

Workshop talks aspen health

Participants can learn techniques to better stands

Blue Mountain Eagle

IZEE – A daylong workshop to help area landowners restore, manage and monitor their aspen stands is coming up in IZEE.

“Land Manager’s Guide to Aspen Management in Oregon” will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 8 in the

Izee Schoolhouse.

The class is offered by the Upper South Fork John Day Watershed Council, with Oregon State University Extension Service agents Nicole Strong, Bob Parker and Shanna Northway as instructors.

Aspen is considered an important tree species for habitat and wildlife, but it has been adversely affected by some prior land use practices including fire suppression.

The workshop will provide information and tools

for assessing and restoring aspen stands.

The morning sessions will cover aspen ecology and health, management practices to improve aspen, incorporating livestock and aspen management, and more.

Lunch will be provided by the Watershed Council.

From noon to 3 p.m., the class will tour aspen stands and examine different treatments.

Class size is limited. To RSVP, contact Amy Stiner at 541-792-0435 or usfjdw@outlook.com, or Shanna Northway at shanna.northway@oregonstate.edu.

Funding for the class comes from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation and OSU.

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Contributed photo

From left, Kalie Sawyer, Quinn Lundbom, Vicki Lundbom and Sue Pearce, give a thumbs up after Quinn’s winning appearance on the daytime TV game show, *The Price is Right*. Quinn, chosen out of the audience to “come on down” to bid on prices, was the first one on stage to play a game. His winnings included a 2015 Jeep Patriot Sport, which he won by correctly guessing the SUV’s price in the “Money Game.” The episode was filmed on Dec. 17, aired on March 11, and can be viewed at www.priceisright.com or on YouTube.



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Senate OKs \$7.3 billion school plan

By Peter Wong
Capital Bureau

SALEM – A \$7.3 billion state school funding measure, though criticized by minority Republicans and education advocates, is on its way to Gov. Kate Brown for her signature.

The Oregon Senate approved the budget on an 18-

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12 party-line vote Monday, following a debate of more than three hours and action by the House last week.

The fund is \$600 million more than in the current two-year cycle, which ends June 30 — and the current cycle is up \$1 billion from 2011-13, when it was at its lowest during the economic downturn.

The fund supplies the lion’s share of school operating costs since voters imposed statewide limits on local property taxes in the 1990s. It is about 40 percent of the \$18.5 billion general fund, which is supported by taxes and lottery proceeds, the most flexible funding sources available to lawmakers.

The budget’s floor manager says it will boost per-student funding by \$100 for most of Oregon’s 197 districts and cushion them from most cuts.

“Funding education is a difficult process; there is never enough money,” said Sen. Rod Monroe, R-Portland, a retired teacher. “This does not gain anything on our deficit, but it doesn’t cut

anything, either.”

Monroe also said the budget provides \$220 million in state funding for full-day kindergarten, which lawmakers made mandatory in 2011 and starts this fall.

Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, said this budget makes good on the Legislature’s promise to support full-day kindergarten back then.

“It was not the popular thing to do, but it was right,” Hass said.

But educators told the Legislature’s joint budget committee that the fund ought to be at least \$7.5 billion — \$245 million more than is proposed. Among the groups at public hearings in March were delegations from Portland Public Schools, which enroll the most students in Oregon, and the Forest Grove and North Clackamas districts.

All 12 Republicans joined those critics and voted against it.

“Democrat leaders argue \$7.225 billion is ‘the best we can do’ for Oregon students,” said Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day. “Passing an

underfunded K-12 budget on partisan lines will negatively impact local school districts around Oregon. ‘The best they can do’ is unacceptable.”

“We can do better,” agreed Sen. Alan Olsen, R-Canby.

The bill contains a provision that earmarks for the school fund 40 percent of any additional tax collections projected in the May 14 revenue and economic forecast — the final one before the start of the new budget cycle on July 1.

Leaders said passage of the fund also gives a figure that school boards can plan on as they draw up their own budgets for the 2015-16 school year.

It would be the earliest legislative action on the state school fund since 2011, when lawmakers cleared a budget on April 11.

Republicans proposed several motions to send the fund back to the budget committee, and others to raise more money for it by reducing government regulation of business or selling the Elliott State Forest and reinvesting the proceeds. All failed on party-line votes.

“The K-12 students of Oregon will be the losers,” said Senate Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day.

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6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, 2015
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MON - THURS 7:00

*FURIOUS 7 PG-13
Deckard Shaw seeks revenge against Dominic Toretto and his family for the death of his brother.
FRI & SAT (3:45) 6:45 9:35
SUNDAY (3:45) 6:45
MON - THURS 6:45

*HOME PG
An alien runs away and lands on Earth where he makes friends with a girl on a quest of her own.
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SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10
MON - THURS 7:10

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