

Arts guide

Our Washington County Winter Arts Guide will keep you busy through February — See insert

Hillsboro Tribune

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2012 • SERVING HILLSBORO • WWW.HILLSBOROTRIBUNE.COM • VOL. 01, NO. 07 • FREE

HO! HO! HO-LIDAY TIME!

The annual Holly Days festival and tree lighting ceremony is set for Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Tom Hughes Civic Center Plaza. Festivities begin at 1 p.m. with a special winter marketplace featuring local artists, crafts, food and drinks, fresh winter produce and live entertainment. Activities will include a unique indoor playground and free Santa train rides around the plaza. From 2 to 4 p.m., children can visit with Santa in the lobby of the center. The tree lighting ceremony is at 5:30 p.m.

Holly Days is a partnership between Tuesday Marketplace, Pack 1st Properties and city of Hillsboro.

And every Saturday in December, special holiday events are planned at The Streets, formerly The Streets of Tanasbourne. They include appearances by Santa, free horse drawn carriage rides, and strolling carollers, all from 1 to 2 p.m.

As a special event, Mrs. Claus, a performer and storyteller, will tell a surprising tale in the space across from The Gap on Saturday, Dec. 15. Snickers the Elf will also help entertain the kids. It will take place from 1 to 2 p.m. Children 3 to 12 must be accompanied by adults.



Hillsboro prepares to welcome the holidays with festival, tree lighting



Above, faced with the task of decorating Hillsboro's biggest Holiday Tree yet facilities management worker Darrell Cecil improvises to get lights to the top of the tree.

Right, Downtown Project Manager Karla Antonini works with city facilities worker Todd Ramey to test lights before they go on the Holiday Tree.

Left, Cecil places lights on the tree despite the inclement weather on Wednesday. HILLSBORO TRIBUNE PHOTOS: CHASE ALLGOOD



City ready to ride new bypass proposal

Hillsboro wants route from I-5 to Port of Portland studied

By JIM REDDEN
The Hillsboro Tribune

Hillsboro's City Council is revisiting a controversial road project intended to relieve growing traffic congestion in Washington County.

The council wants Oregon's Department of Transportation to evaluate the need for new westside transportation corridor. It is essentially a longer version of the westside bypass that was abandoned in the 1990s.

The council voted on Nov. 20 to submit a bill to the 2013 Legislature requiring that ODOT

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We'll be back after holidays

Just one look at the calendar on page 9, and you can tell the holiday season is a busy one in Hillsboro. So, to accommodate competing demands and ensure the most comprehensive coverage of upcoming events, the Hillsboro Tribune has tweaked its publication schedule.

Since its debut issue, the Tribune has come out twice a month. If it kept to that schedule, there would have been no paper today, which leads off a big weekend for many community events and shopping specials. So, the staff added a third week in November and will drop to one week in December after Christmas before resuming the usual twice-monthly schedule. You can expect the paper in your mailbox and news racks on Dec. 14, Jan. 11 and Jan. 15.

Thanks for being patient. We'll be back with more local news and feature stories for you.

Athletes held in Rock Creek attack

Century student, Liberty grad arrested after beating, theft

By JIM REDDEN
The Hillsboro Tribune

Two star Hillsboro high school athletes have been arrested and charged in a violent home invasion robbery in Rock Creek.

One is Xavier Mitchell, 18, a senior at Century High School. Mitchell just finished the football season, where he was a first-team All-Pacific Conference selection at receiver. He also started for the Century basketball team last year.

The other is Kei-Jan Buckley, 18, a 2012 Liberty High School graduate. Buckley placed second in the high jump competition at last spring's Class 5A state track and field championships. He transferred to Liberty from Century and is enrolled at the University of Oregon.

Mitchell, Buckley and two other men are accused of entering an apartment in the Rock Creek area, beating the 20-year-old occupant unconscious, and stealing marijuana and electronic equipment.

One other suspect, 18-year-old Stanley Armitage of Beaverton, was also arrested in connection with the attack.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office was still looking for a fourth suspect, who has not been publicly identified.



ARMITAGE



BUCKLEY



MITCHELL

"We are asking the public to help us with this case. We know that people talk and the information is out there. We are asking anyone who can help us to contact the Washington County Sheriff's Office," says Sgt. Bob Ray, the sheriff's office spokesman.

Mitchell, Buckley and Armitage have each been charged with first-degree robbery, first-degree burglary, third-degree felony assault and unlawful use of a weapon. They are lodged in the Washington County Jail on \$250,000 bail each.

All three men pleaded not guilty when they were arraigned. They are scheduled to appear at a preliminary court hearings on Monday, Dec. 3.

The sheriff's office says the victim knows the three suspects, who were arrested but not the fourth.

According to the sheriff's office, deputies responded to a

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Moms take volunteer project reins

Businesses, others lend a big hand to Hillsboro schools

By JENNIFER ANDERSON
The Hillsboro Tribune

Years ago, when her children were young, Colleen Garrett was like many parents new to the school system: an avid volunteer in the classroom.

After grade school, however, her involvement in the schools trickled off and finally ended, to her dismay.

"In middle school, my daughter said, 'Please don't (come into the classroom), please,'" Garrett recalls. "I still volunteered at the dances. That was humiliating enough for her."

