

NOTICE OF MEETING

Washington County Fair Complex Board
Friday, September 16, 2005
12:00 Noon
Floral Building
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

A. Richard Vial, Chair	
Herbert Hirst, Vice Chair	W. Rafe Flagg, Treasurer
Kathy Christy, Secretary	Kathy Schmidtkofer, Member
Dan Logan, Member	Ken Madden, Member

The Washington County Fair Complex Board will hold a worksession to discuss the proposed redevelopment of the Washington County Fair Complex.

Tentative

- A. Call to Order
- B. Proposed Washington County Complex Redevelopment
- C. Executive Session with Board of County Commissioners
- D. Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) **
- E. Fair Complex Board Member Communications
- F. Other, if any
- G. Adjourn

In compliance with the Americans 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.

***Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.610-192.690 to discuss Real Estate matters or Personnel issues immediately following the regular Fair Board meeting if deemed necessary.*



WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

Fair Complex

September 13, 2005

Ed Kristovich, President
Washington County Fair Boosters
167 NE 12th Avenue
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Dear Ed,

This letter is to confirm today's telephone conversation.

Although the Washington County Fair Boosters decided at their regularly scheduled meeting last Wednesday, September 7, 2005, to not attend a worksession offered by the Fair Complex Board to continue a dialog regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Washington County Fair Complex, a worksession has been scheduled for that purpose at 12:00 noon, September 16, 2005, in the Floral Building, Washington County Fair Complex, Hillsboro, OR 97124.

Please advise those attending your meeting tonight of the scheduled worksession and that they are welcome to attend.

As noted at your last meeting, let me know if I can provide any assistance or information regarding the Washington County Fair Booster's proposed development plans.

Sincerely,
WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX

Don G. Hillman CFE
Executive Director

Cc: Fair Complex Board

Meeting Notice

Washington County Fair Complex Board Washington County Fair Complex

September 14, 2005

Members of the Washington County Fair Complex Board will attend an Executive Session of the Washington County Board of County Commissioner, held pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(e), on Tuesday, September 20, 2005, at approximately 9:00 am, regarding an agenda item related to the Fair Complex. The meeting of the Washington County Board of County Commissioner will be held in room 140 of the Public Services Center, 155 N. First Street, Hillsboro, Oregon.

There will be no action taken by the Washington County Fair Complex Board.

Date of Notice – September 10, 2004

Don Hillman

From: Don Hillman [donh@faircomplex.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2005 12:11 PM
To: Pam Wilson; Lisa Cromwell; Laura Gunderson; L. D. Saari; Kevin Harden; Gary Stutzman; Michelle Mandell
Subject: Meeting Notice



BOC

ksession Notice

Please see the attached meeting notice regarding the Washington County Fair Complex Board.

Don G. Hillman CFE
Executive Director
Washington County Fair Complex
Phone: (503) 648-1416 Ext. 205
FAX: (503) 648-7208

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX

Board Meeting

September 7, 2005

Floral Building
Washington County Fair Complex
873 NE 34th Avenue
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Regular Session – 4:30 p.m.
Executive Session – 5:30 p.m.*

* If necessary.

AGENDA

NOTICE OF MEETING

Washington County Fair Complex Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Wednesday, September 7, 2005, at 4:30 p.m.
Executive Session: Wednesday, September 7, 2005, at 5:30 p.m.*
Floral Building
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

A. Richard Vial, Chair	
Herbert Hirst, Vice Chair	W. Rafe Flagg, Treasurer
Kathy Christy, Secretary	Kathy Schmidtkofer, Member
Dan Logan, Member	Ken Madden, Member

Standing Committees

Air Show & Airport Interface

Herbert Hirst, Board Member

Booster/Coalition Liaison

Kathy Schmidtkofer, Board Member
Dan Logan, Board Member

Development Committee

Rich Vial, Chair
Herbert Hirst, Board Member
W. Rafe Flagg, Board Member

Fair Visioning Committee

Kathy Christy, Chair
Dan Logan, Board Member
Ken Madden, Board Member

323 Days to the 2005 Washington County Fair & Rodeo

- A. **Call the Regular Meeting to Order:** All matters noticed and listed on this agenda, in any category, may be considered for action in any order at the discretion of the Board Chair. Items not so noticed may be discussed at the discretion of the Board Chair, but cannot be considered for action.
- B. **Public Welcome – Audience Time:** This time is provided for members of the audience to comment on any item(s) not on the regular agenda. At the discretion of the Board Chair, each individual's comments may be limited to two minutes. Audience members, when recognized by the Board Chair, may also comment at the time agenda topics are being discussed by the Board. It is requested that those addressing the Board state their full name, address and organization represented.
- C. **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, it shall then be considered, discussed and voted on individually, after the Consent Agenda has been approved.

1. Financial Statements
 - A. Budget Overview – June 2005
 - B. Balance Sheet – June 2005
 - C. Other, if any
2. Fair Board Minutes – June and July 2005
3. Facility Use Schedule – September 2005
4. Other, if any

D. Special Reports

1. 4-H Report -- John Baggott, OSU Extension Service
2. Fair Boosters Report -- Ed Kristovich, Booster President
3. Air Show & Airport Interface Committee -- Herbert Hirst, Board Member
4. Fair Visioning Committee -- Kathy Christy, Board Members
5. Booster/Coalition Liaison, Kathy Schmidlkofer, Board Member
6. Treasure's Report -- W. Rafe Flagg, Board Member
7. Operations Report -- Don G. Hillman, Executive Director
8. Other, if any

E. Old Business

1. Redevelopment Update, if any
2. 4H Uses of Complex Facilities -- Staff
3. Booster Evaluation Form - Staff
4. Other, if any

F. New Business

1. 2005 Washington County Fair Wrap-up
2. Other, if any

G. Announcements

1. Calendar of Events
2. Other, if any

H. Correspondence

1. Letters and Cards, if any
2. Other, if any

I. Board Oral Communications

J. Other Matters of Information

1. Booster Meeting Minutes -- April 2005
2. Newspaper Articles, if any
3. Other, if any

K. Adjourn

*Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.610-192.690 to discuss Real Estate matters and/or Personnel issues immediately following the regular Fair Complex Board meeting, if deemed necessary.

CONSENT ITEMS

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: August 30, 2005

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

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

Re: June 2005 Financial Statements

Find attached the June 2005 Budget Overview and Balance Sheets. They were produced by the Washington County Finance Department's WIZARD program and reflect accounting activity from July 2004 – June 2005.

Good news is that we finished the fiscal year up in Interim Revenues, spent less than expected in the Fair Program, and Hotel/Motel Tax receipts are starting an upward trend.

On the Balance Sheet side, first time in a long time that the Current Assets exceeded \$600,000.

Note: There were some coding errors on some Development Expenses in June that got charged to Printing Internal (line 23) and County Legal (line 26). These amounts should have been charged to Development Reserve (line 95). This does affect the totals of those expenses and the variance percentage in the last column, but not worth having the statements re-figured at this late date.

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX Budget Overview July 2004 - June 2005																
Mission Statement: The mission of the Washington County Fair Complex is to provide excellent facilities and services in a self-supporting manner for the following purposes: self-supporting manner for the following purposes: 1. Preserve the annual County Fair & Rodeo and its heritage. 2. Promote the "World-Class" agriculture of the County. 3. Provide a welcoming environment for all volunteers. 4. Commitment to life-long learning with a special emphasis on youth. 5. Promote year-round facilities for consumer trade shows, public expositions and special gatherings. 6. Promote a sense of community among County residents.																
	Description	July 2004	August 2004	September 2004	October 2004	November 2004	December 2004	January 2005	February 2005	March 2005	April 2005	May 2005	June 2005	Year to Date 2004/05	Adopted 2004/05	%
1	Opening Balance	\$ 397,999	\$ 145,239	\$ 351,993	\$ 303,282	\$ 379,313	\$ 396,993	\$ 391,810	\$ 422,402	\$ 425,077	\$ 399,585	\$ 441,551	\$ 435,101		\$ 379,757	
2	Interim Operating Revenues															
3																
4	Parking	\$ 75	\$ 28,965	\$ 70	\$ -	\$ 7,697	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (75)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,732	\$ 26,000	141%
5	RV Park		930	1,680	332	1,910	543	403	613	1,330	455	1,330	1,180	10,706	15,350	70%
6	Rentals	13,005	4,100	16,531	18,312	28,721	21,164	20,963	17,365	29,006	11,585	24,862	20,324	225,938	174,894	129%
7	Concessions	2,813	200	1,078	100	100	200	100	200	200	200	200	269	5,660	6,000	94%
8	Misc Income	6,181	2,425	1,794	297	213	-158	-32	-32	1,150	-272	845	1,359	13,770	10,500	131%
9																
	Total Interim Operating Revenues	\$ 22,074	\$ 36,620	\$ 21,153	\$ 19,041	\$ 38,641	\$ 21,749	\$ 21,434	\$ 18,146	\$ 31,686	\$ 11,893	\$ 27,237	\$ 23,132	\$ 292,806	\$ 232,744	126%
10	Interim Operating Expenses															
11	Personal Services	\$ 14,081	\$ 23,727	\$ 28,541	\$ 38,147	\$ 27,311	\$ 27,351	\$ 25,373	\$ 25,261	\$ 25,916	\$ 36,972	\$ 23,214	\$ 40,350	\$ 336,244	\$ 306,419	110%
12	Supplies	4,636	3,116	2,367	201	424	445	1,362	225	4,678	2,265	416	454	20,589	22,000	94%
13	Professional Services	672	783	-	473	-	629	202	-	1,801	429	85	3,788	8,862	8,000	111%
14	Advertising	273	748	33	395	277	199	546	-	242	341	242	845	4,141	6,000	69%
15	Communications	32	75	44	44	87	-	45	45	87	(64)	44	87	526	500	105%
16	Utilities	489	2,613	5,605	3,124	3,906	4,034	7,362	3,601	8,037	3,262	6,225	8,353	56,611	77,000	74%
17	Repair and Maintenance	6,736	3,553	241	2,271	2,017	1,940	15,733	841	1,227	(2,056)	995	15,317	48,815	45,000	108%
18	Rentals	665	796	484	215	215	215	456	215	215	439	215	401	4,531	6,000	76%
19	Dues and Memberships	-	30	30	55	337	311	60	229	-	-	-	-	1,052	1,125	94%
20	Training and Travel	-	-	393	-	-	-	121	-	-	333	-	97	944	400	236%
21	Insurance	13,009	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,037	13,250	98%
22	Postage	-	-	-	49	77	-	-	-	309	-	-	-	435	1,600	27%
23	Printing Internal	190	-	10	778	-	-	-	-	171	4	-	2,954	4,107	1,000	411%
24	Telephones	-	-	655	494	625	467	491	509	508	930	505	539	5,723	6,000	95%
25	Special Expenses	131	402	1,945	(680)	109	821	473	80	164	114	625	1,615	5,799	6,000	97%
26	County Legal	-	-	-	769	-	135	1,620	-	574	(2,906)	135	1,586	1,913	5,000	38%
27	County Indirect Cost	-	3,319	-	-	3,319	-	-	3,319	-	-	3,319	-	13,276	13,936	95%
28	Total Interim Operating Expenses	\$ 40,914	\$ 39,162	\$ 40,348	\$ 46,363	\$ 38,704	\$ 36,547	\$ 53,844	\$ 34,325	\$ 43,929	\$ 40,063	\$ 36,020	\$ 76,386	\$ 526,605	\$ 519,230	101%
29	Net Interim Revenues/Expenses	\$ (18,840)	\$ (2,542)	\$ (19,195)	\$ (27,322)	\$ (63)	\$ (14,798)	\$ (32,410)	\$ (16,179)	\$ (12,243)	\$ (28,170)	\$ (8,783)	\$ (53,254)	\$ (233,799)	\$ (286,486)	

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX Budget Overview July 2004 - June 2005																
	Description	July 2004	August 2004	September 2004	October 2004	November 2004	December 2004	January 2005	February 2005	March 2005	April 2005	May 2005	June 2005	Year to Date 2004/05	Adopted 2004-05	%
31	Fair Revenues															
30	Commercial Booth Rentals	43,957	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,557	\$ 64,325	75%
31	Dept of Agriculture	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,141	-	-	-	-	-	35,141	38,000	92%
32	Parking Fees	1,055	76,765	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77,810	81,000	96%
33	Admissions	724	30,776	-	652	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,152	60,000	54%
34	Sponsorships	36,750	8,500	-	11,250	-	5,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	62,000	60,000	103%
35	Carnival Income	-	67,572	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,572	65,000	104%
36	Advertising	1,150	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,450	1,500	97%
37	Entry Fees	4,147	299	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	4,486	4,600	98%
38	Rentals	-	(11)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	0%
39	Concessions	12,850	67,064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(672)	79,242	81,675	97%
40	Other Revenues	248	7,166	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	510	-	50	7,974	12,600	63%
41	Total Fair Revenues	\$ 100,881	\$ 259,421	\$ -	\$ 11,902	\$ -	\$ 9,100	\$ 35,141	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 510	\$ -	\$ (571)	\$ 416,384	\$ 468,700	89%
42	Fair Expenses															
43	Personal Services	6,634	\$ 13,007	\$ 11,481	\$ 16,950	\$ 11,577	\$ 11,255	\$ 11,368	\$ 11,370	\$ 11,435	\$ 18,399	\$ 12,812	\$ 27,417	\$ 163,705	\$ 184,548	89%
44	Supplies	8,558	1,750	529	16	6	-	29	-	-	-	400	74	11,362	12,500	91%
45	Professional Services	20,577	41,458	13,880	750	(1,230)	-	-	-	-	-	-	738	76,173	72,000	106%
46	Advertising, Promotions, etc.	88,278	3,416	-	-	1,784	45	3,483	1,500	-	-	-	-	98,506	100,000	99%
47	Utilities	0	1,936	1,099	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,035	14,000	22%
48	Repair & Maintenance	0	2,773	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	120	-	3,207	2,500	128%
49	Rentals	1,178	3,997	173	-	-	579	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,927	8,000	74%
50	Dues and memberships	-	-	-	-	-	775	-	-	-	190	-	-	965	750	129%
51	Travel and Training	-	-	-	613	210	277	1,293	399	159	592	-	760	4,303	4,500	96%
52	Insurance	13,009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,009	13,250	98%
53	Postage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	308	-	-	517	825	900	92%
54	Printing	1,198	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,198	3,000	40%
55	Telephone	506	800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,306	2,500	52%
56	Other/Special Expenses	77,987	23,174	2,811	1,325	19,876	2,316	5,743	33	(176)	(95)	375	986	134,355	132,650	101%
57	Awards	27,996	11,826	(1,570)	-	2,476	22	-	-	-	(22)	2,500	-	43,228	46,150	94%
58	Indirect	-	3,319	-	510	3,319	-	-	3,319	-	-	3,319	-	13,786	14,436	95%
59	Total Fairtime Expenses	\$ 245,920	\$ 107,456	\$ 28,417	\$ 20,164	\$ 38,019	\$ 15,269	\$ 21,916	\$ 16,621	\$ 11,726	\$ 19,364	\$ 19,526	\$ 30,492	\$ 574,890	\$ 611,684	94%
60	Net Fairtime Revenues/Expenses	\$ (145,040)	\$ 151,965	\$ (28,417)	\$ (8,262)	\$ (38,019)	\$ (6,169)	\$ 13,225	\$ (16,621)	\$ (11,726)	\$ (18,854)	\$ (19,526)	\$ (31,063)	\$ (158,506)	\$ (142,984)	

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX Budget Overview July 2004 - June 2005																
	Description	July 2004	August 2004	September 2004	October 2004	November 2004	December 2004	January 2005	February 2005	March 2005	April 2005	May 2005	June 2005	Year to Date 2004/05	Adopted 2004-05	%
61																
62																
63	Rodeo Revenues															
64	Admissions	\$ 2,679	\$ 34,752	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,431	\$ 57,600	65%
65	Sponsorships	150	22,922	-	6,900	(1,750)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,222	50,600	56%
66	Queen Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,750	0%
67	Miscellaneous	765	628	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,393	3,000	46%
68																
69	Total Rodeo Revenues	\$ 3,594	\$ 58,302	\$ -	\$ 6,900	\$ (1,750)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 67,046	\$ 112,950	
70	Rodeo Expenses															
71	Supplies	\$ 2,861	\$ 121	\$ (407)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,575	\$ 3,000	86%
72	Professional Services	14,351	488	1,046	-	1,229	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,114	16,375	105%
73	Advertising	448	2,492	468	-	-	-	660	-	150	-	-	338	4,556	5,000	91%
74	Rentals	7,142	1,402	-	1,325	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	(19)	9,870	10,000	99%
75	Training and Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	0%
76	Stock Contract	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	22,000	91%
77	Other Misc Expenses	1,855	1,293	604	-	590	588	-	-	-	250	175	238	5,593	10,000	56%
78	Awards/Prizes	35,850	770	-	-	-	776	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,396	35,500	105%
79	Total Rodeo Expenses	\$ 82,508	\$ 6,566	\$ 1,711	\$ 1,325	\$ 1,819	\$ 1,364	\$ 660	\$ 20	\$ 150	\$ 250	\$ 175	\$ 557	\$ 97,105	\$ 104,375	93%
80	Net Rodeo Revenues/Expenses	\$ (78,913)	\$ 51,736	\$ (1,711)	\$ 5,575	\$ (3,569)	\$ (1,364)	\$ (660)	\$ (20)	\$ (150)	\$ (250)	\$ (175)	\$ (557)	\$ (30,058)	\$ 8,575	
81	Frite Lites															
82	Frite Lite Revenue	-	\$ -	\$ 600	\$ 16,530	\$ 25,587	\$ 4,600	\$ 390	\$ 18	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81	\$ 47,806	\$ 60,500	79%
83	Frite Lite Expenses	-	434	2,008	25,480	1,815	1,042	1,360	60	-	53	-	1,745	33,997	38,750	88%
84	Net Frite Lites Revenues/Expenses	\$0	(\$434)	(\$1,408)	(\$8,950)	\$23,772	\$3,558	(\$970)	(\$42)	\$0	(\$53)	\$0	(\$1,664)	\$13,809	\$21,750	
85	Non-Operating Revenues															
86	Hotel/Motel Taxes	\$ -	\$ 4,536	\$ 3,888	\$ 118,142	\$ 37,591	\$ 13,123	\$ 78,404	\$ 37,173	\$ 9,607	\$ 93,575	\$ 22,557	\$ 144,442	\$ 563,038	\$ 518,000	109%
87	Interest	471	613	454	458	342	1,080	642	778	843	861	1,055	1,013	8,610	5,000	172%
88	Total Non-Operating Revenues	\$471	\$5,149	\$4,342	\$118,600	\$37,933	\$14,203	\$79,046	\$37,951	\$10,450	\$94,436	\$23,612	\$145,455	\$571,648	\$523,000	109%
89	Non-Operating Expenses															
90	Purchase/Lease	613	\$ 613	\$ 613	\$ 613	\$ 613	\$ 613	\$ 23,584	\$ 613	\$ 11,034	\$ 613	\$ 613	\$ 29,899	\$ 70,034	\$ 67,790	103%
91	Land Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
92	Buildings and Structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
93	Equipment	8,889	(1,493)	-	-	-	-	3,920	801	-	1,826	-	4,540	18,483	15,044	123%
94	Development Reserve	936	-	1,709	2,997	1,761	-	135	1,000	789	2,704	965	3,807	16,803	50,000	34%
95																
96	Total Non-Operating Expenses	\$10,438	(\$880)	\$2,322	\$3,610	\$2,374	\$613	\$27,639	\$2,414	\$11,823	\$5,143	\$1,578	\$38,246	\$105,320	\$132,834	79%
97	Net Non-Operating Revenues/Expenses	(\$9,967)	\$6,029	\$2,020	\$114,990	\$35,559	\$13,590	\$51,407	\$35,537	(\$1,373)	\$89,293	\$22,034	\$107,209	\$466,328	\$390,166	
98	Net Fair Complex Revenues/Expenses	(\$252,760)	\$206,754	(\$48,711)	\$76,031	\$17,681	(\$5,183)	\$30,592	\$2,675	(\$25,492)	\$41,966	(\$6,450)	\$20,671	\$57,773	(\$8,979)	
99	Ending Fund Balance/Contingency	\$145,239	\$351,993	\$303,282	\$379,313	\$396,993	\$391,810	\$422,402	\$425,077	\$399,585	\$441,551	\$435,101	\$455,772		\$370,778	
	Note: Difference in September ending Fund Balance and October beginning fund balance of \$3,898.37 is due to A/P entries made for August and September after prior reports were run.															
	Note: Difference in December ending Fund Balance and January beginning fund balance of \$124.85 is due to A/P entries made for prior periods after reports were run.															
	Note: Difference in January ending fund balance and February beginning balance of \$152.50 .															

**Washington County Fair Complex
Balance Sheet
June 30, 2005**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash

Fairplex..Petty cash..	\$ 250
Fairplex..Cash drawer.Frite Lites.	-
Fairplex..General Cash Account..	27,249
Fairplex..USNB WASHCO ACH Clearing..	-
Fairplex..CCB-General Account..	1,697
Fairplex..CCB-Money Market Account..	413,017
Fairplex..CCB-ATM Account..	4,746
Fairplex..Gasb 31 cash general port..	(61)
Fairplex..CCB-ATM Cash Drawer..	1,400
Total Cash	<u>\$ 448,299</u>

Accounts Receivable

Fairplex..Accounts receivable - Sub..	\$ 150,695
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Prepays

Prepaid items	\$ 7,767
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Total current Assets

\$ 606,761

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Fairplex..Accounts Payable..	\$ (29,268)
Fairplex..Accounts payable- other..	(3,324)
Fairplex..Deposits payable-subsidia..	(200)
Fairplex..Retainage payable..	-
Total Payables	<u>\$ (32,792)</u>

Other Current Liabilities

Fairplex..Amounts due to others..	\$ -
Fairplex..Conversion Account..	-
Fairplex..Payroll payable..	(26,434)
Fairplex..Deferred revenue- unavail..	-
Fairplex..Deferred revenue -unearne..	6,870
Fairplex..Deferred revenue -unearne.Main Exhibit Hall.	-
Fairplex..Deferred revenue -unearne.Cloverleaf Building.	(468)
Fairplex..Deferred revenue -unearne.Grounds/General.	-
Fairplex..Deferred revenue -unearne.Deferred Advertising Inco.	-
Fairplex..Deferred revenue -unearne.Deferred Airshow Income.	(675)
Fairplex..Deferred revenue -unearne.Deferred Commercial Exhib.	(54,975)
Fairplex..Deferred revenue -unearne.Deferred Concession Reven.	(13,100)
Fairplex..Deferred revenue -unearne.Deferred Sponsorship Inco.	(10,200)
Fairplex..Deferred revenue -unearne.Deferred Facilities Renta.	(19,204)
Total Deferred Revenues	(118,187)

Total Liabilities

\$ (150,978)

Equity

Fairplex..Fund Balance..	\$ (435,100)
Net (Income)/Loss for the Period	(20,682)
Net Equity	<u>\$ (455,782)</u>

Total Liabilities and Equity

\$ (606,761)

Minutes
Washington County Fair Board
Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Convened: 4:30 pm

FAIR BOARD:

Chairman Rich Vial
Vice Chairman Herb Hirst
Board Member W. Rafe Flagg
Board Member Kathy Christy
Board Member Kathy Schmidlkofer
Board Member Ken Madden
Board Member Dan Logan

STAFF:

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

President Vial called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and welcomed the audience. President Vial reminded the audience that this meeting is subject to Oregon Public Meetings Law, then called for audience time for people wishing to address to Board on items not on the agenda.

