

County adopts budget, considers 911 radio improvements

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

The Hood River County Board of Commissioners met Monday to adopt a \$55 million budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Commissioners also discussed an overhaul of the current 911 emergency radio system used by police and fire departments.

The county's total budget, effective July 1, will be \$54,987,950. Of that total, the county allocated \$4,087,200 to the Emer-

gency Communication District fund, which could be seeing some big changes this year.

A trio of 911 representatives — Erica Stolhand, Hood River County 911 Director; Brian Rockett, chief deputy of the Hood River County Sheriff's Office, and Joel Harrington, an ADCOMM Engineering consultant — proposed a new countywide radio system that all fire and police departments could use. Currently, the County

911 dispatch center and Hood River Fire operate on different systems. Harrington referred to them as "separate silos" in his report. The fire district uses a "simulcast" system with UHF technology, while the county dispatch center uses VHF.

Harrington said he conducted ride-along studies with Hood River County Sheriff's deputies, and discovered "poor to non-existent portable radio coverage" in remote areas of

Hood River County, and even some areas within the city.

According to his written report, deputies get no reception in some rooms of the Hood River Courthouse and the Sheriff's Investigation Office.

Also spotty are the Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital emergency room, Hood River Inn, Hood River City Hall, and the Hood River Middle School.

Harrington said one offi-

cer claimed, "each school (in Hood River County School District) has a portable radio, but can't talk to dispatch" due to radio coverage limitations.

Commissioners requested more detailed estimates of the cost required to upgrade the emergency communications system. The ADCOMM report listed a range of \$35,000 to \$500,000 per site for its short term option, but did not include a final cost of a countywide upgrade.

In other action Monday, County Commissioners finalized revisions to an ordinance governing the county's appeal process, which had been referred to in the past as "unusual" by the state Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA).

Commissioners also cleaned up language in a county Pest Control ordinance which now refers to all fruit tree growers, instead of "orchardists" when determining a pest hazard on orchard land.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Parkdale, Odell churches hold VBS Aug. 3-7

Parkdale Community Church, Parkdale Nazarene, Parkdale Baptist and Pillar Bible Fellowship of Odell will hold a combined vacation bible school Aug. 3-7.

For more information, see Tamara Emler Ball's column on B2.

VBS at Immanuel Lutheran on now

Immanuel Lutheran (9th and State street) invites all children ages 4 through 11 to a wonderful week of Son-Spark Lab — "Where God's love is the formula for life!" This free week of fun, games, crafts, songs, treats, faith lessons and surprises galore happens from 9 a.m. to noon June 15-19. The kids will also learn how to share God's love in an exciting way through a food collection competition all week long for our local F.I.S.H. food bank. Register now at www.ImmanuelHR.org as space is limited! For more information call 541-386-3046.

'Thailand Trek' at HR Alliance

A free summer kids' event called Thailand Trek VBS will be hosted at Hood River Alliance Church June 23-26. Thailand Trek is like taking a trip to Thailand! Kids will participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into yummy Thai-inspired

treats, experience cool Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Makers, and explore what daily life is like for kids in Thailand. Each day concludes with a Closing Celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 11:30 a.m.

Kids at Thailand Trek VBS will join an international mission effort to share God's Word by providing kid-friendly Thai-language New Testaments for children in Thailand.

Thailand Trek VBS is for kids from age 4 to 5th grade and will run from 9 -11:45 a.m. each day. Space is limited, so make sure you pre-register your child at www.hoodriveralliance.org. For more information, call 541-386-2812.

Earth Camp comes to Riverside UCC July 13-17

Looking for a summer camp that incorporates art, outdoor activities, music, games and healthy snacks? Sign up for Riverside's "Earth Camp," where kids will grow in faith, have fun, and change the world.

Riverside Earth Camp is an environmentally focused 5-day experience that inspires kids to make a difference with their own unique approach and gifts to the world.

Labor market largely unchanged in May

Oregon's unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 5.3 percent in May compared with 5.2 percent in April. This kept the state's rate close to the national level, as the U.S. unemployment rate was 5.5 in May and 5.4 percent in April.

An unemployment rate close to 5 percent is near the lowest Oregon's rate has been over the past 40 years. The rate did reach similar levels during four prior periods of economic expansion since the 1980s, but Oregon's rate never dropped substantially below 5 percent. The

record low in the series, which dates back to 1976, occurred in January and February 1995, when the rate dropped to 4.7 percent.