Now that Garrett's daughter is in college and her son is at Glencoe High School, she's finding her way back to the schools again.

This fall, she's one of two Hillsboro moms who've stepped up to coordinate the volunteer efforts for the Hillsboro School District, something that's always been left to chance and handled piece-



Volunteers Colleen Garrett and Katie Willis with packs of donated supplies. HILLSBORO TRIBUNE PHOTO: CHASE ALLGOOD

meal in the past. The task involves reaching out not just to parents but community members, civic leaders, business groups, nonprofit organizations and others to ask them to lend their time, money or expertise in helping students and teachers succeed.

"Especially now with economic issues, schools have less resources and increased demands," says Garrett, a retired Army reservist who'd been looking to take on a meaningful task without the commitment of a full-time job. "It takes the entire community to meet those needs."

Assisting Garrett is Katie Willis, a mother of two young daughters at Orenco Elementary.

Willis says she just quit her job in business systems testing to spend more time with her girls, in kindergarten and second grade. She was at church one day, when her pastor asked if any of the congregants were interested in an opportunity he'd sought out with the school district.

Pastor James Gleason says the seeds of the idea formed while he was at a city visioning committee meeting, and inquired about the point-person in charge of volunteer opportunities at the schools.

"The answer was, 'We don't have one,'" Gleason says. "When I heard that, my heart broke. I know what it's like to teach these days with dwindling support."

Gleason met with Hillsboro

Superintendent Mike Scott to ask if the church could provide a small stipend to a volunteer coordinator position to support the efforts.

Willis and Garrett answered the call, job-sharing the position by working about 10 hours per week. Gleason says his church is not looking for credit or to spread any message — he just wants to see the community step up and take ownership in their city through the schools.

"I would be crushed to be a teacher and have no parental support, or to be a principal over a school and look around and every year the grass and weeds grow taller," he says. "Why don't we as a community

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Regional bike advocates seek ideas to boost projects, safety

Alliance sets meeting as Hillsboro focuses on more routes

By JIM REDDEN
The Hillsboro Tribune

What would it take for you to start riding a bicycle or to bicycle more?

The Bicycle Transportation Alliance is hosting a series of listening sessions in early December to help update its 2005 Blueprint for Better Biking to increase bicycling throughout the Portland area.

The Washington County one will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the Fanno Creek Brewpub, 12562 S.W. Main St., Tigard.

BTA advocate Carl Larson already knows the session will attract a number of hardcore bikers with ideas for new or extended bike lanes and trails. But Larson hopes that inexperienced riders will also show up to say what would make them feel safer commuting to work or biking for fun.

"We hope to hear from a wide range of people, not just those who are already committed to biking," says Larson, whose nonprofit organization works to increase bike use.

Larson says people should bring their top three picks for projects they would like to see happen to meeting.

"Hopefully they won't be as small as fix the pothole in front of my house or as big as make the streets safer. We need ideas in the middle," says Larson.

Steps to better biking

The Tigard brewpub is near an example of the kind of idea the BTA is looking for. It is along a portion of the Fanno Creek Trail, one of 40 priority projects listed in the BTA's 2005 report.

When completed, the trail will stretch 15 miles from the Willamette River in Southwest



Bicyclists are getting to be a more common sight in Hillsboro. This one navigates rush hour traffic on Cornell Road. TRIBUNE PHOTO: CHASE ALLGOOD

If you go

WHAT: The Bicycle Transportation Alliance Input Session.
WHY: To update the 2005 Blueprint for Better Biking for the region.
WHEN: Tuesday, Dec. 4, 6 to 8 p.m.
WHERE: Fanno Creek Brewpub, 12562 S.W. Main St., Tigard.
TO REGISTER: btaoregon.org/events/

Portland through Beaverton and Tigard to the Tualatin River at its confluence with Fanno Creek. In November 2011, Tigard voters approved a \$17 million parks bond that will help fund improvements to the trail.

Other Washington County projects include the Westside Trail from the Tualatin River to Forest Park and the Tonquin Trail connecting Wilsonville, Sherwood and Tualatin. Both are also in process.

Most of the other priority projects in the report are in Portland, however. That makes sense because, up until now, Portland has been seen as the epicenter of the growth in biking. But even though statistics

are hard to come by, there are many signs that biking is growing outside of Portland, including in cities like Hillsboro.

"I'm a bike commuter myself and I see more and more people riding all the time," says Peter Brandom, Hillsboro's director of sustainability.

According to Brandom, Hillsboro has taken a number of steps to accommodate and encourage the growth. They include the free secure bike facilities in the Hillsboro Intermodal Transit Facility on the MAX line at 775 S.E. Baseline. Called the Hillsboro ITF Bike Park, it includes 40 bike hooks, lockers, showers for men and women, and a tool bench for quick repairs.

Hillsboro is also including a separated cycle track lane along Veterans Drive to the Washington County Fair Complex. It will eventually be extended allow bikers to ride from 25th Avenue to Brookwood Street without mingling with automobiles or pedestrians.