Motion by Board Member Flagg to allow public comment on redevelopment following the staff presentation. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 7-0

1. Consent Agenda

President Vial asked the Board and the public if any items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Board Member Hirst to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Board Member Flagg.

Motion by Board Member Logan to approve the Consent Agenda minus the May meeting minutes. Second by Board Member Schmidlkofer. Motion carried 6-0

Board Member Logan asked why the motion for the consent agenda was only 4-0 at the last meeting. Executive Director Hillman explained that Board Member Flagg was absent and that Board Member Logan came in late after the motion for the consent agenda.

Motion by Board Member Schmidlkofer to amend the May 2005 board minutes to reflect that the Boosters will be operating the Amphitheater four days, not three. Second by Board Member Logan. Motion carried 7-0

Motion by Board Member Logan to amend May meeting minutes to reflect abstention vote by Board Member Schmidtkofer in the motions to adjourn regular session into executive session, the motion to adjourn executive session and return to regular session and the motion to authorize Executive Director Hillman a 5% bonus to the 6/30/2005 salary. Second by Madden. Motion carried 6-0

Board Member Christy explained that when abstaining it must be vocally abstained.

Motion by Board Member Christy to adopt May 2005 minutes as amended. Second by Board Member Hirst. Motion carried 6-0

2. Special Reports

A. 4-H Report – John Baggott, OSU Extension Service, reported that judges are still being contracted; entries are being inputted in the database.

B. Boosters Report – Booster President Ed Kristovich reported that the Boosters would be meeting at 7:00 p.m. this evening. Invited all people present to join the Fair Boosters.

C. Airshow & Airport Report – Board Member Hirst reported that the Airshow Committee and the Hardy Plant Sale Committee came to an agreement. The Oregon International Airshow President would like to meet to resolve conflict. President Vial asked Executive Director Hillman and Board Member Hirst to join him in meeting directly with the Airshow board.

D. Fair Visioning Committee Report – Board Member Christy reported that invitations for a breakfast meeting during the fair would be sent.

E. Boosters/Coalition Liaison Report – Board Member Logan reported that he has been given a list of concerns and he will read it during the development portion of the meeting.

F. Treasurer Report – Board Member Flagg reported that April's numbers are in and are tracking ahead of budget and Hotel/Motel will come in ahead of budget.

Board Member Christy asked about the rumor that staff is hiding money and had that been checked on. Board Member Flagg reported that he has not seen anything like that in the analysis, but would investigate if necessary.

Board Member Logan asked about lease for the ball fields and would funds be generated from that lease. President Vial explained that the County has arranged for an appraisal of the ball fields and this will be critical in the proposed development process. Board Member Logan asked what could be reasonably expected. President Vial explained that it's unknown; potentially for raw land it's in the range of \$7 - 10 million. President Vial explained that the County holds the title and they will make the final decision.

G. Operations Report – Executive Director Hillman referred the Board to his written report.

President Vial asked about the claim to PGE. Executive Director Hillman reported that it is in process.

H. Other, If any - None

3. Old Business

A. Redevelopment Update – Executive Director Hillman gave a Power Point presentation regarding re-development. Discussion ensued.

The following people gave public testimony regarding development:

Julie Bernards – 4-H Horse
Chelsea McKenan & Jennifer Houle – 4-H
Diana Ridgefield – 4-H
Jim Clymore
Jerry Anderson – Master Gardner
Debbie Van Roeckle
Glen Grossen
Lanie Jones
Emily Houle
Barbara Van Cleat
Merle Eakin
Sue Willhoite
Stacey Rutledge
Marge Hovda
Julie Ferguson
Kim McDonald
Dave Russell
Marsha Akerlund
Charlie Vandehey
Dave Roer

Board Member Logan read a list of concerns from the Fair Boosters regarding the proposed development.

B. 4-H Uses of Complex Facilities – Executive Director Hillman explained that as staff has been reduced, current policy regarding 4-H usage must be looked at for more efficient use of Complex employees. Recommendation is one or two nights per week be allowed for free use by 4-H.

Usually, weekend 4-H use is for fundraising, and staff would like weekend usage to be paid for to cover costs as well as having arena usage be paid for to cover labor & equipment costs.

President Vial discussed with the Board that the new proposed facilities would not have a dedicated riding arena and about half of the current 4-H horse clubs use other facilities.

Board Member Schmidlkofer would like a youth policy that doesn't include just 4-H.

Discussion ensued regarding allotments of time for 4-H.

John Baggott and Lori Morgan gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 4-H program.

The following people gave public testimony regarding 4-H Facility use:

Julie Bernards
Suzie Prentice
Brandi Gilbert
Shirley Evers
Kim McDonald

Discussion ensued regarding 4-H use, scheduling and policy for the new facility.

President Vial decided that no action should be taken at this time and have the policy remain into effect until after County Fair.

Board Member Madden asked that 4-H come up with alternative solutions to help with the problems or accept the staff recommendations.

Board Member Logan thought that staff should not be involved in scheduling.

President Vial would like the staff and 4-H to come up with solutions and compromises.

C. **Amphitheater Proposal – Boosters** – Executive Director Hillman stated that staff had no concerns with the agreement as presented.

Motion by Board Member Hirst to accept the Memorandum of Understanding for the Fair Boosters to provide entertainment in the Amphitheater during the 2005 Washington County Fair. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 6-0

D. **Other, if any** – None

4. **New Business**

A. **Advertising, Canvassing & Soliciting Policy - Amendment**

Motion by Board Member Hirst to accept the amended policy for Advertising, Canvassing & Soliciting. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 6-0

- B. Other, if any — 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 - None
- 8. Other Matters of Information -
 - A. Newspaper Articles, if any
 - B. Website Activity
 - C. Other, if Any

With no further business before the Board, President Vial requested a motion to adjourn in to Executive Session at 8:55 pm to discuss real estate matters.

Motion by Board Member Hirst to adjourn to Executive Session. Second by Board Member Flagg. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Board Member Hirst to close the Executive Session. Second by Board Member Flagg. Motion carried 6-0.

Chair Vial indicated that no action was taken by the Board during Executive Session and with no further business before the Board, Chair Vial adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Don G. Hillman
Recording Secretary

Rich Vial
Board President

Minutes
Washington County Fair Board
Wednesday, July 6, 2005

Convened: 4:30 pm

FAIR BOARD:

Chairman Rich Vial
Vice Chairman Herb Hirst - Excused
Board Member W. Rafe Flagg
Board Member Kathy Christy
Board Member Kathy Schmidlkofer
Board Member Ken Madden
Board Member Dan Logan

STAFF:

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

President Vial called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and welcomed the audience. President Vial then called for audience time for people wishing to address to Board on items not on the agenda.

Fred Scheller – Read a letter regarding development. Discussion ensued with President Vial regarding questions from the letter.

1. Consent Agenda

President Vial asked the Board and the public if any items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Board Member Flagg to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Board Member Christy. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Special Reports

A. 4-H Report –Deferred to old business

B. Boosters Report – Booster President Ed Kristovich reported that the Boosters would be meeting at 7:00 p.m. this evening.

C. Airshow & Airport Report – Board Member Hirst absent – deferred to September Board meeting.

D. Fair Visioning Committee Report – Board Member Christy reported that the first meeting will be held during the fair on July 29th at 8:00 a.m. Letters are being sent.

E. Boosters/Coalition Liaison Report – Board Member Schmidtkofer reported that the group had an entry in the Fourth of July parade.

F. Treasurer Report – Board Member Flagg presented the May 2005 Financial Statements.

Board Member Christy asked about the validity of the financial statements since it has been question by members of the community and the media. Board Member Flagg stated that he is confident that the County Finance Department is preparing the financial statements accurately.

G. Operations Report – Executive Director Hillman presented his written report and noted that the new bleachers were used for two Rodeos over the Fourth of July holiday.

President Vial described a phone call he received from a citizen that did not want the Hispanic community to be allowed to rent the facility during American holidays.

Board Member Christy asked if another food vendor had been found for the dog show since St. Matthew's would not be present. Executive Director Hillman reported that another vendor had been found.

Board Member Logan asked if anything could be done to the new bleachers because of the reflection. Executive Director Hillman said he would look into it.

President Vial explained to the Board that he would plan to park his RV next to the office again during the County Fair unless another Board member would like to.

H. Other, If any - None

3. Old Business

A. Redevelopment Update – President Vial discussed hiring a consultant to verify the validity of the numbers for the new facility that staff has prepared with the help of MERC.

Board Member Logan expressed his desire to have the consultant also verify if there were other options for the facility with fair type structures. President Vial asked Board Member Logan to put his request in writing so it could be given to the consultant to see if he would be able to do it and what the cost would be. Board Member Logan asked if there was an in-between type of facility that would work.

Board Member Christy asked about kitchen facilities for 4-H & where would the Master Gardeners be located in the new facilities.

Board Member Schmidlkofer asked where the Steak Fry would happen in the new facility.

President Vial asked each Board member to compile a list of questions for response and discussion.

Motion by Board Member Logan to showcase the development plans in a booth at the fair, manned by Board members and Boosters. Second by Board Member Schmidlkofer. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Other, if any – None

4. New Business

A. 4-H Uses of Complex Facilities – John Baggott, OSU Extension Service, gave a presentation on the value of 4-H programming and usage of Fair Complex facilities in response to staff recommendations.

President Vial asked staff to come back with an action item with the proposed plan for the current facility and a proposed plan for the new facility.

B. Booster Evaluation – A proposal was submitted by Boosters to evaluate themselves. President Vial asked staff to develop an evaluation for the September Board meeting.

C. Fire Inspection Notices – Executive Director Hillman reported that he would be meeting with County Facilities Division personnel to look at cost of additional fire hydrants and adding additional fire-safety measures to the Main Exhibit Hall. Staff will develop a letter to the new Fire Marshall to show progress, a time line and a plan.

Board Member Logan asked staff to have the Fire Marshall provide volunteers with safety training.

D. Other, if any — 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 expressed her disappointment regarding comments in the media regarding mismanagement of the

annual County Fair and Fair Complex by Executive Director Hillman. Board Member Christy explained why the Board hired Mr. Hillman and if anyone has questions or comments, they need to be directed to the Board. Board Member Christy further stated that if there is any mismanagement of the Fair Complex, it is the Board's fault.

Board Member Logan reported that Bob Terry would like to set-up a meeting.

8. Other Matters of Information -

- A. Newspaper Articles, if any
- B. Website Activity
- C. Other, if Any

With no further business before the Board, President Vial adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm.

Motion by Board Member Christy to Adjourn. Second by Board Member Flagg.
Motion carried 5-0.

Don G. Hillman
Recording Secretary

Rich Vial
Board President



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

Fair Complex

FACILITY SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2005

(No charge events area highlighted)

Tuesday, September 06, 2005

Covered Show Ring Dog Agility Class

Floral Bldg. Smoke School

Friendship Plaza Smoke School

Grandstands Arena Riding Practice

4-H Night on the grounds

Wednesday, September 07, 2005

Friendship Plaza Smoke School

Cloverleaf Bldg. Martial Arts Class

Floral Bldg. Fair Board Meeting

4-H Night on the grounds.

Saturday, September 10, 2005

Main Exhibit Hall Plant Sale

Cloverleaf Bldg. Airshow Police Command Ctr.

Parking Lots Airshow Parking

Sunday, September 11, 2005

Main Exhibit Hall Plant Sale

Cloverleaf Bldg. Airshow Police Command Ctr.

Parking Lots Airshow Parking

Monday, September 12, 2005

Cloverleaf Bldg. Fair Volunteer's Dinner

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Covered Show Ring Dog Agility Class

Grandstands Arena Riding Practice

Friendship Plaza Smoke School

4-H Night on the grounds

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Friendship Plaza Smoke School

Cloverleaf Bldg. Martial Arts Class

4-H Night on the grounds

Friday, September 16, 2005

Amphitheater, Carnival Area Fiestas Patrias

Saturday, September 17, 2005

Main Exhibit-North Doll & Teddy Bear Show

Amphitheater, Carnival Area Fiestas Patrias

Sunday, September 18, 2005

Main Exhibit-North Doll & Teddy Bear Show

Amphitheater, Carnival Area Fiestas Patrias

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Covered Show Ring Dog Agility Class

Grandstands Arena Riding Practice

4-H Night on the grounds.

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Main Exhibit Hall Intel Trade Show

Cloverleaf Bldg. Martial Arts Class

Friendship Square Hillsboro Parks & Rec. Dog Obedience

4-H Night on the Grounds

Friday, September 23, 2005

Cloverleaf Bldg. Auction Preview

Saturday, September 24, 2005

Main Exhibit Hall Animal Expo

Cloverleaf Bldg. Auction

Quadrant Property ATV Safety Class

Sunday, September 25, 2005

Main Exhibit Hall Animal Expo

Quadrant Property Oregon Rally Cross

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Grandstands Arena Riding Practice

4-H Night on the grounds

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Cloverleaf Bldg. Martial Arts Class

Friendship Square Hillsboro Parks & Rec. Dog Obedience

4-H Night on the grounds

Friday, September 30, 2005

Main Exhibit Hall Gem Show

SPECIAL REPORTS



Extension Service
Washington County

**OSU EXTENSION FACULTY
SERVING WASHINGTON
COUNTY***

Staff Chair

Chal Landgren 725-2102

4-H Youth Development

John Baggott 725-2111

Lisa Conroy 725-2113

Maureen Hosty 916-6075

Agriculture

Grass & Legume Seeds, Grains & Forages

Susan Aldrich-Markham 434-8917

Small Farms

Chip Bubl 397-3462

Commercial Tree Fruits/Nuts

Jeff Olsen 434-7517

Citizen Involvement (CPO)

Linda Gray 725-2116

Patt Opdyke 725-2117

Commercial Horticulture 678-1264

Consumer Horticulture

Jan McNeilan 678-1264 x14

Dairy

Troy Downing 842-3433

Family and Community Development

Jeanne Brandt 725-2107

Forestry and Christmas Trees

Chal Landgren 725-2102

Nutrition Education Program

Janice Smiley 725-2049

Watershed Health

Samuel Chan 722-6718

Wood Products

Scott Leavengood 725-2123

Master Gardener Hotline 725-2300

General Information 725-2300

*All 503 area code

Email format:

firstname.lastname@oregonstate.edu

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OSU to You

August/September 2005

Our Mission – delivering objective, research-based, non-formal education to help Oregonians solve problems, develop leadership, and manage resources.

Extension 4-H and FCD welcome new leaders to campus

Roger Rennekamp has been named 4-H program leader for the OSU Extension Service and head of the Department of 4-H Youth Development Education in the OSU College of Education. Rennekamp brings 26 years of experience with 4-H youth development programs to his new position. The new 4-H leader comes to OSU from the University of Kentucky, where he was an Extension specialist in program and staff development. He began his Extension career with the University of Kentucky in 1979 when he started out as a county Extension agent for 4-H youth development. He received his doctorate from Ohio State University in 1987.



Marc Braverman is the new program leader for the OSU Extension Service Family and Community Development (FCD) program, associate dean for Extension and outreach in the OSU College of Health and Human Sciences, and professor of Human Development and Family Sciences. Dr. Braverman was a 4-H youth development specialist at U.C. Davis for 22 years, where his research

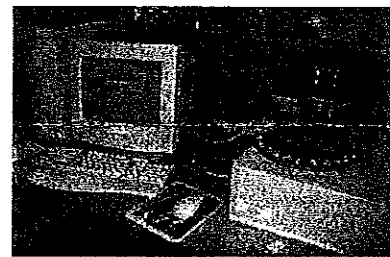


interests included promotion of adolescent health, tobacco prevention and control, and community programming to serve youth and families. While there he established and directed the 4-H Center for Youth Development in the university's Department of Human and Community Development and established the California Tobacco Control Evaluation Center and served as its director in 2004-05. He received his doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1982. *Welcome to Oregon, Roger and Marc!*

NWREC Extension program improves blueberry production

Washington County is one of the major blueberry producing counties in Oregon with more than 800 acres in blueberries. With a 10 to 15 percent annual increase in blueberry acreage, the demand for production-related information is rising rapidly. In response to growers' needs, blueberry Extension agent Dr. Wei Yang, located at the North Willamette

Research & Extension Center, offers field visits and on-farm pruning classes and demonstrations. The blueberry Extension program has helped growers turn around their aged and unproductive blueberry fields by adjusting crop load with pruning and proper fertilization. Another area of the Extension program is technology transfer. Dr. Yang and Dr. Bernadine Strik, also from NWREC, helped one large fresh blueberry packing company use berry firmness testing technology to establish fresh shipping quality standards. This is the first packing company now applying firmness testing technology for fresh shipping in the Northwest. The blueberry Extension program's objective is for blueberry growers to learn and adopt new production techniques to sustain high productivity with reduced production cost.



Automatic Firmness Tester like this one is used in the packing company.

Being a 4-H camp counselor leaves a lasting impact

Camp counselor alumni between the ages of 19 and 39 were surveyed regarding their thoughts and responses to their counseling experience. Over half said the reason they had become a camp counselor was that they had a good experience with their own camp counselor. These alumni identified "leadership" as the most important and most common skill they gained from being a counselor.

"Being a good role model" was the next most mentioned skill learned. There is a long list of ways former camp counselors are still acting as role models for children. Among the camp counselor alumni, there are several teachers, more than one nanny, science camp and environmental camp instructors, a lifeguard, pediatric nurses, after-school program directors, and many examples of participation in other camps in counseling and teaching roles.

"Learning to contribute to a group effort" and "how to work as a member of a team," important skills for many jobs, were ranked as third and fourth most significant skills learned by camp counselors.

By far, the greatest results of this study were the collection of inspiring and touching comments that were written on the surveys. Valued and cherished memories were mentioned over and over, reports Jeanne Brandt with the Family and Community Development program. The 2005 4-H summer camp, "The Wild West," was in July at the 4-H Education Center, near Salem.



1997 Washington County 4-H summer campers, counselors and staff pause for a picture. Counselors indicate they receive lasting benefits from their participation.

Intergenerational family forestry project starts up



Thanks to a grant of just over \$57,000 for a proposal by Chal Landgren and Brad Withrow-Robinson, family forest owners should get some help in intergenerational forest management. The grant comes via the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) in a competitive funding process. The goal is to help family tree farm owners around the state with some of the hard questions about how to keep tree farms in family ownership.

There are at least two factors that generated interest in this proposal. First, recent survey results indicate that many forest properties in Oregon are likely to change hands in the coming decade. Largely, this is attributed to the age of this owner group (most are over 65). Secondly, the survey indicated that many owners want the property to stay within the family.

It takes time to grow a forest and the efforts of one generation of owners may not be realized until the next generation takes over (or the next owners, if the property is sold). Likewise, the hard work, the pride, the knowledge of one owner does not pass to the next generation without planning. Sadly, many owners do not take the steps needed to interest the next generation in the family forest.

Part of the project over the next year will be to develop workshops and educational materials to help family forest owners with issues about the hows and whys of maintaining a family forest. Topics such as how to keep family members interested in the tree farm, how to have family meetings about death, inheritance, wills and other tough issues, will be part of the training. The project will benefit from the expertise of CPAs, estate lawyers, business experts, and woodland owners who have confronted these issues.

EXTENSION EVENTS

August 19 to 23, 4-H State Horse Fair, Salem.

August 26 to September 4, Oregon State Fair, Salem, 4-H Exhibits and contests daily.

September 8 to 10, Master Woodland Manager Fall Mini-College, OSU, Corvallis.

September 13, Loss and Grief, Wilsonville Senior Center. Noon.

Using Medicines Wisely
(Educational program and consultations with OSU Pharmacy Interns)

October 20, Pacific Pointe Retirement Inn.

November 2, Beaverton Community Center.

November 10, Rosewood Park Retirement Residence.

All programs begin at 2 p.m., consultations follow.

October 24 & 25, Wood Tech 2005, CAPITAL Center, Beaverton.
For more information:

<http://wood.oregonstate.edu/woodtech/index.php>

OSU Extension Service Food Preservation/ Food Safety Hotline,
1-800-354-7319, July 18 – October 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Staffed by
trained Extension Family Food Educator (FFE) volunteers in Lane
County.

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).

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: August 30, 2005

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

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

Re: July/August 2005 Operations Report

RV Host – We are currently without an RV host who resides on grounds and closes buildings during weeknights. Until we can secure the services of another RV host, we have hired a temporary employee to take care of our weeknight needs.

Sheep Barn – Joe Evers, Exhibitor, Booster and member of the Oregon Fair Commission, made a presentation before the Board of Commissioners on August 2, 2005, to ask permission to restore the Sheep Barn to its original state (see attached Commission minutes). At the direction of the Board, staff will contact Mr. Evers and advise him that such matters are under the purview of the Fair Complex Board.

RV Storage – the Fire Marshall has advised us that we can no longer store RVs, boats, and camper in the Barns. Prior users have been notified.

Fire Marshall Issues – We have contacted the Fire Marshall (see attached letter) noting our compliance with their pre-fair inspection. We have also received an estimate of \$218,000 from the Washington County Facilities Division, to have additional fire hydrants installed and upgrades performed to the Main Exhibit Hall sprinkler and fire alarm systems. Staff will advise the Fire Marshall of the estimate and note that these costs will be considered in preparing the Fair Complex's 2006-07 budget, which begins this January 2006.

Frite Lites – Work has begun on preparing for the 2005 Frite Lites activities. This year we have partnered with Funtastic Shows to add a haunted house and more carnival rides.

The addition of the haunted house will allow us to attract the teenage and young adult crowds.

Air Show – Staff is preparing for the upcoming Air Show weekend with the Hardy Plant Sale also taking place on Saturday and Sunday with move in on Friday afternoon. Staff will be splitting traffic as vehicles enter NE 34th Avenue with Hardy Plant Sale customers being permitted to park free of charge on the west side of NE 34th Avenue. City of Hillsboro Police personnel will be using the Cloverleaf Building as their security headquarters.

Attachments

Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes 8/02/05

1.i.

MO 05-293

Authorize Private Sale of County-Owned Parcel (CPO 1) (Approved Under Consent Agenda)

1.j.

MO 05-294

Approve Contract Amendment with Lifeworks Northwest for Mentor Services/Increase Expenditure Authority (Continued to August 16, 2005)

SERVICE DISTRICT FOR LIGHTING NO. 1-A COUNTY SERVICE DISTRICT

1.k.

SDL RO 05-31

Form Assessment Area, Authorize Maximum Annual Assessment and Impose a First Year Assessment for Arbor Station No. 3 (CPO 6) (Approved Under Consent Agenda)

1.l.

SDL RO 05-32

Form Assessment Area, Authorize Maximum Annual Assessment and Impose a First Year Assessment for Thompson Glen (CPO 7) (Approved Under Consent Agenda)

2. ORAL COMMUNICATION (2 MINUTE OPPORTUNITY)

* Joe Evers, no address provided, addressed two matters and submitted written testimony about each. (Testimony may be found in the Meeting File.) He reported that recently, he and other "former FAA boys" noticed that the sheep barn is in bad need of repair. Mr. Evers proposed restoring the barn to its original state. He reviewed that this building was moved from Shute Park to its present location by FAA members. Mr. Evers indicated that the restoration would be overseen by Jason Rau Construction. He asked the Board's permission to proceed with the plans to restore this building at no cost to the County.

