

Moth: Treatments applied by plane

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It can be carried by the wind and travel in the egg and larvae stage on plants. The moth species originated in Australia and been established in Great Britain, Ireland, Hawaii, New Caledonia and New Zealand, according to ODA. Its presence was confirmed in California in 2007. The light brown apple moth is small, with a wingspan of 2 centimeters, and has a dull orange color. Worth said they look very like some native moth species. Worth said the moth has been a damaging pest to apple crops in New Zealand, where they used

pesticides to battle it, only to find the moth developed resistance. ODA is using different treatment protocol. The 500-acre infestation area — which is mostly farmland and about 20 residences — will be sprayed with two applications of a mating disruption pheromone and three applications of entomopathogen bacteria. “The pheromone confuses the males so they can’t find a female,” Worth said. The first pheromone treatment on June 21 will be followed by three once-a-week treatment of bacteria that infects larvae in July. Applications will be

made by airplane. Both products are formulated for compliance with organic production standards, according to ODA. Notices were sent to homes in and within a quarter mile of the application zone, which included homes on the south side of Independence. A final application of the pheromone will be in mid-August. After that, ODA will monitor the site to see if further treatment is necessary. Residents in the area should expect to see and hear a low-flying plane starting in the early morning of June 21. “It will probably be loud, unfortunately,” Worth said.

FC plans July Fourth event

Itemizer-Observer staff report
FALLS CITY —The city of Falls City will continue its tradition of celebrating Independence Day early, with an event taking shape for July 1. Laura Britton asked the Falls City City Council’s permission to coordinate a parade and picnic the Saturday before the holiday. She organized a similar event last year. “Everybody really enjoyed it last year. The community came together very well. I think it was a great idea,” Britton said Thursday during the public comment portion of the council’s meeting. Britton said she wants to hold it the Satur-

day before the holiday so people don’t have to choose between the Falls City celebration and others in Polk County scheduled on the Fourth. She said the parade on North Main Street will begin at noon. Britton is hoping a little more lead time will produce a larger parade contingent. “I put that on at the last minute,” she said. “There was like six people in it, but it was fun.” The parade will be followed immediately by a gathering and barbecue in Lower Park, serving grilled hamburgers and cotton candy.

Domes

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Far from being concerned about leaving his small community, Daniel said he’s ready to step into the next phase of his life. “I’m excited to get away and be on my own. My parents have certainly helped me throughout life, like a lot,” he said. “I’ve been very privileged with a lot of things, so being able to get out and learn about how it works and what to do, and stuff like that, will be nice.”

Budget: Adds teacher

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The state pays the money to the district to pass on to the schools. Almost \$48,000 will pay for special education positions, and \$72,000 will add back the teaching position cut at Oakdale Heights Elementary School. That leaves \$680,000 left-over that will be held in contingency until all budget decisions are final, including union negotiations. The budget approved by

the board now amounts to more than \$35 million in general fund and slightly more than \$58 million total. In other business, the board:
• Approved a three-year contract extension for Superintendent Michelle Johnstone. That keeps her with the district through 2019-20. Johnstone will be paid \$130,038 for the 2017-18 and future year adjustments will be by June 30 of each year.

Search for city recorder begins

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer
FALLS CITY — The Falls City City Council approved a contract with the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, or COG, to conduct a search for a city recorder. Last month, the council held a work session deciding a city recorder would better fit its needs than a city manager, as it’s hired in the past. The city will pay \$4,500 to have the search done, and it approved a job description so advertising can get started. Mayor Terry Ungricht said he negotiated the price down from \$5,500. He inquired with another search firm that quoted him nearly \$20,000 to conduct a search. Ungricht said he will work with COG to narrow the field of candidates down to three finalists.



FALLS CITY GOVERNMENT

“Then we’ll have the session where you guys do the interview. Basically, the same way we’ve done managers in the past,” he said. “In my opinion, this is going to give us the best candidates, the best advertising and the best bang for our buck.” Councilor Lori Jean Sickles, who has been through other city manager searches, said she believes the city will fare better this time. “We were asking a lot before for little money, so I think we are going to have a lot more success with a recorder,” compared to a city manager, she said.

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