101-acre fairgrounds across the street from the Hillsboro Airport. That proposal created resentment among both the fair board and the Fair Boosters, a longtime group of volunteers.

Royal Faires' business model calls for providing entertainment in an atmosphere reminiscent of 14th- and 15th-century Europe. The company's two festivals feature hundreds of artisans and costumed characters. Each attracts 10,000 to 15,000 visitors a day.

Kathleen Gorman: 503-294-5958; kathleengorman@ news.oregonian.com

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The Oregonian

Task force tries again on fairgrounds

Wednesday, April 04, 2007

The Oregonian

L iken the controversy over the Washington County Fair Complex's future to a nettle in Tom Brian's shoe.

For the chairman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, it is probably far more of an irritation than it deserves to be.

When you list some of the major issues facing the county -- serving North Bethany, staggering transportation problems, ensuring a supply of clean water -- the future of the 110-acre site across from the Hillsboro Airport barely makes the bottom of page three.

Yet for more than a quarter of a century, the home of the county fair has been a source of conflict and consternation. It has created enemies of friends. It has split families. It has discouraged some well-meaning people from becoming involved in public service. It has drained the energies of elected officials and has tapped taxes that some feel could be better used for promotions to bring more benefit to the county.

Brian knows the issue won't go away on its own.

Today, he and Hillsboro Mayor Tom Hughes will share the lead of the first meeting of a select task force studying the fairground's future. It is a panel of civic and business leaders used to working under pressure and criticism. (See related story, page D3)

"This is probably our last best shot to get this resolved," Brian said last fall when he unveiled plans for the study group.

"I'm encouraged by the people who are on the committee," he said Tuesday. "They are all very positive and want a fresh start."

At issue is how best to use the land.

It is a valuable piece of property -- and in today's dollars almost irreplaceable. It was given to the county by the old Washington County Fair Movers, who wanted to relocate the annual farming showcase from Hillsboro's Shute Park to a larger tract outside of town.

But the town came to meet it, and now the fairgrounds is solidly inside Hillsboro.

Proposals have surfaced for decades and everyone seems to have an opinion. Today, there are more players than a high school musical.

The Fair Boosters -- the next generation of the original Fair Movers -- want to see the fairgrounds redeveloped for the fair.

Others see it as a great place for a scaled-down fairgrounds and a commercial complex that could promote

the county's home-grown businesses and generate income.

There also have been suggestions the entire site could be developed for business with the fair moved to a more rural location.

Some Hillsboro leaders see the site as an ideal spot for the community and recreation center called for in the city's vision plan.

The Oregon National Guard would like to move its armory from a corner of the site and design a new complex for community use when the Guard's not training.

And there are lingering issues with city ball fields on the corner of the property, how to improve vehicle movement and restrictions on the property under the approach to the Port of Portland's Hillsboro Airport.

But the most volatile problem will be overcoming the years of ill will and mistrust harbored by the Fair Boosters, who are strong in their resolve to protect and preserve the fair. Those will be the hardest issues to resolve because they can't be quantified in dollars and cents, in cost vs. benefit or in expense compared to the number of users.

The task force members can look at all sorts of ways to crunch numbers, look at options and develop scenarios.

But they can't put a price tag on passion.

Jerry F. Boone: 503-294-5960; jerryboone@news.oregonian.com or jfboone@aol.com; 1675 S.W. Marlow Ave., Suite 325, Portland, OR 97225

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County's Renaissance fair plan heads south

Festival group reluctantly decides against using fairgrounds for summer event
The Beaverton Valley Times, Apr 5, 2007

Washington County's plans for a Renaissance fair next year got ye olde heave-ho last week.

Representatives of Oregon Renaissance Festival Inc. told county officials that they would pursue an offer from Linn County in the central Willamette Valley instead of waiting for Washington County officials to decide on the fair complex future.

That decision means Washington County's fairgrounds won't be used for a six-week Renaissance fair in summer 2008.

"We wanted to put the festival in Washington County, but the timeline is just not working out," said Robert Levine of Oregon Renaissance Festival from his office in Saint Louis Park, Minn. "We don't think we could get a deal put together in Washington County in time."

So, the organization that also runs similar Renaissance festivals in Arizona and North Carolina will start serious discussions to put a fair on a 180-acre site in Linn County.

The decision came just days before the first meeting of a Washington County task force studying the future of the 101-acre fairgrounds.

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The 15-member Fair Revitalization Task Force met Wednesday afternoon in Beaverton to begin a several-week process of looking at the fairgrounds' uses and possible new development.

Work by the task force probably wouldn't be completed in time for the Oregon Renaissance Festival group to plan for its 2008 event, Levine said. The festival group needs at least a year to line up performers, exhibitors and employees who travel the annual fair circuit, camping out and bringing the Renaissance to life in cities across the country.

"It's unfortunate," said Philip Bransford, spokesman for the county board of commissioners. "The county has promised to go through this clear and open process.

"We recognize that the Renaissance fair has options, and they can exercise those options. We wish them well."

'Too many problems'

County fair complex leaders have talked since September with the Renaissance festival group about putting a possible fair on the fairgrounds. The idea was floated publicly in December with estimates that the county could earn thousands of dollars from the fair and, in return, get millions in building reconstruction and renovation.

Originally, Washington County officials said a proposed eight-week fair could bring in about \$500,000. Estimates have varied about the actual revenue the event would produce for the county if it was held six consecutive weekends beginning in July.

Under the proposal, the Renaissance fair would have used about 25 acres of the county fairgrounds, closing off the area with a 6-foot-high stucco fence. Fair buildings and its arena would have been rebuilt or improved to match the event's medieval theme.

Oregon Renaissance Festival planned to spend between \$1 million and \$2 million on the renovations and reconstruction.

At about the same time the Renaissance fair was proposed, county officials decided to form the revitalization task force. The festival's plan also was caught up in a political tug-of-war among fair supporters who wanted to maintain the traditional event and others who saw new development as a way to increase revenue.

Levine and three other representatives of the Renaissance festival organization visited Washington and Linn counties last week, evaluating both sites. It was after that tour that Levine's group decided to begin negotiations with Linn County.

Levine said it was the uncertainty and turmoil – plus the slow pace of negotiations – that soured the Washington County deal for his group.

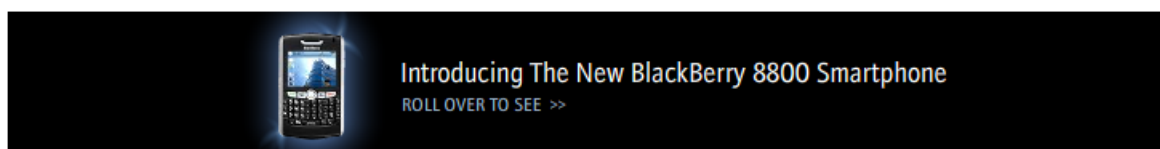
"There are too many problems politically," he said. "They don't know what they want to do with that site."

Levine expects to reach an agreement with Linn County in about 60 days. He said that there is a "90 percent chance" a Renaissance festival will be held somewhere in Oregon next summer. It just won't be in Washington County.

"Washington County was our first choice," Levine said. "It was a Renaissance festival waiting to happen, that's what's so appealing.

"It would have been great. In our opinion, it was the best site for the festival."

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS April 4, 2007, 6:15PM EST

NY State Fair halts tobacco sales

SYRACUSE, N.Y.

Patrons who puff at this year's New York State Fair won't be able to buy tobacco products on the grounds.

Besides outlawing the sale of tobacco products, the State Fair also will not accept sponsorship money from tobacco companies, Director Dan O'Hara said.

"This is an initiative of trying to continue to promote a healthy New York state," O'Hara said Wednesday. "The governor has set goals of making New York the healthiest state in the nation, and this is working toward that effort."

Only a handful of vendors will be affected, fair spokesman Joe LaGuardia said.

The new regulations do not restrict people from bringing their own products and smoking on the grounds in outdoor areas. Currently, smoking is not allowed in covered areas, but that policy could be extended to outdoor areas, LaGuardia said.

No final policy on the issue of making the entire fair smoke-free has been reached.

"Not at this point," O'Hara said.

Still, the ban on tobacco sales and sponsorship was welcome news to activists.

"The reason it's good is it's part of the broader process at work in society," said Russell Sciandra of the Albany-based Center for a Tobacco Free New York. "We are seeing the promotion and sale of tobacco sort of being denormalized. What the fair board is saying is, 'We're not going to be part of that anymore.'"

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Shopping?

By Jill Hayward
North Thompson
Star/Journal
Apr 02 2007

Concerns over reported litigations against fairs and exhibitions in relation to E. coli and other dangerous pathogens has prompted the North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo Association (NTFFRA) to take action.



A Consumer Protection Workshop sponsored by the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions was attended on Mar. 10, in Westbank, by Deb Ponto and Shirley Wittner on behalf of the NTFFRA.

The workshop offered an in-depth look at teaching event organizers how to develop, write, and implement consumer protection plans for events where humans and farm animals may interact. It discussed the fact that fairs and exhibitions present an opportunity for farm animal and human interaction, either planned or incidental that may result in potential contamination, litigation, financial loss, and liability if event producers and programs fail to reduce risk and protect their visitors in a "reasonable" manner.

"It shocked us to know that one drop of E.coli the size of a pin head could kill a small child, the frail elderly or an immune compromised person," said Ponto, "Early into the workshop both Shirley and I had our eyes opened wide at the realization of how easy it is to have a disease breeding ground waiting to happen."

E.coli is short for Escherichia coli -- a bacteria (germ) that causes severe cramps and diarrhea. E. coli normally lives inside the

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intestines of humans and animals, where it helps the body break down and digest food. Unfortunately, certain strains of E. coli can get from the intestines into the blood. E.coli bacteria are everywhere in the environment. But, since they are such a common occupant of all animals (as well as humans), and are passed in intestinal waste (manure), anytime we eat something, drink something, or touch our hands to something that has been either a part of or has been near where animals are, there is always the potential to ingest these bacteria.

