

Mt. Adams Complex fires partially controlled

Riley and Horseshoe spots still hot

Trout Lake — Firefighters have partially controlled four wildfires on the west flank of Mount Adams. The largest fires, known as Horseshoe and Riley (400 acres combined), are mostly extinguished but still showing heat.

The Mount Adams Complex fires are 63 percent contained and crews are being demobilized from the mountain, forestry officials reported via InciWeb, a website used to track wildfires around the nation.

The Horseshoe Fire was detected July 3 in the Mount Adams Wilderness, burning in subalpine fir forest and meadows along Riley Camp

Trail #64 at approximately 5,300 feet elevation.

Last week, lightning ignited three new fires in the area. The largest was the Riley Fire at 63 acres, with two other small fires: 7 Lakes Fire (0.1 acres) and Canyon Fire (0.1 acres). Canyon and 7 Lakes have been confined and are being mopped up. Crews are mitigating hazards and initiating suppression on Riley.

A fifth, smaller fire, dubbed the Spiral Fire, was detected Sunday afternoon burning among lava beds west of the Mount Adams Complex. One crew and a helicopter from the Complex assisted with initial attack. Work continued Monday to suppress the fire. This site is much drier than the higher elevation fires, closer to

Mount Adams.

At the Mount Adams Complex, crews evaluated the perimeter and worked to extinguish remaining heat sources at Horseshoe Monday. Temperatures have been dropping into the mid-40s at night and crews have maintained some existing fire as warming sources.

Three "hotshot" crews are working to mop up the Riley perimeter. The remaining heat is scattered through the northern portion of this fire.

The weather on Horseshoe and Riley will be cool and cloudy today with temperatures in the 50s, winds from the northwest, and a chance of showers today. A drying trend is expected to begin tomorrow.

Due to the expected long duration of the 2015 fire sea-

son, potential for the fire to eventually leave the wilderness, impact tribal and private forest lands firefighters expect to use even more aggressive control efforts. Firefighters have implemented direct suppression actions using minimum impact suppression techniques to confine the fires. Helicopters were used to drop water, checking the spread of the fires while ground crews initiated direct suppression using a wet line to confine them.

Trails near the fire are closed, including the Pacific Crest Trail. For more information and a list of trail closures, visit InciWeb's incident log at www.inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4360 and click on the "Closures" tab.



Photo courtesy of InciWeb.

WILDFIRES across the western flank of Mount Adams are now 63 percent contained, the result of Washington interagency crews battling the flames since July 3.

Oregon community colleges score \$550M

By MARK GIBSON
The Dalles Chronicle

Oregon has allocated \$550 million to community colleges for the upcoming biennium.

The allocation is a \$50 million increase over the original budget proposed by former Gov. John Kitzhaber of \$500 million, and less than the \$650 million sought by the Oregon Community College Association, according to Will Norris, chief financial officer at Columbia Gorge Community College.

The increase will have little real impact on the college, Norris said.

"This means that the budget we passed is solid," he said. "We're happy to get what we planned for."

The CGCC budget was formulated with the expectation of community colleges receiving \$535 million from the state. CGCC will receive almost exactly the funding they planned with the state increase.

"It appears that declining student enrollment across

Oregon will mean that more colleges than expected will qualify for the same 'small school' distribution formula advantage that CGCC benefits from," Norris explained.

As more colleges qualify as small schools, the value of the advantage decreases.

Oregon Rep. John Huffman, R-The Dalles, said he was pleased with the funding the legislature was able to obtain for education.

"I think we really stepped up," he said. "We added a little to K-12, a little to commu-

nity colleges and universities."

Huffman added that state obligation bonds of \$7.3 billion for CGCC were also renewed, and remain available should the college find matching dollars. The money will be used in construction of a new facility in either Hood River or The Dalles.

The state funding was awarded in 2013 when CGCC planned a new technology center on Hood River's Indian Creek Campus.

"Those plans of course

have been tabled but we kept the bonds alive for another potential project," Huffman said.

He added that K-12's State School Fund received approximately \$7.4 billion, including the money for community colleges and \$650 million for universities.

Bonding was approved for \$175 million of seismic upgrades for K-12 buildings and will be administered by Business Oregon, according to Huffman.

Schools can access non-

matching grants for seismic work up to \$2.5 million. The legislature also passed and funded Senate Bill 447, which sets up a \$125 million fund of dollar-for-dollar matching bonds for K-12 facility construction.

"The community outreach team is working with the district to see how we can solve our (North Wasco School County District) D21 facility needs," Huffman said.

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Photo courtesy of Maryhill Museum

Taming of the Shrew at Maryhill Museum

The Portland Actors Ensemble will be shaking up the grounds of Maryhill Museum at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 18, with Shakespeare's classic comedy, *The Taming of the Shrew*.

The tale follows brash Petruchio who will go to any length to woo Katherina, the headstrong, stubborn "shrew." The free performance is a stop of the Portland company's annual Shakespeare-in-the-Parks series, which makes live theater accessible to a wide audience.

Audience members are invited to bring their own seating — blankets or camp chairs — and to pic-

nic on-site. Bake My Day, of Goldendale, will be serving Renaissance cuisine in honor of Shakespeare's era.

From 1-3 p.m., the museum will also host "Chalk it Up to Shakespeare," a free, family-friendly event where participants can create their own art — Renaissance style or carefree — in sidewalk chalk.

Sponsors are Judy Lackstrom and Bob Morrow, PACE Engineering and Phil Swartz.

For more information, visit the museum's website at www.maryhillmuseum.org/

Rural speed limits to rise

By LARRY MEYER
The Argus Observer

ONTARIO (AP) — As the 2015 Oregon Legislature moves toward a close, Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, is pleased that two of his bills made it through the whole legislative process.

Both are waiting to be signed by the governor:

Both Houses will meet again Monday, as they were not able to finish their work last week.

The last Bentz bill passed was House Bill 3402, which will boost the speed limit on most Oregon highways east of the Cascades. It received final passage in the Senate Friday morning.

House Bill 3402 amended sets the speed limit on Inter-

state 84 from the Oregon/Idaho border to The Dalles at 70 mph for most vehicles and 65 mph for trucks, school buses and similar vehicles.

The speed limit will be the same on U.S. Highway 95 between Idaho and Nevada.

On U.S. 20, through Malheur County to Bend and U.S. 26 from Vale to John Day, the speed limit will be 65 mph for trucks and school buses. Similar limits will be posted on other highways throughout eastern and central Oregon.

Those routes include U.S. 395, Burns to John Day and Riley to the California state line; and Highway 78, Burns

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WEEKLY SUDOKU

This week's Sudoku presented by: **AKIYAMA FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC** Answers on Page A9

1	2	3						
4	3		5	6				
	7	5	1	2				
	2	6	8	9				
	5		3					
4	6	8	2					
9	3	4	6					
2	4		1	7				
6		9		8				

Fill in all 81 squares on the puzzle with numbers 1 to 9. You can use each number 1-9 only once in each nine square section, in each horizontal line of nine squares, and in each vertical column of nine squares. The puzzle is completed when you correctly fill every square.

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