Mr. Evers told the Board that he and Vice Chair Duyck recently discussed how much acreage is needed to put on a fair. He said that Vice Chair Duyck believed that a lot of fairs are on less than 30 acres. Mr. Evers serves on the Oregon State County Fair Commission and helps monitor these fairs. He provided the Board with a list of fairs with comparable attendance to the Washington County Fair. Mr. Evers' list included the following information on each Oregon fair listed:

- Acres owned
- County money received
- Director's salary
- Food concession spaces
- Commercial exhibits
- Profit or loss

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS – LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

3.a.

RO 05-136

Consider Measure 37 Claim by Daniel and Edith Rickard (CPO 10)

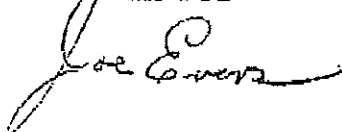
August 1, 2005

Washington County Commissioners:

At the recent Washington County Fair some of us former FFA boys who were involved in tearing down and rebuilding the sheep barn were discussing the condition of the barn. It is in bad need of repair. We are proposing to restore the building to its original state. This building was moved from Shute Park to the present location by FFA members. Some of the alumni who helped to move the building and the present FFA members as well as volunteers will be doing the work. It will be overseen by Jason Rau Construction.

Since this is a public building, we are asking your permission to proceed with our plans to restore this building.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Evers".

Joe Evers



WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

Fair Complex

July 25, 2005

John Rinier, Fire Marshall
City of Hillsboro
Fire Department
140 S. First Avenue
Hillsboro, OR 97123

Dear Mr. Rinier,

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the Fire Inspection Notices dated June 15, 2005, and received by this office on June 28, 2005.

Be advised that except for the Fire Inspection Notice regarding certain deficiencies noted for the Main Exhibit Hall and deficiencies applicable to the lack of adequate water supply for the Livestock Barns and other Fair Complex facilities, the various Fire Inspection Notices have been corrected.

Also be advised that we are working with the Washington County Facilities Division with regards to cost estimates necessary to affect the deficiencies for the items noted above. As soon as these estimates are available, they will be shared with your office.

As to the Fire Inspection Notice regarding the removal of the overhead door in the Main Exhibit Hall located adjacent to the main lobby, we will institute an internal management system to insure that this door remains in its locked, open position during the County Fair when the general public is permitted in this facility. After the County Fair, this overhead door will be removed before this facility is again used.

Sincerely,
WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX

Don G. Hillman, CFE
Executive Director

Total Construction Amount						150,381
OTHER COSTS						
Architects/Engineers Fees		0.11				16,542
Project Management/Administration		0.03				4,511
Geotechnical Engineering (EIS, Soils, Testing, etc.)		0.025				3,760
Legal Expenses		1				1,000
Permits (development fees, TIF, Building fees)		0.05				7,519
Telecommunications/Data		0				500
Communications/Equipment		0				0
Furnishing 0@\$5000		0				0
Collateral Equipment/Misc.		0				0
Printing & Bid Package		0.01				1,504
Testing/Inspection		0.07				10,527
Moving		1		Is		0
Sub-total						196,243
Project Contingency		0.08				15,699
Sub-total						211,943
Inflation		0.03				6,358
						0
Total						\$218,301

PROJ. TITLE	Install fire Hydrants and Fire Sprinkler and Alarm System					
LOCATION:	Washington County Fair Complex - Hillsboro					
Saved as:	I:\shared\Facilities\c_p\cost estimate\Fire Hydrants for the Fair Complex....					TOTAL: \$218,301
						Cost Per
DEPARTMENT:	Fair Complex					
Estimator:	BASSAM KHALIFEH					
Date:	7-25-05					

	ITEM DESCRIPTION	Multiplier	QUANTITY	Unit	Unit Cost	Total
1	Excavation	*	1,000	SF	\$13.50	\$13,500
2	Water line	*	1,000	SF	19.50	19,500
3	Fire Hydrant		7	Ea	2,100.00	14,700
4	Back flow Preventar	*	1	EA	4,500.00	4,500
5	Double Check Valve	*	1	LS	6,300.00	6,300
6	Sprinkler System in the exhibit hall	*	1	EA	37,000	37,000
7	Fire Alarm System in the Exhibit Hall	*	1	EA	29,000.00	29,000
8	Doors including the hardware	*	6	EA	950	5,700
9		*				0
###		*				0
Sub-total						130,200
Contractor's OH&P (Insurance, Bond & General Condition)						13,020
Sub-total						143,220
Change Order Contingency						7,161

OLD BUSINESS

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: August 30, 2005

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

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

Re: 4H Facility Usage

Staff has meet with John Baggott, OSU Extension Service, regarding 4H usage of Fair Complex facilities.

It has been decided that except for the arena, which will be available as in the past, 4H can use all other available Fair Complex facilities on Tuesday and Wednesday night basis, if not used by other paying tenants. The Extension Service will coordinate all scheduling, including arena usage, and provide on-site personnel to manage lights, doors, space allocation, etc.

Access of Fair Complex facilities other than on Tuesday and Wednesday night basis, may be arranged based upon mutual agreement of both parties. Depending on the type and extent of usage, a fee may be assessed to cover staff time, utilities, equipment, etc.

Staff will still request that the Extension Service use leased space at the Capital Center to accommodate as many 4H meetings as possible.

Post Development Usage – With the inclusion of a 'Youth/Community Space' component being incorporated in the design of the proposed new public facilities, Fair Complex and Extension Service staff will continue a dialog as to how this new space can be accessed to expand 4H usage.

County of Washington

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 30, 2005

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

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

Re: Amphitheatre & Exhibits Division – Evaluation of 2005 Washington County Fair

Find attached a suggested evaluation form applicable to the two MOUs with the Boosters regarding the Competitive Exhibits and Amphitheatre programs.

Once the Boosters provide a recap of their respective program activities, the Board will be able to complete the evaluations.

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX BOOSTER EVALUATION

- 5 = OUTSTANDING
4 = GOOD
3 = SATISFACTORY
2 = NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
1 = UNACCEPTABLE

EXHIBITOR PROGRAM

5	4	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---

1. Number of Exhibitors
2. Number of Exhibits
3. Guest Reaction
4. Superintendents and Clerks Feedback
5. Financial – Donations Received/Expense Management
6. Response to Exhibitor Guide and Fair Book Information
7. Relationship with Staff

AMPHITHEATRE

1. Attendance at Headliner Performances
2. Guest Reaction
3. Participants Satisfaction
4. Financial Donations/Expense Management
5. Relationship Between Paid Staff and Volunteers
6. Other Aspects, i.e., Sponsor Booths, Vendor Booths, Antique Tractor Display

OTHER COMMENTS:

NEW BUSINESS

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: August 30, 2005

To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

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

Re: 2005 Washington County Fair Wrap-up

"To improve is to change, to succeed is to change often." Winston Churchill

Despite hotter weather and competition from the Multnomah County Fair and the Portland Brews Festival, the "Free Fair Admission" model resulted in more than 70,000 visitors, almost identical to the 2004 Washington County Fair. More attendance was seen during the evenings due to the warmer weather. Had it not been for the 'Free Admission,' attendance may have been substantially lower with a \$7 to \$8 admission gate charge.

Staff is still tabulating numbers, but it appears that most revenue numbers will exceed budget estimates. Final numbers will be available via the Washington County accounting system when the August records are closed in early September.

This year's layout was quite a challenge given Fire Marshall restrictions regarding the positioning of concession stands. The new layout did enhance traffic through the center of the grounds, however, providing utilities to the new layout exasperated our sewer and electrical systems requiring the rental of additional gray water holding tanks, portable generators, and electrical boxes and cords. The cost of rental equipment is likely to exceed budget estimates for that reason.

Relocating the Merry-Go-Round and addition of another family-style ride on Friendship Plaza seems successful as well.

Attendance in the larger, more extensive landscape area was tempered by the warmer weather. Perhaps in the future, this exhibit area should be covered.

The continuous entertainment format at the Discover the Fun Stage, Friendship Square Stage and Tuality Healthcare Stage, as well as the walk-around entertainers, continues to delight the masses and attract large crowds. In visiting other fairs, this is something that separates the Washington County Fair from its sister fairs.

Arena events, especially the Truck Pull and Demolition Derby, did well. The PRCA Rodeo, as it has for many years, still does not attract the larger crowds given its higher production costs and tireless efforts by staff, sponsors and volunteers.

The changes made for the 2005 County Fair should serve us well in making plans for the 2006 County Fair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar of Events
August - December 2005

Date	Event	Location
<i>August</i>	No Board Meeting Planned	
<i>September</i>		
5	Labor Day	Office Closed
7	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
7	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
9-11	Oregon International Air Show	Hillsboro Airport
12	Volunteer Dinner (Tentative)	Cloverleaf Bldg. (6:00 PM)
<i>October</i>		
5	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
5	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
14 -16, 21 - 31	Frite Lites	Grounds (7:00 PM)
<i>November</i>		
2	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
2	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
24	Thanksgiving Holiday	Office Closed
28 - Dec 1	IAFE Convention	Las Vegas
<i>December</i>		
7	Board Meeting	Floral Building (4:30 PM)
7	Booster Meeting	Floral Building (7:00 PM)
26	Holiday	Office Closed

CORRESPONDENCE



June 23, 2005

Don Hillman, Executive Director
Washington County Fair
873 NE 34th Avenue
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Dear Don,

TriMet is pleased to sponsor the 2005 Washington County Fair. We are providing over \$9,000 worth of advertising on our vehicles beginning this week and extending through July 31, 2005 to promote the Fair.

Because our vehicles cover a territory of 575 square miles, citizens from throughout the tri-county region will have ample opportunity to see the promotions, and we hope travel by MAX to the Fairplex.

We are honored to be part of such a rewarding collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Hansen".

Fred Hansen
General Manager

FH/rd



WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

Fair Complex

July 15, 2004

Board of Commissioners
Washington County
155 N. First Street, Suite 3000
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Dear Chairman Brian and Members of the Board of Commissioners;

On behalf of the Washington County Fair Complex Board, volunteers and staff, I extend an invitation to each of you to "Discover the Fun" at the 2005 Washington County Fair & Rodeo, July 28 - 31.

We have assembled Washington County's best including competitive exhibits ranging from dairy cattle, beef, swine, sheep, poultry, rabbits, textiles, arts & crafts, floral exhibits, 4H, FFA and fiber animals as well as Amphitheatre concerts, truck pull, demolition derby and three action-packed performances of the PRCA Rodeo Presented by Madden Industrial Craftsmen on July 29 and 30.

Don't forget to enjoy an array of tasty food ranging from the traditional corndog to BBQ, plus some of the best country, pop, and blues music performed live on the Tuality Healthcare Stage.

Remember, this is your County Fair & Rodeo and we hope that you will come out and take a look at some of the exciting activities planed for 2005. Fair admission is free to everyone, everyday, all the time.

If you need any special accommodations, please feel free to call me at 503.648.1416 extension 205.

Sincerely,
WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR COMPLEX

Don G. Hillman, CFE
Executive Director

Cc Washington County Fair Complex Board
Charlie Cameron, Washington County CAO

Don Hillman

From: Leah Perkins-Hagele [lperkins@faircomplex.com]

Sent: Saturday, July 30, 2005 11:17 AM

To: Don Hillman

Subject: FW: Are you giving Intel Employees Discounts this year? I have everyone asking me.

I'm glad your family enjoyed the fair

-----Original Message-----

From: Holmes, Sofia [mailto:sofia.holmes@intel.com]

Sent: Saturday, July 30, 2005 11:05 AM

To: lperkins@faircomplex.com

Subject: RE: Are you giving Intel Employees Discounts this year? I have everyone asking me.

Wonderful, I will let everyone know.

Our family went last night and had a wonderful time. Everything was very well organized and it was a nice touch having the Sheriff's on horseback.

Thank you for the wonderful community fair.

Sofia

From: Leah Perkins-Hagele [mailto:lperkins@faircomplex.com]

Sent: Friday, July 29, 2005 9:22 PM

To: Holmes, Sofia

Subject: RE: Are you giving Intel Employees Discounts this year? I have everyone asking me.

Everyone is discounted, our fair is free admission

-----Original Message-----

From: Holmes, Sofia [mailto:sofia.holmes@intel.com]

Sent: Friday, July 29, 2005 9:18 AM

To: lperkins@faircomplex.com

Subject: Are you giving Intel Employees Discounts this year? I have everyone asking me.

Don Hillman

From: Terry Amato [tamato@amatocom.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2005 5:45 PM
To: Albert Flanagan Jr.
Cc: Don Hillman
Subject: Note

Hi Albert,

Thank you, thank you for all the help you provided during the Fair. You and your crew were fantastic and surprised me everyday with quick response, banner movement, set-up, clean-up and everything in-between.

I am involved in many events in the Portland area and I can say that you have consistently done a superior job over the years.

As we say in Italian, "Saluti, a cent' anni e mille grazie"!

Terry Amato

cc: Fair Board

Date: August 2, 2005

To: Don Hillman, Executive Director

C: Commissioners Tom Brian, Andrew Duyck, John Leeper, Roy Rogers, and Dick Schouten.

From: Diane Overstreet

Re: My daughter Amber's blog.

Attached is a printed version of my daughter Amber's blog. She is 18 years old, and wrote this blog on her webpage last Thursday.

I happened to read it after our weekend at the Fair.

There may be many people in the incorporated cities of Washington County who desire development of the fairgrounds. I believe there are many young people in our County who would disagree, and they are our future.

Diane Overstreet
30765 NW Zumwalt Lane
Hillsboro, 97124

Thursday, July 28, 2005

In May my great grandpa died. For those of you who don't know, he was the stake that grounded my entire family, he was the head and the center at the same time. He was "Grandpa" to practically everyone in Washington County, but to me and my family, he really was our "*Grampa*" - my mom's dad's dad. The one who first taught my mom to ride and break a horse. The one who let me, as a little child, take the lines and drive his wagon pulled by the only red Percheron horses in the state of Oregon. On Wagon Train his wagon was the lead wagon, and he was always there in camp to tell stories about when he and George Spiesschaert first started the treks. He was the one who always loved to sing me old songs, or sit down and play a game of Pepper and let me win even though he could always Pepper with a "3" hand. And probably my most fond memory is that he was always sitting in his chair in the Draffhorse Barn at the Washington County Fair and he lit up when my sister and I came in, gave him a hug and a kiss and we'd all share some Dairy Woman's ice cream and talk about the horses.

Every inch of that dusty ground at the Fair reminds me of the time spent there, the time with my grandpa, my family, in the barns and at the Rodeo. My mom was on that Rodeo Court, and so were several of her cousins through the years. I wanted to be on that Rodeo Court. The 4-H buildings where we spent so many wagon train meetings and reunions are a part of those grounds. I wanted to be able to take my children to the Fair, show them the barn and stalls where their great - great grandpa kept his horses. Unfortunately time moves on and we are left to stand back and watch, powerless to stop it.

My grandpa is gone, and soon, so will the Fair and Rodeo that he loved so much, that we love so much, and Hillsboro will have itself another mall. A place that embodies home for me more than most places will be gone forever. My home, my Fairgrounds and Rodeo are being ripped away, and all I can do is savor the bittersweet times to come this weekend: my first Fair without my grandpa, my last Washington County Fair.

- Amber Overstreet



PO Box 620 • Tavares, FL 32778
Phone: 352-589-1711 • Fax: 352-589-1716

August 5, 2005
Washington County Fair
873 NE 34th Avenue
Hillsboro, OR 97124

On behalf of Lustre Craft Cookware, we would like to thank you personally for putting together such a wonderful show! You made us feel welcome and appreciated. All of your efforts contributed to the success of our representative. Your staff did a great job.

We look forward to a continued successful relationship with you in the years to come.

Thank you sincerely for the spectacular work that you do in providing us with a wonderful environment in which to work.

Sincerely,

Linda Jeske
Lustre Craft Cookware
(352) 589-1711 ext: 501

Don Hillman

From: Randy Miles [randymiles@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, August 05, 2005 3:14 PM
To: Don Hillman
Subject: Washington County Fair "Kudo's"

Hi Don,

I hope that this was another successful year for the fair. At least from our point of view, it seemed to be very busy. We have all cleaned up and recovered. :)

I just wanted to send a quick email to you regarding your maintenance staff, primarily Mike and Albert. They were absolutely awesome to us. We just had to ask for something and it appeared (I wish I could have the same thing happen at home!). They were patient, helpful, and always courteous. But you probably know that already. I just wanted you to know, we know it.

Please pat them on the back for us.

Thanks,
Caroline Miles

8/5/2005

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Don Hillman

From: James Miller [jamesmiller@bigplanet.com]
Sent: Friday, August 05, 2005 8:09 AM
To: lperkins@faircomplex.com; lisad@faircomplex.com
Subject: Congratulations on a Job Well Done

Hello Leah and Lisa,

Now that the dust literally has settled down, I wanted to send you a note congratulating you for putting on such a great fair. As someone who works and attends many fairs throughout Oregon and Washington, the Washington County Fair is consistently a cut above the rest; and this year you took it a notch higher. The presentations were enthusiastically received by the fairgoers, and the shows and the music were just right for the audience of today. I heard many positive remarks from audience and vendors about the music, and the overall entertainment presentations.

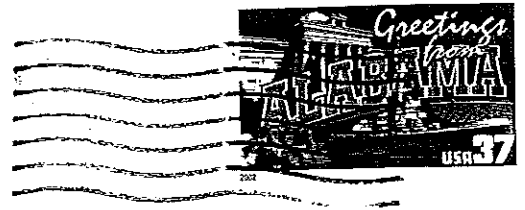
You are setting the pace for taking a County Fair in the right direction for meeting the preferences of today's audiences. Our world has changed much and will continue to change. You have taken the right steps to keeping the Washington County Fair viable – with one foot in tradition and one foot in the contemporary world. More fairs should take heed of your example.

Once again, congratulations on a job well done.

Best regards,

James Miller
Ring Associates

Kleen Quest
540 ALABAMA
SFCA 94110



Don Hillman & Leah Perkins
Washington County Fair
873 NE 34th Avenue
Hillshoro, OR

97124



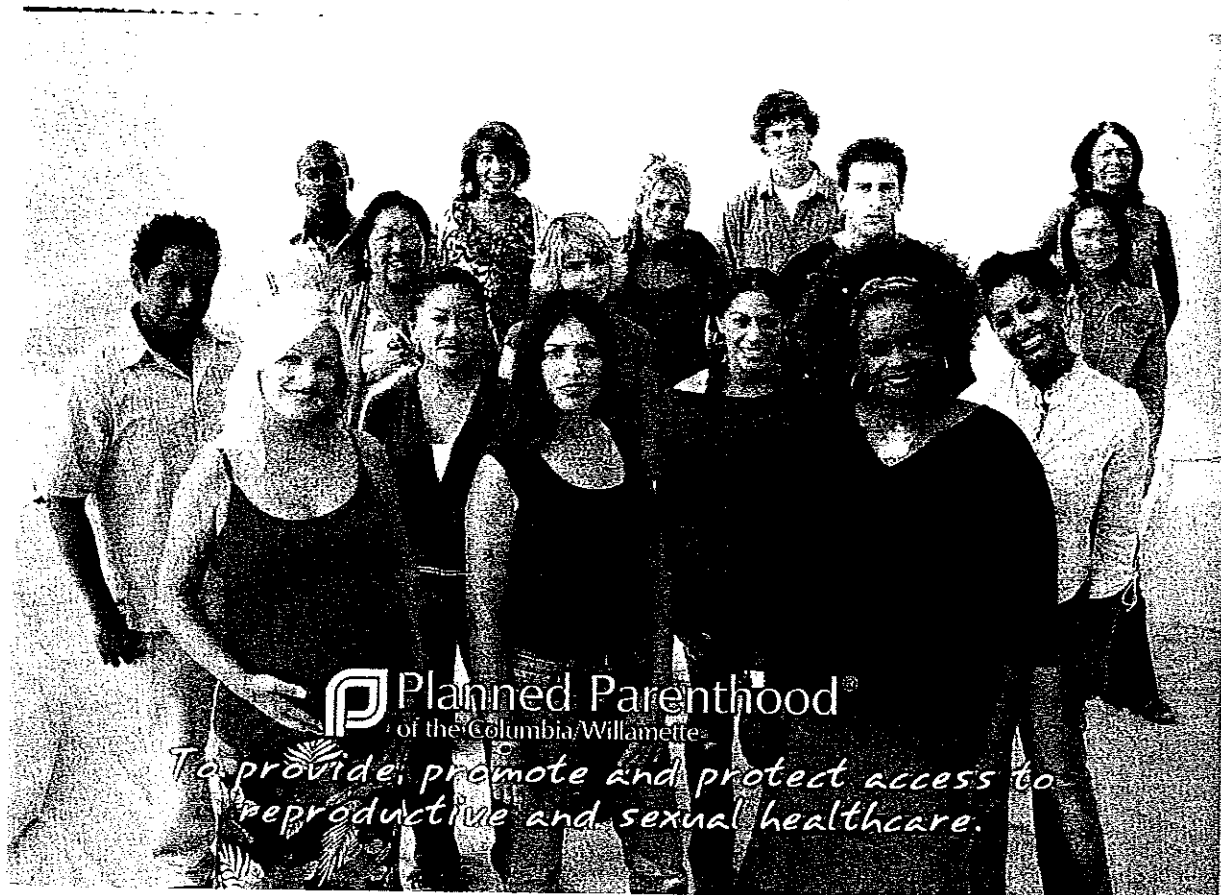
Dear Don and Leah,

Aug 6, 2005

A million thanks for:

- a great experience at the 2005 Washington Co. Fair!
- providing an air-conditioned (heaven!) trailer for the entertainers
- the wonderful audiences
- hiring such talented entertainers - it was such a pleasure to work with Tyler Bechtel & the Bros. from Different Mothers, Terry Stokes & Cosmo.

→



August 8th, 2005

Dear Leah -

Just a short note to let you know we really enjoyed being @ the Washington County Fair this year.

The WA County fair is one of the most important events for our summer community outreach program. We thank you for your continued support.

Looking forward to next year!

Best -

(Carmen & Anna)

*2005 Washington County
Dairy Princess
Shannon Mayer*

Dear Fair Board Members,

Thank you very much for organizing the fair for this year. It was fun with plenty of really fun things, such as the amphitheater. Thanks also to the Fair Coalition for helping with the fair. As a 4-H member also I spend all day at the fair. This year was definitely one of the best!

Thank you,
Shannon Mayer
2005 Washington County Dairy Princess

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

OTHER MATTERS OF INFORMATION



Common Traits of Successful Fairs and Fairgrounds

By: Rod Markin

During a recent interview for a national magazine, I was asked to describe what makes a fair and fairgrounds operation successful. I was startled by my inability to articulate a succinct sound bite that would not only answer the question but provide some insight into the state of the industry. It forced me to research recent events affecting the industry.

On the Down Side

Over the past year, numerous fairs and fairgrounds operations have faced financial and operational crises, ranging from significant attendance drops to cuts in funding to deficit spending to threat of closure to take-over by governmental agencies:

- One state fair has experienced dramatic and significant drops in attendance over the past few years, prompting serious consideration of moving or greatly limiting the operations of the fair.
- Two state fairs have been running deep deficits in their operations, requiring taxpayer bailouts.
- The year-round management of a county fairgrounds was taken over by the county, leaving the fair association with only the staging of the annual fair.
- A new fairgrounds agricenter has been under-performing since it was built a few years ago, with no fair charter yet in place.

- In California, there has been talk of selling state-owned fairgrounds to raise money to help bail out the state's financial situation.

And there have been many more examples of fair and fairgrounds operations struggling to make it.