Based on the information the received Ponto and Wittner returned from the workshop with a plan to evaluate the set-up of the fall fair grounds and to make recommendations and changes as necessary. Some of their recommendations include more hand washing stations, signage, and access to animal areas in relation to food areas.

"We will do a study on traffic patterns in animal contact areas to determine where such hand washing stations should be placed. We do not need hot and cold running water as there is no evidence that warm water is any better than cold, what matters is the hand soap action for 20 seconds minimum and good rinsing afterwards," said Ponto.

Ponto and Wittner will head a committee at the request of the NTFFRA that will address all concerns and protocols and assure that implementation of those recommendations is completed.

"It is not known how long E.coli could live on a surface or what its shelf life is and there is no way to tell visually if an animal is infected," stated Ponto, "We must take precautions, educate our public, and do all we can to protect ourselves and our future fair goers."

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Draft horses find greener, softer pastures for plowing exhibition

History -- Plowing demonstration will move from Portland Community College to Champoege State Park May 4 and 5

BY JOHN SCHRAG

The Forest Grove News-Times, Mar 29, 2007 (1 Reader comment)

Some of Oregon's finest draft horses will plow new ground during the annual celebration of the large working horses' agricultural legacy.

The event, now called the Oregon Draft Horse Plowing Exhibition and Competition, will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, at Champoege State Park during the park's Founders Day celebrations.

The Washington County Historical Society & Museum sponsored the event for many years at Portland Community College Rock Creek Campus.

"Although we love this event and hate to see it go, it's time for it to move to greener pastures," said Mark Granlund, the historical society's executive director.

Members of the Oregon Draft Horse Breeders Association said there were a few reasons for moving the event to Champoege, located southeast of Newberg.

Lyle Spiesschaert, whose father, George, helped start the event 41 years ago, said increasing costs of the event (advertising, portable bathrooms,

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West Linn Tidings

etc) were forcing the historical society to look at charging admission.

Spiesschaert, who farms near Forest Grove, said the state horse association has always wanted the exhibit to be free, to attract as many people as possible.

In addition, association member Joe Brown noted that most of his group's members want to turn the event back into a competition, which requires better soil.

"The field at Rock Creek was clay and just didn't plow well," said Brown. "If you want to do a competition, you need good sandy loam."

Finally, Brown said, organizers felt that Champoege's focus on Oregon history was a good fit for the event, which is aimed at showing people how farming was done before the advent of tractors and air-conditioned combines. (Champoege was the site where Oregon settlers voted to become a state.)

The plowing event, which has previously been held in Forest Grove and McMinnville, will also feature Fort Vancouver blacksmiths plying their trade.

Event admission is free with a \$3 day-use fee for access to the entire state park.

For details about the event, contact Joe Brown of the Oregon Draft Horse Breeders Association at 503-662-4767 or twojjhorses@msn.com.

Reader comments

Re: Draft horses find greener, softer pastures for plowing exhibition

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"Rachelle Bowie"
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Thu, Mar 29, 2007 at 09:39 AM

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The Oregonian

Draft horses will break new ground

Exhibition - The breeders association moves the plowing contest to softer soil

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

MICHELLE MANDEL
The Oregonian

The giant draft horses that once a year demonstrated their plowing talents in Washington County will, in organizers' words, move to greener pastures.

Oregon's Draft Horse Breeders Association will relocate its annual spring exhibition from Portland Community College's Rock Creek campus to Champoeg State Heritage Area, southwest of Wilsonville. In addition, organizers plan to once again feature a draft horse competition at this year's event in early May.

Soil, apparently, decided everything.

"We need soft soil to demonstrate how the plows work the ground," said Joe Brown of Yamhill, the association's president. "The ground at Rock Creek was hard most of the time, and wouldn't turn over like it should.

"The soil at Champoeg is much better."

It's a marked shift, considering the event has a 40-year history in Washington County and an annual audience of at least 2,000 people.

But Mark Granlund, executive director of the sponsoring Washington County Historical Society, agreed it was time for the exhibition to mosey. The college's hard ground, he said, always posed preparation challenges.

More important, though, Granlund said the free event cost the historical society, which has a home on the community college's campus in Bethany, "thousands of dollars" each year. He said he thinks the money could be better spent benefiting other museum projects.

"The college worked very hard to try and get the soil right," Granlund said. "More than that, though, the museum was losing money. When you take in all the expenses -- insurance, Porta Potties, staff time -- it was still not enough to offset the expenses."

The historical society last year added a \$5 parking charge. But it wasn't enough to cover the loss.

Granlund said he saw the draft horse exhibition as the museum's "signature community event" and is sad to see it go. He thinks the museum, set for a major expansion this summer, will allow for large community events that make up for the exhibition's loss.

Brown said he is hopeful Rock Creek regulars will venture to the Champoeg state park, which also has historical roots. The Northwest's first provisional government formed at the area in 1843.

The draft horse exhibition, scheduled for May 4 and 5, has been stretched from one to two days to allow for

the plowing competition.

As many as 20 draft horse teams from across Oregon are expected to compete. The huge animals will show off the hard, heavy tasks -- now performed by tractors -- they were originally bred to perform.

"They're judged by how well the soil turns over, how straight the plow line is, among other things," said Brown, who has four Percherons, named Betsy, Frieda, Luke and Lady.

Fort Vancouver blacksmiths will demonstrate their skills, but the free event will not feature the multiple booths found at the Rock Creek event.

"We really just want to get back to being a competition," Brown said. "It was time to reinvigorate our membership.

"This is giving everybody a boost."

Michelle Mandel: 503-294-5959; michellemandel@ news.oregonian.com

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Media Release

For Immediate Release

County Administrative Office

Date: March 20, 2007

Contact: Philip Bransford, (503) 846-2013,
Philip_Bransford@co.washington.or.us

Board of Commissioners Names Fair Revitalization Task Force

Long-term economic viability and service to community are key goals for fairgrounds

Washington County's Board of Commissioners announced today the members of a task force charged with revitalizing the county's fairgrounds property in Hillsboro. The 15-member group, to be lead by Board of Commissioners Chairman Tom Brian and Hillsboro Mayor Tom Hughes, will convene its first meeting at 3 p.m. on April 4 in the Sycamore Room at the Beaverton Community Center, 12350 SW 5th Street, Beaverton.

In announcing the members of the task force, Brian remarked that the task force's goal will be to ensure the long-term economic viability and service of the 104-acre property to the Washington County community. The board appointed 14 of the 15 members today, with the name of an at-large representative of the Washington County corporate community anticipated prior to the task force's first meeting.

"Our challenge will be to develop a plan that maintains and improves the traditional County Fair and traditional uses while increasing the capacity and adding community value as a place for a wide range of additional community events and activities," said Brian.

"The viable future of the fairgrounds is important to all of us. I'm pleased that a representative group is going to help us figure that out," said Hughes.

To ensure broad representation, the proposed members of the Task Force were chosen from key categories representing groups, industries and all geographic regions of the county. The members include:

- More -

Washington County Fairgrounds Revitalization Task Force	
Category	Name and Title
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Hillsboro City Council	Tom Hughes, Mayor and Task Force Co-Chair
Washington County Fair Complex Board of Directors	W. Rafe Flagg, President
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Agricultural Business Representative	Kristin Marchesi; President, Washington County Winery Association
Countywide Corporate Community Representative	To be announced
Hillsboro Citizen Representative	Jim Darr
Western County Citizen Representative	Bob Terry
Eastern County Citizen Representative	Jack Franklin
Northern County Citizen Representative	John Leeper
Southern County Citizen Representative	Delna Jones

The Washington County Fair Complex is located south of the Hillsboro Airport at the intersection of NE Cornell Road and NE 28th Avenue in Hillsboro. The county purchased the current fairgrounds site in 1952 and conducts the four-day County Fair each summer, beginning July 26 this year.



Tehama District Fair grounds has a hefty list of repairs to prioritize

By Debra Moore
Sunday, March 18, 2007

From lowering a paper-towel dispenser several inches to paving dirt parking areas, the Tehama District Fair has 686 things to do to become compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The fair's marching orders are contained in a 343-page binder that outlines the infractions and makes recommendations on how to correct them. Not one corner of the fairgrounds emerges unscathed. Of that total, 204 pages are devoted to restroom issues.

"We spent \$200,000 in the last six years on restroom renovations and now even some of those need to be fixed," said Mark Eidman, the fair's chief executive officer.

The list seems endless: ramps, doorways, counters, thresholds, sidewalks, parking lots, parking stripes, picnic tables, vending machines, drinking fountains, signs, restrooms, stages, grandstands, grassy areas - all need to be addressed.

Eidman had the daunting task of prioritizing the 686 items, though he knows he can't do them all -- at least not in the near future.

"It would take somewhere over \$3 million," he guessed.

Eidman said he understands the need for accessibility, but said that in some areas it just doesn't make sense. As an example, he points to the trailer where the cowboys sign up to participate in the rodeo.

"There are three stairs to get into the office," he said. "These are athletes, they don't have access issues, but the response is, What if their wife needs access and she's in a wheelchair?"

The solution is to build a ramp, but one look at the dilapidated trailer explains Eidman's hesitation.

His frustration is more pronounced as he looks at the grassy area reserved for carnival rides. The grass is not accessible so his instructions are to pave a path to all of the attractions.

"How is that possible?" he asked. "The carnival changes slightly every year and other events are held there as well."

Fair board members who recently attended an ADA workshop at the Western Fairs and Exposition conference said they were surprised when the subject of paving grassy areas came up.

"In this heat, it just doesn't make sense," Eidman said. He also wondered where it stops. "Does this mean

we need to pave our city parks?" he said.

Again Eidman stressed his desire to make the fairgrounds accessible, but said it must be done within reason. It's also frustrating to have to redo that which has already been done, he said.

For example, Eidman said the fairgrounds allocated 25 spaces at the entrance to the grounds for handicapped parking. They are lined and identified with blue signs. "That's not good enough any longer," he said.

To be compliant, an access area must be designated across the front of the spaces so that a wheelchair-bound person isn't forced to move behind parked cars. However, the pathway needs to be a certain width and then concrete borders must be added. "That presents a danger to our motocross events," Eidman said.