And Hillsboro is pursuing

funding through the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Challenge to site a number of

"mobility hubs" around the city that will include facilities to encourage biking, including rentals for so-called last mile trips between transit and work. The GoPoint project is one of 20 finalists vying for \$5 million in prize money. Brandom and three other Hillsboro employees traveled to New York in mid-November to meet with contest officials and other finalists. He came back encouraged about the city's chances of winning at least some money to launch the project next year.

"I'm feeling very positive about our chances," says Brandom.

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Alliance director ready for big issues

Pam Treece uses her business experience to boost regional group

By JIM REDDEN
The Hillsboro Tribune

The influential Westside Economic Alliance has hired a new executive director.

Pamela Treece, an economic development consultant with experience in both the private and public sectors, replaces Johnathan Schlueter, who was hired several months ago as Washington County's government relations manager. He had worked at the alliance since 2004.

"The Westside Economic Alliance represents the economic engine of the state," Treece says. "We must protect what we have and grow it for the future."

The alliance is a business advocacy group with both public and private sector members in Washington and western Clackamas counties. It works to improve the local business climate, enhance livability and promote economic

development opportunities on the westside of the Portland region.

Anchored by Intel and a number of other high-tech companies, Washington County is the region's — and the state's — economic driver. Its population grew 1.2 percent in 2012, faster than either Multnomah County at 0.09 percent or Clackamas County at 0.08 percent.

Such growth is creating both economic opportunities and challenges. Unemployment is lower in Washington County than the rest of the region. But a new white paper on the Westside's transportation infrastructure predicts congestion will increase without additional road projects, which are controversial.

Treece says she expects the Westside Economic Alliance will take up land use, transportation and regional cooperation issues in the coming year.

They include future expan-

sions of the urban growth boundary that determines where new development can occur, freight mobility problems that affect employers and areas where the alliance can work cooperatively with other economic development organizations in the region.

"After everything we've been through with the economy in recent years, we need to build a spirit of collaboration, not just on the westside but throughout the entire region," Treece says.

Treece has been active in regional economic development activities for many years. Most recently, she served as a consultant to Greater Portland Inc., a public-private economic development organization. Before that, she was the director of the Association of Regional Partners, an association of public officials working on economic development issues in the Portland area.

Prior to that, Treece served as vice president of Oregon External Affairs for PacificCorp.

"Pam is well versed in the region's economic needs, and she is respected by business

and government leaders across the region," said Norm Eder, the alliance's president. "Pam's deep experience and commitment to a healthy regional economy will make the WEA an even stronger and more effective voice for the westside."

Metro Council President Tom Hughes also praised the choice of Treece to run the economic group.

"I have worked with Pam at Regional Partners and Greater Portland Inc. She will bring knowledge, energy and a strong collaborative spirit to the organization. I look forward to working with her on issues that face our region," says Hughes, former mayor of Hillsboro.

Treece is a native Oregonian. She received her undergraduate degree from Portland State University and her master's degree from Lewis & Clark College.

The Westside Economic Alliance was created in 1998 through the merger of two economic development-related organizations, the Sunset Corridor Association and the Tualatin Valley Development Corp.

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St. Vincent de Paul tree sale keeps programs, lives afloat

Church to sell 1,000 trees to help residents find food, shelter

By **STEPHANIE HAUGEN**
The Hillsboro Tribune

Jose Salas was young when he got in with a bad crowd.

He lived on the streets in Washington County for five years, sleeping wherever he could find a place and finding momentary comfort through drugs.

Now, he's in with a new crowd.

Every weekday morning Salas volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul, a service organization with 4,600 branches nationwide dedicated to helping those in need. The St. Vincent de Paul St. Matthew Conference in Hillsboro serves an estimated 35 to 50 families every day, offering boxes of food and assistance with other basic needs like paying rent and utility bills.

That's how Salas first came into St. Vincent de Paul in Hillsboro. "They stepped up and helped me," he said.

Later, after Salas enrolled in a sobriety program that required patients to complete community service hours, he remembered the place he went during one of his lowest points.

For the past three years he's given back to the organization, which is run by St. Matthew Catholic Church. On Mondays and Thursdays you can find him picking up and delivering furniture for those who have none. Other days, he's in the food pantry, at the Hertel Center, located across the street from the church, handing out canned goods, milk, eggs, snacks and personal care items.

"I like to help people out and make things easier for them," Salas said.



The St. Matthew tree lot requires a lot of volunteers, including (from left to right) Ron and Rochelle MacDonald, Frank Lux and Nicholas and Dave Anderson.

Tree sales for programs

Toward that end, volunteers will be helping St. Matthew with its third annual Christmas tree sale as a fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul. Last year, the sale brought in about \$10,000, which provided 200,000 pounds of food to needy people like Salas — a great help for an organization that relies on donations and volunteers.

Frank and Trish Lux, St. Matthew parishioners, came up with the idea to hold a Christmas tree sale three years ago and it's been growing ever since. Alan Jesse, who operates a farm south of town, donated 1,000 Christmas trees to the sale last year and 500 this year so far.

"We had the trees and St. Vincent de Paul needed a revenue source," said Frank Lux. "It's been growing pretty good."

Now, donations from local tree growers stock the fenced lot on the school's fields, and volunteers stand ready to help sell trees for a few hours after school and from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on weekends.