Payroll employment growth paused in May, posting a seasonally adjusted decline of 1,400, the first monthly drop since September 2012. But this one-month decline is not an indicator of continued job losses. Despite the one-month decline in jobs, payroll employment was still up substantially over the year, having added 50,500 jobs, or 2.9 percent, since May 2014.

Taking a breather from

rapid growth in recent months, most industries hired close to their normal, seasonal numbers of jobs in May. Retail trade was the biggest exception as it added only 700 jobs in May, when an increase of 2,100 is its seasonal norm.

The slight dip in the May jobs figures could be pay-back from strong gains in recent months. Oregon's mild and dry winter helped keep people employed in industries affected by winter weather. For example, construction employment didn't drop as much as normal during January and Febru-

ary. This allowed many in construction to get back to work sooner than usual.

Following these unusual fluctuations, construction employment stood at its highest May total in seven years at 81,300 jobs, a gain of 1,100, or 1.4 percent, since May 2014.

Real wages are growing. With Oregon's unemployment rate dropping close to historic lows, wage gains reflected a tightening labor market. Average hourly earnings increased 2.2 percent over the year for Oregon's private-sector payroll employees.

Earth Treasure Vase heads toward Hanford on June 21

A Global Healing Project aimed at awareness of impacts from the Hanford nuclear facilities comes to the Gorge on June 21.

The journey of the Earth Treasure Vase at comes out of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition of burying prayers and offerings to heal and protect the earth, according to spokeswoman Kalama Reuter.

The gathering will be at the Balfour-Klickitat day use area near Lyle, Wash., from 4 to 5 p.m.

"This is another event where all are welcome to honor the sacred waters of Earth, connect with nature and meet as river peoples,"

Reuter said. "We will add our collected intentions to an Earth Treasure Vase on Sunday as we link up with Nature Connect's Healing Journey on the Waters."

Reuter said pilgrims are heading toward Hanford, acknowledging the waters of the confluences and the history, beauty and resiliency of the river's communities. The vase will be buried at Hanford Reach National Monument on June 23, the anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

For more information on this five day camping experience, contact Judy Todd, 503-260-4995.

COURT

Continued from Page A1

Sox, a 2-year-old female pit bull, was lying on the bathroom floor with multiple puncture wounds to the throat, and a gunshot wound to the head. Sox survived and underwent medical treatment at Tucker Road Hospital in Hood River and a veterinary hospital in Portland. The Muschaweck family set up a donation account at Pacific Northwest Federal Credit Union to help cover the cost.

"She's done extremely well," said Sharon Muschaweck, Jason's mother, of Sox's recovery as of early June.

In court Monday, Schneider's attorney, Peter A. Parnickis, appeared in person. He asked Donald if he had been given a copy of the charges the grand jury had handed down. When Donald said "no," Parnickis requested more time to discuss the case with his defendant.

Judge Karen Ostrye, District Attorney John Sewell and Parnickis agreed to meet later and discuss a date for Donald to appear again in court.

Michael Schneider has not yet been formally indicted on a grand jury decision. His next court appearance is set tentatively for next Monday.

A third brother, Peter Schneider, faces theft and burglary charges, and is scheduled to appear in court June 17.

CAMP KID SCOOP BUG-A-PALOOZA

DIG THESE BUGS!

TRICKY TRAPDOOR

by Nellie Fly
WORLD'S SMALLEST REPORTER

UNDERGROUND - Trapdoor spiders are at undercover work. They use their _____ to dig deep, cleverly-designed burrows.

These underground _____ have several uses. They make cozy _____ and safe hiding places. The trapdoor spider also makes a hinged _____, or trapdoor, at the top of its burrow and then uses the burrow as a _____ for tasty insect prey.

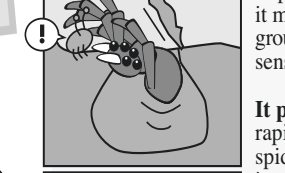
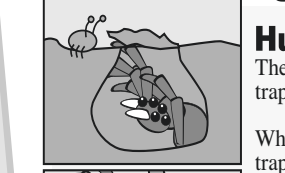
How it makes the trapdoor

The trapdoor made by the trapdoor spider is made up of layers of their special spider _____ and soil. The spider spends long periods of _____ to make sure the trapdoor is a perfect fit.