On the Up Side

In contrast to my previous examples, and even in spite of them, the industry has many more successes to tout.

- Nebraska voters approved a constitutional amendment in November for the state fair to receive an estimated \$2 million in state lottery proceeds each year to go toward facility enhancements and improvements.
- The Clark County Fairgrounds, Vancouver, Wash., is completing the addition of a 100,000-square-foot exhibition building — funded by a unique public facility district.

- State lawmakers in Oregon funded the construction of a \$10 million arena facility at the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center.

On the Right Side

All of this reflection caused me to take a closer look to see if there are any common characteristics of successful fairs and fairgrounds. Is it the marketplace? Competitive factors? New facilities? Here is what I found.

Successful fairs and fairground operations, big or small, have become successful by doing three things:

1. *Repositioning the role of the fairgrounds in the community.*
2. *Reflecting the community in the annual fair.*
3. *Realigning operations to run like a business.*

Successful fairgrounds have *repositioned* the role of the fairgrounds in the community from an ag/livestock facility to a vital, balanced community gathering place for activities and events. To put it simply — these fairgrounds have become relevant to the residents and businesses in their community.

It's where things happen, where memories are made, where fun is found — not just horse and livestock shows or 4-H meetings, but wedding receptions, banquets, consumer and trade shows, RV rallies, spectator events, corporate picnics, meetings and seminars, pre-schools, and much more.

To do this requires attention to the needs of the entire community, a broader market focus for interim activities, and strong ties with civic organizations, business leaders, major employers, schools, economic development groups, and tourism organizations.

Successful fairs *reflect* the community in the annual fair. No longer geared to just competitive exhibits, management of these fairs know and

reflect the popular culture of their community, becoming a magnet for everyone.

Beyond the livestock exhibits, carnival, and 4-H activities, successful fairs have events and activities that appeal to and attract the greater community. Participatory activities and events, technology exhibits, sq integration, and unique and professionally operated food concessions are all reflected in these successful fairs.

Successful fairs and fairgrounds have *realigned* their organization and operation to be more like a business. To be truly community focused and business oriented, their boards represent the broader interests of the community, not just agriculture.

These fairgrounds are also actively marketed. This is the single most neglected aspect of fairgrounds operations. Marketing (or the lack of) separates successful operations from those that struggle to make ends meet. Do not be fooled — there is no lasting truth to the "build it and they will come" Hollywood-induced mantra.

Another business trait that is vital is the production of current and useable financial reports and records. Management cannot make good decisions in a vacuum — and all too often that is what management of a struggling fairgrounds does. Lastly, these fairgrounds have implemented "market value" rental rates and have instituted policies of annual rate increases to insure costs are covered.

Success comes in varying degrees, but success is success. Reposition your fairgrounds, reflect the community in your fair, and realign your operations as a business. ♦

Rod Markin is president of Markin Consulting, Maple Grove, Minn.



2005



Feed Your Senses

at the NC State Fair

Oct. 14-23

Live in Concert

Oct. 14	Montgomery Gentry
Oct. 15	Dierks Bentley with Cross Canadian Ragweed
Oct. 16	Edwin McCain
Oct. 17	Josh Gracin
Oct. 18	Kenny Rogers
Oct. 19	Bill Engvall
Oct. 20	Fantasia
Oct. 21	Third Day
Oct. 22	Trace Atkins
Oct. 23	LeAnn Rimes with Phil Vassar

Ticket information: (919) 821-7400 or visit www.ncstatefair.org

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS BOOSTERS

Meeting Minutes - July 6, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Ed Kristovich. There were 27 members present. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Treasurers report was distributed. Our membership is growing.

Don Hillman gave the **Fair Board Meeting report.** John Baggott discussed the future use and possible fees 4-H would have to pay to use the Fairgrounds. Don told about the Fire Marshall's report regarding water supply, fire hydrants, and other issues relating to the facilities. The Fairgrounds is to come up with a plan for improvements.

Ad Hoc - Fair Coalition committee report by Lyle Spiesschaert. Entry in Hillsboro 4th of July parade was a "train" with 4-H kids and a few adults. Special thanks to Dave Rohrer for his effort in getting the train and participants. Lyle mentioned that there will be a meeting for Fair superintendents on July 19. The Boosters will serve food prior to their meeting. Lyle talked about the different responsibilities that we are involved with during the Fair - mainly the Amphitheatre and Exhibits portion of the Fair. The issue of insurance for the Booster's Booth and the Amphitheatre was discussed. The next meeting of the Boosters/Coalition will be July 11.

Booster Booth clean up was set for July 23. At that time attempts to remove the old grill hood will be made. Bill D. will get some of the Key Club members to again help at the Booth during the Fair. Sheila and Irene offered to help for the Special Kids Rodeo. Ed K. will get other Boosters signed up to work during the Fair.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila

Sheila Day, Secretary

(Note: No meeting was held by the Fair Board or Fairgrounds Booster in the month of August.)

The next Fair Board meeting is July 7, at 4:30 pm in the FLORAL BLDG. Everyone is welcome.

→ NEXT **BOOSTERS MEETING** is JULY 7 at 7:00 pm in the Floral Bldg ←



The Oregonian

Enjoy the state fair, while it lasts

Friday, August 26, 2005

MICHELLE COLE
The Oregonian

SALEM -- This year's Oregon State Fair, which starts today, might have been the last if the Legislature hadn't stepped in with a temporary infusion of cash.

But even as the fair prepares to welcome hundreds of thousands of visitors through Labor Day, there's no guarantee it will continue into the next decade.

Those who walk the fairgrounds can easily see signs of the fair's long-term financial struggles.

Metal supports prop up some of the animal barns because engineers questioned the buildings' structural integrity. Blue paint peels off the 1921 poultry building, and fair managers worry about the windows popping out.

Yet there's no money to fix the problems.

Fair managers also have scaled back entertainment ambitions.

In the past, the Oregon State Fair has been host to Dolly Parton, Def Leppard and the Dixie Chicks, among others, at the amphitheater and outdoor stages.

But this year, Lin Wolfe, director of marketing and sales, says the fair "can't afford to take the risk" of booking a big name and then not selling enough tickets to cover costs. Instead, the fair will offer free performances, including a hypnotist, a juggling group and the Peking Acrobats.

The 5,000-seat Pavilion, which opened in 2004 as a venue for concerts, bull riding and monster truck shows, hasn't drawn as many events as anticipated.

"Every year, the entertainment gets a little bit less," says Bud Elgin, who has operated concessions stands since 1975. If fewer people pay money to come to the fair, he says, "then I have less business."

Fair managers say the 2001 terrorist attacks and Oregon's stubborn recession have been a drag on attendance and revenue.

Apparently, however, 9/11 had a different effect on other state fairs.

"It's been a good time for fairs since Sept. 11, 2001," says Jim Tucker, president of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions based in Springfield, Mo. "Fairs are a community celebration, and the importance of community institutions in this society has been much more appreciated since 9/11."

But Tucker notes that the most successful state fairs had the capital in recent years to add buildings and improve or otherwise turn their fairgrounds into more desirable destinations.

Many fairs also have enjoyed a reliable source of state funding.

The Indiana State Fair, for example, receives part of the property tax collected in the state and 15 cents of the admission price to Indiana riverboat casinos.

"We've put \$40 million into capital improvements over the last seven years. We've had people notice and respond to that well," says Andy Klotz, Indiana State Fair spokesman.

The Oregon State Fair has not had such luxuries.

Director Katie Cannon says the fair used most of a \$10 million bond to upgrade and repair buildings in recent years. But, as of 2002, it still faced an estimated \$5 million in deferred maintenance.

The fair used an additional \$10 million bond to build the Pavilion, but that wasn't enough to cover additional staffing and operational costs.

Though the Legislature ordered the Oregon State Fair & Expo Center to become self-supporting in 1981, the organization remains a state agency, and managers have returned over the years to the Capitol to ask for cash. Currently, state-allocated dollars total about 10 percent of fair and exposition center revenue.

Mike Stebbins, a high school agricultural sciences teacher who will participate in his 31st Oregon State Fair this year, says it may be unrealistic to expect the fair to survive without state support. Stebbins and other fair supporters say the fair has many benefits that can't be quantified, including allowing rural kids the opportunity to show their animals, and urban kids the chance, for example, to see a living, breathing cow.

"The fair brings money to the community," he says. "It brings people together."

But as every tax dollar becomes more precious, some state leaders question whether Oregon can afford a state fair much longer.

"I went there as a kid. It's wonderful. I take my daughter there. But it's not more important to me than schools," says Sen. Ryan Deckert, D-Beaverton, chairman of the Senate Revenue Committee.

Deckert voices one side of a debate that grew louder last fall when the Oregon State Fair & Expo Center went to the Legislature's Emergency Board with a cash-flow crisis. The fair had failed to make a \$568,000 payment on a bond due November 2003. The agency made the payment, but another was coming due.

Lawmakers and state auditors blame the missed payment on an accounting mistake, but say they do not suspect anything illegal. Still, the missed payment "was kind of the straw that broke the camel's back from the Legislature's perspective," says Rep. Susan Morgan, R-Myrtle Creek, vice chairwoman of the House Budget Committee.

When legislative auditors reported that the fair and exposition center would need as much as \$4 million in state support in the next biennium if it was to survive, lawmakers passed a bill abolishing the state fair as an independent agency and moving its accounting and management operations to the state Parks and Recreation Department.

The parks department has experience managing state property and providing entertainment, noted a legislative summary. More importantly, perhaps, the parks department can use lottery proceeds to meet the fair's money needs.

Critics say the move not only takes money from parks, it also violates voters' intent when they approved Ballot Measure 66 designating part of lottery proceeds to parks and salmon restoration.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski isn't thrilled, either.

In a letter this week to Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, the governor said he will let the bill become law without his signature to ensure that the fair continues to operate. But transfer of the fair to the parks department "is plainly an expedient solution," he said. He promised that his 2007-09 budget will recommend

ways for the 2007 Legislature "to correct this mistake."

State leaders, says Morgan, will "need to have the discussion of whether we have a state fair or not."

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Everything Oregon

Hillsboro Argus

Opponents of County Fair Complex show strength

Thursday, August 25, 2005

By Ian Rollins**The Hillsboro Argus**

The Argus

Opponents of a proposal to redevelop most of the Washington County Fair Complex turned out en masse Wednesday night to tell the Hillsboro Planning Commission how they felt.

The county fair board and developer Opus Northwest are asking the planning commission to modify the zoning on the property to allow a large retail development on the 101-acre complex. Although none of the opponents had a chance to speak by press time Wednesday night, it appeared the planning commission was in for a long night.

Opus' proposal is to build a retail development, with national-scale merchants and other entertainment uses, on 60 acres of the complex west of Northeast 34th Avenue. The current fair facilities would be torn down and new facilities would be built east of 34th.

The new fair complex, 20 acres in size, would include a 90,000-square-foot exhibition hall, a large open pavilion suitable for concerts and rodeos, space for a 60,000-square-foot aluminum structure for agriculture and two public plazas. The fair also would use 14 acres of Port of Portland land to the east for overflow parking.

The plan also calls for an extension of Northeast Grant Street all the way to Northeast Brookwood Parkway, at the city's directive.

"We're asking that a portion of the site be economically redeveloped so we can preserve the land where the fair can be held in perpetuity," Richard Vial, fair board chairman, told the commission.

The fair board says such a redevelopment is necessary to preserve the fair, which they say loses about \$200,000 annually. Opponents, including the Washington County Fair Boosters, 4-H and grange members, say this redevelopment could kill the fair.

Planning commissioners shared some of those concerns. Opus and the fair board have proposed allowing retail development with no maximum limit, which concerned John Coulter, commission vice president.

"What we want is teeth to allow us to make this something the community wants it to be," he said.

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Everything Oregon

The Oregonian

Clark County alert after 3 E. coli cases

A possible link to activity at the annual fair comes just ahead of the start of the Oregon State Fair in Salem

Thursday, August 25, 2005

HOLLEY GILBERT

The Oregonian

VANCOUVER -- Health officials are watching for more cases of E. coli after two teenage girls and a woman in her 20s suffered nausea, vomiting and bloody diarrhea from bacteria they might have picked up at the Clark County Fair.

Dr. Justin Denny, Clark County's health officer, said the three visited the fair between Aug. 9 and its Aug. 14 closing, but it was unclear whether the E. coli 0157:H7 cases were the result of being around animals, eating uncooked fair food or another source.

With the Oregon State Fair set to open Friday, organizers have mounted a public education campaign about the importance of washing hands at the Salem event, which runs through Sept. 5.

The fair is promoting the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation to wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after visiting animal barns and before eating food.

Also to prevent the transmission of disease, visitors will not be allowed to eat or drink near animals. Parents are urged to stash baby items such as pacifiers while in animal areas and keep children from approaching animals from behind.

In Clark County, physicians have been notified to watch for additional cases and recall patients who may have had symptoms in the past few days, Denny said.

Although most E. coli species are harmless, the E. coli 0157:H7 species produces a toxin that causes kidney and blood vessel damage in about 15 percent of cases, or in more severe cases, death. Between 10,000 and 20,000 cases of the strain are reported in the United States each year.

Typically eight to 20 E. coli cases are reported in the county annually. However, three cases -- one last week and two Tuesday -- that could have come from a common source are cause for concern, Denny said.

No treatment against E. coli 0157:H7 is known. Antibiotics can increase the risk of problems, and anti-diarrhea agents should be avoided.

One of the three Clark County patients was briefly hospitalized, and all three are recovering, Denny said.

Others could become ill this week. The incubation period for the disease is typically two to 10 days but can be as long as 14 days.

Symptoms include bloody diarrhea, vomiting, severe stomach cramps and fever.

E. coli 0157:H7 is most commonly found in the intestines and feces of cattle but also is associated with

handling other farm animals or breathing in airborne bacteria. Other possible causes are eating uncooked meat, drinking unpasteurized milk or passing the disease person-to-person by, for example, handling soiled diapers.

Washing hands with warm soap and water after using the bathroom, changing diapers, handling animals or touching raw meat is the best way to prevent the disease's spread, Denny said.

Denny praised the fair's efforts to promote hand-washing. Hand-sanitizing stations were posted throughout the grounds with signs urging visitors to rub the gel on their hands after touching the animals.

Tom Musser, executive director of the Clark County Fair, said the three E. coli cases were the first at the fair during his 12-year tenure. Fair employees continuously clean animal barns during the day and spray the walkways with bleach water, among other things, to keep the fair disease-free, he said.

"We follow all CDC guidelines," he said.

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Everything Oregon

Hillsboro Argus

New complex doesn't mean fair's gone

Tuesday, August 23, 2005

By Clark Gallagher
The Hillsboro Argus

At the risk of alienating half our readers, it's time for me to come out in support of the redesign proposals as offered by the Washington County Fair Complex Board.

When you stand back from the emotion you can see this plan has the potential for success.

Presently the fair is a money-losing proposition. Supported by \$200,000 to \$400,000 dollars a year from a voter approved hotel/motel tax, the fair's chances are dim for the much needed improvements on its aging structures.

Built over time, many of the buildings aren't up to code. Some could be condemned.

Three times voters have turned down tax initiatives designed to fix or improve the existing buildings.

Washington County residents have clearly sent a message: Though they like the fair, they not about to dig in their pocket to fund it.

Now a plan to sell off half the land has been developed.

Opus Northwest will explore the idea of a regional destination shopping area on the west end of the land. East of 34th street will be the home of the new fair facilities.

A 100,000 square foot open pavilion and 90,000 square foot exhibition hall will anchor a public plaza.

The possibilities are exciting.

The ground floor of the hall can be divided into four separate areas. A second floor includes 10,000 square feet of convention or conference space that can house a group up to 1,000. The pavilion with its 100,000 square feet of space will have an interlocking floor over dirt.

That will accommodate just about any event you could think up while providing overflow for the exhibition hall.

The open pavilion will be covered so both structures can be used year round.

Is there a need for more convention-concert-trade show space?

According to every chamber in the tri-county area there is. So what's not to like about this plan?

Some will point to limited area for staging livestock events. But with the advancements in portable buildings, structures can be erected in hours and just as quickly taken down.

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Some will point to limited parking, but the Port of Portland property south of Cornell can be used for parking and nothing else.

Some will worry that the 20 acres of leased ball fields and sports parks will go under the blade of the developer. That's not in the plan.

Washington County and the Washington County Fair Complex have every intention of keeping the Sports complex with the City of Hillsboro.

There are other reasons for going forward with this plan, about 150 million of them.

That's the money put back on the tax rolls when half of the property is sold.

So let's add this up. Presently the fair ground structures are on the brink of being condemned. There is not enough money to bring them back up to code.

The voters are tapped out and there is no long range funding in sight for the fair.

There is a need for convention and exhibition space in Washington County and we want to keep the fair where it is.

A reputable firm, Opus Northwest is spending a goodly sum of money to evaluate and plan for the site.

One hundred and fifty million dollars goes back on Washington County's tax rolls.

To my way of thinking, we aren't losing the fairgrounds. This is probably the only way to save it.

Clark Gallagher is publisher of The Argus.

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Colorado State Fair to be shorter and more frugal

By
The Associated Press
DenverPost.com

Pueblo - The Colorado State Fair's new general manager said a leaner, shorter event this year should enable the fair to repay a \$856,000 state loan.

Shortening the fair, which opens Friday, to 11 days from 16 days could trim \$320,000 from the budget, general manager Chris Wiseman said.

So far, the number of vendors signing up has increased, which will help boost revenues.

"We're starting to chip away at the losses," said Wiseman, who took over after last year's fair.

State Agriculture Commissioner Don Ament said he was happy with the cost-cutting and improvements.

"He's trying to make the fair attractive to people from all cross sections of society," Ament said last week of Wiseman.

Ament acknowledged, however, that the state fair, which runs through Sept. 5, has been a perennial money-loser.

The reasons include:

Horse shows and programs for livestock, 4-H and Future Farmers of America, all required by the state, that lose an average of \$350,000 a year.

The costly maintenance and repair of the older facilities at the fairgrounds.

A \$7 million, 8,200-seat events center, still being paid for, that hasn't generated as much revenue as anticipated.

To counter those expenses, fair officials have trimmed full-time staff to 19 from 26. They are using more Pueblo County jail inmates to help during the off-season.

The fair will start getting a cut of the interest the state earns from holding abandoned or forgotten bank accounts and other assets. Wiseman estimated the fair will receive about \$250,000 a year.

In addition, state taxpayers can now divert part of their state income tax refunds to the fair. Most of the \$26,000 donated this year was used to start the program, but Wiseman expects the revenue to increase next year.

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Harris hopes this fair isn't the last

"The developers are circling."

That is what Peggy Harris says of the situation now facing the Washington County Fair.

The 106 acres on which the fair is held are now being enviously eyed by mall builders, in an area that seems to be positively budding with big, new shopping centers, such as Tanashourne and Bridgeport.

Will the Washington County Fair be around in 2007 or even 2006? Those are questions that will be answered in the coming months as county officials consider a plan that would turn over two-thirds of the

property to a Portland development firm.

"We've all been discussing the county fair at great length," said Harris, whose group of I Have A Dream students are just coming off a wonderful experience exhibiting their lambs at the fair.

"I grew up in 4H and all of my kids did too," she said. "That's why the fair is so special. I think there are some real issues regarding the developer."

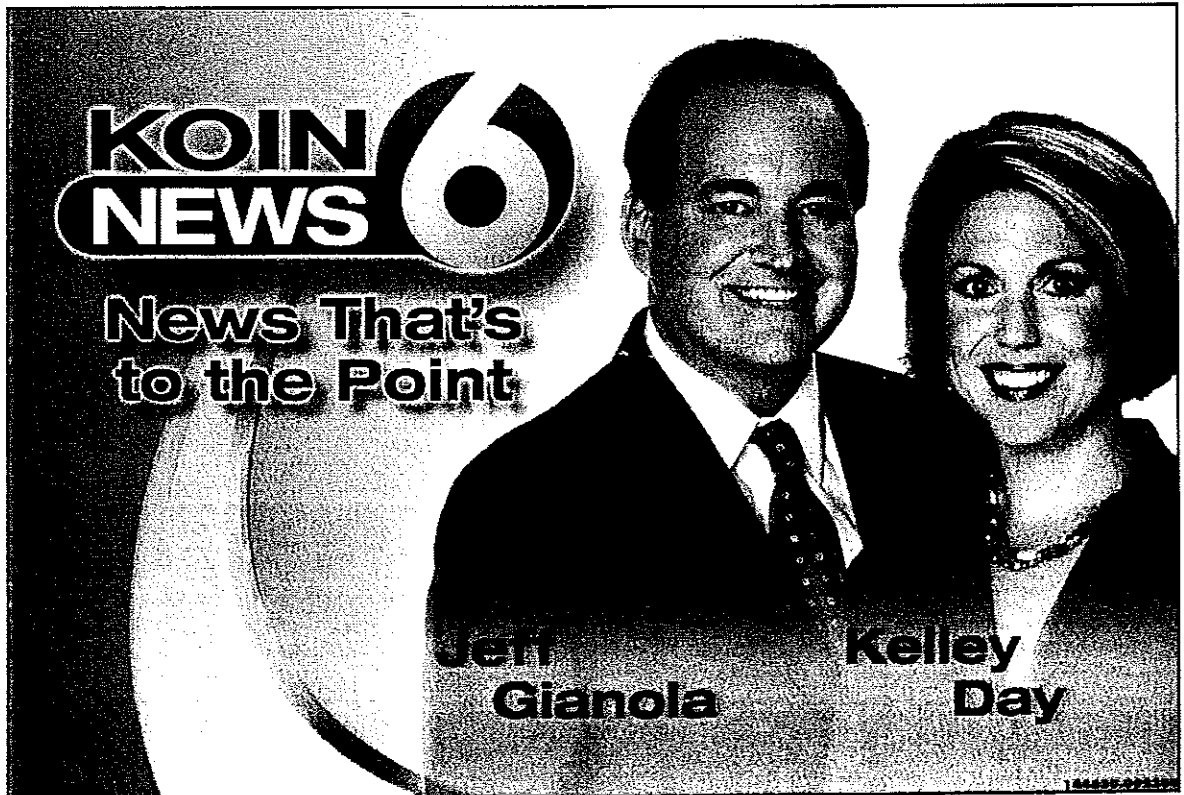
The prospect of reducing the amount of land dedicated to the fairgrounds has struck a nerve with a lot of people, such as Lyle Spiesschaert of Forest Grove, a long-time

member of the Fair Boosters.

"We're hoping the people will prevail here," said Spiesschaert, who has farmed in the Forest Grove area since 1984. "This is a real important issue that goes way beyond the fair. The bigger issue is providing space for citizens of Washington County."

During the fair, the Fair Boosters kept two booths busy collecting signatures of people wanting to preserve the fair. In addition, Spiesschaert says Fair Boosters will soon announce a saving plan for the fairgrounds.

"Once it's gone," he said, "it's lost forever."



Forest Grove News-Times 8/10/05



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Hillsboro Argus

Free is good price

Thursday, August 04, 2005

The Hillsboro Argus

Washington County Fair attendance this year with free admission: More than 70,000 people.

Washington County Fair attendance in 2003, when you had to pay to enter the grounds? About 40,000.

It seems to us the board knew what it was doing when it waived admission. Food sales increased this year, and carnival sales were up by more than 10 percent.

Smells an awful lot like success to us.

Doug Browning

Hillsboro Argus Editorial

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<< Back to Local Headlines

County Fair lassoes big, hungry crowds

AmyJo Brown - 08/04/05

Washington County fairgoers this year were able to get their pictures taken with President Bush, see a giant Florida alligator named "Big Al," and be tempted by a tent full of homemade cakes, cookies and jams.