This year, their goal is to sell 1,000 trees. The money will buy food, mostly from the

Oregon Food Bank, which offers most foods to St. Vincent de Paul for 5 cents per pound.

St. Vincent de Paul St. Matthew Conference relies entirely on volunteers, donations, and space and electricity costs provided by St. Matthew parish. There are no paid employees and all donated money goes directly to buying supplies to give away and keeping the program afloat.

They team up with other local churches, the Salvation Army, grocery stores and local businesses that donate food and supplies.

Offering hope

Ron McDonald, conference president, said the tree sale is

Take home a tree for \$20

The St. Matthew tree lot is located at 475 S.E. Third Ave in Hillsboro (just south of Oak Street) in the school playground.

The lot is open Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:15 to 6 p.m. All trees are \$20.

INBRIEF

Orencia housing project breaks ground

The first affordable senior housing project in Orencia Station is under construction.

The 45-unit Alma Gardens apartment complex is being developed by the nonprofit Northwest Housing Alternatives at Northeast Orencia Station Parkway and Campus Court, near the TriMet Park and Ride lot that serves the MAX station. It is scheduled to be completed next winter.

The \$9.3 million project is funded by a variety of sources, including state Low Income Housing Tax Credits, the Washington County Office of Community Development, the Washington County Office of Housing Services, Oregon Housing and Community Services and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

REACH, another nonprofit housing provider, is expected to break ground on the first phase of its Orencia Station project next year.

City's top positions shuffle new personnel

The city of Hillsboro has a game of musical chairs going on among its top administrators.

Interim Assistant City Manager Steve Greagor was hired as assistant city manager on Nov. 16. Before moving to the Administration Department in September, Greagor was director of the Parks Department.

That position is now filled on an interim basis by Assistant Parks Director Wayne Gross. A search is under way for a permanent replacement.

Hillsboro also recently hired a new economic development director. He is Mark Clemons, the director of project development for Group Mackenzie who previously worked for the Portland Development Commission.

Also, Hillsboro Planning Director Pat Ribellia retired but has been retained as legislative consultant through the 2013 session that begins in January.

Ribellia has not yet been replaced.

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Braze tops write in vote for council seat

Megan Braze will be sworn in as the newest member of the Hillsboro City Council on Jan. 2, the first council meeting of the new year. Washington County elections officials have certified that Braze received the most write-in votes in the race for the Ward 1, Seat B position — 346, compared to 146 for Trevon Jacobson, the second-place finisher. Braze, 28, is a lifelong Hillsboro resident and Oregon State University

graduate. She launched her write-in campaign after realizing that no one had filed to replace incumbent councilor Nenice Andrews, who could not run for reelection because of the term limits imposed on council members. A total of 3,190 names were written on ballots for the position, meaning that Braze won with a little more than 10 percent of the votes cast in the race.

North Plains CPO rejects compost permit extension

The Community Planning Organization representing North Plains is urging the Washington County Commission to reject a permit extension for the Nature's Need composting plant. The permit expires at the end of the year. The commission has extended it three months into 2013 while the Recology company that owns the food waste facility tries to work out a compromise with North Plains residents who object to its

odors. Members of CPO 8 voted 23 to 0 against extending the permit on Nov. 13. Chairman John Driscoll notified the commission of the vote in a Nov. 27 email. "The upshot of the meeting was a clear message from affected residents who chose to attend and speak out," Driscoll wrote. Although Nature's Needs is just outside of North Plains, the food waste it processes comes from

Portland through the city's commercial and curbside composting programs. "The introduction of food wastes just over a year ago coincided with a dramatic increase in odor complaints," Driscoll wrote in his email. In Oregon, CPOs are supported by the Oregon State University Extension Service to provide information on land-use and livability issues to community members.

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- Dec. 14 Rose City Flute Choir
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Volunteers: Schools list things they need

■ From page A1

nity come up and say 'We're going to do this. We're gonna paint the buildings, spread the bark dust, have a food pantry or a coat drive.' "

One of Willis and Garrett's first steps was to meet with Hillsboro's school principals and ask where they needed help the most.

They created a "Donations, Partnerships & Volunteer Opportunities" page on the school district's website with a list of project requests, which they update weekly.

So far groups including Intel, Schoolhouse Supplies and TriQuint have stepped up to meet the requests. In January, they're planning a breakfast for potential partners, to fill them in on their goals. They hope fulfilling projects will be a first step, and partners might be willing to adopt a school.

A roof and stickers

This week there were 13 projects posted, separated by elementary, middle and high school levels. All are specific, some small, some large. Some are tangible needs, other fi-



nancial or people-powered. Here are just a few:

■ Butternut Creek Elementary is requesting classroom computers, mobile computers/laptops or netbooks and flash drives, as well as "high-interest non-fiction books" and art supplies such as glitter, glue beads, pom poms, foam and stickers. They've also indicated a need for funds to pay substitutes so teachers can have more time to plan with their teaching partners, and for volunteers to act as running buddies for their "Girls on the Run" program.

■ Hillsboro High School needs a construction professional to build a roof over a

sculpture on campus. The school also needs funds for an artist in residency, and advanced art supplies such as leftover house paint, photocopiers, bric-a-brac for found art sculptures, shelves and a rolling cart.