The front office alone holds multiple problems to be addressed. The counter is too high, the doorway to the boardroom too narrow. There is not a sign alerting visitors to the accommodations that can be made for those with access issues.

Signage presents problems throughout the fairgrounds. Signs should be positioned low enough to be readable by someone in a wheelchair, they must be of a certain size, and restroom signs must be in Braille.

There was even a page devoted to the press box. If it isn't feasible to provide a lift to the elevated platform viewing box, then a video system must be installed to give a person on the ground the same line of sight that a reporter would have from the higher position.

The report includes pages devoted to drinking fountains that don't meet height requirements. "Most likely we'll just take them out entirely," Eidman said. But don't expect to grab a water bottle from one of the existing vending machines, the controls on the units are too high, and the fair must contact its vendor to have them replaced.

It seems like an overwhelming task for a fair that struggles to remain solvent. "We just don't have the budget for this," Eidman said.

In the meantime, Eidman has assigned two men to start addressing the simpler fixes. Others will have to be prioritized and money found to complete them.

While Eidman struggles to address the issues, Barbara Thorpe, the president of Disability Access Consultants Inc., applauds his efforts.

Her firm was hired to complete the accessibility assessment for the fair. "The fairgrounds have been absolutely great to work for," she said. "We've done a lot of them and I'm very impressed."

Thorpe's firm charged the Tehama District Fair \$3,200 to complete the assessment, including a three-day inspection, the binder with photos and recommendations, and software to allow fairgrounds officials to update the progress. Normally the rate is higher, but since the firm also assessed fairs in Tulare, Yreka and Susanville, the fee was reduced.

Thorpe said the items uncovered in Red Bluff are similar to those found at other fairgrounds. "Yes, they are absolutely similar; the size of the fair determines how many there are," she said.

Her company has been addressing ADA issues since 1998. "We stay very busy," she said, noting that they work with public as well as private entities to comply with access laws.

"If someone wants to comply, we want to help them," she said.

For the Tehama District Fair it's not a matter of "if," it's a matter of when.

"Legally, as a public institution we have to do it," Eidman said. "The goal is to get it done."

Reporter Debra Moore can be reached at 529-5110 or at dmoore@redding.com.

[Fair Access](#)



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Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Last modified Friday, March 23, 2007 10:39 PM PDT

Community

Festival company eyes site in Linn

By Ian Rollins

For the Gazette-Times

ALBANY — An Arizona company that holds large Renaissance festivals every year near Phoenix and Charlotte, N.C., has been in contact with Linn County officials about starting a similar event here.

The Linn County Board of Commissioners decided this week to make an offer on a piece of land for parks and recreation purposes such as this festival. County officials did not disclose the amount of the offer but said the money could come from internal funds or the sale of bonds.

Royal Faires is looking for land either in Linn or Washington County to hold a multi-weekend Renaissance festival in Oregon during the summer months. Robert Lepine, a partner in Royal Faires, said the company wants a new site to be in operation by July 2008.

Lepine and Linn Commissioner Roger Nyquist said the county and company are looking at two or three possible sites of more than 20 acres each along the Interstate 5 corridor.

In Washington County, the company is negotiating to hold the festival at the Washington County Fair Complex in Hillsboro.

Don Hillman, director of the fair complex, said Royal Faires wants to locate on 20 to 25 acres of the 101-acre complex. The festival would use some of the existing buildings.

The Washington County Fair Board has approved a 20-year lease with Royal Faires.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners, which must make the final decision, has sent it to a newly appointed fairgrounds task force, which will meet for the first time April 4.

The Linn commissioners voted Wednesday to make an offer on a piece of land. The offer expires in 90 days if a purchase agreement isn't reached.

The vote came after an executive session. Were the county to buy land and lease it to the festival organizers, Nyquist said, there could be other uses as well, like parks and recreation.

Lepine said there are positives and negatives to both counties. The Hillsboro site is in the Portland metropolitan area and has existing infrastructure, but other large summer events in the area could present scheduling conflicts.

Royal Faires would have to start from scratch with a Linn County site, but the site would have direct access to I-5.

"We're torn as to which site is better," Lepine said. His team will look at the possible sites next week.

Why is Royal Faires interested in Oregon to begin with?

"We look for metro areas with a 2-million-plus population," Lepine said. "There are 17 renaissance festivals across the country, but there isn't one in the Northwest. There are maybe five more metro areas that could handle one, and Seattle and Portland are excellent candidates."

He described the Renaissance festivals as “mom and dad and the kids” events, “kind of like a county fair but with a European Renaissance theme, with food, crafts and entertainment.”

The festivals have 12 stages with more than 30 acts performing each weekend. The Arizona festival is held on a 30-acre grounds with an English village built on it.

“The indications are, it would be a good family activity that we’d anticipate many families in Linn County would enjoy having here,” Nyquist said. “As well, it seems to be a big event on a regional basis, which could have a positive economic impact on the community. The amount could be in the tens of millions of dollars.”

Nyquist figures there are a “half-dozen” things that would need to come together for Royal Faires to pick Linn County, but he said the county will work on those.

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Fair Board position is open after resignation

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

The Hillsboro Argus

The Washington County Fair Complex Board of Directors is seeking a new member following the resignation of Treasurer Ken Madden.

County Board of Commissioners Chairman Tom Brian said Madden talked to him several months ago about the increasing time demands of his business and family.

"He agreed to give it until about March to see if the time demands got any better," Brian said. "They didn't, and Ken felt he needed to resign for his business and well as family time."

Madden's last day was March 12.

Brian said he hoped Madden would return to public life when the time was right.

As with all openings on county committees and commissions, the position will be advertised and held open for six weeks - then a nominee will be chosen and considered by the Board of Commissioners, Brian said.

In an e-mail, Madden said he was more appreciative of the difficulty of public service, and thanked the commissioners and fair board for their dedication and patience.

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Democrat-Herald

democratherald.com

Print Page

Friday, March 23, 2007

Last modified Friday, March 23, 2007 11:55 AM PDT

Festival company eyes site in Linn

By Ian Rollins
Albany Democrat-Herald

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Washington County, Oregon



County Administrative Office

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Contact:

Philip Bransford (503) 846-8685

philip_bransford@co.washington.or.us

Board of Commissioners Names Fair Revitalization Task Force

Long-term economic viability and service to community are key goals for fairgrounds

Update (March 28, 2007): Ornelas Appointed to Fair Revitalization Task Force

The Washington County Board of Commissioners appointed Tino Ornelas this week to fill an at-large seat representing the county's corporate community on the Fair Revitalization Task Force. Ornelas is the chief executive officer and owner of Ornelas Enterprises, an electronic manufacturing firm in Hillsboro.

Washington County's Board of Commissioners announced today the members of a task force charged with revitalizing the county's fairgrounds property in Hillsboro. The 15-member group, to be lead by Board of Commissioners Chairman Tom Brian and Hillsboro Mayor Tom Hughes, will convene its first meeting at 3 p.m. on April 4 in the Community Room at the Beaverton Community Center, 12350 SW 5th Street, Beaverton.

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Countywide Corporate Community Representative	Tino Ornelas
Hillsboro Citizen Representative	Jim Darr
Western County Citizen Representative	Bob Terry
Eastern County Citizen Representative	Jack Franklin
Northern County Citizen Representative	John Leeper
Southern County Citizen Representative	Delna Jones

The Washington County Fair Complex is located south of the Hillsboro Airport at the intersection of [NE Cornell Road and NE 34th Avenue](#) in Hillsboro. The county began conducting the fair at this location in the early 1950s and will hold the next fair for four days beginning July 26 this year.

###

Washington County
Administrative Offices
155 N. First Avenue, Suite 300
Hillsboro, OR 97124,

Voice: (503) 846-8685

Fax: (503) 846-4545

E-Mail to: cao@co.washington.or.us 



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Wednesday, March 14th, 2007

Double, Double, Toil and Trouble

ISSUE #33.18 • NEWS •

Who's stopping Renaissance lovers from dressing up and jousting in the summer?

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"knight moves: Jousters like these want to do battle in the area.

BY AMYJO BROWN | ABROWN AT WWEEK DOT COM

[March 14th, 2007] What swine is stopping 1,000 costumed performers from bringing medieval feasts, jousting tournaments and an artisan marketplace to the metro area on future summer weekends?

In this case, it's actual swine—and sheep and cows and other farm animals celebrated as part of Washington County's agricultural heritage—that are creating a conflict at the county fairgrounds in Hillsboro.

Organizers of Oregon Renaissance Inc. are trying to negotiate a deal that would bring their medieval fest to the fairgrounds eight weekends each summer, starting in July 2008.

The festival would be a boon to the Portland metro area. Organizers estimate they could draw 10,000 to 15,000 people per day, based on their experiences with two other Renaissance festivals they manage in Arizona and North Carolina.

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March 14th, 2007



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And it would help Washington County's financially struggling fair complex. The 101-acre, publicly owned fairgrounds loses money annually and receives about \$500,000 dollars a year from county tax revenues to support operations.

Festival organizers want a 30-year lease for the use of 25 acres. In exchange, they guarantee the county 5 percent of gross revenues from ticket and food sales, plus \$2 million toward capital improvements to the ramshackle grounds. But the festival, which would re-create 17th-century Europe with permanent site alterations, wants to share the site with the annual four-day Washington County Fair.

And that's set up the latest conflict between Washington County's past and its future.

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The medieval re-creators draw heavily from high-tech industry employees who have poured into the county over the past 25 years. Traditional backers of the county fair have long fought to preserve the fairgrounds' quaint, country character.

This isn't the first time there's been a battle. After months of protests by fair supporters, the Washington County Board of Commissioners nixed a deal last fall to sell off part of the fairgrounds' 101 acres to Opus Northwest. That deal would have modernized the fairgrounds into a mix of retail and office space, as well as provide a state-of-the-art expo center.

Burned by the public outcry, county commissioners are hesitant to approve the Renaissance deal before it's been thoroughly vetted by a still-unnamed task force, says Don Hillman, executive director of the fair complex.