Don Hillman, director of the fair complex, said attendance was "on track with last year's numbers," at about 70,000 people, despite competition from downtown Portland's Brewfest and the Multnomah County Fair.

Ernie and Lea Williams, both of Tigard, manned the Washington County Republicans booth Friday, where a cardboard cut-out of the President stood ready for pictures.

They said they were enjoying their time at the fair, talking to other Republicans.

"We need to be involved, and this is one way to do it," Ernie Williams said.

Not too far away in the Washington County Democrats booth sat Deane Bennett of Forest Grove, Andrea Toner of Gaston and Dean Wilson of Beaverton.

They chatted with those who passed their booth about Medicaid and Social Security, gearing up for next year's elections.

Hillman said the fair ran smoothly, except for a few, minor heat-related injuries on Sunday.

The temperature Thursday was 87; it climbed to 92 by Saturday and settled back at 90 degrees Sunday. The average high temperature in July in Hillsboro is 80 degrees.

Fair revenue is expected to be good when it is finally tallied, Hillman said, noting that carnival sales were up 10 percent over last year and the food vendors said they saw their highest grosses yet.

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"The free admission really paid dividends for us this year," Hillman said.

How the fair fares is of particular interest this year. The county is considering offering a commercial developer 62 acres of the fairgrounds in trade for two new, modern 100,000 square-foot buildings to be built on 20 acres of the land.

The county fair is losing about \$400,000 a year, and covers the expense with the fair's share of the county's hotel/motel transient taxes.

Hillman has said he would like the fair's events to pay for themselves in the future and that new facilities would likely generate at least \$200,000 a year in profits for the fairgrounds.

However, the Fair Boosters, a non-profit organization made-up of county fair volunteers, opposes the development plans because they believe the plans for the new facilities would change the old-fashioned feel of the fair to one more steeped in commercial activity.

The development plans were on many people's minds at the fair last weekend, according to Irene Barnes, a Fair Booster who worked in the Meeting Room at the fair.

"Lots of people were concerned about losing our lovely grounds," Barnes said. "A number of people came over and there was lots of talk about how they used to do (at the fair) when they were kids."

Share your thoughts & opinions with our editor.

(If you don't include your address and phone number, we will not be able to publish your comments. Neither your street address or e-mail address will be published. They are only used for verification purposes.)

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Everything Oregon

The Oregonian

Free entry

Despite the heat, turnout at the four-day event is in line with last year's, the first year for no admission

Tuesday, August 02, 2005

KATHERINE SATHER

The Oregonian

It melted the frosting off the baked goods and made kids plug in fans in the animal barns.

But the heat didn't deter more than 70,000 people from attending the Washington County Fair, which ended its four-day run Sunday.

Attendance was in line with last year, when admission first was made free, said Don Hillman, executive director of the Washington County Fair Complex.

"I do believe the free admission paid the dividends," he said. "It was our insurance against the hot weather."

High temperatures during the four-day event reached 87 degrees Thursday and topped out at 92 Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. Most fair-goers attended in the evening, when temperatures cooled, Hillman said.

Fair attendance peaked in 1999 at 126,880 but has lagged since. In 2002, the fair board shortened the event from six days to four in an effort to attract larger crowds. However, cutting the \$7 admission fee in 2004 has proved to be the most consistent fix.

Attendance increased 65 percent from 42,500 in 2003 to 70,000 in 2004.

"It looks like we've hit on something," Hillman said of the free admission. "We've got more people coming to the fair."

Hillman was especially pleased because other summer events were scheduled for the same weekend, including the Multnomah County Fair and the Oregon Brewers Festival.

Special events at the fair showed mixed attendance. While rodeo attendance was low, standing-room-only crowds watched Sunday's demolition derby. And a truck pull Thursday night was packed.

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The Oregonian

Fairs struggle for footing

Sunday, July 31, 2005

ROBIN FRANZEN
The Oregonian

Dachshunds may be small and low to the ground, but they ran to the rescue Saturday at the Multnomah County Fair, boosting attendance at an event that's also increasingly known for its small size.

The Wiener Dog Summer Nationals are being held at the fair for the first time this year, and a chance to watch the shiny little dogs bolt out of the starting gate -- or freeze in their tracks, panting -- was, for some spectators, the main reason to head to Portland Meadows in North Portland.

That's where the frequently moved fair is being held for the second year in a row.

"We had more people on the first day yesterday than we had over four days the year before," said Lillian Adams, treasurer of the Friends of the Multnomah County Fair, a private group that's run the event since the county government stopped funding it in 1994. Adams attributed the increased attendance to the dogs, the warm weather and the return to a summer fair after holding it in October last year.

"The wiener dogs are the only redeeming quality," Melissa French of Vancouver, Wash., said as she watched them tumble and streak down the track with her children, Tony, 8, and Sarah, 5. "I've taken my kids to the fair for the last three or four years, and this one's a disappointment."

Though organizers hope the fair is on an upswing, they agree the event's visibility and stature have dropped in recent years with the loss of 4-H and the FFA agricultural group, and moves from the Portland Expo Center and Oaks Park.

That's why Rick Paul, fair board president, said the event was grateful to have the dachshunds as a fun new draw for kids and adults, in addition to the traditional carnival rides, craft exhibits and petting zoo. Among those trotting away with blue ribbons was Hanzel, a 2-year-old silver dapple dachshund, owned by Janet Stuelpnagel of Portland.

"I didn't realize they came in so many sizes, shapes and colors," Paul said. "There's long hair and short hair -- kind of hard to believe."

But for the fair -- which is put on by a small group of volunteers -- to have a real future, "we need a home," Paul added. Organizers say they have been in discussion with various groups and would love nothing better than to return the fair to its Gresham roots in time for the 100th consecutive event next year.

"I've been involved with 4-H since I was 9 years old," said Adams, 81. "I'd hate to see the fair stop."

The final day of the 99th annual fair is today, 1001 N. Schmeer Road, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., including the wiener dog finals. Admission is \$3 ages 13 to adult; \$1 ages 6 to 12; and free for ages 5 or younger.

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Everything Oregon

The Oregonian

Summer fairs deeply rooted in Oregon agricultural past

Sunday, July 31, 2005

The Oregonian

August, and county fairs bloom across the Oregon landscape like sunflowers on the Kansas prairie, all as prelude to the Oregon State Fair in Salem, Aug. 26 through Labor Day.

Some get a head start on the season. The Washington County Fair winds up its annual edition today in Hillsboro. But most are yet to come, yearly celebrations of the rural life that in the beginning was the foundation for the state's economy.

Connie Hopkins Battaile's "The Oregon Book: Information A to Z" lists the Yamhill County Fair, sponsored by the newly organized county agricultural society on Oct. 4, 1853, as Oregon's first. "Marion, Polk and Washington Counties quickly followed suit," she adds.

The first state fair was staged in 1861 by the Oregon Agricultural Society on the banks of the Clackamas River in Gladstone. John Minto, Salem-area pioneer sheep rancher and society secretary (from whom Minto Island takes its name), was one of its prime promoters.

"Although a success," says Howard McKinley Corning's Dictionary of Oregon History, "immediate plans were begun to secure a better location and more financial backing. Largely through the activities of the Marion County Agricultural Society, eighty acres of land in Salem were secured and equipped, and a more elaborate state fair was held in 1862, emerging heavily in debt.

"The county court paid off most of the obligations, acquired title, and in 1863 or 1864 presented the fair grounds to the State Agricultural Society with the proviso that a state fair be held consecutively for 15 years."

It's been held there each year since, most of the time in little better financial shape, even after the state assumed sponsorship.

Still, the state fair and its country cousins remain near-sacred elements of the state's culture, even as many struggle to survive. They were, and are, festive occasions where those knotted to the land and the ceaseless chores of farming through the rest of the year have an opportunity to socialize, compare and compete.

"The trip to the fair was always exciting, full of new and old scenes -- a new barn, a house recently painted, a tract of land cleared or other changes in the landscape," George F. Walker, who grew up in Buell west of Dallas, says in "A Slice of Country Life, 1902-1915."

At the Polk County Fair, in Walker's day in Dallas, later and still in Rickreall, "All the time and effort put into the (various) projects paid off in blue ribbons and other prizes, as well as the excitement of having an exhibit at the fair.

"Later everyone went off to make the rounds of the other exhibits, and to see the band, the merry-go-round and Ferris wheel, as well as the games of chance and other entertainments. Despite the stalls selling lemonade and soda pop, ice cream, peanuts, cotton candy and Cracker Jacks, everyone knew to be back

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at the wagon at noon for dinner.

". . . With dinner over, there was time for one more quick look at the fair. . . . About three o'clock it was time to head for home. As usual, chores and supper were waiting."

"In those days 'fair time' was a great event in the lives of the country folks," the irrepressible former Gov. Oswald West reminisced in the September 1949 edition of the Oregon Historical Quarterly. "It gave the young men a taste of what they considered a 'gay life.' These 'rubes,' as they were called by the city sports, came fresh from the harvest fields with a few hard-earned silver dollars.

"On the grounds drinks and cigars sold for twenty-five cents; gambling ran wide open. The games of chance were many and varied in character." They included the "wheel of fortune, where the boys were told they 'could win 20 to 1 on the eagle bird . . . (and) the roulette wheel -- equipped with its 'snake,' a concealed button which . . . regulated the movement of the wheel and controlled its play."

Then there was "the 'red and black,' a box -- with red and black balls in plain view -- which was supposed to give the boys a fair break when shaken . . . (but) was constructed with double walls and secret compartments (that) contained balls of similar character which the operator could release by means of a 'snake.' The ball released seldom meant a profit to the player."

West told of one pitchman, Abe Tichner, who sold five "pure Havana" cigars (cost \$15 a thousand) for a dollar, and threw in a "gold" watch and a set of "diamond" shirt studs (cost \$5 a gross), and raked in 92 cents profit on every sale.

"Tichner usually returned home from the fairs with \$2500 profit which he promptly proceeded to lose playing faro with crooked Portland gamblers," West says.

Such thinly disguised larceny at the fairs did not occur sans criticism.

"Gambling on horse racing was allowed and encouraged as the grand basis of the fair," Howell Prairie farmer and gadfly newspaper correspondent David Newsom grouched in 1873, "and could the marshals prosecute all other species of gambling all over the grounds during the Fair?

". . . And as inseparable adjunct . . . spirituous liquors were sold or given away at more than twenty shops on the Grounds during the Fair, and hence the numerous burglaries, thefts and robberies during Fair week. . . ."

His indictment apparently had no effect, and in 1878, Newsom was urging righteous citizens to seize control of the Agricultural Society and rectify the fair's sins.

". . . If all moral, religious, temperate and well-disposed persons . . . will go and become members of the Society," he wrote, "they can out-vote the rum-sellers, gamblers and horse-racers, and the State Fair will be a moral success. . . ."

John Terry, terryjohnf@cs.com

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Everything Oregon

The Oregonian

Washington County: Fear of losing the site energizes boosters to run a smooth event

Sunday, July 31, 2005

KATHERINE SATHER
The Oregonian

HILLSBORO -- The name tags pinned to their overalls and plaid shirts give them away.

They read "Fair Boosters," and they identify the volunteers at the Washington County Fair Complex who came running this week when the judge passed out in the 4-H building and the frosting melted off of the blue-ribbon wedding cake.

The group of roughly 50 members have long been supporters of the fair, which ends its four-day run today. This year they've taken on more responsibilities, they say, because they don't want to see an end come to the rodeo, carnival and folks showcasing their work with ornery animals and apple pie.

The Washington County Fair Board has proposed building a shopping center on the 62-acre site in Hillsboro that has long served as the venue, and constructing new fairgrounds on a smaller acreage nearby, a plan that's been hotly contested.

The controversy has re-energized the boosters. They've taken over jobs usually handled by fair staff, including managing the open class exhibits and the entertainment in the DeMar Bachelor Amphitheater. They're afraid the proposed redevelopment could cause the fair to fade away.

"We are deeply concerned about the possibility of moving off of this land," said Lyle Spiesschaert, a booster from Forest Grove. "That's why we're doing this."

Fair booster headquarters at the county fair complex is a small building next to the poultry barn, called the "Meeting Room." Here, the tubs of red and blue ribbons are stored and results are recorded. Sheila Day, 66, a retiree who lives near Banks, handles the phone and answers fair-goers' questions.

Day works as exhibit coordinator, a job that has required six months of work, mostly from her home. "The last three weeks I moved into this nest," she says.

Other boosters are local businessmen and women, and many took time off of work this week to help with their new responsibilities.

"They volunteered," said Don Hillman, fair complex executive director. "They thought they could do a better job."

He understands their passion for the fairgrounds but says the aging facilities won't sustain themselves much longer and the fair is losing money. The latest proposal includes a 100,000-square-foot exhibition hall and pavilion at a vacant, 30-acre site east of Northeast 34th Avenue that's part of 101 acres under the Fair Board's management. Board members say it will benefit the fair.

"We think the county deserves new, modern facilities," Hillman says. "The concept we're working on now

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will serve more people."

He thinks the group of boosters is growing, a positive outcome of the events.

"I think this reinvigorated them," Hillman says.

Among them is Fred Scheller, 84, who lives in Aloha. He was chairman of the original boosters who moved the fair to its current site when it outgrew its Shute Park location in 1952. They called themselves the "Fair Movers," but later changed their name.

"Fair Boosters have always been people who really love the fair," he says.

Volunteers helped build the new facilities, including the exhibit hall, which served as the place where county-members showed off their biggest zucchinis, sweetest jams and talent with a paintbrush.

Spiesschaert, who operates a family farm in Forest Grove, says the group's new responsibilities are taking a lot of time. "Both are pretty huge tasks, we're finding," he says.

But he's tickled to see families picnicking at the DeMar Bachelor Amphitheater, which was unused in years past. The boosters arranged for local entertainers and larger-name acts to perform.

"Our dream is that this be the living room of the fair," he says.

The weekend was a success in other ways. A new calf was born, and city kids saw cows being milked for the first time.

Meanwhile, Scheller and other boosters have manned booths collecting signatures that oppose moving the fairgrounds.

"We think we can come up with a plan to salvage all of the fair and provide for open space for the city and county," he says. "It provides all of this incredible land in the middle of the county to people all over."

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StatesmanJournal

SALEM, OREGON

News

Sunday, July 31, 2005

At state fair, free acts will replace large ones

Organizers hope new lineup appeals to wider audience

BY PARKER HOWELL
Statesman Journal

July 31, 2005

Entertainment organizers for this year's Oregon State Fair are trying something new.

Instead of nationally known artists such as Peter Frampton, 3 Doors Down or Joan Jett, the 2005 fair features a lineup of free, exclusively Oregon acts.

Organizers hope that the new lineup will give fairgoers more bang for their buck and will appeal to a broader audience. Although fair patrons said that the free music is a better value, some vendors are concerned that sales might slump without business from nighttime concertgoers.

Pepe & The Bottle Blondes, Curtis Salgado and The Trail Band will share the Center Stage venue with other Oregon-based headliners of the fair's Best of Oregon Music Festival. The series will run from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5, with a break Aug. 28 for an all-day talent show.

The 22-act series, which will be at the center of the fairground at a stage surrounded by food vendors, replaces \$7.50- to \$20-per-ticket concerts previously held in the L.B. Day Amphitheater. A few performers and musicians performed free shows at the Center Stage last year.

Fairgoer Ted Haverkate of Salem said he thinks the free concerts are a positive change.

"I would say it's a good direction because I have yet to pay for one of the (concerts)," he said.

Haverkate said he mainly enjoys 4-H exhibits and other fair staples. But he said that food and rides at the fair can be pricey.

Before 1992, fair concerts were free, said Diane Childs, the fair's marketing manager. The large concerts began as a marketing tool, she said.

However, in recent years, the majority of fairgoers did not buy tickets to concerts, she said. Organizers decided to dedicate most of the money spent on booking and producing acts on more free entertainment this year.

"Given that it wasn't at the level we wanted it to be, we said ... 'Let's look at the flip side of the coin and look at people who are not taking advantage of the concerts,'" Childs said.

The high cost of touring acts, scheduling challenges and competition with other venues also prompted the change, she said.

Concert producer Ben Gentile pitched the idea of a solely Oregon-based lineup. The festival is "going to be a better product of music" than past Center Stage performances, he said.

Best of Oregon Music Festival

What: 22-act concert series featuring Oregon-based artists at the state fair.

When: Aug. 26-27, Aug. 29-Sept. 5

Where: Center Stage at the Oregon State Fair, 17th Street NE and Sunnyview Road NE, Salem

Cost: Free with fair admission

Fair admission: Advance: \$6. 65 and older, \$2 for 6 to 12 and younger. At gate: \$8. 65 and older, \$4 for 6 to 12 and younger. Parking is \$5.

Contact: (503) 947-3247 or go to www.fun-oregon.com

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Everything Oregon

The Oregonian

IN MY OPINION

Saturday, July 30, 2005

Jennifer Houle
The Oregonian

I can still recall the first fair I ever went to. I was only 4 years old, but I was determined to see the horses and ponies at the Oregon State Fair.

At the time I had no idea if such events would play any part in my life. But now as I fast approach my senior year at Jesuit High School, I look back fondly on nearly 10 years of state fairs and wonder what fate awaits them.

When I was 6, my family moved to a farm and bought the beginnings of a flock of sheep. As summer neared, our wise neighbors signed my sister and me up for 4-H. I was too young to wholly participate yet, but I watched avidly and helped however I could as my sister learned how to "show" a sheep and prepare a lamb for the Multnomah County Fair. Two fairs passed, and I absorbed as much as I could while longing for the year I could join in, too.

But it was not to be, not at the Multnomah County Fair, anyway. Although I didn't understand it at the time, the Multnomah County Fair had essentially died. Whether from a lack of interest or the failure of community leaders, Portland's fair fell headfirst into oblivion.

I felt as if I had missed the first real goal of my young life -- showing sheep at the fair -- by mere inches. But our wise neighbors again opened our eyes to opportunity, pointing us to the Washington County Fair.

I was back in business. When late July rolled around, we trailered the best of our now-burgeoning flock through Hillsboro to the Washington County Fairgrounds. Driving through miles of suburbia and urbanization, I wondered with growing apprehension what the Washington County Fair must be like. It seemed unimaginable that there might be any open space in this landscape to squeeze a fair into.

By the time we neared the grounds, my heart was racing. But then before me sprawled greenness and trees, open barns full of all kinds of animals, smiling children with chickens and cows, tottering old women setting up tables of pies and preserves and paintings. All of these rose up before me, and I realized that I was witnessing something very special, very rare in today's world. For the first time in my life, I was a part of an alive, thriving fair.

It was like discovering a secret. The people, the animals, the rodeo, the grounds, the old-fashionedness of it all. It charmed me.

In the years that followed, and the fairs that went along with them, I guess I began to think that all fairs must be that way. I forgot how unique the Washington County Fair was. In the midst of that flourishing spectacle, it was easy to push away memories of the sterility of the Multnomah County Fair when it took place in the Expo Center. It was easy to think that the disappearance of Portland's fair was a minor incident, that the Washington County Fair would never lose its vitality.

But lately I've noticed subtle changes. Now there's talk of redeveloping the fair, of selling off a large portion of the open grounds for boutiques and shops. There's been talk of building an exposition center and

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allowing the fair to only halfheartedly continue -- with the livestock in the parking lot.

These discussions leave me with many jumbled emotions, but the most prominent is sadness. I can't avoid seeing the parallels between the demise of the Multnomah County Fair and the impending changes in Washington County.

Will the fair be intact next year? Or will it meet the same fate as the Multnomah County Fair?

I don't know. But as I attend again this year, I can't help but wonder if I will lose a part of my life that's dear to me. I know when I pull onto the fairgrounds with my sheep for showing, my heart will be racing again -- but not from nervousness. No, when I first see the old barns, the green pastures, the excited children racing around, I will know I have reached my farm away from home, where so much of my heart belongs.

Jennifer Houle is a student at Jesuit High School.

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The Oregonian

Winemakers

The amateur wine contest is revitalized, bringing a little class and grape pride to the fairgrounds in Hillsboro

Friday, July 29, 2005

KATHERINE SATHER
The Oregonian

HILLSBORO -- With the top tomatoes selected and best stitching recognized, it was time for the swanky side of the Washington County Fair. The judges arrived.

Forty bottles of homemade wine were uncorked.

Then the smelling, swirling and spitting began.

The amateur wine competition was once a prominent event at the Washington County Fair, drawing as many as 100 entries, says Marj Vuylsteke, founder of Oak Knoll Winery in Hillsboro and a former fair judge.

But competition tapered off in the past few years, she says, taking a back seat to the fierce Oregon State Fair competition, which winners often use as a springboard to making wine professionally.

At last year's Washington County Fair, there were only a handful of wines to judge.

"It was pathetic," Vuylsteke says.

For this year's fair, which opened Thursday in Hillsboro, the Westside Wine Club decided to revitalize the event.

"We want to see the wine competition become something," says member Miriam Schnepf of Newberg. "It's one of our great products in this county, the wine and the grapes."

Oregon's \$100 million wine industry has undergone explosive growth in the past decade, both in total production and the number of commercial wineries now operating. Much of that growth has come in Washington County, where a handful of wineries operating 10 years ago has grown to more than 15.

The Westside Wine Club includes about 40 amateur winemakers from Washington, Yamhill and Multnomah counties. Vuylsteke helped start the club in the 1960s, and members meet at her winery once a month to share ideas and creations.

This year the club recruited more entries for the county fair and brought in judges Darcy Pendergrass, an assistant winemaker at Amity Vineyards, and Patrick McElligot, manager at the Oregon Wine Tasting Room near McMinnville.

Their job Wednesday was to score each wine and award ribbons to the top in each class.

"We evaluate for flaws, see how well made they are and see how representative they are of what they're



made of," McElligot says. "Since they're amateur wines, we have to cut them a lot of slack."

They begin with whites.

The first step, McElligot says, is to test the color and clarity. They hold glasses of golden-colored wine up to the sunlight and inspect for debris.

"Floaters are a bad thing," McElligot says.

Then they swirl the wine around in the glass to help get a good whiff. Smell is 76 percent of taste, McElligot says. Next they tip back to taste.

There are squinty faces and grins. Amateur winemakers face many challenges working in their kitchens or cellars, and sometimes they produce skunky-smelling wines.

While tasting a flight of pinot noirs, Pendergrass scrunches her face.

"Which one?" McElligot says.

"The middle one."

"It's kind of peculiar, isn't it?"

"Whoa," McElligot says after another taste. "Yeow."

After each taste, they spit.

"You can imagine if you have a couple hundred wines a day and you swallow," McElligot says.

It's the fruit wines that get them excited. They taste wines made from blueberries, cranberries, and blends of grapefruit and pineapple. At past fairs, McElligot says, he's judged key lime and pumpkin pie flavors.

Best of show in the fruit division comes down to a coin toss. McElligot fancies a day-glow orange blend of strawberry and rhubarb, and Pendergrass favors a plum wine.

"Part of it is probably because I've never seen a plum wine done well," Pendergrass says.

"Both are not easy wines to do," McElligot says.

"This happens every time with us," says Pendergrass.

During the first coin toss, the silver quarter landed on its side in the grass. But the second time, it's heads. The plum wins.

"They're a dynamic duo that keeps each other in check," Schnepf says. "That's good."