■ South Meadows Middle School is hoping someone can donate musical instruments, science equipment, yarn or other craft items, straight knitting looms, dictionaries, electronic components, hobby kits, electronics tools, books on technology, design or aerospace; computer hardware (year 2000 or newer), and flashlights and waterproof matches for emergency buckets.



■ Liberty High School needs roses for their all-night graduation party as well as new running shoes, food pantry items and gift cards for needy families.

■ Glencoe High School is hoping alumni might be able to help out by donating their gently used graduation caps and gowns, honors' stoles, cords and tassels, which will be used for future Glencoe graduates who can't afford to purchase their own regalia.

To see the full list of volunteer project requests, visit: hsd.k12.or.us/District/DonationsVolunteerOpportunitiesPartnerships/tabid/1184/Default.aspx.

Garrett and Willis filled boxes with donations (left). Volunteers from TriQuint Semiconductors stuffed backpacks with school supplies for students at McKinney Elementary School thanks to donations from the company's employees.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Love to do Puzzles? Check out the Crossword Puzzle in this week's

greenlight classifieds

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BIRTHS

August 21, 2012 Lexi Kelly Sawyer Rori and Jed Sawyer of Hillsboro announce the birth of their daughter, Lexi.

August 21, 2012 Matthew Thomas Godfrey Denise and Ryan Godfrey of Hillsboro announce the birth of their son, Matthew.

August 24, 2012 Jeremy Yi-shen Lim Grace Khoo and Boon Lim of Hillsboro announce the birth of their son, Jeremy.

August 24, 2012 Jack Timothy Michael Heath Olivia and Gregory Heath of Hillsboro announce the birth of their son, Jack.

August 25, 2012 Emma Lucadia Witts Christy Davis of Hillsboro announces the birth of her daughter, Emma.

August 25, 2012 Luis Felipe Alcazar Gemma Balderas and Jose Alcazar of Hillsboro announce the birth of their son, Luis.

August 29, 2012 Carson Scot Pundt Terri Jeffries and Scot Pundt of Hillsboro announce the birth of their son, Carson.

August 29, 2012 Rameo Xavier Diezel Cook Rebecca and Kevin Cook of Hillsboro announce the birth of their son, Rameo.

August 30, 2012 Heidie Jade De Soto Rhonda De Soto of Hillsboro announces the birth of her daughter, Heidie.

August 31, 2012 Payton Rae French-Castellanos Maggi Castellanos and Alden French of Hillsboro announce the birth of their daughter, Payton.

September 3, 2012 Christopher Jackson Young Shannon and Christopher Young of Hillsboro announce the birth of their son, Christopher.

September 4, 2012 Roberto Hernandez Alvarez Karla Alvarez and Roberto Hernandez of Hillsboro announce the birth of their son, Roberto.

September 6, 2012 Angel Jariel Bernal Geraldine Lopez and Bertin Bernal of Hillsboro announce the birth of their son, Angel.

September 7, 2012 Alexis Guillermo Vargas Sanchez Adelina Sanchez Medina and Guillermo Vargas Rendon of Hillsboro announce the birth of their son, Alexis.

Arrest: Deputies seek public's help

■ From page A1

robbery report at the Rock Creek Apartments at 11:49 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 23. The apartments are at Northwest 185th Avenue and Rock Creek Boulevard, an area of the Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District.

Deputies said four men broke into the victim's apartment through an unlocked sliding glass door while the victim was home alone. Deputies were told the intruders beat the victim unconscious. When the victim regained consciousness, he said the four men were stealing electronics and marijuana from the apartment.

Deputies tracked down and arrested Mitchell, Buckley and Armitage within seven hours. They report having limited information about the fourth suspect, however.

Hillsboro misses Race to Top cut

By JENNIFER ANDERSON
The Hillsboro Tribune

The Hillsboro School District had high hopes for its application for a federal Race to the Top grant, but as of this week the district is out of the running.

The U.S. Department of Education said Wednesday that the McMinnville School District is the only Oregon finalist left in the running for the money, one of 61 finalists out of 200 school districts that applied.

The Salem-Keizer District was rejected as well.

Portland Public Schools did not submit an application due to differences between teacher evaluation standards.

Hillsboro had sought to receive \$23 million to purchase mobile learning devices for students and teachers, hire coaches to assist teachers in building lesson plans around the digital capability, build-out technology infrastructure and expand its online professional development system.

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COMMENTARY

Shop locally — and feel good about it

For decades, the holiday shopping routine was familiar — and simple. On the day after Thanksgiving, you'd bundle up the kids and head out to the stores to see the window displays and hunt for bargains.

Then, a few years back, several major stores started their "Black Friday" (a reference to the idea that the holiday season pushes retailers into profitability) at midnight on Thanksgiving.

This year, the sales started midday on Thursday but even so, according to the National Retail Association, a majority of shoppers said they would wait and see what kinds of

OUR OPINION

deals retailers would advertise on this week's Cyber Monday.

For the entire holiday shopping season, consumers are expected to spend \$43.4 billion online, up 17 percent from last year.

So, given the changes in how we shop, the question becomes: where will you do your gift purchasing this season?