Draw the rest of this trapdoor spider.

burrows fangs silk
nests time
lid trap
experts



The two bugs on this week's Kid Scoop have come up with clever ways to use digging, or burrowing, skills to survive. The trapdoor spider digs into the ground to create a nest that is also a trap. A wasp drills into trees to find safe, food-filled havens for its eggs.

This trapdoor spider snagged some of the words out of Nellie's article. Can you draw a line to where each word belongs?

Hunting From Home

The trapdoor spider sits under the trapdoor with its legs sticking out.

When an insect comes near, the trapdoor spider senses the vibrations it makes on the ground with special sensitive leg hairs.

It pounces! In a rapid pounce the spider snatches the insect, injects it with poison and pulls it down into the burrow to be eaten.

Standards Link: Life Science: Know that the behavior of individual organisms is influenced by internal and external cues.

Killer Driller

Another bug that uses special digging skills is the ichneumon (ik-new-man) wasp. This wasp lives in the pine forests of North America, Europe and New Zealand.

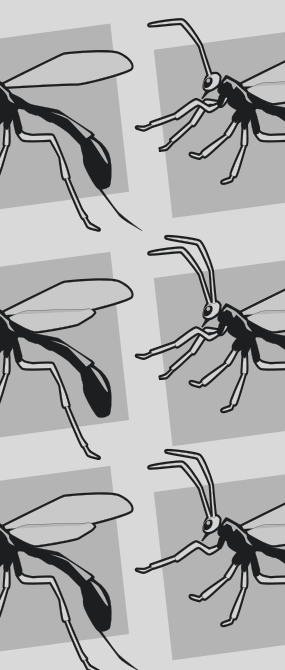
When it is time to lay her eggs, the female ichneumon wasp finds a pine tree. She lands on a trunk or branch and gently taps the wood with her antennae. She is listening for a hollow sound that tells her there is a grub inside.

With the sharp tip of her ovipositor, she pierces through the bark and drills until she finds the grub. She lays a single egg in the grub's body.

In a few days, the tiny ichneumon young hatches and feasts on the grub's fat body. When it is big enough, it tunnels out of the tree and flies.

Adult ichneumon wasps drink the nectar of flowers.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Know the sequence of events.



Find the two identical wasps.

Hot Rod Bugs

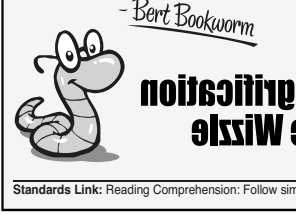
Look at the Autos for Sale ads in the newspaper. Using the format of these ads, write ads with descriptions of different insects.

For example: Sleek Optima Ladybug, brand new wing casings, red and black, new owner, 7-day warranty, 5-speed, tinted windows, all-weather wings.

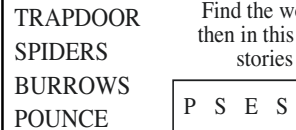
Standards Link: Writing Applications: Use descriptive language that clarifies and enhances ideas in expository writing.

Catch the Reading Bug at Your Library This Summer!

After eating constantly at the fast food restaurant known as Gussy's, ten-year-old Roscoe finds himself turning into a giant bug.



Hold this page up to a mirror to see the title of this book. Then check it out at your local library!



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

TRAPDOOR SPIDERS BURROWS POUNCE SILK VICTIM GRUBS HAVENS FANGS SENSES COZY HINGED WASP PINE BODY

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

P S E S N E S K O U
R N S C P I L N G S
P O W I V I C T I M
S H O D S O D E E H
G I R D Z B C E A R
N N R Y P N U V R P
A G U D U A E R I S
F E B O T N R N G A
R D P B S A E T P W

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Bug News

Insects frequently appear in the news. Checking the newspaper for a week, clip and save any articles that talk about insects. On a map, locate each of the insect populations mentioned in the articles.

Standards Link: Social Science: use map skills to locate the absolute location of places.

Kid Scoop Together: Try This At Home!

Fact and Opinion

In order for a news article to be fair and accurate, a reporter must separate fact from opinion.

Facts are pieces of information that can be measured, proven or seen.

Opinions describe how someone feels about a thing or event. They can vary from person to person.

Read today's Kid Scoop page. List three facts you found on the page:

Write an opinion you found on the page:

Read a letter to the editor in today's newspaper. With a partner, underline the facts in green and the opinions in red.

Name: _____

Partner's name: _____

Kid Scoop-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word TRAP in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

P	R	T
T	R	A
		A
P		