Katherine Sather: 503-294-5958; katherinesather@news.oregonian.com

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**OregonLive.com**

Everything Oregon

The Oregonian

Five Live: Get Out

Friday, July 29, 2005

The Oregonian

1. Multnomah County Fair How do you hide a county fair? Keep moving it around year after year. This year's is at Portland Meadows. Highlights include the Wiener Dog Nationals, a huge race run by tiny dachshunds. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, 1001 N. Schmeer Road; \$1-\$3; 503-849-7706.
2. "Twelve Dancing Princesses" Slocum House Theatre and the Young Slocum House Players offer a tale of a king with 12 unmarried daughters who has a mystery to solve. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday and Thursday, 4 p.m. Sunday, plus various dates through Aug. 14; 605 Esther St., Vancouver; \$8-\$10; 360-696-2427.
3. Yale Valley Arts Festival Family Day offers hands-on art projects and performances by young musicians and dancers. 1-6 p.m. Saturday, Yale School, 11842 Lewis River Road, near Cougar, Wash.
4. Street of Dreams Northwest Natural hosts the 30th annual street featuring eight luxury custom homes offering the latest in home and landscape design and furnishings. Plus: live music, cooking demos. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily Saturday through Aug. 28, at the Quarry at Stafford, Southwest Stafford and Newland roads; \$5-\$15; www.streetofdreamspdx.com.
5. Rediscover the Columbia Slough (pictured) The largest community paddling event in Oregon, the Regatta offers live music, tours, kayak clinics and paddle trips. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or call to reserve one (\$5 donation for reserved craft). 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, start and finish at Multnomah County Drainage District No. 1, 1880 N.E. Elrod Drive; 503-823-2831. -- Rosemarie Stein

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Everything Oregon

Hillsboro Argus

And the winners are...Judges weather the heat to award ribbons to county fair livestock, open class and 4-H entrants

Thursday, July 28, 2005

By JoAnn Boatwright
The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

Judging was hot and heavy at the Washington County Fairgrounds earlier this week as experts weigh in on the good, the bad and the downright mysterious items entered in open class and 4-H competition.

Dozens of judges, superintendents and clerks in nine open class home-and-garden contests and nine livestock categories literally sweated out the results for entries ranging from baked goods to textiles and chicken to goats.

This year, Washington County Fair Boosters took on the tasks of organizing the exhibits as well as bringing back entertainment to the outdoor DeMar Bachelor Amphitheater.

Boosters like Shela Day, superintendent of the painting, drawing and crafts contest, rounded up judges for several categories.

Artists Judy Lee Vogland and Carol Ann VanderZanden mulled over the merits of paintings and drawings. And photography superintendent Georgia Johnson, slyly slipped a couple of her own photos into the competitive mix, but didn't get a ribbon.

"This is fun," declared Sharon O'Keefe of Beaverton, who judged photography. "Call me back next year."

The fair opens today and runs through Sunday. Admission is free, but parking is \$5.

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Everything Oregon

Hillsboro Argus

Fair this weekend is shear fun for Forest Grove "Dreamers"

Thursday, July 28, 2005

By Ellen Ast
The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

None of them are named Mary, but they all have little lambs. In reference to a traditional nursery rhyme, their dreams are "white as snow."

Who are they?

They are seven new members of a long-standing 4H lamb club called Ewe'nique who will show and sell their own lambs this weekend in the Washington County Fair.

The work required to care for a lamb is the perfect responsibility Peggy Harris had in mind for the seven suburban adolescents, who will enter seventh grade at Neil Armstrong Middle School in Forest Grove this year.

"I think 4H is the best learning experience for a child," Harris said. "It gives you contact with animals and teaches you a lot of responsibility."

The description fits with Harris's own responsibilities as a mentor for the seven fledgling "shepherds" -- Jennie Perez, Lauren Weslow, Beatriz Avalos, Hannah Bazzi, Ashlee Hastings, Gilberto Barajas and Kelsie Muntz.

"It's great," Harris explained. "They're all eager to learn."

Harris, 62, became a sponsor four years ago for a class of low-income students in the district who became participants in a long-term, federally funded mentor program called I Have A Dream.

Harris retired last year from the Forest Grove School District, where she was a Title One reading specialist. She joined 4H as a child and passed the tradition to her four children. Her husband Larry, 64, is an investment manager for U.S. Trust in Portland.

There are three I Have A Dream classes in the district. The largest, with 114 students, will begin their freshman year in high school.

The I Have A Dream Foundation started in 1981 and includes 175 projects in 58 cities in the U.S., according to the foundation's website. In Oregon, there are four projects established in Portland and Forest Grove.

Programs are funded by private and public community sponsors. Dreamers are awarded college scholarships as well as long-term, individualized tutoring, mentoring and career enrichment throughout their elementary, middle and high school years.

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Harris also provides gardening and reading programs for her Dreamers at the Harris farm near McKay Gold Course south of Hillsboro.

Harris hopes her seven 4H-ers will gain enough experience to join Forest Grove High School's Future Farmers of America program after finishing middle school.

"The big test is the fair," she said.

On Tuesday, several of the students spent the afternoon giving their lambs baths, manicures and commands for proper exhibition form.

When asked if they were nervous, most responded nonchalantly.

"A little."

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Everything Oregon

The Oregonian

ON OTHER TOPICS

Thursday, July 28, 2005

The Oregonian

Don't redevelop the fairgrounds! I have been a longtime fair-goer. I was a member of the rabbit, dairy cow, beef cow, sheep and home economics 4-H programs for nine years. I have donated time as a 4-H fair superintendent for dairy cattle and am a fourth year co-leader of a 4-H home economics club, where my 14-year-old daughter is treasurer.

My mom and dad met at the Washington County Fair in 1967, when my mom was a senior beef cattle 4-H member and my dad was a senior dairy cattle 4-H member.

Both grew up in western Washington County on family farms. I carried on the tradition and lived a large part of my life on my dad's family farm in Verboort.

As my daughter gets older, it is more important to me that she be involved in 4-H. Even though we do not have the means to own a family farm, we are able to stay involved in other areas of 4-H.

The Washington County fairgrounds is one of the last places to actually see how people live a rural life, where responsibility for others besides yourself is apparent. A life where raising your own food was a priority and parents as well as children were proud to display the fruits of their labor at the county fair, whether it was a 4-H project or mom's best-in-Washington-County Strawberry Jam. (I won that title at the 1999 Washington County Fair.)

We all know what will happen if the fairgrounds development goes as planned and redevelopment results in a 100,000-square-foot exposition center instead of our lush, green grassy areas and animal barns full of memories of past fairs and life on the farm.

Family farms are scarce these days. Kids have the opportunity to experience this life only on field trips to one of the few family farms left in Washington County or to the Washington County Fair. TERESA A. DAVIS
Cornelius

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Hillsboro Argus

Fair's Dairy Women booth endangered

Thursday, July 28, 2005

By Lisa Cromwell
The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

Fairgoers -- got milk?

Fans of Washington County Dairy Women cones, shakes, malts and sundaes, enjoy them today, for by 2007, they may be extinct at the Washington County Fair, says Kathy Schmidkofer, the group's vice president.

Plans for redeveloping the fair by Portland's Opus Northwest don't include the Dairy Women's red and white barn concession stand, a landmark at the fair's core for 16 years, adds Schmidkofer, also a member of the Washington County Fair Board.

"I don't know what we would do with our cooler, shake and ice cream machines," she says. "We must have good drainage, and I don't think we could do that with a portable stand."

Schmidkofer adds she and fellow board member Dan Logan do not agree with the rest of the board on redevelopment plans: "I'm not in favor of sacrificing 62 acres of ground -- that's not a fair trade-off."

Ice cream sales at the fair are the group's main fundraiser, providing roughly \$26,000 of the \$33,000 yearly budget. Proceeds are reduced by payments to non-profit groups that supplement Dairy Women members at the booth.

The booth is open for a few other events at the fair complex, including Fright Lights at Halloween, the All Ford Swap Meet, Washington County 4H Horse Fair and the All Breed Dog Show.

Schmidkofer, 47, wearing earrings and a necklace shaped like ice cream cones at her day job managing the Hillsboro Pharmacy, has a personal interest in the booth. One of 15 Washington County Dairy Women members, she grew up on a dairy farm in Northwest Washington State.

She later moved to Oregon and with husband Byron ran a dairy farm until 1979. Sons Mathias, 11, and Gerritt, 10, each care for Jersey cows.

The booth funds the group's educational activities, including high school graduation night events and the Dairy Princess and her school visits. "Young children respond to the princess image," Schmidkofer says. "It's a fun way to learn about milk in diet and nutrition."

"That's important, because kids hear negative things about the way animals are treated from groups like PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). It's important for them to hear the farmer's side. We love our cows."

So important is dairy education to Schmidkofer that she and other members spend hours before the

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Hillsboro July 4 Parade, Banks BBQ and North Plains Garlic Festival taping thousands of pieces of candy to "Got Milk" stickers for handing out to children.

Schmidtkofer says to ensure its survival, her group is debating whether to partner with the Columbia County Dairy Women, like the Linn-Benton County Dairy Women. "We'll have to play a wait and see game. I hope this won't be our last year at the fair."

Dairy Women offer:

Chocolate, vanilla and twist cones: Small, \$1.25; regular, \$1.75 and waffle, \$2.50

Sundaes: \$2.50; fresh strawberry, blackberry, butterscotch, chocolate, with whipped cream, nuts and cherry.

Milkshakes: \$3.25; chocolate, vanilla, fresh strawberry, blackberry, butterscotch, Purple Cow (grape juice-based).

Malts: \$3.50

Fair Facts

2005 BI-Mart Washington County Fair, 10 a.m. Thursday, July 28, to 11 p.m. Sunday at Washington County Fair Complex, 873 NE 34th Ave. Midway noon to midnight. Entry gates close at 10 p.m., with no re-entry after 10 p.m.

Fair admission is free. Parking, \$5 per vehicle and \$10 per bus. A shuttle bus sponsored by the Hillsboro Argus and Tuality Healthcare runs regularly from the Fair Complex Light Rail Station to the fair entrance.

Fair office hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Phone is 503-648-1416. For detailed event schedules, visit faircomplex.com on the Internet.

Free entertainment at the DeMar Bachelor Amphitheatre throughout the day, with evening performances by Johnny Limbo and the Lugnuts on July 28, ZuZo Blue and 5 Guys Named Moe on July 29, Tommy Overstreet on July 30, and Musica Festiva on July 31, presented by Stimson Lumber Company and sponsored by RE/MAX and Don Johnson, Cedar Canyon Bottled Water, and Pac First Mortgage. Tickets \$10 for limited reserve seating, can be bought at the Dairy Women's Booth.

Other entertainment -- Bourbon Street Station Music Festival featuring local and regional talent such as Robbie Laws with Hoodoo Nation and others, presented by Tuality Healthcare.

Discover the Fun Stage -- Performances throughout the day with jugglers, "Brothers From Different Mothers," Karen Quest's "Cowgirl Tricks," and "Tater A. Peal's Comic Catastrophe."

Cosmo the Balloon Wizard, colorful creations.

Terry Stokes, Master Hypnotist, three performances each night.

Family Carousel sponsored by the Hillsboro Argus, rides \$1 each.

Yard and Garden Exhibit- Designed by top area designers.

Funtastic Carnival Rides noon to midnight. Bracelet Day Thursday, July 28. Unlimited rides with \$20 bracelet in sessions from noon to 5 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m. Discount \$3 off bracelet coupons available at BI-Mart.

Truck pull presented by John L. Scott Realty Marketplace, 7 p.m. Thursday, July 28, \$7 admission all seats. Arena box office opens at 5 p.m. Thursday. Tickets also available at the customer service window Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday at the fair office.



PRCA Rodeo presented by Madden Industrial Craftsmen, 7 p.m. Friday, July 29, and 1:30 and 7 p.m. Saturday, July 30, \$10 all seats. Arena box office opens two hours before the event. Tickets also available at the customer service window all fair days.

Draft horse driving show, free, 3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 30.

Demolition derby presented by American Family Insurance, 2 p.m. Sunday, July 31, \$7 admission all seats. Arena box office opens at noon Sunday. Tickets also available at the customer service window all fair days and fair office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

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Everything Oregon

The Oregonian

4-H recrafting its image

Thursday, July 28, 2005

KATHERINE SATHER

The Oregonian

ALOHA -- Her scones and muffins were hot from the oven. She'd polished her speech on the benefits of owning pets, and her photographs were mounted and ready to go.

But the jaguar sculpture made from chicken wire sat unfinished on the living room floor.

Of the 42 projects she planned to enter in this week's Washington County Fair, 17-year-old Sienna Howells had finished 36 by Monday.

The Century High School senior, who lives in Aloha and wears a handmade necklace with the 4-H clover emblem, has used 4-H as an avenue to explore exotic birds, community service and art. It frustrates her that most people think the program is still about crops and cooking.

"They don't recognize 4-H as an arts-based program also," she says.

In a day when more teenagers know about iPods than pea pods, the cooking and crops characterization is one 4-H has struggled to overcome. Coordinators blame the perception for stagnant club enrollment, which has lagged behind Washington County's population growth for at least the past decade.

During the fair, which starts today and runs through Sunday at the Washington County Fair Complex, 4-Hers will showcase work that extends beyond the traditional to include photography and electronics. To keep up with changing demographics, 4-H is expanding beyond fair-based projects; day camps and collaborations with schools have increased the number of urban and Latino youth involved in the program.

"A lot of people don't go to the fair, and they don't realize that it's still alive and well and doing other things," said Janice Howells, Sienna's mother and a member of the county 4-H executive council. "It's not all cows and cookery."

The 4-H program started a century ago to teach children about agriculture. In the traditional mold, students join clubs to learn skills, then show them off at the county fair, where they compete for ribbons. It's administered through land-grant universities such as Oregon State University and funded at federal, state and local levels. Promoters say it gives youth confidence and a sense of responsibility.

But the program is struggling to adapt to new generations. In 1994, Washington County's enrollment in traditional club-based activities was 1,162, said John Baggott, who has served as a 4-H Extension agent in the county for two decades. Numbers still hover around 1,000, dipping to about 800 this year, while the county's population between 5 and 18 years old grew from almost 60,000 in the 1990 Census to more than 95,000 in 2000.

Statewide, club membership also has stagnated, lingering at around 20,000 since 1996, according to the OSU Extension Service, which runs the program. Census figures show the number of young people in Oregon increased by about 200,000 between 1990 and 2000.



Funding cut in 2003

Coordinators blame the program's lack of growth on several things. Funding was cut in 2003, leaving Washington County with one full-time agent -- Baggott -- to oversee the program. Multnomah County's 4-H program was dismantled following budget cuts that year.

Then there's that perception that only farm kids join 4-H. Enrollment numbers tell a different story. About 180 young people in the Washington County 4-H Club come from farms; the rest, more than 600, live in cities and suburbs.

"To think that it's only rural and agricultural is unrealistic," Baggott says.

The program has taken successful steps to reach more urban youth and the county's growing Latino community through new programming. "We're trying to tune in to needs, issues, wants and desires of new audiences," says Roger Rennekamp, state program leader in Corvallis. "It's a challenge to reach new audiences with shrinking resources."

Statewide, 4-H is pushing an exchange program, in which 4-H families host overseas guests to give kids a chance to learn about different cultures. It's also collaborating with schools on the Wildlife Stewards program, in which students care for habitats such as butterfly gardens and ponds on their campuses.

A popular program in Washington County is Tech Wizards, a day-camp targeted toward Latinos that teaches participants how to use computer software, a global positioning system and digital cameras.

Janice Howells thinks 4-H needs to learn to promote itself. She arrived in Washington County in the 1980s after logging years of 4-H experience in Montana and Washington, where she started a 4-H club for troubled youth.

It isn't the 4-H style to advertise, she said. Kids don't walk around in uniforms, and there's no money to buy commercials or big advertisements. Most of the work is done by kids.

"It's a quiet organization," she says. "The adults are in the background."

But, she says, it's a common thread in many people's past. Ask librarians, politicians or parents where they got their public speaking or organizational skills, and many cite 4-H. The program recruits local 4-H alumni for a reunion at each fair to remind them the program is still going and to give kids a chance to talk to former members.

Lure of livestock

Even with the broader choices available, some kids still get turned on by the idea of raising livestock. Cody Richfield, a 16-year-old country teen who will be a junior at Hillsboro High School, will compete this week in his third fair with his year-old steer, Casper. He started raising steers three years ago, when he saw how much fun a friend was having with the hobby.

Last week, Richfield gave Casper a wash and blow-dry to prepare for fair. Then he helped the steer practice the correct stance: feet shoulder-width apart and head held high. It takes some work.

"He likes to be difficult," Cody says.

His mother, Diana, says she's seen Cody mature with the program, and he gets satisfaction from raising a healthy animal and selling it at auction. City kids are finding ways to participate in livestock programs, too, by boarding animals at farms or raising rabbits in their backyards. Still, Richfield says that 4-H has some work to do.

"It's not cool anymore," he says. "The city's moving in and there's less country people."

Sienna Howells hopes to bring the program to Century High School next fall and get more of her friends to join. She's also aiming for a 4-H scholarship to help pay for college at Oregon State.

"I love the creative outlet," she says. "The ability to be passionate about something."

Katherine Sather: 503-294-5958; katherinesather@news.oregonian.com

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Everything Oregon

The Oregonian

Get to the fair while it's in its grand old home

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

The Oregonian

Tami Stewart stood in the shade of the Washington County Fair Complex's massive trees and directed traffic as a garden grew at her feet.

"This will be an Asian garden," she says, pointing to a clump of bamboo. "And over there will be a formal Oregon rose garden -- kind of like an English garden. And on the other side of it is a garden for hardy plants that like being in the sun all day."

Stewart is the volunteer coordinator for the fair's garden project, bringing together seven nurseries and landscape designers to give visitors a feel for the county's largest cash crop.

It was 48 hours before the fair was to open Thursday morning, and the annual rush was well under way.

"It's both ends of the candle for the next two days," says Don Hillman, fair manager.

If you've ever been to the Washington County Fair -- or if you've never been -- this may be the year to go.

Put aside diet books and computer-generated entertainment and return to an era when you could feel OK about a dinner of corn dogs and homemade pie. Children can see cows and horses and talk to the youngsters who care for them. Talented locals give their all on stage for nothing more than applause. And after you pay \$5 to park, admission is free.

Perhaps the best reason to go is that the fair probably will never be the same.

People can't agree whether that is good or bad.

Longtime fair supporters prefer the annual summer festival be frozen in time. They love the old buildings -- many of which they helped construct -- and the manicured grounds beneath the trees.

There is a feel and smell to the old wood barns that can't be duplicated in chrome and steel.

But the land is too valuable and the pressure to capitalize on its potential is too great to ignore. By this time next year, there may be evidence of pending construction.

Eventually, the spot where you could always count on finding "World Famous Curly Fries" will be a parking lot.

Within the next two years, the fair will probably be in a modern complex, with large buildings that will generate revenue year-round.

Hillman says the county needs the buildings; the fair needs the revenue.



He grew up in rural Oregon, where the county fair was the summer's centerpiece.

He knows the trade-off if the present site is developed.

"But it's not the buildings that make the fair. It's the people," Hillman says.

"It may look different, but it will still be the fair."

Last year, when Mark Jeffries was trying to cope with the death of his son in Afghanistan, the Beaverton man turned to his friends in the racing community.

He's turning to them again this weekend. This time it is to give back.

Jeffries is putting together the first of what he hopes will be an annual -fundraising event held in honor of U.S. Army Spec. Joseph Jeffries.

It is part of Saturday's race schedule at River City Speedway at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in St. Helens.

The dirt oval is where Mark and Joey competed against one another and grew together as father and son.

"It was a special place for us," Jeffries says.

The race will be called "The Workingman's Classic," for the low-dollar, four-cylinder mini-stock cars they raced.

Jeffries will divide the proceeds between the drivers and Columbia County's Toy and Joy program.

"Joey had so many friends here," he says of the track community. "I just don't want them to forget about him."

More information is available by calling River City Speedway at 503-397-2393 or going online at www.rivercityspeedway.net.

Jerry F. Boone's columns appear Mondays and Wednesdays. Contact him at 503-294-5960; jfboone@aol.com or jerryboone@news.oregonian.com. His columns can be found online at www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/jerry_boone/.

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4A**WEDNESDAY****JULY 27, 2005****NEWS-TIMES, FOREST GROVE, OREGON**

Give county plan a fair chance

Here's the easiest civics assignment you've ever received. This week, head to Hillsboro and go the Washington County Fair. It's free. It's on the light-rail line. And the five-day forecast looks fantastic. So go and have a good time. And while you're there, think about what the fair is, what it's not, and what it could be.

Earlier this year, county officials made a huge strategic blunder by springing plans for a dramatic overhaul of the fair complex on the public without giving a heads up to traditional fair boosters. As a result, some of the innovative ideas have been lost in the shouting. We still don't know whether it makes sense for the county to sell two-thirds of its publicly owned fairgrounds to a private developer. And, if it does pencil out, we don't know that Opus Northwest ought to have a monopoly on coming up with proposals.

But we are convinced that something needs to be done at the fairgrounds to not only entice crowds, but also generate enough funds to prevent the facilities from again falling into decay.

Critics of the county's plans predict this will be the last year that you'll be able to see sheep on display. We doubt that, but we do agree that this week's events (see page 8A for a listing) offer a great chance to take a hard look at the fairgrounds, give some thought to their future and have a great time in the process.

**OregonLive.com**

Everything Oregon

Hillsboro Argus

Master Gardeners hoe-hoe-hoe fair's demo garden

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

By JoAnn Boatwright
The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

Washington County Master Gardeners have been spiffing up their demonstration garden in anticipation of this week's county fair.

The garden is tucked into the northwest corner of the fairgrounds behind the floral building and offers individual beds showing off gardens for children, gardens with a Mediterranean theme, herb gardens, rock gardens, shade gardens, everlasting and butterfly gardens, intensive veggie gardens, vertical gardens and gardens for those who have disabilities.

New this year, according to Master Gardening guru Jerry Anderson of Forest Grove, is the exciting mulch display. Gardeners can learn the ins and outs of mulching with filbert shells, dairy compost, mushroom compost, fine hemlock, small fir bark, pea gravel and medium fir bark.

Also new is the remodeled Mediterranean bed, complete with a water feature, and a native plant garden stocked with plants indigenous Pacific Northwest. The deer-resistant garden features plants deer supposedly don't have a taste for and a new straw-bale garden shows how to grow a salad in a bale.

Kaaren DeMarest notes that the demo garden is first and foremost is a learning garden. Each plant and bed is identified with signs and Master Gardeners will be on hand to talk to fair goers.

The Master Gardeners also will offer two classes each day during the fair, starting on Thursday with composting expert Ron Spendall discussing his favorite subject at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Friday classes will be on garden bugs at 10 a.m. with Stephanie Anderson and Martha Duff and edible flowers at 2 p.m. with Asta Silverthorn.

On Saturday, DeMarest will demonstrate container gardening at 10 a.m. and Jerry Anderson will talk about raised beds and adaptive gardening tools at 2 p.m.

On Sunday, Silverthorn will talk about everlasting flowers at 2 p.m.

The demonstration garden has been part of the Washington County Fair since 1989 and is a continual work in progress. Area Master Gardeners gather each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon to tend the garden which is at its most attractive during the fair.

Fair visitors can ask the on duty Master Gardeners about the annual 70-hour training program or they can call the OSU Extension Service, 503-725-2300, in Washington County and asked to be placed on the list for information about the next session.