We're hoping you'll consider patronizing businesses in Hillsboro. Here's why:

■ You may save money. Don't assume you'll get a deal by driving to the mall. On Thanksgiving weekend the Wall Street Journal reported a study showing that a third of the items advertised for Black Friday sales had been available for less earlier this year. You just might score a real bargain if you take a stroll downtown, through The Streets or in your own neighborhood.

Check out what Hillsboro Tribune advertisers have to offer, right here in our pages. Call them if you don't find what you're after, and see if they can get it for you. Our experience is that local vendors go the extra mile, if they're able, to please a customer who stays closer to home.

■ You'll see friendly faces. Walking in the door of a local business is a completely different experience than clicking away on your mouse. You can see, feel, smell (and maybe even taste!) what you're about to buy, and personally wish store owners and employees "happy holidays" to boot. It makes for a more engaged and friendly encounter.

■ You'll be your own economic stimulus plan. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, 60 cents of every dollar spent with an independent retailer stays in the community where the store is located. By comparison, chain stores put back 20 cents of every dollar while big box retailers return just 6 cents of what you spend back into the community. Buying locally gives you the satisfaction of knowing you're contributing to the economic health of your community.

■ You'll be helping others. If you look at the holiday events taking place in and around Hillsboro — from coat and blanket drives to seasonal choral performances — you'll find that small businesses are supporting most of them in some way, often without asking for any credit.

The benefits of local commerce all spell good news for Hillsboro. While the city is known for its high-profile industrial employers — such as Intel, Genentech, SolarWorld and Tri-Quint — it also boasts a healthy retail base. According to U.S. Census data, Hillsboro businesses generate, on average, about \$13,500 in retail sales per-capita each year, which is \$500 more than the state average.

Some of that cash will be leaving our wallets and checking accounts in the coming weeks. If we're clever and caring, we can do our shopping in ways that support our communities and amplify the spirit of giving this season.



From double-talk to double plays. Let's play ball!

Electio 2012 is now safely written into history. We can only hope the logical members of political sides along the previously impenetrable line in the sand sweep that line away and get important things accomplished.

Impossible? Improbable? No. Imperative. Yes.

Thank goodness it's over. No more political commercials. Hallelujah! No more debates — one of which kept me from watching a key World Series baseball game. Anything that keeps me from a World Series game is pretty dang important. Just ask my wife.

Speaking of baseball, it's too bad there was no election in the naming process for the new Class A team on deck in Hillsboro. The Hops? Oh well, what's done is done and, shall we say, safely written into Hillsboro history. At least it's a unique moniker.

Hillsboro and surrounding communities are in for a treat. Having covered baseball from high school to the professional ranks, including the Chicago Cubs, White Sox and a "single A" team in the Midwest League, the Kane County Cougars, I can offer a few insights as to what area baseball fans can expect from Class A ball.

■ Great family entertainment. The Class A Cougars of the Midwest League worked very hard to make games fun and affordable for families with special giveaways and contests between innings for young and old fans alike. I suspect that will be the case with the Hops.

■ Tasty concessions. At Cougar games

GUEST COMMENTARY

by Gary Stutzman

they offered a pork chop sandwich I could never pass up. I'm sure the Hops' menu will offer more than hot dogs and popcorn. See a game and eat out at the same time. As for drinks, there might be some "hops" for adults to enjoy as well as the usual assortment of soft drinks, juices and coffees.

■ Future major leaguers. Triple-A ball offers quality baseball performed by raw young talent just beginning to be groomed by pro instruction. A few will learn and blossom. Most won't. All have the opportunity.

There are six steps up the ladder to the major leagues that ends with Class AAA — the final launching pad for entry to the bigs. The levels are Rookie, Class A Short Season, Class A, Class A Advanced, Class AA and Class AAA. Although Triple A is the highest minor league level, there are occasions when players have jumped to the majors from Double A and the rare individual who leaps from "single A" to join a major league roster in one year.

Nonetheless, fans will see some future stars. In covering the Kane County Cougars, a Florida Marlins affiliate at the time, I saw and interviewed a few in my two years (1998-99) of coverage. That list includes Rick Ankiel (Peoria Chiefs), A.J. Burnett and Ross Gload (Cougars), Kyle Lohse (Rockford Cubbies) and Roy Oswalt (Michigan Battle Cats, a Boston Red

Sox affiliate). All were destined to play in the bigs.

I remember sitting down with Ankiel, then 19 and a high draft choice of the Cardinals. He had pitched and won the first game of a doubleheader against the Cougars in '98. He joined me for an interview in seats behind home plate during the second game. He fielded my questions between chomps of the pork chop sandwich I recommended.

Ankiel was on a fast track to the majors, playing his rookie season with the Cardinals in 2000, winning 11 games. He later had control problems and after trying several years to regain his control, eventually switched to playing the outfield. He returned to the Cardinals on the strength of his hitting and outfield arm. I will forever remember him enjoying that pork chop sandwich. I knew he would.

The Hillsboro Hops are a Class A Short Season team, a step up from the rookie leagues. Don't let that fool you. These kids can play. Most will come from the player draft in June and begin play right away in the short season, which is 76 games.

The real fun is watching them play and following the best of them through the ranks to reach the parent club, the Arizona Diamondbacks. And watching visiting players ticketed for big paydays.

