

## Ranchers expecting federal funds to fight grasshoppers

Ranchers in 17 western states are keeping one eye on Washington this week and another one on the horizon. The ranchers are awaiting the arrival of almost \$10,000,000 in federal funds to fight the expected onslaught of hordes of grasshoppers. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) surveys indicate that this summer will bring more hoppers than any time in the last 30 years. Mild weather has already resulted in the early hatching of huge numbers of the hoppers in several western states.

The federal funds will be used to conduct spraying of federal, state and private rangeland threatened by the grasshoppers. APHIS is re-

sponsible for treatment on federal land and will pay half the cost of treatment on state land. Funding for the grasshopper eradication programs on private rangeland will be shared equally by the federal and state governments and participating ranchers.

Before Secretary Block released the emergency funds, things looked bleak for ranchers. Congress had allocated only \$500,000 to APHIS for grasshopper control programs, not even enough to treat federal lands and leaving nothing for private rangeland. Ranchers, already facing severe economic conditions, would have had to bear the entire cost of grasshopper control or watch their rangeland being destroyed by the pests.

Latest APHIS reports indicate that over 9.5 million acres of rangeland will be economically infested this year. APHIS defines economic infestation as eight adults or an equivalent number of immature grasshoppers per square yard. At that population level, hoppers can consume on 10 acres, enough forage to feed one cow. If left unchecked, the grasshoppers could devour enough forage to feed 950,000 cows. Range and cropland abandoned to hoppers could be eaten down to the bare ground raising the possibility of serious wind erosion.

The APHIS grasshopper control programs have proven their effectiveness over the years, but timing is essential. A well organized spray program is like a large scale military operation. To gain effectiveness, spraying should be done as close to the hatch period as possible. There is little that can be done once the hoppers hit.

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## Salem Scene

After nearly a decade of testing the patience of most Oregonians, the Legislature has restored a measure of credence to the lawmaking process. That was a consensus of Capitol insiders as the 63rd Assembly adjourned sine die on June 21 after 159 days of relatively orderly deliberations in Salem.

And since restoration of credibility was the leadership's overriding priority, most members likely are heading home buoyed by their collective success.

Although the accomplishment required cooperation from all 90 members, most of the credit belies the old saying about too many cooks spoiling the broth. In this instance, it was more a case of four heads being better than one.

The four heads, of course, belong to Democrats Vera Katz and John Kitzhaber and Republicans Larry Campbell and Tony Meeker. The House Speaker, Senate President and GOP House and Senate leaders respectively, hewed steadfastly to their pre-session scenario - methodically tackling major issues and largely avoiding politics for its own sake.

Highest on everyone's agenda was resolution of the revenue reform-school finance issue - twin problems that have confounded predecessor Assemblies and left the last Assembly in utter shambles after struggling vainly with them for 188 days in regular session and 21 in special session.

This Assembly succeeded in crafting what is considered a truly unique package in only 13 weeks - a proposal that if approved by voters in September will stabilize school finance, provide significant property and income tax relief and effectively limit future growth of both taxes and spending.

A second major goal involved balancing the biennial budget without continuing temporary tax increases levied during the recession to avoid emasculating government services. This too, was accomplished - largely by raising sin taxes in order to discontinue the high-impact 8 percent tax surcharge.

Other goals were establishment of an economic development strategy, allocation of lottery revenue (companion issues), health care cost containment, water policy and legislative reform.

Most observers believe solid progress was made in favor of economic development - largely with lottery revenue. But attempts to resolve the three other issues turned out to be learning experiences that may help the 64th Assembly solve them two years hence.

That it accomplished as much as it did in a relatively short period of time is attributed largely to the spirit of cooperation that was this Assembly's hallmark. Shorter than any session since 1975, it considered only about 2,200 measures and agreed to pass about 40 percent.

Because of the foregoing, it gets good marks from those closest to the process. Whether the public concurs is another matter.

Even at adjournment, as pro and con sales tax forces began flexing campaign muscle, there was little to indicate voters yeat comprehend that proposal enough to approve it at the polls.

## Gospel Sons to give concert



"Music that lifts! Music that swells the heart with joy and bursts forth in praise to God! This is what

you will experience when you hear the Gospel Sons at Christian Life Center in Heppner, 5 p.m., June 30, says the Rev. Leroy Warnell.

The Gospel Sons have been performing gospel music throughout the Northwest, Canada and Alaska by means of concerts, radio and television since 1971. The "Sons" have released numerous LP's and performed hundreds of concerts. Their music includes contemporary, country, and traditional gospel selections. Many songs sung by the group are written by bass singer Dave Capron, whose composition "Death is Swallowed Up in Victory" tied for National Grand Prize along with National recognition for four other songs through the 1979 Music City Song Festival Competition. The Gospel Sons also ranked among the top three in vocal group competition. This concert is open to the public and there is no admission charge.

The biennial budget - swollen by hefty pay increases for virtually all state workers and elected officials, including lawmakers - may not sell too well with constituents in many areas still plagued by recession's business closures and unemployment.

Still others may smart when they discover property tax relief checks will dwindle to a paltry \$100 or less and maybe vanish altogether before the biennium ends.

But those are the risks that go with the job of sticking out one's neck and attempting to do what is perceived to be the greatest good for the greatest number.

Although endorsed by those directly involved in the Legislature's efforts, the constituent jury is still out and will remain sequestered for about three more months.

The first solid indication of their attitude will be delivered in the hours immediately following closure of the polls following the sales tax election September 17.

The next will occur next May. And the final verdict remains as always - the outcome of voting in the next general election when members are selected to serve in Oregon's 64th Legislative Assembly.

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- One 20 in. yellow/gray bike unknown
- One 26 in. 10 speed white bike Freespirit
- One 26 in. 10 speed gold bike unknown
- One bi linear amplifier
- One man's brown wallet
- One garden tool
- Two tires mounted
- Two tires
- One date stamp and pad
- One Belt Knife
- Two ladies purses
- One ladies brown wallet
- One black suitcase (misc. items)
- One fish weight
- Two pair of jeans
- One golf club
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