Anderson said that current uncertainty about the future of the fairground has the Master Gardeners and the

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Tualatin Valley Garden Club, which shares the demonstration garden space, looking for a possible new location for the garden.

Besides the open garden at the fair, the gardeners will hold an open house on Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the semi-annual Hardy Plant Society plant sale at the fairgrounds.

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Everything Oregon

Hillsboro Argus

The music is backThe Washington County Fair Boosters bring back the popular amphitheater music venue

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

By JoAnn Boatwright
The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

Amphitheater entertainment is back this year at the Washington County Fair, thanks to the fair boosters organization.

Former fair board member and active Washington County Fair Booster member Lyle Spiesschaert said the boosters, as well as plenty of long-time fair goers, were disappointed in recent years when the amphitheater entertainment was dropped in lieu of other fair activities.

Last winter, the boosters stepped up to run several departments at the 2005 fair, including the entertainment in the DeMar Bachelor Amphitheater, the acoustically inviting dish at the fairground's northern border with Cornell Road.

"The amphitheater was the pride of the county fair," said Spiesschaert, when it drew a number of nationally-known performers to the fair. Staging for such perennial favorites as this year's Johnny Limbo & The Lugnuts and 5 Guys Named Moe is an expensive undertaking, he added.

The boosters brought Stimson Lumber on board as the presenting sponsor, Spiesschaert said, and plugged in classic rockers Zuzo Blue and country singer Tommy Overstreet & The Nashville Connection to fill out the lineup.

Other sponsors have stepped up to the plate to make the no-admission concerts open to any and all fair goers who wish to attend, although up-front reserved seats are available for \$10 tickets that can be picked up at the ice cream booth run by the Washington County Dairy Women.

"My bias is that the fair and the fairgrounds are the people's place," Spiesschaert said, alluding to current wrangling over the future of the 80-acre fairgrounds. "My philosophy is that the Washington County fairgrounds, including the amphitheater, is like Portland's Pioneer Square. It's a place where people gather throughout the fair and throughout the year."

In order to bring back the amphitheater entertainment, the boosters tapped into its resources, including the Tualatin Valley Garden Club which has helped tend the lawn in the amphitheater in anticipation of this week's music fest. "Sweat equity" is Spiesschaert term for the amphitheater's entertainment comeback.

Local farmers, in keeping with the fair's agricultural roots, will loan a couple of dozen antique tractors which will ring the amphitheater, and people's choice awards in several categories will be given.

The amphitheater's evening lineups include Johnny Limbo & The Lugnuts on Thursday at 6 and 9 p.m.; Zuzo Blue on Friday at 6 p.m.; 5 Guys Named Moe on Friday at 9 p.m.; Tommy Overstreet & The Nashville Connection on Saturday at 6 and 9 p.m.; and Musica Festiva Sunday at 4 p.m.

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Other amphitheater entertainment will be:

Thursday: Patty Cooleage, 10 a.m.; Foresters, noon; Jerry Fluter, 2 and 4 p.m.; Youth Band Jamboree, 5 p.m.; and Rose in the Heather, 7 p.m.

Friday: Tualatin Valley Accordions, 10 a.m. and noon; Patty Cooleage, 11 a.m.; Rose in the Heather, 1 p.m.; Foresters, 2 p.m.; Joyride, 5 p.m.; and Tualatin Valley Harmony Masters, 7 p.m.

Saturday: Dixieland Youth Band, 10 a.m.; Ron and Rhonda Cabriet, 11 a.m.; Tualatin Valley Harmony Masters, 2 p.m.; Issakar, 3:30 p.m.; and Jerry Fluter, 8 p.m.

Sunday: His Reflection, 1 p.m.; Overflow, 2 p.m.

Admission to the fair is free; parking is \$5; and the fairgrounds is available by MAX Light Rail.

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**OregonLive.com**

Everything Oregon

The Oregonian

Under Bubba's red glare

Sunday, July 24, 2005

CHRISTINE DELLERT

The Oregonian

Geneva Houx grew a little nervous as she hit the high notes at Saturday's singing contest in downtown Portland.

The judge, after all, was licking his lips. And swooshing his tail.

It's not a typical performance, the 27-year-old Hillsboro gospel singer said, when you're trying to please a 3,000-pound Black Angus bull.

But to win a spot singing the national anthem at this year's Washington County Fair & Rodeo, that's what you've got to do.

Several hundred people gathered in Pioneer Courthouse Square on Saturday afternoon to see Bubba, as well as a petite rodeo queen, judge the five hopefuls belting out "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"We're looking to see some expression from Bubba," said Don Hillman, executive director of the Fair Complex. "Some kind of body movement, tail-twitching."

After her audition, Houx said, "he definitely heaved toward me a bit. That was a bit scary. I probably shouldn't have worn red."

"Bubba is a very visual guy," said his owner, Sherwood rancher Pat Morin. But he wouldn't hurt anyone, he said. "He's just a big old Romeo."

In the end, Houx won the chance to perform at the fair. So did the four others -- Brooke Richey of Portland, Dan Murphy of Beaverton, Melissa Fults of Hillsboro and Kim Brandt of Tigard.

Last year, Bubba made his debut appearance in downtown Portland, but not as a judge. Stunt bikers performed jumps behind him, while fair volunteers handed out 500 free corn dogs.

Hillman hopes that holding the singing auditions downtown this year, instead of at the fairgrounds, will draw larger fair attendance.

"We're bringing the message straight to the people," he said. "Bubba the bull -- that just screams county fair."

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**OregonLive.com**

Everything Oregon

Hillsboro Argus

Tuesday Marketplace in peril

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

The Hillsboro Argus

Since 1998, the Hillsboro Tuesday Marketplace has been presenting a free 12-week summer Tuesday evening family & community gathering place in historic downtown Hillsboro.

Today, even though the popular marketplace attracts more than 5,000 people per night, declining sponsorships and financial support to cover the rising costs of putting on the event is causing this private non-profit organization to seek the help of the community now in order to continue the event after this season.

"We rely mostly on sponsorships to present this free market to the community, and without a match in sponsorships and support to cover increasing costs of necessary things such as security and insurance, there won't be a market after this year," said Sarah Jo Chaplen, president of the Hillsboro Tuesday Marketplace Board of Directors.

"If you love coming to the Hillsboro Tuesday Marketplace, meeting up with friends, listening to music on the courthouse lawn, enjoying fresh berries and foods, and want to see it continue, then please consider making a donation or encouraging your company to become a sponsor so we can continue providing this wonderful community event in the future."

Eight years ago local farmers, artists, and community-minded citizens and businesses founded the Hillsboro Tuesday Marketplace. With the help of volunteers and sponsors, the event takes place every Tuesday evening June through August from 5 to 8:30 pm on three city blocks in historic downtown Hillsboro.

The market is a free community gathering place and features some of the Northwest's best bands & musical entertainment, fresh locally grown produce, flowers and nursery plants, art from local artists, crafts produced by regional artisans, a wide range of international foods from local restaurateurs, classic cars, community organizations, and educational programs.

The Hillsboro Tuesday Marketplace needs the community's help in raising around \$25,000 by the end of this season, and is asking for two types of community support in order to continue presenting the market after the 2005 season:

- 1) Sponsorships from local businesses or organizations -- available at various cash levels, providing valuable marketing exposure for the sponsor.
- 2) Monetary Donations -- from individuals or businesses. "Put Your Money in the Market" by dropping your spare dollars in donation jars at businesses throughout downtown Hillsboro or on Tuesday evenings at the market. Or, become a "Market Investor" by donating \$100 or above to the organization.

The Hillsboro Tuesday Marketplace is not possible without generous support from sponsors, including 2005 presenting sponsor Bank of America, supporting sponsors Hillsboro Argus, Hillsboro Auto Wrecking, PGE, Scottie's Auto Body and Tuality Healthcare, contributing sponsors Hillsboro Garbage/RonJons, Let's Play Toys, and The Sign Company, and music sponsors Hillsboro Rotary, Washington County Dairy Women,

Hillsboro Pharmacy, the City of Hillsboro, Watz Up Hillsboro Music Co., Gimre's Shoes, Sports Look Bar & Restaurant, Whole Brain Creative, Oregon First Community Credit Union, Dick's Mackenzie Ford and Key Bank.

There are still sponsorship opportunities available for the 2005 season, and sponsorships commitments are also being sought for 2006. Anyone interested in a sponsorship can call the market office at 503-844-6685 to receive a sponsor packet with more specific details on the opportunities.

"We are proud of the fact that this market has grown to be such a well-attended event that brings the community together every Tuesday evening in the summer," said Pat Rossetti, market manager. "We offer something for everyone and want to be able to continue providing this valuable gathering place not only for the benefit of citizens, but also for local farmers, artists, businesses and the downtown core."

The market also relies on volunteers to make the community event happen, and has many volunteer opportunities for the current and future seasons. Please visit www.hillsboromarkets.org or call 503-844-6685 for more specific information about volunteer opportunities.

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Print Page

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Fair being choked by own success

By Laura Cook

The Stanislaus County Fairgrounds are so successful, they may have outgrown Turlock.

Surrounded by homes and businesses, there is no place the fairgrounds can grow, which is why the Stanislaus County Fair Board is hoping a better site emerges soon. The board and the City of Turlock will split the \$18,000 cost to hire a consultant to study a possible relocation.

"The study will help the fair board and the city council make some decisions whether makes since from a financial perspective to relocate," Community Development Director Charlie Woods said.

The fair could relocate if selling the grounds will result in enough money to purchase a new, larger site and build new facilities. The study will establish what the current grounds, located between Canal Drive, Soderquist Road, and Golden State Boulevard, may be used for.

The 72-acre piece of land would be sold to a developer, Woods said.

"It makes sense for the (Redevelopment Agency) to play a role. We have a real interest in deciding what kind of development would replace the fairgrounds," he said.

The study will estimate the value of the land and identify possible relocation sites for the fairgrounds. It is expected to be complete in three or four months, Woods said.

City officials are hoping any new fairgrounds site would continue to benefit the city economically by attracting people to local hotels, stores and restaurants.

"(The grounds) are a significant economic development asset, as they draw people to certain events. If the fairgrounds were to relocate, we would want them to be sure that they relocated somewhere in the broader Turlock community," Woods said. "That doesn't mean they have to be in the city, but they might be just outside the city."

At past City Council meetings, officials said Keyes may be a possible location.

The fair itself helps local non-profits. Service clubs volunteer at the fair and raise money to meet their yearly budgets and other organizations do a great amount of fund-raising at the fair, Mayor Curt Andre said.

Organizations and private parties rent the grounds between 140 to 150 times a year, Pennie Rorex, spokesperson for the fair, has said.

The three largest occasions include the Model-A Swap Meet that draws

approximately 50,000 people, the Turlock Music Fest that draws about 20,000 people and the KAT Country Listener Appreciation Concert, which attracts about 10,000 people, Rorex said.

Private parties frequently use the buildings for wedding receptions, quinceaneras, displays and shows.

Why move the fairgrounds?

There is no room to expand and the growing community will soon require larger and more modern facilities to attract other events.

"If the fairgrounds were to relocate, the ultimate goal would be to enhance our ability to further our mission," Rorex said.

The fair's mission is to promote agriculture, education, entertainment and technology.

The grounds were surrounded by open land when the state purchased the property in 1937.

Back then, the land provided opportunities for future growth of the fair facilities. The grounds are now surrounded by homes and businesses.

On the grounds, there are five exhibit buildings, two of which are almost 15,000 square feet, an arena that can accommodate 4,500 guests, nine livestock barns, a pavilion, a milking parlor and a satellite wagering facility, called the Turlock Turf Club. About 225,000 people attend the fair each year and this number is expected to grow.

"I believe we are at capacity for existing uses. There is no room to enhance our services, so on several occasions during the past two decades, the fair board has discussed possible relocation," Rorex said.

-- CLOSE WINDOW--

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Fewer barrels, more bull - State Fair dumps state sport

Full rodeo dropped in favor of favorite event

TERRY WOSTER
twoster@midco.net

July 15, 2005

PIERRE - It's South Dakota's state sport, but fans won't find it on this year's State Fair lineup.

Rodeo has been bucked off the schedule in favor of two evenings of championship bull riding.

Agriculture Secretary Larry Gabriel, who rode broncs when he was younger, said he understands rodeo enthusiasts might be disappointed. But he said the fair needs to focus on events that will draw bigger crowds and more money.

"I love rodeo," Gabriel told legislators during a summer study committee meeting this week. "But we can't do it just because we love it if it's not doing something to help the viability of the fair."

Rodeo might be a victim of changing times at the Huron fair, said Rep. Larry Rhoden, R-Union Center, who sponsored the bill that passed in 2003, making it the official state sport.

"Having worked with Secretary Gabriel, and knowing where his heart lies, I don't question his dedication to the sport of rodeo," Rhoden said Thursday. "He's trying to make the state fair fly, and rodeo, for whatever reason, wasn't covering its costs."

"The big picture here is making the State Fair work. There might be a situation in the future - I hope there is - when we can go back to having the rodeo at the State Fair."

Rhoden, who rode bulls and bucking horses as a younger man, said the absence of rodeo at the State Fair won't hurt its place as South Dakota's official sport. He also noted that in any rodeo, bull riding is the final event.

"There's a reason for that, and it's kind of the way you save the best stuff for last at any event," he said.

Rodeo has been part of the fair's annual run for years, but Dan Pirrung, president of the South Dakota Rodeo Association, says he understands the economics of the fair's change.

"I'd like to see a full run of rodeo events at the fair, but I sure see where they're coming from," said Pirrung, a team roper from Hartford.

A full string of bucking stock, roping calves and bulldogging steers is a hefty investment but necessary to have a rodeo, Pirrung said.

"You can bring some bulls and probably put the same amount of people in the seats for a lot less cost," he said.

Fair Manager Susan Hayward said the decision to drop rodeo was made because the event didn't make money.

"What we really have to do as we go into being more of a business is look at what makes money and what doesn't, and if it's not, then we have to move on to something else," she said.

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She said Championship Bull Riding, scheduled Sept. 8 and 9 at the fair, should be an exciting draw.

"A lot of folks go to rodeos because they love the bull riding," Hayward said. "It is also a nationally televised event. It's a wonderful opportunity for South Dakota to kind of strut ourselves, if you will, on the Outdoor Channel."

Jim Thompson, a longtime rodeo announcer and former state legislator from Spearfish, said news of the change in the fair's schedule caught him by surprise.

"I'm disappointed," Thompson said. "Certainly bull riding is popular, but I think the decision to drop rodeo is a poor one" after designating the activity the official state sport.

Thompson said fair managers have a valid concern for making a profit, but he added, "Places do make money with rodeos, so it can be done."

Those involved in the sport should talk about ways to handle the event so that it might be more profitable, he said.

"Maybe we should try to talk to the state" about reviving rodeo at the fair in future years, Pirrung agreed.

Thompson also said the fair and its money problems were a concern even when he was a legislator a decade ago.

"If you really want to make money, probably the best way is not to hold the State Fair at all," Thompson said. But when he was a legislator, most elected officials agreed the state had an obligation to continue the fair, he said.

Gabriel said he received "a hurtful letter" from someone involved in rodeo, accusing him of not supporting the sport. He said that was a particularly unkind cut because he rode bucking horses in his younger years and has a son who was a Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association bronc rider for several years.

The State Fair hosted the finals of the South Dakota high school rodeo and the amateur South Dakota Rodeo Association finals in the past year, Gabriel noted. The fact that it isn't featuring rodeo go-rounds during the actual fair week shouldn't be interpreted as lack of support for the sport, he said.

Gabriel said he disliked being criticized as being anti-rodeo "because we're stopping something that wasn't making money, trying to do something that will not only create more profit but will also create visibility for South Dakota by getting on the Outdoor Network and showcasing a little bit of South Dakota in the fact that we have people foolish enough to get on a bull and risk their lives for a paltry \$2,000."

The new event should create interest and enthusiasm, he said, and it could "get people to drive from wherever to Huron to watch these people with more guts than common sense risk their lives for their little minute or seconds of stardom as a bull rider."

Reach Terry Woster at 605-224-2760.

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July 13, 2005

Fairgrounds future at financial crossroads

By Matt Cooper
The Register-Guard

For the Lane County commissioners, the fairgrounds has become a 55-acre boomerang: They throw the problem to fair officials, and it comes right back.

The fairgrounds at Jefferson and 13th Avenue needs hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in subsidies in order to cover its intermittent operating deficits and fund capital upgrades. The commissioners have occasionally asked how to stop the bleeding, but the response from fair officials - put the operation in private hands and thereby eliminate expensive public-employee benefits - hasn't appealed to them.

The issue is back again.

In the coming weeks, the commissioners will decide whether to direct the Fair Board, which oversees the fairgrounds, to spend heavily to determine if it makes fiscal sense to improve the current site, or move all or part of it.

Fairgrounds Managing Director Warren Wong put the price tag on an in-depth analysis of the options at \$400,000 to \$600,000. That cost figure may sink the plan for an exhaustive study: None of the five commissioners wants to spend that much money, and a majority of them - Pete Sorenson, Bill Dwyer and Bobby Green - are flat against such an expenditure.

"We know what really needs to be done" at the fairgrounds, Green said. He figures the solution may be privatization, an increase in the subsidy from hotel-motel taxes or possibly public support through a bond measure.

Commissioners Anna Morrison and Faye Stewart, on the other hand, support a study - begrudgingly, if Wong's price tag is accurate.

"I'm concerned about the operating loss and the future," Stewart said, "and not having a plan for the future."

Commissioners are all over the map not just on the fairgrounds' future, but the severity of the financial situation.

Morrison and Green share Stewart's concern for the operating losses, which currently equal 5 to 7 percent of the annual \$4.5 million budget, before subsidies.

But losses and subsidies are the rule for publicly owned, county fairs across Oregon and across the nation, said John McCulley, executive secretary of the Oregon Fairs Association.

Every one of Oregon's 36 counties holds a fair, McCulley said, and every one of them - as well as the state fair in Salem - gets a government subsidy. The subsidy may come through a county's general fund, in-kind services, state support or a hotel-room tax such as that which goes to the

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Lane Events Center, which runs the fairgrounds.

The state and county fairs face a two-fold burden, McCulley said: Expensive maintenance of large, aging buildings, and the requirement to provide services free or at below-market rates for youth and nonprofit organizations.

"The fair, in essence, is subsidizing the youth of the community," McCulley said.

The burden has proven too much for the state fair, which carries a \$24 million debt and a cash shortage. Lawmakers are debating whether to move the fair's management to the state Parks and Recreation Department.

In Lane County, the Lane Events Center received \$900,000 in hotel-motel taxes for the fiscal year that ended June 30 - about 20 percent of revenue, Wong said. The fairgrounds expects another \$900,000 in taxes for the current fiscal year, to cover capital upgrades and to help offset the projected operating losses of \$250,000.

By comparison, the fairgrounds in Washington County, west of Portland, will receive \$518,000 from the hotel-motel tax this fiscal year, accounting for 37 percent of operating revenue.

Fair supporters there objected strongly recently to consideration of selling part of the complex for a shopping mall.

In Lane County, there's talk of turning part of the fairgrounds into a home for Springfield-based McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center, which has shown interest in the site should the hospital's plans to move to downtown Eugene fall through.

Commissioners Stewart, Morrison and Green are more amenable than Sorenson or Dwyer to options that could involve moving all or part of the fairgrounds elsewhere.

"My personal first blush is, I think (the fairgrounds) should all be relocated," Stewart said. "But I would consider looking at options of having some sort of presence at two locations, if it's feasible."

Sorenson, on the other hand, said the fairgrounds is "prime property" in the heart of Eugene, and that its operations only need tweaking. A daily farmers' market - open year-round, with refrigeration for beef and poultry - could help the fairgrounds change with the times, Sorenson said.

Dwyer thinks the fairgrounds can strengthen its bottom line through on-site upgrades, including infrastructure necessary to accommodate year-round stables and exhibits for horses and cows. Such a service could reduce but not eliminate the operating shortfall, Wong said.

Whatever the solution, the Oregon fair association's McCulley suggested it must be tailor-made. Fairgrounds "really are a reflection of the community in which they live and operate," McCulley said. "It's hard to transfer things that will work in one county to another county. Lane County has its own unique issues that it has to deal with."

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The Oregonian

House bill gives parks department the run of the Oregon State Fair Under the measure, the cash-strapped annual event would get new management and a new source of funding

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

MICHELLE COLE
The Oregonian

SALEM -- The Oregon State Fair, as we know it, would be abolished with a bill that passed the Oregon House on Monday.

Struggling with debt, the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center would not cease to exist. But the fair and its Salem fairgrounds would get new management and access to additional funding by becoming part of the State Parks and Recreation Department.

The state fair is in "great peril" without the change, Rep. Susan Morgan, R-Myrtle Creek, said during Monday's floor debate.

The Oregon State Fair has had difficulty covering its costs since 1997. Last November, fair leaders told the Legislature's Emergency Board that they faced a cash-flow crisis and were unable to cover operating costs and debts owed.

Legislators have talked for years about making changes in the way the fair is managed and marketed, Morgan said. "The fair could be so much more for Oregon than it is now," she said.

A report prepared for the House and Senate budget committees found the state fair operation is "isolated" from state and local government partners and in need of management assistance.

House Democrats agreed that the fair needs financial help. But they, as well as the Parks and Recreation commissioners, questioned whether House Bill 3502, which moves the fair to the parks department, is the best answer.

The head of the Parks and Recreation Department questions that, too.

The state fair "is not the traditional recreation you associate with the parks system," Tim Wood, Parks and Recreation director, said after Monday's vote.

Critics also questioned the wisdom of diverting to state fair operations some of the lottery proceeds earmarked for parks maintenance and acquisition outlined by Measure 66 and approved by voters in 1998.

Parks and Recreation stands to gain an additional \$9 million in lottery proceeds with the new lottery line games. Yet, Rep. Jeff Barker, D-Aloha, said that additional revenue is not enough reason to saddle Parks and Recreation with the state fair.

"The state fair is not the state parks," Barker said during the debate, adding that the state may have to subsidize the fair "somehow, but not with state parks dollars."

About 400,000 people come to the state fair each summer with thousands of others visiting the fairgrounds for about 170 events staged throughout the year.

Gate receipts have not proven sufficient, however, to sustain the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center without extra infusions of cash from the state's general fund.

The state fair faces a potential \$2.6 million shortfall in the 2005-07 budget period.

"Expenses have outpaced revenues," Katie Cannon, director of the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center, said Monday.

For example, utility costs have increased dramatically, Cannon said. Total operating costs have risen from \$13.1 million in the 2003-05 budget to \$14.7 million for 2005-07.

The state fair also owes about \$4.2 million every biennium for money borrowed to pay for building maintenance and construction. Parks and Recreation would take on that \$24 million state fair debt along with the state fair operations.

After some debate, HB3502 passed the House Monday on a 36-24 vote. Wood said he wasn't sure whether the Senate also would endorse the proposal.

If it does pass, Wood said Parks and Recreation isn't in the position to reject the idea.

"If this is the legislative direction we get," he said, "we're going to take it on, and we're going to do our darndest to make it work."

Michelle Cole: 503-294-5143; michellecole@news.oregonian.com

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No more big-name acts at the Solano fair

Have to 'appeal to a wider base of people,' general manager says

By RACHEL RASKIN-ZRIHEN, Times-Herald staff writer
Vallejo Times Herald

Joe Barkett wants you to take everything you think you know about the Solano County Fair, and forget it.