That delay jeopardizes the deal, which organizers say needs to be finalized soon or they'll go elsewhere. They've already started talks

count the ways.

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March 14th, 2007



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March 14th, 2007



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March 14th, 2007



[Q & A • Raed Jarrar](#) | raed jarrarThis speaker at the downtown antiwar rally this Sunday knows more than most about Iraq. He lived there so listen up.

with Linn County officials out of frustration with Washington County, says Oregon Renaissance Inc.'s chief executive officer, Bob Levine.

Lyle Spiesschaert, spokesman for the Fair Boosters, says his volunteer group wants a plan in place to preserve the fairgrounds before they reach any new deals.

"We believe there is a lack of direction," Spiesschaert says. "We don't have a plan for the future."

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March 14th,
2007



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The Oregonian

Renaissance festival far from certain

Fairgrounds - A company officer says that he "feels caught in a hornet's nest"

Friday, March 09, 2007

KATHLEEN GORMAN
The Oregonian

HILLSBORO -- Despite a nod of approval from the Washington County Fair Board, chances seem slim that Robin Hood will make an appearance in July 2008 in Hillsboro.

Leaders of the company proposing to bring a festival reminiscent of 14th- and 15th-century Europe to the county fairgrounds say they can't wait any longer for county leaders to consider their plan.

They said they'll continue courting Linn County leaders and approaching officials at other venues, including the Clark County Event Center at the Fairgrounds in Washington.

"There is no such thing as a drop-dead date, but there is a somebody-beat-you-to-the-punch date," said Bob Levine, chief financial officer of Royal Faires Inc., which is doing business here as Oregon Renaissance Festival Inc.

On Wednesday night, the fair board voted 4-2 to recommend the concept to the county board of commissioners for final approval. But the two commissioners most involved with the issue said Thursday that the board is unlikely to consider the issue immediately.

Chairman Tom Brian and Commissioner Andy Duyck said they want the plan to go through a committee that will study the future of the fairgrounds.

"Our board feels that this has to be vetted through the task force and discussed," Brian said. "I would doubt that anything would happen without that."

Brian announced the committee in November, but has yet to name a full slate of members or announce the group's start date.

From the start, the festival proposal has stirred both interest and opposition in Washington County.

When it was announced in December, some wondered whether a 20-year lease of as many as 25 acres of the fairgrounds might be the elusive solution for the financially struggling, outdated and underused fair complex. The original proposal suggested the county could collect \$500,000 a year, a boost to its operating budget or enough to cover capital improvement bonds.

But others immediately bristled at the idea of adding an unorthodox concept to the county fairgrounds and allowing it to overlap with the annual county fair. They cited concerns about traffic and camping by festival workers for seven to eight weeks each summer. They also questioned whether it was a good deal for the county, as revenue projections decreased.

The proposal followed about two years of fighting between the fair board and the Fair Boosters, a group of longtime volunteers. The groups battled over a plan that called for turning over to a developer a large part

of the 101-acre fairgrounds across the street from the Hillsboro Airport.

After critics complained about a lack of public involvement in fairgrounds decisions, the commissioners agreed to create the committee to map the property's future.

Levine said he feels "caught in a hornet's nest in Washington County."

He said he doesn't want to close the door on negotiations, but his company wants to bring a festival to the Northwest by next summer. Royal Faires has operated Renaissance festivals outside Phoenix, Ariz., and Charlotte, N.C., for more than a decade.

"We are an opportunity waiting to land," he said, "and whoever comes to us first is where we'll go."

Kathleen Gorman: 503-294-5958; kathleengorman@news.oregonian.com

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Fair board yields festival decision to commissioners

Friday, March 09, 2007

By Kurt Eckert
The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

The Washington County Fair Complex Board of Directors laid down its sword Wednesday, leaving any and all decisions about a possible Renaissance fair up to the county's Board of Commissioners.

By a vote of 4-2, the fair board agreed to send reports generated by the fairgrounds' staff directly to the commissioners.

According to a letter, the owners of similar festivals in North Carolina and Arizona have incorporated as Oregon Renaissance Festival Inc.

The company approached the Fair Complex in late September with the idea of securing a 20- to 25-year lease to occupy up to approximately 25 acres, and investing at least \$2 million in site improvements by 2012.

Fair Complex Executive Director Don Hillman, says it's time to move the proposal on to the next step.

"The staff's work is done, from the standpoint of doing our due diligence to look into the company and the proposal, see how it operates its two current festivals, conducting the initial discussion on the lease terms and so on," Hillman said. "Hanging on to the proposed project any longer in our office doesn't serve any real purpose, since the final decision has to come from the Board of Commissioners."

Citizen and Fair Booster Merle Eakin chastised the board for shirking its responsibilities.

"Your recommendations should include some of the questions we have about this," Eakin said.

Those questions include just how much revenue a Renaissance fair would bring to the fairgrounds.

According to a summary of the proposal by Oregon Renaissance Festival, annual lease payments would be based on a percentage of gross gate receipts, exhibitor fees and concession revenues. Increases in the lease payment would be tied to attendance. An undisclosed "minimum annual lease payment" would also be included. The complex would also retain certain parking revenues.

A number was floated in November suggesting the asking lease price might be \$500,000 per year. An amount closer to \$250,000 surfaced in February.

Fair board member Herb Hirst criticized the public and the media for taking conceptual numbers as facts. Lease terms have been discussed, but have not been finalized, he said.

"The minute we throw out a number, we immediately get pasted against a wall," Hirst said.

Debbie VanRoekel said she was concerned with other items in the proposal. She said the initial investment of \$1 million for the first year wasn't enough to warrant a long-term lease. The proposal also asks that the county and fairgrounds host no events "similar in nature" to the Renaissance festival.

"If we have a fairgrounds full of Renaissance-themed buildings, shouldn't we rent them at other times of the year for Renaissance-themed events?" VanRoekel asked.

"We are referring this to the county commissioners to make all those decisions. We're not voting on anything," fair board member Rich Vial said. "The reality is, we don't have a dog in this fight."

Moving the decision to the county also allows immediate consideration of the Renaissance festival by the newly forming fairgrounds "revitalization task force," Hillman said. The fair promoters say they will debut in July of 2008, whether in Hillsboro or in Linn County, where they are also negotiating a possible deal.

Commissioner Andy Duyck said it was appropriate to give responsibility on major property transactions to the county, which holds the title.

"I am dismayed by local organizations that are taking official positions for or against it before all of the facts are known," Duyck said. "As you know, we are creating the revitalization committee and are looking for folks who will wait till all of the facts are in before making a decision."

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County's Renaissance Fair plan might stumble over squabbling

National firm promoting the event turns its attention to Linn County as proposal is sent to commissioners for approval

BY KEVIN HARDEN ✉

The Beaverton Valley Times, Mar 8, 2007, Updated Mar 8, 2007 (1 Reader comment)

Plans for a Renaissance festival at the Washington County Fairgrounds could be heading south.

Organizers of the popular national festival said political squabbling over use of the fairgrounds and the slow pace of decisions by county officials might force them to seriously consider putting their event in Linn County.

"Washington County is our first choice because all the infrastructure is there," said Robert Levine, head of Oregon Renaissance Festival Inc., the group that has talked since September with county fair officials about adding a summer event on the Hillsboro fairgrounds. "Our process on this would have been much quicker. I guess we walked into a hornets' nest that we weren't prepared for."

Washington County's Fair Board was expected Wednesday night to ask the Board of County Commissioners to review and approve a new contract for the Renaissance fair. That could take a month or more, partly because commissioners have promised a public review of any renovations at the fairgrounds.



The front page of the March 8 Beaverton Valley Times.

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At the same time there is a political tug-of-war between fair boosters and supporters who don't want to give up a large chunk of the property for any new development and Fair Board members who see the Renaissance festival as a good source of revenue.

No contract yet

Under the proposal, Oregon Renaissance Festivals would lease about 15 acres of the fairgrounds for a fair that would be held six to eight consecutive weekends each year beginning in July 2008.

County commissioners will have the final say on the proposal, said Don Hillman, Washington County Fair Complex executive director. Commissioners would be expected to negotiate and approve any long-term deal to bring a Renaissance festival to the fairgrounds, he said.

"We do not have a contract yet," Hillman said.

"The staff work is done, from the standpoint of doing our due diligence to look into the company and the proposal, see how it operates its two current festivals, conducting the initial discussion on the lease terms and so on. Hanging on to the proposed project any longer in our office doesn't serve any real purpose, since the final decision has to come from the board of commissioners."

Oregon Renaissance Festival is part of the [Renaissance Festival and Artisan Marketplace](#) group that organizes similar fairs in Arizona and North Carolina. The events feature period music, artwork, food and amusement rides.

They also feature lords, ladies, knights, knaves, jesters, jousters and troubadours who attend in costume and pretend it is the Renaissance.

'Hot to do a deal'

Oregon Renaissance Festival could invest \$1 million to \$2 million in site improvements, such as stages, a new arena, vendor booths, paths and major modifications to the main exhibit hall.

It could take about six months to make the improvements and build fair facilities once the contract is approved.

When the Renaissance festival proposal surfaced last fall, county officials

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They also said the plan wouldn't involve the sale of county property, only a 20-year lease for the site, with a five-year option.

The event could bring in an estimated \$500,000 in admission receipts during its six- to eight-week run, although estimates vary.

The fair could charge \$15 a day in admission, with about 60,000 people estimated to attend the event's first year, Levine said.

Oregon Renaissance Festival is growing impatient with the process' slow pace and could look elsewhere for its new Oregon event, he said. Linn County officials are "hot to do a deal," Levine said.

If Washington County's review stretches into May and June, it could be too late for a 2008 fair, he said.

It takes about a year to schedule vendors, exhibitors and performers for each of the national events. To open a show in July 2008, the company would need a deal in hand by early spring, Levine said.

"We're not really being embraced in Washington County," he said. "I'm caught in this political hassle.

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The event could bring in an estimated \$500,000 in admission receipts during its six- to eight-week run, although estimates vary.

