

Polk County Itemizer-Observer

Volume 142, Issue 24

www.Polkio.com

June 14, 2017

\$1.00

Tiny moth could lead to big problem

By Jolene Guzman The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — The Oregon Department of Agriculture will begin the process of spraying for the invasive light brown apple moth in an area south of Independence next week.

A small population was found there in 2015 and again in 2016.

Department officials said the best time to eradicate the fruit-feeding pest is now.

"The discovery of an incipient light brown apple moth infestation in Polk County has create a need for action to mitigate the problem as soon as possible," wrote ODA director Alexis Taylor in the record of the decision last month. "Since the infestation is relatively small and well-defined, prompt action now can eliminate the danger of further light brown spread."

Richard Worth, a ODA en-



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/for the Itemizer-Observer

The light brown apple moth has created a need for action to mitigate the infestation as soon as possible, the Oregon Department of Agriculture said.

tomologist, said the moth probably hitched a ride on

plants from California, where it's present in several

counties. "It can move here very

easily from California," Worth said. "Once it's over the mountains and here in the valley, it can survive."

Worth said the moth has a wide range of plants it attacks, specifically those in the rose family and fruit trees, including cherry and apple.

"It can directly damage fruit externally, causing it to dry out and shrivel," he said. "It mostly defoliates trees. It feeds on the leaves."

He said finding the moth in 2015 and 2016 signaled that the moth is surviving in the area and needed to be eradicated.

"It doesn't seem to spread real fast, so that gives us time," he said.

On its own, the moth travels only about a half-mile a year.

"It's a small moth and a weak flyer, so it doesn't do long distances on its own," Worth said.

See MOTH, Page 5A

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

Dallas Chamber of Commerce sees good participation in new Women Engaging program.

»Page 2A

FALLS CITY

Falls City City Council gets serious about hiring a new city recorder.

»Page 5A

INDEPENDENCE

Yul Provanca takes first steps in making a brewery in downtown a reality.

»Page 3A

MONMOUTH

Western Oregon University to host speed and agility camp for youths aged 6 to 18.

»Page 15A

SPORTS

Dallas Booster Club ready to raise funds to install a turf field at Dallas High School.

»Page 15A

Pick up a book at the library

Itemizer-Observer staff report POLK COUNTY — Libraries in Dallas, Falls City, Independence and Monmouth have kicked off their summer reading programs for children and adults. The theme is "Build a Better World." Prizes are available for reading.

Stop by your local library for more information in its program.

Congratulations Class of 2017



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Central High School graduates shake hands with and thank teachers before taking their seats on Friday. For more, see inside.

Falls City may ask voters to OK levy to keep Wagner open

By Jolene Guzman The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Survey results asking if Falls City residents would pay to keep the Wagner Community Library open were encouraging enough that the Falls City City Council is researching a November levy.

Falls City School District Superintendent Jack Thompson reviewed the survey results Thursday during a joint district and city work session on the library.

He said 68 people completed the survey, and 74 percent said they would be willing to pay at least \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value, with some saying they would pay more.

Thompson added, based

on responses, that the survey captured a variety of demographics within the community.

"When you look at where the surveys are coming from, the community we've got, how many registered voters we've got, I think this is a pretty significant survey," Thompson said.

"This is not parents of children who are specifically answering these questions. I think we have a very broad spectrum of the community who are answering these questions."



Ungricht

Mayor Terry Ungricht said the city has about 400 voters. In the May 2017 election, there were 919 registered voters in the Falls City precinct, which includes the area surrounding Falls City.

If a levy is placed on the ballot, only voters within city limits, not the Falls City School District boundary, would vote on it. The school district already has a levy on the books.

"We wouldn't be able to have an additional operating levy," Thompson said.

Ungricht said keeping the library doors open is costing Wagner Trust Fund about \$46,000 per year. To raise \$50,000, the levy would need to charge about \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The fund has enough money to operate the district through

the end of 2018.

Thompson said the district will continue to support the library by providing the building and for its maintenance. He noted that the district reserves the right to take over that space only if enrollment grows to the point it's needed for instruction.

"Every indication that I've had from the board members would be that it would be allowed to continue in that space," Thompson said. "It works well. We have not had any issues. It been a good relationship with the

city and with the library."

Ungricht said he's concerned the city may have to ask residents for financial support for other needs, namely firefighting equipment.

He said the fire department has been applying for grants to replace the breathing units firefighters are required to have to battle fires from inside buildings.

"They are into their seventh run, and we have not received the award. My best bet is we are not going to get that," Ungricht said. "In two years, we will no longer be able to fight structure fires. We will only be able to be outside and water them down. We won't be able to go in."

The cost to replace the units is \$72,000.

"I think the council really

needs to think about strategy," he said. "It just concerns me about throwing a lot of requests onto a ballot."

Ungricht said he will get information on requirements to put a levy on the ballot, precisely how much will be needed to keep the library open, and get an update on the fire department's needs, and bring the updates at the July 13 council meeting.

Councillors Cliff Lauder and Dennis Sickles said the council should put the requests to voters and let them decide.

"Saying, well as a city we're not going to put it on there because we feel like you are going to fail it. That's not fair," Sickles said. "I really think we need to let the people say yes or no."

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK



wed The free summer meal program starts today in Dallas, Falls City, Independence and Monmouth. See page 8A for details on times and places. Mostly cloudy Hi: 69 Lo: 50

thu Veterans are welcome to the Independence Elks Lodge for a meal and speaker. Bunko for families. 6:30 p.m. Free. Rain Hi: 64 Lo: 55

fri Head to Guthrie Park Community Center for some toe-tapping fun during its monthly music jam. 6:30 p.m. Free. Morning rain Hi: 66 Lo: 51

sat Join in the eclipse fun at Independence library each Saturday in June for its Solar Saturdays. 2 p.m. Free. Partly sunny Hi: 73 Lo: 51

sun Bicyclists will be on the roads in force this weekend, with the Team NPF Cycle raising awareness about psoriasis. All day. Sunny Hi: 80 Lo: 53

mon Interested in the New Testament? Bring a brew of your choice to St. Thomas Episcopal Church for a lecture series. 7 p.m. Free. Sunny Hi: 82 Lo: 55

tue Independence Riverview Market now has a Tuesday time. See what's new and fresh at the market. 1-6 p.m. Free. Sunny Hi: 78 Lo: 50