Barkett, the Solano County Fair's general manager, said he and the fair board are betting that eliminating big-name entertainment from the annual event's lineup will increase attendance and permit improvements that couldn't be afforded otherwise. He said he knows some people will scoff at the idea that not bringing world-famous entertainers to the fair will increase attendance, but there is a method to his seeming madness.

The big names weren't bringing fairgoers to the fair, Barkett said. They were bringing concert-goers who walked through, but didn't really go to the fair, per se. They didn't go on rides or buy food or merchandise from vendors. They did, however, create impenetrable traffic jams, large, often unruly crowds and a sense of possible danger for some fairgoers and vendors, he said.

"This fair's been making considerable effort to improve, with entertainment, grounds, but it hasn't translated into the increased attendance that was hoped for, or in the changed perception in people's minds about what a county fair is," Barkett said.

"Too many people think a county fair is about horse racing and big name entertainment acts. It was pretty clear to me, after being here a year, that putting all that emphasis on the entertainment was keeping the fair from making improvements in other areas. We need to do that to appeal to a wider base of people."

With the big-name acts, fair attendance has actually declined, Barkett said. Fair officials decided to reallocate the half-million dollars spent on acts like James Brown, The Isley Brothers, the Temptations and Shania Twain, toward physical improvements and bring a variety of entertainment that would appeal to a wider audience.

"We're bringing in grounds acts, like the pirate ship, strolling minstrels, a hypnotizing dog - elements that become integral to the fair experience - and they're all things kids and families love," Solano County Fair spokeswoman Pam Hamilton said.

Barkett said he expects that under the new concept there may be a first-year attendance drop, until word spreads that the fair's whole focus has changed.

"Our goal is to make sure there's great entertainment, no matter what day you come to the fair," Barkett said. He added that increased security, varied food, rides, exhibits and improved landscaping should add a family-friendly, positive feeling to the fair experience.

"The message is, there's real change out there," Barkett said. "It's not what you think it is."

Barkett said his efforts include "recreating the old-fashioned county fair, a return to its roots," while simultaneously bringing in elements to appeal "to the urban sensibilities of our community."

To that end, horse racing, a popular fair staple, returns to this year's event, called Fun Fest!, as do the requisite carnival rides and food and merchandise vendors. This year, though, a range of culturally diverse entertainment will perform on three stages all day and night. Visitors will find a youth circus, competitive exhibits, livestock shows, a horse-drawn trolley, an heirloom garden and a heritage farm. The farm, complete with big red barn, features the Solano General Store with local farm produce and products, a chicken coop, blacksmith, pony rides, children's activities and contests and demonstrations of traditional "farm arts," Hamilton said.

This year's fair also features PetFest, with demonstrations by local trainers, specialists and advocacy groups and a hands-on scientific scene from California's Academy of Sciences. Also at the fair this year will be Terrance B & Hypno Dog, Grinn & Barrett, purveyors of "breathtaking feats of skill and hilarious comedy," and The Pirate's Parrot Show.

This year's fair features magic shows, dog shows, story tellers, musical acts, and a midway with games of chance and skill, food and rides.

Barkett and Hamilton said the Solano County Fair is a work in progress.

"There are a lot of things we want to do to improve the fair," Barkett said. "I don't necessarily mean there was anything wrong with it. It's been incrementally improving year to year. But this year we've made changes to appeal to a wider base of people."

- E-mail Rachel Raskin-Zrihen at RachelZ@thnewsnet.com or call 553-6824.

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Modbee.com

Turlock considers moving fairground

By JOHN HOLLAND
BEE STAFF WRITER

TURLOCK — The Stanislaus County Fairground has celebrated rural life for nearly 70 years while a city grew around it.

Now, city and fair officials are looking at whether a new site might be found — and whether developing the old property might pay for the move.

The Turlock City Council on Tuesday night is set to consider spending \$9,000 on an initial study of the idea. The fair board has agreed to spend another \$9,000.

The study would provide general estimates, rather than specific sites, for a new fairground or uses for the current site, said Charlie Woods, the city's community development director.

"It's not a plan," he said. "It's just a study to see if we need to do a plan."

The fairground was established northwest of downtown in 1937, when most of the surrounding land was rural.

"We now have 72 acres total, but as the city has developed, the fairground has become landlocked, and there is no room to enhance services," fair spokeswoman Pennie Rorex said.

During the fair — July 29 to Aug. 7 this year — the site is packed with carnival rides, livestock, commercial exhibits and other attractions. At other times, the fairground has events such as craft shows, concerts and banquets.

Parking can be tight, and in recent years people living near the fairground's western boundary have complained about noise, litter and other problems from some of the events.

Developers might be interested

Off and on over the past two decades, officials have discussed the idea of moving the fairground, Rorex said. The ideal site would be 125 acres and have easy freeway access, she said.

Rorex said the state, which oversees county fairground, might have some money for relocation but not enough for the entire cost.

The current site could be attractive to developers because north Turlock, where a building boom is taking place, is expected to fill up in a few years. The fairground lies between downtown and the stores that have sprouted next to Highway 99.

Woods said the city nonetheless might have to put money from its redevelopment fund into a reuse project.

City officials said earlier this year that they would like to keep the fairground in or near Turlock because of its benefits to the economy.

A 2003 state report estimated that the fairground generated \$17.5 million in annual spending, providing 197 jobs and \$157,414 in state and local taxes. The figures include direct spending at the fair and other events, plus the ripple effect as those who make money there spend it at businesses.

The annual fair dates to 1911, when it was known as the Turlock Melon Carnival, put on first by the Turlock Chamber of Commerce and later by the American Legion.

In 1935, the state established the 38th District Agriculture Association to oversee the fair. The current fairground came two years later.

It was used as an assembly center for Japanese-Americans who were interned during World War II. Later in the war, it was an Army rehabilitation center.

In 1960, the fairground became the first home of California State University, Stanislaus, while the permanent campus was being built at the north end of Turlock.

But the main use over the past seven decades has been as a gathering place for fairgoers — about 225,000 of them in each of the past three years.

"A lot of fairs that were established on the edge of towns at one time are not on the edge anymore," Woods said.

The Turlock City Council is to meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall, 156 S. Broadway.

Bee staff writer John Holland can be reached at 667-1227 or jholland@modbee.com.

Posted on 07/09/05 00:00:00

<http://www.modbee.com/local/story/10846446p-11619700c.html>



The Oregonian

Serious horseplay at the fair 4-Hers in Washington County compete with breeds big and little to advance to state

Friday, July 08, 2005

KATHERINE SATHER
The Oregonian

HILLSBORO -- Less than an hour before competing Thursday in the Washington County 4-H Horse Fair, Taylor Linse's miniature horse begins to shiver.

It's not nerves, says Linse, 18. At barely three feet tall, Starfire can't be ridden, but he regularly competes alongside horses twice his height in showmanship classes.

He's shivering because of a recent bath.

"They don't know they're little," says Linda Linse, Taylor's mom. "Most of the time the big horses are more afraid of the little ones."

Her daughter is one of 184 4-H members registered for the horse fair, held over two weekends in June and July. Thursday's events included showmanship and trail classes. The fair continues with Western competition today and English events Saturday.

It's the last fair for Linse; as a high school graduate, she is no longer eligible for 4-H. She's competed with Starfire since the fourth grade, and the team has a good track record, but the horse requires some attention.

"If you let your guard down, he'll test you," said Linse, who graduated recently from Hillsboro's Liberty High School and plans to attend Portland State University.

Linse is a member of the Highland Hunters 4-H club, which brought five miniature horses to the fair.

They're good for young 4-Hers to learn with, said Denice Liggett of St. Helens. She and her 16-year-old daughter, Sarah, bring their mini to the Washington County Fair each year to compete with the Highland Hunters.

The minis have personality. "They think they're big stuff," she said, adding that full-size horses think the little ones are dogs.

Pre-competition work includes bathing and grooming. Linse also cleans Starfire's hooves, which are too small for metal shoes. Linse wears a cowboy hat and Western shirt for the senior showmanship competition.

Just returning from the arena is 10-year-old Alex Ferrell with Mr. Dalmatian, a 20-year-old white pony speckled with black. It's their first fair. Alex lives in Yamhill County but trains with the Summerfield Equestrian Club near Hillsboro.

Alex earned a red ribbon in the junior showmanship competition with Mr. Dalmatian.

"He likes to slobber," she said. "And he likes to rub his eyes on your back."

The 4-H members aren't judged against one another. Instead, they're measured against a standard. Youths with top scores compete in a medallion class for the chance to go to state competitions.

In showmanship, they're judged on confidence, poise and control, said Judy Meler, a 4-H leader. They lead their horses through basic moves such as backing up and turning.

"You want to go in there and say, 'This is the best horse out here,' " she said.

Meler said the fair is bittersweet for members of the horse community, who are afraid of losing the fairgrounds. The Washington County Fair Board has proposed building a shopping center on the 62-acre site and constructing new fairgrounds in a smaller area nearby. A petition against the plan circulated throughout the day, as kids and horses competed in events.

Linse said later that she didn't expect to do well. During the showmanship competition, Starfire "backed up crooked and stepped out of his haunch turn," she said.

But the announcer's voice on the loudspeaker made her mom clap and yell.

"Entry number 37, Taylor Linse, with a blue."

Katherine Sather: 503-294-5958; katherinesather@news.oregonian.com

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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: August 30, 2005

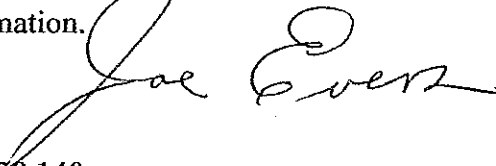
To: Washington County Fair Complex Board
Washington County Fair Complex

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

Re: Joe Evers Material

Find attached material submitted by Joe Evers.

I have made up a list of the fairs who have attendance numbers compared to ours. I have called each of these fairs and spoke with the fair directors and obtained this information. However, in the case of Washington County I spoke with fair board members and referred to my Oregon Fair Commission booklet to get this information.



Clackamas County Fair Attendance 138,140

Acres owned 25 (Must depend on street parking and neighbors who open up their yards and driveways to park for a fee.)

County money received \$340,000

Director's salary \$55,000

Food Concession Spaces 40

Commercial Exhibits 200

Profit or Loss Balances

Douglas County Fair Attendance 74,367

Acres owned 74 (Director's quote "no room to breathe")

County money received \$100,000 Food Concession Spaces 26

Commercial Exhibits 200

Director's salary \$67,400

Profit or loss A profit

Josephine County Fair

Attendance 85,208

Acres owned 44

County money received -- none

Food Concession Spaces 23

Commercial Exhibits 60

Director's salary \$62,000

Profit or loss A profit

Klamath County Fair (They recently built an event center and are struggling, but are managing to pay the bond and balance the books.)

Attendance 49,677

Acres owned 50

County money received \$380,000

Food Concession Spaces 22

Commercial Exhibits 67

Director's salary \$56,000

Profit or loss Balances

Tillamook County Fair

Attendance 66,308

Acres owned 68 (parking acres--30

County money received \$50,000 average per year- only given for capital improvements

Food Concession Spaces 20

Commercial Exhibits 135

Director's salary \$50,000

Profit or loss \$150,000 profit

Umatilla County Fair

Attendance 64,479

Acres owned 27 (Neighbors open up fields and yards for parking plus 8 acres of school parking is used.)

County money received \$20,000

Food Concession Spaces 22

Commercial Exhibits 87

Director's salary \$40,000

Profit or loss \$35,000 profit

Columbia County Fair (This fair is included because I attended the fair as a Commission Member. It is not as large as other fairs listed.)

Attendance 20,000

Acres owned 70

County money received None (County pays expenses as absolutely necessary)

Food Concession Spaces 20

Commercial Exhibits 70

Director's salary \$40,000

Profit or loss Balances

Washington County Fair

Attendance 70,000

Acres owned 100

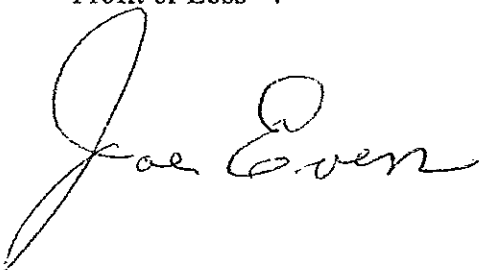
County Money Received \$500,000+

Food Concession Spaces 34

Commercial Exhibits 118

Director's salary \$100,000+

Profit or Loss ?

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe Even". The signature is written in dark ink and is located at the bottom left of the page, below the text for Washington County Fair.

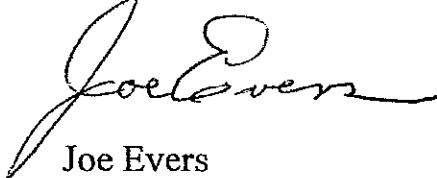
August 1, 2005

Washington County Commissioners:

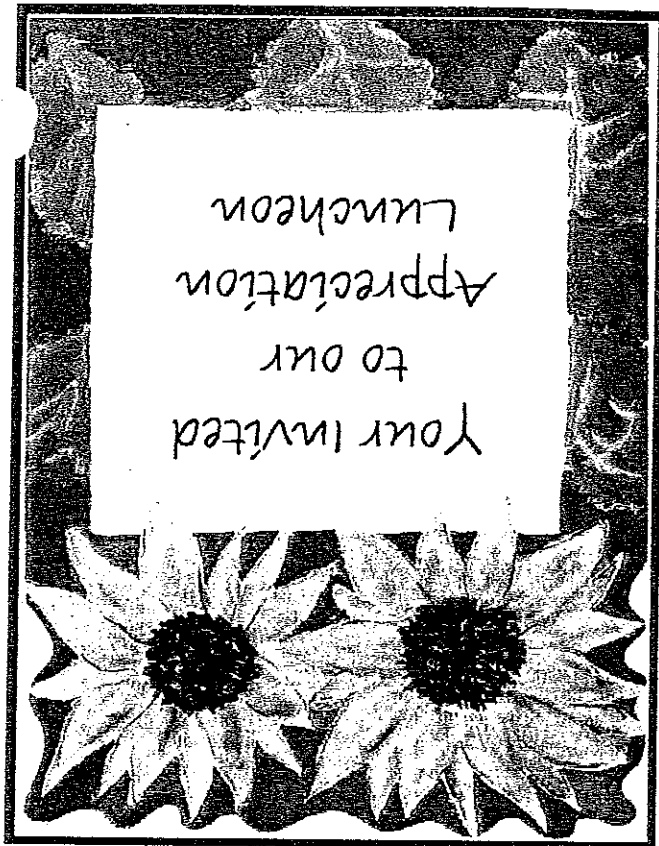
At the recent Washington County Fair some of us former FFA boys who were involved in tearing down and rebuilding the sheep barn were discussing the condition of the barn. It is in bad need of repair. We are proposing to restore the building to its original state. This building was moved from Shute Park to the present location by FFA members. Some of the alumni who helped to move the building and the present FFA members as well as volunteers will be doing the work. It will be overseen by Jason Rau Construction.

Since this a a public building, we are asking your permission to proceed with our plans to restore this building.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Evers", written in a cursive style.

Joe Evers



Kenana Kreations
 © Painted Hearts & Friends
 Artist: David Mekeburg

Greetings
 just for you!

Menu

BBQ Chicken
 Corn on the Cob
 Fresh Garden Vegetables
 Salads & Fruit
 Garlic Bread
 coffee, tea, lemonade

Washington County
 Master GardenersSM
 Cordially invite you to attend
 our Appreciation Luncheon
 Thanking You
 for your support.

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2005
 Time: 11:30am - 2:00pm
 Place: Washington County Fair-
 Complex Demo Gardens

R.S.V.P.: Jerry Anderson 503-357-2425
 Anna Stubbs 503-643-9474



Don G. Hillman
Deputy General Manager
California Exposition & State Fair

Don Hillman is a twenty-year industry professional currently serving as the Deputy General Manager at the California Exposition & State Fair in Sacramento California. Hillman has served in this capacity since his appointment in August 1994.

Hillman was born in Paris, Texas and raised in Burns, Oregon, an eastern Oregon ranching and timber community. A 1973 graduate of Southern Oregon State College, Ashland Oregon, with a BS in Business Administration, Hillman successfully passed the Certified Public Accounting Examination in 1977 and licensed as a public accountant shortly thereafter.

Hillman began his fair career in 1979 being named the Deputy Director at the Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center, Salem, Oregon. Hillman was appointed by Governor Neil Goldschmidt in 1989 and re-appointed by Governor Barbara Roberts in 1991 as the Director of the Oregon State Fair and served for five years as its Chief Executive Officer until his appointment at the California Exposition & State Fair. Accomplishments included increased off-season usage, implementing outreach efforts with the community, developing privatization legislation and implementing a \$7.5 million construction program funded in part by revenue bonds.

Hillman is past president of the Oregon Fairs Association and the Western Fairs Association (WFA) and has served on many local non-profit service organizations. He received the Certified Fair Executive designation from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions in 1991.

In August 1994, Hillman joined the executive staff of Cal Expo when appointed Deputy General Manager by Governor Pete Wilson. As Deputy General Manager, Hillman coordinates legislation, program development and special projects, and helps direct a \$10 million fairtime program with specific responsibilities for grounds and stage entertainment. Hillman is a member of the WFA Board of Directors and serves on the WFA Legislative and Professional Development Committees.

Distribute to Board Members
per Kathy Christy
Don 9/6/05

Save Our Fairgrounds From Becoming a Shopping Mall

Your signature below will show the Washington County Commissioners and the Fair Board that you do not support their efforts to sell or lease the land where the Fair is currently located. We further are requesting that the current Fairgrounds be put in public trust in perpetuity and a representative group of citizens and business representatives be assembled to inventory current facilities and recommend improvements and necessary additional facilities. They would then develop a long-range capital improvement and replacement plan complete with necessary funding. These signature pages will be submitted to the County Commission and Fair Board.

[illegible]

Fair's about due for changes

The Fair Board is intent on increasing attendance but also wants to modernize facilities and entertainment and raise fees

By **DAVID R. ANDERSON**
THE OREGONIAN

HILLSBORO — With attendance flat and revenues down from last year, those who know it best say the Washington County Fair and Rodeo needs a spur in

the flank.

So wine-tasting, mutton-busting, miniature bulls and "gee whiz" farm equipment could be on the way next year. And boring rodeo clowns and tame carnival rides are on the way out.

During a brainstorming session last week, Fair Board members said they need to make changes to attract the area's 25-year-old high-tech workers to next year's event, which is themed "A Fair for All." They discussed ways to be relevant in the 21st century without los-

ing the county's agricultural heritage.

"We have to keep up with the public," said board president Lyle Spiesschaert. "We just cannot rest on tradition."

The soul-searching comes at the same time the fair is interested in redeveloping its facility. A consultant's report said the county would need to spend \$33.5 million to create a modern fair facility. The board is studying several options, including moving across Northwest 34th Avenue to the east, leasing land from the Port of Portland and possibly leasing its

current site for commercial or retail use.

Both discussions have led to the board's pondering the role of the fair in a county where high-tech industry is overshadowing agricultural heritage. There have been no easy answers.

And another difficult decision might be increasing admission from \$6 to \$7 or more, increasing parking fees or charging for special events such as the rodeo. Senior citizens also might no longer get in free.

Please see **FAIR**, Page 10

September 2000

YOU CAN HELP

Providence Community Care Project: The project, which offers seminars on how to care for people who are ill or grieving, needs volunteers to speak to church and community groups. Volunteers receive free hospice training and advanced training related to their areas of interest. Call Bonnie Sloat at 503-216-8470 for information.

Animal shelter: The Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter seeks volunteers to conduct pet care and pet safety classes. The Hillsboro shelter also needs people to photograph and write ad copy to promote pet adoptions. Call Susan at 503-846-7141 for information.

Washington County Department of Aging and Veterans' Services: The department needs volunteers to drive people to appointments, help with shopping, deliver meals, make simple home repairs or just drop in for a visit. For information, call Jackie Eggers at 503-615-4645.

Shelter/Domestic Violence Resource Center: The nonprofit organization, which offers support services to women and children who are survivors of domestic violence, is looking for volunteers to staff its restraining-order, children's intervention and shelter programs. For information, call Rebecca at 503-640-5352, Ext. 303.

Advocates for sexual-assault survivors: Rape Crisis center volunteers provide advocacy for sexual assault survivors, assist in school education programs, speak publicly, work in technical areas and give office support. Registration is under way for October training classes. The group also needs Spanish-speaking volunteers. Volunteers must be at least 21. For information, call 503-680-7766.

Open Door: Open Door in Hillsboro, the county's only daytime homeless drop-in center, offers counseling and social services. Youth, college students, senior citizens and others can help by answering phones, typing and filing. Qualified volunteers may help with case management, building skills and experience for future careers in social work and psychology. For information, call 503-640-6689.

Fair: Board aims for 65,000, more business sponsorships

Continued from Page 1

At this point, all of the ideas are tentative except one: The board set a goal of increasing paid attendance next year by 20,000 to 65,000.

Board member Richard Vial first wanted to set a goal of 75,000 paid attendance, but backed down after fair staff said that was unrealistic. Instead, he agreed to 65,000 but also wanted business sponsorships to increase by \$25,000 from this year's \$63,250.

Paid attendance was nearly 44,000 this year, compared with 45,000 last year. For the last four years, paid attendance has remained flat, averaging 44,250.

This year, the fair took in about \$636,000, compared with \$783,045 last year. Much of that was due to the lack of a big-name musical act. Last year, teen pop phenomenon Britney Spears performed. Carnival and parking revenues also were down this year.

However, staff expected the lower attendance and revenues and were able to keep expenses down. That left a net income of \$53,873, compared with \$82,217 last year.

"Certainly I would have liked to have greater numbers than we had, but at least we had a positive bottom line," said Margaret Garza, fair complex executive director.

Several factors in addition to the lack of a big-name music act contributed to the low turnout, Garza said. The fair was competing against the Clark County Fair, suffered from following the Rose Festival Airshow by less than two weeks and battled warm temperatures over the weekend that might have kept some people away.

Staff and board members also

"Certainly I would have liked to have greater numbers than we had, but at least we had a positive bottom line."

MARGARET GARZA,
FAIR COMPLEX EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

complained about this year's carnival. During their work session, they wondered aloud whether their contractor sent some of the better rides to the Deschutes County Fair.

But Ron Burbach of Amusement Consulting Services said the Washington County Fair only had to ask for specific rides and he would have provided them.

Some of the successes at this year's fair included a truck pull and demolition derby.

The board discussed whether to spend \$20,000 for an act such as Charley Pride but didn't come to a conclusion, choosing to see what acts are available next year.

Spiesschaert, a farmer, said the fair has to refocus on emerging agricultural industries. That includes wineries, nurseries and waterscaping. A bonsai exhibit, for example, was successful this year.

Vial also thought the fair could attract high-tech workers with large, high-tech farm equipment.

Spiesschaert also said he would like to revive an old tradition and have 10 to 12 covered wagons from the 4-H Wagon Train at the fair.

Cody Feinauer, the rodeo committee chairman, asked the board to extend the two-hour time limit on the rodeo. The board also dis-

cussed adding novelty acts to the rodeo. That could include youngsters riding sheep in mutton bucking, teen-agers riding steers and full-grown Brahman bulls weighing only 500 pounds.

Feinauer also suggested the fair charge \$2 admission to the rodeo, but board members couldn't reach a consensus. Some said the fair prided itself on free admission to special events once fairgoers paid their entrance fee.

But the board did agree on another rodeo tradition.

"The clown acts are getting stale," Spiesschaert said.

You can reach Dave Anderson at 503-221-4388 or by e-mail at davidanderson@news.oregonian.com.

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