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Field burning issues persist

Some health, traffic problems continue in Marion County

TRACY LOEW
STATESMAN JOURNAL

At least six times in the past four years, thick smoke from field burning has covered roads in communities east of Salem, while required flaggers and signs were absent.

The incidents created potentially hazardous situations, the Oregon Department of Agriculture said in citing the farmers, including grass seed giants Doerfler Farms, Taylor Farms and Schumacher Farms.

It's a far cry from 1988, when field-burning smoke caused low visibility on

Interstate 5 near Albany, causing a massive pileup that killed seven people and injured 38.

Since then, Oregon has gradually decreased the number of acres that grass seed farmers can burn:

In 1991, the Legislature established a phased-in cap on field burning of 40,000 acres per year, about a fifth of what had traditionally been burned.

And in 2009, lawmakers reduced it even further to 15,000 acres in Marion County, mostly near Silverton, where certain terrain and types of seed make alternatives difficult.

Complaints have fallen dramatically,

from a high of 3,783 in 1988 to 86 last year.

But, while most of the Willamette Valley has seen relief from heavy smoke, communities such as Silverton, Detroit, Lyons and Mill City still experience some health and traffic problems.

"You can barely breathe. If you have asthma, you can't breathe at all. And you can't see," Silverton resident Tom Moss said.

ODA only allows field burning when weather conditions promise to lift smoke up and away from populated areas. And

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STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE
Field burning takes place at a grass seed field in the Lyons area on Aug. 4, 2011.

A TALE OF TWO FIELDS



Athletes test out the new artificial turf at Silverton's McGinnis Field during practice.

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL

New artificial turf installed at local schools

ANNETTE UTZ
FOR THE STAYTON MAIL

It's been a busy summer for Field Turf USA and a season of big developments for Stayton and Silverton high schools.

The company was responsible for the final installation of new artificial turf surfaces on the schools' athletic fields. The work on Silverton's McGinnis Field was completed Aug. 9 and is being used during practice. The inaugural event is the JV football game against Sandy at 5:30 p.m. Sep. 1. The varsity team will host their home opening at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9, against Redmond.

The Eagles' field is expected to be finished around Labor Day, with a soft opening Sep. 2 during the boys and girls soccer games. The varsity football team hosts Banks on Sep. 16.

The stories of both fields are similar, involving several years of dis-



McGinnis Field track and field elements are repositioned during the new artificial turf project.

cussions and negotiations and countless hours of community participation, fundraising and volunteer work.

"This year, several key factors came together in order to make it happen," North Santiam School District Superintendent Andy Gardner said of the Stayton developments.

"First, the Stayton High School

Boosters have a great deal of energy and can-do attitude right now, and they undertook a massive fund-raising campaign. Second, the excavation of the field and removal of the dirt was done by Roger Roberts ... Also, the great support of contractors Denny Holm and Bill Martinak,

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Dance troupe prepares for festival and beyond

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

MT. ANGEL – Just weeks from the cultural explosion that is Oktoberfest, the small town that will host it is remarkably quiet.

On this hot August night, below a rosy sunset, in the shadow of the abbey, past rows of hops, the Festhalle doors are open. Over the chirp of crickets, German music is audible, but instead of snare and squeezebox, it features pounding bass and electric guitar.

Inside, on the dance floor, five couples are sweating their way through Austrian folk-rocker's Hubert von Goisern's "Oben und Unten." To the heavy beat, they skip and spin, polka-style, then the circle breaks into a line, and dancer Lucas Rue is suddenly swinging his fiancée, Christy Anderson, into the air like a competition ballroom dancer.

For six years, the Kleinstädtlers, an all-local Bavarian dance group with a modern twist, have been entertaining audiences in Mt. Angel. They'll rock the house again at the Alpinegarten three times during Oktoberfest, set for Sept. 15-18.

A week later, they'll perform 2,000 miles from home, in St. Charles, Missouri. Turns out, there's enough buzz surrounding the Kleinstädtlers that other Oktoberfests have come calling. In the Northwest, they've danced in Leavenworth, Ontario, Sandy, Salem and Junction City. Now they're being flown out of state to perform.

"I don't know how St. Charles found us," said the group's choreographer, Sarah Bauman. "I've never had to go out and find us work."

Impressive for a group whose name, Kleinstädtlers, roughly translates to "small-town folks." That's what they are: 10 men and women whose roots run deep and who simply love to dance. Two of

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CHRISTENA BROOKS / SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE
Liz Schaecher and other dancers partner up.

Landlord arrested in beer-can beating

WHITNEY M. WOODWORTH
STATESMAN JOURNAL

A Mt. Angel landlord was arrested on suspicion of unlawful use of a weapon for allegedly beating a tenant in the head with full can of beer.

On July 30, police officers responding to reports of a disturbance at a Mt. Angel residence



Danny Free

found a man bleeding from the head. A probable cause statement filed in Marion County gave the following account:

The victim told police his landlord, Danny Free, 48, shoved him to the ground and beat him with an unopened, 24-ounce

can of Colt 45 malt liquor.

The victim said Free held the can in his right hand. When he swung at the victim's face, the can hit with enough force to explode. Free punched the victim several more times before he was pulled off.

Free fled the scene before po-

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Top 3 Selling Agents in July!

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	<p>Surprising Spaces! Ranch style with daylight basement! 4bd/2ba ~ 2361 SqFt ~ .18 ac MLS#708033 Mt Angel Valerie Boen 503-871-1667</p>	