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Fair proposal moves ahead

Commissioners to mull plan for Renaissance event at meeting today

The Forest Grove News-Times, Mar 7, 2007

Washington County's Fair Board is expected to ask county commissioners to review and approve a new contract for a Renaissance fair at the county fairgrounds.

If the board agrees to send the proposal to the county commissioners today, it also would open the door to review of the plan by a 15- to 20-member "Fairgrounds Revitalization Task Force" being formed to discuss the festival and other changes to the fair facilities.

Members of the task force have not been selected. County officials could put the group together in the next couple of weeks, with a review of the Renaissance fair proposal as its first task.

County commissioners will have the final say on the proposal, said Don Hillman, Washington County Fair Complex executive director. Commissioners would be expected to negotiate and approve any long-term deal to bring a Renaissance festival to the fairgrounds, he said.

"We do not have a contract yet," Hillman said.

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any real purpose, since the final decision has to come from the board of commissioners," he said.

Fairgrounds officials and Fair Board members have talked with representatives of Oregon Renaissance Festival Inc. since September about plans to locate a medieval fair on a large part of the fairgrounds for nearly two months each summer beginning in July 2008.

Oregon Renaissance Festival is part of the Renaissance Festival and Artisan Marketplace group that organizes similar fairs in Arizona and North Carolina. The events feature medieval music, artwork, food and amusement rides.

Under the proposal, Oregon Renaissance Festival Inc. would operate a fair on about 25 acres of the facility for seven or eight consecutive weekends during the summer. The company could invest \$2 million in site improvements, such as stages, vendor booths, paths and major modifications to the main exhibit hall and arena.

It could take about six months to make the improvements and build fair facilities once the contract is approved.

When the Renaissance festival proposal surfaced last fall, county officials said it could be a boost to the fairgrounds. They said the Renaissance fair could draw 10,000 to 15,000 people a day to the area and provide hundreds of new jobs. They also said the plan wouldn't involve the sale of county property, only a 20-year lease for the site, with a five-year option.

The proposal also could bring in thousands of dollars in revenue for the county, although estimates vary and have changed since the idea first surfaced. The fair could charge admission of \$20 a day. Food and beverage sales are estimated to be about \$15 per admission. Parking could be \$5 per car.

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Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Last modified Monday, February 26, 2007 10:24 PM PST

Community

Fair dedicates new building

By BENNETT HALL

Gazette-Times business editor

Storage structure is modest start to ambitious improvement plan

Storage sheds don't usually get their own dedication ceremonies, but the opening of a new maintenance building at the Benton County Fairgrounds drew about 30 people Monday morning for coffee, cookies and speeches by the Fair Board chairwoman and a county commissioner.

For fair officials, however, the structure is more than just a place to store riding mowers and display fixtures. It's the symbol of an ambitious self-improvement program for the county's aging fair complex.

"You'd think we wouldn't get too excited about a maintenance building," Commissioner Jay Dixon told the crowd. "But this is the first building to be completed as part of the long-range master plan for the fairgrounds."

The two-story, 4,000-square-foot structure resembles a large, metal-clad barn. It was built with \$110,000 in county money that was originally earmarked for parking lot improvements, but the Fair Board persuaded the commissioners that dedicated storage space was a more pressing need.

A lot of the maintenance equipment, tools and other items being stored in the new building were previously taking up room in the Arts & Crafts Building, Fair Board member Dan Dunham said. The board now hopes to rent that building out for workshops, dances, craft fairs and other events.

"It's new space," Dunham said. "Now it's going to become a revenue generator for us."

Making the most of those income-producing opportunities is a key part of the board's plans. As the county grapples with budget shortfalls, fair officials are having to assume a greater share of the expense for maintaining facilities and operating the annual county fair, as Fair Board Chairwoman Deb Crisman noted in her dedication speech.

"These are tough times across the county, and we're struggling just to keep the doors open here. But don't think for a minute that we're going to settle for just keeping the doors open," Crisman told the audience. "We are committed to improving and expanding the fairgrounds. We don't know how we're going to do it, but we're committed."

A master plan for the fairgrounds produced last year calls for gradual improvements to the 29-acre complex at Southwest 53rd Street and Oak Creek Drive. Broken down into three six-year phases, the plan calls for about \$14 million worth of upgrades. The first phase envisions nearly \$7 million worth of work, including renovations to the livestock arena, a new exhibit hall and lighting and resurfacing of the parking lot.

County officials have made it clear they don't have the funds to pay for all the improvements.

"Financing them is a big issue," said Commissioner Linda Modrell. "The county does not have the money, so there has to be a strategy."

The board's working on that now, said member Penny York, who oversaw the planning process during her term as chairwoman. Fundraising ideas range from holding annual community drives to offering "naming opportunities" in exchange for major donations to asking voters to approve a bond issue or tax levy.

"We're going to look at public and private sources," York said.

Bennett Hall is the business editor for the Gazette-Times. He can be reached at 758-9529 or bennett.hall@lee.net.

Quick fact

Officials plan \$14 million worth of improvements to Benton County Fairgrounds.

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The News-Review *online*

Fair Board looks to cut expenses, raise revenues

JOHN SOWELL, jsowell@newsreview.info

March 7, 2007

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The Douglas County Fair Board on Tuesday voted to trim its budget for next fiscal year to compensate for losing its subsidy from the county's general fund.

The major reductions come in eliminating two positions and contracting out the race program.

At a special meeting, board members approved a tentative \$1.9 million budget that will likely stand whether or not an extension of the federal timber safety net is approved.

Two weeks ago, members of the Douglas County Budget Committee said the fairgrounds should not expect to receive a subsidy beyond this year. The county provided the Fair Board with \$221,000 from the general fund this fiscal year.

"They have basically given us an assignment," Fair Board member John Dunn said.

The proposed budget projects cutting expenses from the current fiscal year by \$338,100. That will be accomplished by cutting staff and by not having to underwrite the Douglas County Speedway program, which was previously handed off to an outside promoter.

The race program took in nearly \$314,000 in revenues last season. However, it also incurred nearly \$340,000 in expenses. While the new promoter won't pay anything to the fairgrounds to use the race track, the county will make money by selling food and beverages at the races.

Overall revenues are projected to decrease by \$362,900, to \$1.8 million. This reflects the loss from the general fund contribution and race revenues. The budget reflects an additional \$172,100 in new revenue.

The board said it would work to change the fee structure for groups using the fairgrounds for events. In the past, some nonprofits, such as the 4-H program have not been charged anything to use fairground facilities. Others have been charged reduced fees.

"I think the most important thing to the community is that we have to raise all sorts of entrance fees that the community might feel uncomfortable with down the line. Because, if we don't do it now, it's going to come back and bite us. We've got to start preparing for the future," board member Bernis Wagner said.

Dunn said he's sure there will be a public outcry over the increase in rental fees. He said it's likely that some critics would go to the Board of Commissioners to express their displeasure. With the need to become self-sufficient, the fee increases are necessary, he said.



After the meeting, Fairgrounds Director Harold Phillips said the fairgrounds was in a better position than many other county departments that don't have the ability to raise revenue. Those departments are dependent upon county contributions from the safety net.

No adjustments in the fee schedule have been made yet. Phillips and his staff will review the current charges and see where changes should be made.

"I have full faith in our staff to make this work," Dunn said.

The admission price for adults at the Douglas County Fair will remain at \$8. The \$6 fee for senior citizens and the \$3 entry charge for children is up for discussion.

"It's a great value and we need to continue to make this affordable for families," Phillips said.

- You can reach reporter John Sowell at 957-4209 or by e-mail at jsowell@newsreview.info.

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Don Hillman

From: Bennett, Pam A [pam.a.bennett@intel.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2007 9:35 AM
Subject: Intel in Your Community - March 2007



(Photo: "Autumn Reflection" by Michael Goetz)

A newsletter from Intel Oregon Corporate Affairs

March 2007

www.intel.com/community/orego

Changing the world — one banana at a time



Seen a bright yellow banana on wheels cruising along local roads lately? It's not a variation of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile. It's Mitch Shults' pride and joy, the Go-One velomobile, a fully enclosed, human-powered vehicle. With Oregon's reputation for a commitment to environmental stewardship, Mitch Shults fits right in.

Shults, with Intel since 1992, used to regularly ride bike to work, but Oregon's winter riding conditions kept him down. He found the solution in the form of an electric-assist hub motor from a company called Bic. The motor is embedded in the rear wheel of his velomobile.

The motor controller can be programmed to automatically provide variable degrees of assistance ranging from 25% of the rider's effort to 300%. With the motor set to 100% assistance (which only applies up to 20mph in order to keep the vehicle bike-path legal), Shults can get from his S.E. Port home, over the Sylvan Hills, and out to Jones Farm in roughly 60 enjoyable minutes. He uses his velomobile around town, too, including grocery shopping and taking his child to daycare.



Mike Shults in the velomobile

Employees like Shults are a reason why Intel has earned the #1 spot in each of the past three years on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's annual list of Best Workplaces for Commuters from the Fortune 500 Companies. The award recognizes companies for their role in offering excellent commuter benefits that reduce fuel consumption, vehicle emissions and traffic congestion across the country.

"The human-electric hybrid velomobile may not be the answer to global warming and the health challenges of a rich and sedentary population," Shults says, "but it's a start."

Thinking Verde

Intel Oregon embarked on a partnership with SOLV and 4-H Tech Wizards in 2006 to put into place an after school service-learning program designed to engage Latino high school youth. The focus was on intensive stream restoration efforts through creation of Equipo Verde — the Green Team. It looks like we made the right decision.

The students adopted a site in Cornelius that is part of the Tualatin River Basin. They then recruited friends and family to help with invasive plant removal, ground prep and tree plantings, while educating their community on the importance of environmental stewardship. Through their actions and advocacy, new environmental leaders are emerging from our Latino community and SOLV has learned how to successfully deliver programming to a new audience.

Once the pilot has been refined, the curriculum will be shared with Oregon Department of Education and interested teachers who want to use a proven program that is aligned with the new diploma requirements.



This spring Equipo Verde will be awarded the Tualatin Riverkeeper's Green Heron Award for support of their mission — to protect and restore the Tualatin River and its watershed.