I can't wait to hear "Play ball!" next June. Hillsboro, have some fun next summer. Support the Hops. I surely will.

Gary Stutzman can be reached at gary.stutzman@aol.com.

Health starts in our homes — for those who have one

Community Action's vision is that Washington County's residents are strong, resilient, involved in the community and live with dignity and security. Our mission is to lead the way to eliminate conditions of poverty and create opportunities for people and communities to thrive.

For over 47 years, Community Action has witnessed over and over again how poverty impacts families and can contribute to poor health. The conditions in which we live have an enormous impact on our health, long before we need medical care. And when conditions of poverty are eliminated, one by one, people's health and wellness are greatly improved.

The slow return of jobs from the recession has left record numbers of families un- and underemployed, many living in poverty. In Washington County, between 2010 and 2011, the population living in poverty grew from 9 percent to 13 percent, the highest increase ever recorded in one year. All of these families and individuals are now at much greater risk of suffering from poor health.

So what are the social determinants of health that we tackle every day? Let's start with the prevention of homelessness. What we know for sure is that being homeless is bad for your health. It interrupts sleep, exercise, healthy eating and obtaining routine medical and dental care. It creates high stress for children and families. Children perform poorly in school and are at higher risk of disease. For the adults, it disrupts employment and creates cycles of instability.

Since 1974 Community Action has

GUEST COMMENT

Jerralynn Ness



been sheltering homeless families with children in our Hillsboro Shelter Home. Day in and day out, the staff works hard to support families experiencing homelessness, helping them through a maze of issues as they strive to get back on their feet. Our homeless liaison works in the Hillsboro School District to make sure that children experiencing homelessness get the support they need to succeed in school during this very difficult time in their lives.

While shelter is not the solution, it does provide temporary respite until the family is able to regain some economic security and locate affordable housing. The best way to prevent homelessness is to provide families with the resources and services they need to stay in their home.

Whenever we can keep a family in their home with emergency rent assistance, we not only have prevented their homelessness, but we have prevented them from having all of the experiences that would take a toll on their physical and mental health. Every year, Community Action prevents hundreds of families from becoming homeless through rent assistance, education programs and supportive services.

Since the beginning of 2012, Community Action has received over 205,000 calls

for utility and heating assistance. Many families who call don't have heat and electricity, as it has been turned off. Children come home to cold, dark housing. They eat cold food, wash with cold water and are more susceptible to illness. They are often living in overcrowded conditions, doubling and tripling up and it is difficult to sleep through the night.

Kids need uninterrupted sleep for focus and learning. Without adequate lighting, it is a challenge to do home work. While we are so grateful we were able to help nearly 8,500 households restore their heat and electricity, we regret having to turn away so many families in need.

Health literally starts in our home — and living in safe and affordable housing contributes enormously to good health. In collaboration with many others, Community Action provides a wide range of programs and services to help families meet their basic needs, achieve housing stability, and access critical resources to thrive.

We understand how our work promotes health and wellness and are proud to be able to contribute to the overall health of our community. We all want to live in communities where everyone has the opportunity to live in housing that is safe and affordable and where everyone has access to the services they need to be able to make choices that lead to good health and wellness. And together with our partners we are achieving great outcomes, one family at a time.

Jerralynn Ness is the executive director of Community Action.

Write on!

The Hillsboro Tribune welcomes letters to the editor and guest columns on topics of public interest.

Letters should be no more than 300 words. Columns should be no more than 700 words.

Submissions must include your name, home address and phone number for verification purposes.

Send them to letters@hillsborotribune.com or mail them to P.O. Box 408, Forest Grove, OR 97116. Submissions will be printed as space allows and may be edited for brevity and clarity.

Hillsboro Tribune

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POLICELOG

NOV. 10

- A laptop and camera were taken from an unlocked car in the 2700 block of S.E. Aspen Court.
- A vehicle hit two mailboxes and sped off northbound in the 2500 block of S.E. Imlay Avenue.
- Two unlocked vehicles were entered in the 500 block of N.E. Lincoln Street and their GPSs were stolen.

NOV. 11

- A car window was smashed and a Samsung tablet was stolen in the 200 block of S.W. Oak Street.
- A 34-year-old man was arrested in the 2300 block of N.W. 188th Court for harassing his girlfriend.
- A 33-year-old man's wallet was stolen from the men's locker room at L.A. Fitness in the 21000 block of N.W. Imbrie Drive.

NOV. 12

- A checking account was accessed fraudulently in the 1100 block of Grant Avenue.
- A 24-year-old woman stole clothes from Old Navy in the 18000 block of N.W. Evergreen Parkway.
- A man was seen concealing a VCR under his jacket and leaving

the Salvation Army store in the 1400 block of S.E. 21st Avenue.

- A 57-year-old man was arrested for being in possession of methamphetamine.

NOV. 13

- A vehicle was stolen from the 19000 block of N.W. Evergreen Road.
- A 30-year-old man was arrested for hitting his wife in the 100 block of S.E. Maple Street.
- A 72-year-old man was cited for rummaging through garbage cans on private property near the intersection of N.W. 208 Avenue and N.W. Hodes Street.