Making tax time less taxing

Need some help navigating IRS tax forms? Intel Oregon has donated 14 computer systems and is providing volunteers to support a tax assistance center in Hillsboro.



**Intel Corporate Affairs
Communications Manager,
Bill MacKenzie,
tries out Tax-Aide program**

The Washington County AARP Tax-Aide Supersite was established by a community partnership called CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope). The goal: to help low-income Oregon families and individuals claim Earned Income Tax Credits and other valuable credits, learn financial fitness and pay down debts.

The Supersite is located in county-donated space at 220 SW Ad Street in downtown Hillsboro, next to the end of the Max line.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity to help our low-income neighbors," said Janet Rash, Community Relations Manager at Intel Oregon. "It enables Intel to use our technology and people to change lives."

Oregon Community Credit Union becomes Hillsboro Naturally® sponsor

Hillsboro Naturally, Intel Oregon's prestigious digital photo competition, has a new co-sponsor, Oregon Community Credit Union. The credit union will be providing the prizes to contest winners.

Hillsboro Naturally was created in 2005 to reflect Intel Oregon's continuing environmental stewardship. The contest has seen spectacular success, with stunning images submitted almost daily by young people and adults.

Oregon Community Credit Union shares Intel's commitment to growing healthy communities. The credit union was founded 51 years ago by a small group of State of Oregon employees who pooled their money together in a shoe box. It has since grown to become the 3rd largest credit union in Oregon and has been honored as one of the "100 Best Companies to Work For in Oregon" by *Oregon Business Magazine*.



"We've been committed to making a difference in the lives of our members and in the communities we serve for more than fifty years," said Mandy Jones, CEO of Oregon Community. "We're pleased that our support of Hillsboro Naturally will allow us to continue that commitment while joining Hillsboro residents in the celebration of their naturally beautiful community."



Hillsboro Naturally is open to unique color digital image photography taken in Hillsboro, home to Intel's largest and most comprehensive site in the world. For more information, to enter the contest, visit

www.intel.com/community/oregon

Intel Oregon - We're neighbors

Intel Oregon's community website is designed to be a resource for our Oregon neighbors. Here's where you can learn such things as how to apply for an Intel grant, what education support programs Intel offers and how Intel Oregon practices environmental stewardship.



Learn more at [Intel in Your Community](#)

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Oregon County Fairs: An Economic Impact Analysis

February 2007

Bruce Sorte, Oregon State University
Rural Studies Program

"There is a candle in the window. As much as ever we need safe and festive ground where we can publicly communicate our own individuality and safely scrutinize each other's qualities as well as inherent differences in peaceful gatherings. Local communities need an opportunity to showcase themselves to each other and to see evidence of how their individual experiences add to their whole community's identity and character. In other words we need fairs." Sharon Jensen in *Agricultural Fairs in America; Tradition, Education, Celebration*.

Background

A number of county fairs throughout Oregon and the U.S. have, over the last thirty years, transitioned from primarily single summer events with a few year-round activities focused on agriculture to diverse enterprises working towards financial self-sufficiency. Some county fairs have struggled to remain open, been unsuccessful competing for people's free time, experienced increased expectations for their facilities while resources to upgrade facilities have declined, and fought to retain their board members, directors and staff.

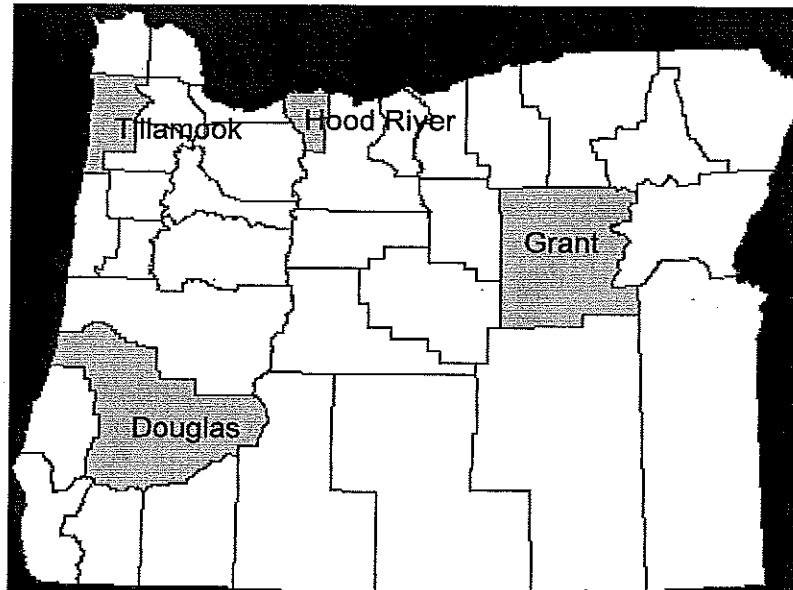
Economic changes including how agricultural goods are produced, how and where people spend their discretionary time and money, and demographic changes particularly in the number of children per family are some of the reasons that community institutions like the county fairs have face serious challenges. Local and statewide decision makers are progressively more interested in economic impact assessments as important metrics to consider when they are making budget allocations. The Oregon Fairs Association (OFA) contracted with Oregon State University (OSU) in January 2004 to provide an economic impact analysis of the Oregon county fairs.

To accommodate budget and time considerations and after discussions with the OFA Board and executive director, we decided to study three fairs and their year round activities - Douglas, Hood River, and Grant as a representative sample of a large, a close to metro, and a remote fair, respectively. Tillamook County contracted for an individual study and consented to the use of their results as part of the

The findings of this report are an overview that was extrapolated from the attributes and experiences of the four counties. While the information can inform decision making particularly as it represents trends and magnitudes, it should not be considered to be precise.

We estimated the economic effects in two ways both as economic "footprints" and economic impacts, which are explained below, for four county fairs. Using that information, the combined economic "footprint" and economic impacts for all the county fairs' in Oregon was estimated. We also developed a template which any Oregon county fair can complete (Appendix A) and obtain their own county's estimates. This is not a traditional economic impact analysis. Our goal was to estimate the major areas where county fairs contributed to their counties' economies. We would have preferred more precise primary data. Yet, when it was not available we substituted estimates to give the reader a sense of the county fairs' economic contribution. Rather than precision, we were trying to evaluate the current programs of county fairs by measuring their contributions to their local economies and also determine whether there were areas that the fair could emphasize to increase their economic effects.

Figure 1. Representative Counties



We addressed the question: ***“How important are the county fairs and year-round fairground activities to their local economies?”*** We did have trouble confining our discussion to only the financial or market activities related to county fairs. When the effects of community institutions like county fairs are summarized only in financial impact terms, other economic as well as the social and cultural impacts are missed. Economies rely on social capital or the networks that develop in economies to reach higher levels of economic efficiency and resilience (e.g. knowing a person can reduce the costs of a transaction with that person because if the person is trusted a hand shake may suffice instead of a contract, research on or testing of the good or service to be purchased may not be necessary, and the “warranty” may be knowing any future problems can be worked out amongst friends). We have discussed the social capital that county fairs foster in this report although it is very tough to measure.

Preview of Results

We found that county fairs and fairground activities contributed to the local and statewide economies in five major ways,

- 1) Highlighting and reinforcing the natural resource based economic sectors of each economy with competition that informs and teaches through example and demonstration. This information and teaching helps retain natural resource based businesses and increase their productivity.
- 2) Retaining local expenditures (import substitution) for both goods and services by providing flexible and frequent market settings for many different types of local vendors and providing entertainment that is competitive with events for which people may travel outside their county.
- 3) Attracting people who are both consumers and potential residents to the communities to attend county fairs and fairground activities or events throughout the year.
- 4) Using each dollar of state funding to leverage another \$10 for operating budgets or measured as economic impacts; an additional \$20 dollars of sales which include \$12 dollars of additional income.
- 5) Building social capital that connects diverse groups in terms of culture, age, profession and leisure activities.

The economic effects of county fairs in traditional financial measures are significant. Additionally, an area where county fairs' economic effects provide a contribution greater than many organizations is in bringing people together, particularly youth, and building social capital. That social capital can help communities run more efficiently and increase their capabilities to bounce back quickly from economic shocks.

Methods

To better understand the trends both demographic and economic since 1969 that have forced many county fairs to change their programs, facilities and plans for the future; we studied the four counties' population, employment, real average earnings per job, and personal income by source.

All four counties are classified as nonmetro counties. Their average population and employment growth over the last 36 years from 1969 through 2004 have been 38.2% and 80.0% respectively. These percentages compare to Nonmetro Oregon's population and employment growth of 48.8% and 80.5% respectively, Oregon's population and employment growth rates of 74.2% and 132.2% respectively, and U.S. population and employment growth rates of 45.9% and 86.8% respectively.

While population and employment growth rates in Oregon have exceeded national rates and Nonmetro Oregon's rates have basically kept pace with national rates, changes in average earnings per job and the components of personal income over those 36 years have not.

Oregon's average earnings per job in 1969 were 97.16% and Nonmetro Oregon's was 89.86% of the national average. Nationally, average earnings per job grew much faster than Oregon's or Nonmetro Oregon's over the 36 years so Oregon's average earnings per job in 2004 were \$36,989, which was 89.97% of the national average and Nonmetro Oregon's were \$29,008 or 70.56% of the national average. Some of the difference between Oregon earnings and national earnings per job may be explained by quality of life differences between Oregon and the average setting for a job nationally, which may have become more pronounced over the period. Climate, reduced congestion, access to recreational opportunities, etc. are factored into willingness to accept salary offers by workers. The nonpecuniary components of the compensation package in Oregon may explain some of the difference in the rate of pay necessary to recruit employees to Oregon and Nonmetro Oregon jobs.

However, the major factors for the comparative decline in average earnings per job are the movement to more mechanization in natural resource based manufacturing and the simultaneous policy changes that limited access to and/or increased the cost of harvesting raw materials. These changes reduced the number of jobs and the real wages for semi-skilled employees in natural resource based industries. While in terms of numbers the reduction in natural resource based jobs has been more than offset by an increase in jobs in the service sectors, the average earnings per job are generally lower in the service sectors particularly for the displaced and semi-skilled workers from the wood products industry.

Also, over the 36 years, the Oregon and Nonmetro Oregon economies have become much "leakier" as people have progressively purchased more goods and services that are produced and sold outside the county.

Another shift that has taken place is how personal income is created or received in Oregon and Nonmetro Oregon. In 1969, approximately three quarters of all income received in Oregon and Nonmetro Oregon was from net current earnings and twenty five percent of income came from dividends, interest and transfer payments (e.g. Social Security). Today, current earnings have declined to 65% of personal income in Oregon and are approaching 50% of personal income in Nonmetro Oregon. Oregon and Nonmetro Oregon are becoming progressively more dependent on income sources that are determined by national policy towards transfer payments and national and international markets and events affecting dividends, interest and rents.

County fairs' primary role of providing forums and events for learning about and showcasing the natural resource based industries has diminished as those industries have become a smaller portion of Oregon's and Nonmetro Oregon's economies. Still, the need for the forums and the need to bring communities together to address the economic changes and the continuing economic distress real or perceived has increased. The themes for community events have become more diverse as communities search for ways to bring people together and attract nonresidents to their communities. County fairs have changed accordingly and their event calendars reflect a wide array of activities and events at county fairs and year round at the fairgrounds.

The challenge for county fairs is how to continue providing this public good of bringing communities together for social and economic purposes and do so with declining public resources?

Recognizing the changes that have taken place in Oregon and Nonmetro Oregon and with some understanding of the four counties' local economies, we wanted to be sure the models we used to estimate the fairs' economic effects were checked to determine how well they reflected the local economies and major discrepancies were at least reduced.

Ground Truthing

With a general overview of the counties' economies, researchers visited each of the county fairs in the summer of 2004. We observed and recorded license plates and license plate surrounds, an admittedly crude approach, yet it did give us a rough idea of the percentage of attendees who were residents and nonresidents attending each fair. Later we checked our estimates with fair managers and staff members for reasonableness. We observed the conditions of the facilities, level of attendance both at the fairs generally and at individual events, and the types of events that were offered at the fairs.

We met with the county fair managers and obtained event calendars, budgets, and referrals to people in the communities who might have a good understanding of and suggestions for the county fairs. Then, we visited with 5-10 business people, elected representatives and long time volunteers for each fair to discuss the local economies and the fairs and their facilities.

Along with the information from the communities, we reviewed national (Bureau of Economic Analysis) and local data bases (Oregon Agricultural Information Network) and reconciled them with a proprietary *IMpact PLANning* or IMPLAN input-output model and the IMPLAN models for each county. The county level models were edited to better reflect the local economies from the information that we had received in the communities and reviewing the various data bases.

Fair Expenditures and Economic Footprint

This section provides a brief summary of how the economic effects that result from county fairs' expenditures were estimated. The edited IMPLAN models we developed for the counties were designed to run county fair and fairground event purchases or expenditures through all the transactions that are linked to them within

each economy. The models determined the extent to which the value of each transaction multiplied as its impacts were transmitted throughout the economy.

As an example, when a fair manager asks a contractor to install a new fan in a building, from the moment the fair manager picks up the phone the manager initiates a series of transactions including the contractor purchasing the fan from a local electrical shop, purchasing gasoline for his van on the way to pick-up the fan, maybe stopping at a café for lunch on the way back to his shop and so on. Every supply purchase or backward linkage from the fair manager's decision to purchase a new fan includes a payment in wages or proprietor income, which is used by households to purchase items like food, dental care, automobiles, and on and on until the money leaks out of the county for goods and services that were essential to get work done, yet not available in the county.

The county fairs' expenditures are summarized in Table 1. for each representative county and the state. For presentation purposes we aggregated the 23 categories that we used for our calculations to 15. We projected the percentage of total expenditures for each category of expenditure, except Personnel Costs – Salary and Fringes for which we had statewide total, using a weighted average of the four representative counties' expenditures and then multiplying the total expenditures from the OFA summary reports of all 36 county fairs by those percentages to estimate the statewide expenditures except for two categories.

Also, Douglas County's entertainment costs were proportionally higher than the other three fairs and so we adjusted the Entertainment proportion downward. From a budgetary perspective, the four counties represented one large, one moderate, and two smaller budgets. The fairs have individual accounting systems and so the expenditures are not perfectly aligned, which usually meant the expenditures were aggregated to larger categories (e.g. Security included in Other Services). It should not be presumed that no purchases were made for the categories within a category if it is \$0. We just could not determine an exact amount.

**Table 1. Representative County Fairs' and Estimate Statewide
Expenditures for 2004 Data**

	<u><i>Douglas</i></u>	<u><i>Grant</i></u>	<u><i>Hood River</i></u>	<u><i>Tillamook</i></u>	<u><i>Oregon</i></u>
Personnel Costs -					
Salary and Fringes	758,447	117,000	77,045	231,000	10,113,164
Entertainment	314,290	39,213	18,170	0	1,574,572
Machinery Repair & Maintenance	16,249	400	4,862	0	146,869
Construction	15,000	11,000	9,821	107,391	977,800
Other Services	39,867	19,500	9,476	35,759	564,187
Wholesale and Retail Supplies	69,427	5,000	22,810	322,105	1,944,096
Food & Beverage	97,847	2,000	0	0	681,719
Software	5,150	0	293	0	40,702
Vehicles	8,865	2,213	0	0	75,637
Printing, Advertising, Postage & Communications	98,472	3,113	8,849	0	754,003
Insurance & Banking	18,322	13,000	1,007	0	220,731
Utilities, Fuel & Oil	96,840	15,000	26,052	18,750	1,069,495
Travel, Dues, Conventions, Schools, Training	7,396	2,200	2,940	0	85,591
Security	0	0	6,076	0	41,485
Premiums, Refunds and Judges' Fees	0	5,852	24,034	0	199,899
Total Operating Expenditures	\$1,546,172	\$235,491	\$211,435	\$715,006	\$18,489,950

Exports (Visitor Spending)

In this report, we describe the economic linkages the fairs have in their counties and statewide as their "economic footprint." Their economic footprint includes the multiplied effects of the budgeted expenditures, the outside economic activity they attract and the economic activity that would have otherwise leaked out of the economy.

Many economists divide participants in economies into two major categories; 1) basic industries that drive the economy through their exports or the “new” money they bring into the economy or 2) service industries that provide the supplies and services essential for the basic industries to produce the exports and for the households to function. If the basic industries decline, the local economy will contract and it will expand if the basic industries grow. If the service sectors decline, the economy can be severely disrupted, yet the basic sectors may be able to offset all or some of the reduced local availability of supplies with imports from outside the county. The county fairs and fair grounds activities have both basic (e.g. tourism or exporting (selling) lodging, food and retail items to visitors) and service (e.g. providing services and meeting places for local people and groups of people) components to the goods and services they produce. They do this either through sales at the fairgrounds or by attracting people to the community to attend the fair, who then spend in the local communities.

We describe the portion of the fairs’ effects that help drive their economies as their economic impacts. We were only able to estimate the percentage of attendees at the fairs and year round activities that were from outside the respective counties through discussions with fair employees and local business owners/managers. They estimated out-of-county visitors at 25% for the representative fairs except for the Tillamook County Fair, which was 33%. Out-of-county visitors for year round events were estimated between 10% and 20% depending type of event. Average expenditure per visitor was estimated at five dollars each for each of the three major expenses – lodging, food and retail purchases or \$15 total for each out-of-county visitor. Certainly, percentages of visitors and their level of expenditures vary a great deal by county, time of year and event. Our estimates were quite conservative and lower than earlier studies. This is an area where the fairs could regularly conduct on-site surveys at a few fairs and at year round events to develop more useful estimates.

Import Substitution

There is one additional and important economic effect that we estimate within the report. Goods and services sold locally are not typically included in calculating a sector's economic impacts. The reason this is not usually done is because if the sales were not made at the fairgrounds they may be made at other places in the community or the money would be still be spent in the local economy. So, much of providing opportunities for retailers in economic terms is a zero sum activity or those expenditures are considered part of the service sectors and become part of the multiplier for basic industries, either as indirect or induced effects. However if a county resident would have purchased a good or service from a vendor living outside the county and decides to purchase the good or service locally at the county fair or a fairground event, we consider that purchase as a substitute for an import. It would not have been purchased from another local supplier and is not part of the service sectors and multiplier of another industry. The purchase retains dollars in the local economy that would have otherwise leaked out of the county. We include these types of sales as economic impacts. A substituted import, particularly for a retail good, can be valuable to an economy and may serve as the foundation for future export industries. "Economic life develops by grace of innovating; it expands by grace of import-replacing (Jacobs; 39)." County fairs and fairground facilities provide a market place for locally produced goods and services that may not have been available without the county fair and year round events.

Estimating the import substitution effects was also imprecise. We visited with fair managers and they completed estimates for the number of local vendors at county fairs and year round events and the average sales per vendor. We used IMPLAN regional purchase coefficients, which indicate the proportion of purchases that are local and therefore nonlocal by sector, to project the portion of the local vendors' sales that may have been spent outside the economy without the fairs' "markets". In addition, we were able to observe and obtain the livestock auction data from the Wallowa County Fair that was not part of our sample of counties yet could provide the most current data to refine our estimates. The livestock auctions were a major component of the import substitution impacts. Local producers, often 4-H members, sell animals they raise at the end of the county fair or at other sales at the fairgrounds throughout the year. Social capital plays a big part in these sales because the

purchasers usually know the producers and pay higher than market prices for the animals. The extent to which these sales impact the local economy, depends not only on whether the producer is local. If the meat processing is also provide by local producers, more dollars are retained within the local economy. The percentage of animals processed in the local economy varies widely. We believe that we have been conservative in our estimates. However to be sure these numbers are close, each fair needs to review its records and use the information to complete the template, which is included in the Appendix.

Analysis

Based on our representative four fairs and applying their expenditure patterns and their ability to attract new expenditures from outside the county or retain expenditures that may have leaked out of the county, we used the total annual expenditures made by all the county fairs for fair and year-round events and the total attendance at county fairs to estimate the fairs' economic footprints and economic impacts. We described the footprints and impacts as three types of effects within the local economies:

- ***Output:*** Total sales of goods and services
- ***Value-added:*** Salaries/wages of employees, proprietors' incomes, rents and leases, and business permits
- ***Employment:*** Full and part-time jobs

The **Economic Footprint** of the fairs includes all economic activity that relates to the fairs or \$74,162,361 in output. The **Economic Impacts** or the extent to which the counties depend on the fairs is the visitors and import substitution components or \$45,464,068 in output.

Table 2. Statewide Economic Footprint & Economic Impacts of the County Fairs

	<i>Economic Footprint (All Economic Activity)</i>	<i>Economic Impacts (New Money Attracted to the Counties)</i>
Output	\$52,081,427	\$33,734,005
Value-Added	\$28,874,392	\$19,852,686
Employment	867	649

The fairs' annual expenditures of \$18,489,950 in 2004 dollars, adjusted to \$18,965,080 in 2006 dollars, generated an economic footprint of approximately \$52,081,427 in output, \$28,874,392 in value-added income and 867 full and part-time jobs. As discussed earlier, the economic footprint of the county fairs includes all the economic activity that is related to the county fairs' expenditures. However, if export base theory is used to explain what drives an economy, then only the portion of the economic footprint that is initiated by outside expenditures for exports or the expenditures that would leaked out of the economy to purchase imports is considered to measure economic dependency. The outside visitors that the county fairs attracted to their counties and the expenditures that they prevented from leaking out of the counties were estimated at \$33,734,005 in output, \$19,852,686 in value-added income and 649 full and part-time jobs. These estimates are an aggregation of the individual counties economic impacts.

Leverage is a metric that has been considered by decision makers. It is usually defined as the amount of additional support or spending that results from some initial level of public support. Leverage is calculated based on two sources of funding in Table 3; 1) the extent to which the fairs' operating budgets are leveraged to bring in

new money from outside the counties or retain local spending – economic impacts and 2) the extent to which the state's funds are leveraged to encourage economic impacts in the counties. On the average for each dollar that the fairs spend in their operating budgets, the majority of which they raise on their own, they attract an additional 78 cents of spending to their counties. For each dollar that the state provides the county fairs, the fairs attract an additional \$20 in sales and \$12 in income.

Table 3. Leverage – County Fairs' Budgets and State Funding

<i>Source of Funds</i>	<i>Economic Impacts</i>
Operating Budgets (\$18,965,080)	
Output	1.78
Value-Added	1.05
State Funds (\$1,665,000)	
Output	20.26
Value-Added	11.92

These leverage numbers are more conservative than the 1986 AREA study, which was published in 1987. Since 1986, the state government support for county fairs, which was \$1.4 million in 1986, adjusted to approximately \$2.4 million in 2006 dollars has declined to approximately \$1.8 million, when the \$1.665 million funding in 2004 are adjusted to 2006 dollars. This is a 25% decline in real dollar support from state government for county fairs over the last 20 years. High leverage numbers may reflect very high productivity by the fairs. However, as state support has declined they may also show a program that is becoming more constrained by limited financing from attaining even its current levels of effectiveness. If the funding was increased, the leverage numbers may decline some as state funds make-up a larger portion of the

fairs' budget. At the same time the leverage may increase to prior levels as the overall program scope increases and its potential economic impacts are more fully realized.

In addition to the economic activity and impacts that can be measured financially, the social capital that was mentioned earlier and is created at county fairs is sizable. People visit the county fairs and the activities at county fairgrounds more 5.8 million times each year. Forty eight thousand exhibitors showed the products of their labor or taught people to do what they do in more than 175,000 exhibits or presentations. Almost two-thirds of those people were youth and many of the adults were mentors for those youth. As schools and nonprofits are progressively stressed to provide activities and settings where youth can compete and socialize in ways that build skills they will take into the workplace, the county fairs become more important.

Summary

This report indicates that county fairs are important contributors to their local economies. Their statewide economic footprint is \$58 million and they attract or retain \$34 million in new sales to their counties. They use the modest support they receive from the state and their county governments and create enterprises that are often five to ten times greater than the public funding they receive. They spend the major portions of their budgets locally. The economic activities that they initiate or attract are almost three times as great as their base budgets. The economic impacts they drive is almost twice their operating budgets. These estimates are very conservative compared with past studies. This conservative approach was necessary to recognize that some of the data was estimated. We would expect the impacts to increase with more precise data. If surveys were completed with fair and year round event attendees to determine their expenditures on lodging, food, and retail expenditures, we believe our \$15 estimate may significantly increase.

The idea that has been discussed in this report, which is not usually considered, is the county fairs' role in providing market places and entertainment that retains funds within the counties that would have otherwise been spent outside the counties. Local organizations in many communities are substituting local production and sales for purchases from businesses located and/or owned outside the local communities. The county fairs have been doing this across three centuries. They may have the potential, to grow this portion of their enterprises. It seems that they could

work with the producers and existing businesses in their communities to develop marketing plans for the fairgrounds that are more intentional than currently exist in many counties.

Oregon has more farms today than it did twenty five years ago. The average size of farms has declined, yet the number has increased. The owners of these smaller farms are often very interested in being economically successful. The county fairs provide a setting for the both the full time production farmers and adaptive part-time farmers to learn from one another. There maybe the potential to reverse some of the job losses of the last three decades in agriculture through these very labor intensive adaptive farms. County fairs and the 4-H youth programs may be able to help foster a new and larger generation of farmers.

County fairs have capable managers, which have often been recruited from successful private business experiences. In many counties the fairs have unique facilities, yet the competition for public funding and private spending is becoming more intense. Nonprofit organizations are not averse to almost duplicating programs of other nonprofits' programs to gain additional funding. They race to repackage existing programs of their own or other to present "new" programs or initiatives to obtain additional public and private funding for their organizations. This puts traditional or existing programs or organizations like the county fairs at a disadvantage. As we did our ground truthing interviews for this study, we found that people in the local communities were quite supportive of the county fairs, yet they did not frequently link specific events or activities at the fairgrounds to the quality of life of their coworkers or employees. Community events and programs have become so plentiful that the "market" may be over supplied and unable to sustain the current events and programs in many counties. The county fairs may want to work with their elected officials to lead the coordination and possibly consolidation of some of the events and community programs.

Finally, as people spend more and more time in their homes and less time visiting and working with their neighbors, county fairs and their year round activities have drawn people back together. The importance of this social capital is demonstrated by all the counties in Oregon retaining their county fairs at least in some form. The challenge will be to find metrics to measure the importance of the social capital at least as well as we can measure the economic activity and impacts of the county fairs' expenditures.

"Again and again, we find that one key to creating social capital is to build in redundancy of contact. A single pitch is not enough, whether you are pitching unionization or Christian salvation. Common spaces for commonplace encounters are prerequisites for common conversations and common debate. Furthermore, networks that intersect and circles that overlap reinforce a sense of reciprocal obligation and extend the boundaries of empathy."

Robert D. Putnam and Lewis M. Feldstein with Don Cohen in *Better Together; Restoring the American Community*.

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Appendix A

Oregon County Fairs Impact Template

Sector	Amount
Fair & Year Round Operating	
Personnel Costs - Salary and Fringes	
Construction	
Machinery Repair & Maintenance	
Other Services	
Retail Trade	
Software	
Food & Beverage	
Wholesale Trade	
Vehicles	
Printing	
Entertainment	
Insurance	
Advertising	
Fuel & Oil	
Utilities	
Communications	
Postage	
Dues	
Travel	
Conventions, Schools, Training	
Other _____	
Other _____	
Subtotal	
Out-of-County Visitors	
Lodging	
Eating and Drinking Places	
Retail Trade	
Subtotal	
Import Substitution	
Fair	
Retail	
Entertainment	
Year-Round	
Retail	
Entertainment	
Subtotal	
Total	

Appendix B

Economic Model

The edited IMPLAN input-output (I-O) model that we used to estimate the county fair economic impacts and activity provides an effective way of organizing and using detailed expenditure information to estimate economy-wide economic impacts. It is based on a matrix that shows all the goods and services (inputs) required to produce all the outputs of each business or organization. In other words, the matrix quantifies the purchase and sales relationships between the various sectors in the economy of interest. After the necessary tables and matrices of an I-O model are constructed, an economic event like a county fair or wedding at the county fair grounds can be introduced into the model/economy and a set of impacts projected.

We purchased the basic I-O models for Oregon and the four counties from the Minnesota Implan Group, Inc. (MIG). MIG incorporates more than thirty national and local databases into an I-O modeling structure that can create geographically specific I-O models ranging in size from the national level to the zip code level. The software, as noted above, is called IMPLAN Professional and comes with a number of dataset options.

IMPLAN is an effective tool that is being used across the U.S. and is regularly being tested and improved. The data for the IMPLAN system is updated on a regular basis. It takes approximately three years to gather and incorporate the data from a number of sources into IMPLAN. This report used the 2002 IMPLAN database. For the purposes of impact analysis, the relationships in the structural model (purchase and sales patterns) are more important than the absolute magnitude of the data (size of the economy). Therefore, as long as the underlying structure of the economy has not changed significantly since 2002, the model will be very robust for this analysis.

Estimates in this report are influenced by I-O model limitations. The model is dependent on its assumptions of how things are produced (their production functions), the price of inputs, and the percentage of purchases that are made within the economy under consideration.

An I-O model is static and gives a single snapshot of an economy. It is linear and does not account for major changes in markets and technological conditions.

It assumes that industries can and do continue to produce goods and services in the same manner without adjusting techniques when the scale of their production changes.

Even with these limitations, I-O models can be very useful for estimating economic impacts and understanding how they extend throughout an economy from the backward (supplier) to the forward (customer) linkages. The accuracy of the models as they are received from MIG, Inc. can be improved by further checking them against national and local data bases and ground truthing as we did for the fairs study and discussed earlier in this report.