NOV. 14

- Unlocked vehicles in the 200 block of N.E. 20th Place and the 1300 block of N.E. Hawthorne Avenue were stolen from.

- A 19-year-old woman was arrested after she stole from Nordstrom Rack in the 18000 block of Evergreen Parkway.

- A woman tried to pass a fraudulent check at Target in the 2200 block of S.E. Tualatin Valley Highway.

- A 55-year-old was arrested and lodged at the Washington County Jail for trespass after refusing to leave the hospital in the 300 block of S.E. Eighth Avenue.

NOV. 15

- Electrical wiring was stripped from interior walls in the 3900

block of S.E. Lone Oak Street.

- A \$100 bill was uttered by a customer in the 1500 block of S.W. Oak Street.

NOV. 16

- A man met a woman and invited her back to his room for the evening in the 400 block of S.E. Oak Street. He fell asleep and woke to find his three tattoo guns stolen.

- A cell phone delivered and signed for by UPS was stolen by an unknown person in the 400 block of S.E. Fifth Avenue.

NOV. 17

- The front glass door of a residence in the 200 block of E. Main Street was shattered.

NOV. 18

- Someone broke into a garage and damaged the doorknob of the residence in an attempt to get inside in the 2800 block of S.E. Brookwood Avenue.

NOV. 19

- In the 19000 block of N.W. Evergreen Road a man reported that an unknown suspect forced entry into his apartment and stole a backpack containing \$500.

- In the 600 block of S.E. 10th

Avenue an employee at Baskin and Robins reported a man came into the store after hitting the glass window, yelled at everyone and walked out. He then came back into the store and tried to order something that did not exist, yelled at everyone again and walked out a second time. When contacted, he was uncooperative and attempted to spit on officers.

NOV. 20

- A bike was stolen from the 2100 block of S.E. Tualatin Valley Highway.

- Nurses working in the 300 block of S.E. Eighth Avenue reported being harassed by a 36-year-old male patient.

NOV. 21

- A security camera was stolen from the side of a business in the

500 block of S.E. Oak Street.

- A 53-year-old was cited after an altercation with the apartment complex's janitor in the 100 block of S.E. Washington Street.
- A customer walked out of Safeway in the 2100 block of N.W. 185th Avenue with a cart full of items.

- A 36-year-old woman stole \$807 worth of merchandise from Kohls in the 7300 block of N.E. Butler Street.

- A keyboard was stolen from the 300 block of E. Main Street.

NOV. 22

- A GPS was stolen from a vehicle in the 900 block of N.E. Lincoln Street.

- A group fight was reported in the 1600 block of S.E. Walnut. A 35-year-old man was arrested for punching out the apartment manager's window.

- A 21-year-old man was arrested

for kicking an officer during a welfare check in the 2000 block of N.W. 185th Avenue.

NOV. 23

- A vehicle in the 800 block of N.E. Linden Avenue was egged and the tires were slashed.

- A 21-year-old man threw his beer bottle out of a vehicle near the intersection of W. Baseline Road and S.W. 197th Avenue.

- A 57-year-old was too intoxicated to ride on a Tri-Met bus near the intersection of S.E. Tualatin Valley Highway and S.E. Century Boulevard.

- In the 18000 block of N.W. Heritage Parkway, a 20-year-old man reported a female kicked his front door in, picked up a guitar, hit his friend, said "show me the money" and then fled. He said he thought the suspect "looked like a prostitute." There is no more suspect information at this time.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

J.R. loved his shot of solar power fame

Larry Hagman may have perfected the image of the ruthless oil baron as J.R. Ewing on "Dallas," but in real life he was fan of solar power and a spokesman for SolarWorld, the German-based solar panel company with a large manufacturing plant in Hillsboro.

Hagman, who died on Nov. 23, owned one of the largest private solar arrays in the world and participated in several philanthropic solar projects, including the electrification of hospitals in earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

He also appeared in a number TV spots for SolarWorld with the slogan "Shine, baby, shine," a play on the oil industry's rallying cry, "Drill, baby, drill."

"We are grateful to Larry Hagman for his commitment to building a solar world," Kevin Kilkelly, president of SolarWorld Americas, said on Tuesday. "His charisma and example encouraged thousands of peo-

ple to go solar. We will miss him, but we will always remember his talent and his dedication to the promise of solar energy."

SolarWorld company shakeup

SolarWorld is still coping with the turmoil with the turmoil in the solar power market.

Despite having won its U.S. trade complaint against illegal Chinese dumping practices, the company recently reduced its American work force by around 6 percent. The company blames the large supply of under-priced Chinese products already in the country for the forced cuts.

The number of positions actually eliminated could be as high as 37 or as low as 25 at the Hillsboro plant, depending on how many employees take other jobs offered to them there.

Most of the positions to be eliminated are administrative, the company says. SolarWorld employs more than 930 people in Oregon and California.

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Jeff Van Raden never felt like he belonged in high school, but he found his place at PCC in the Mechanical Engineering Program. Now as one of the owners of Columbia Industries in Hillsboro, he employs more than 50 local workers, including a number of PCC graduates.

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arts & ENTERTAINMENT



TRIBUNE PHOTOS: CHASE ALLGOOD

Museumgoers take in the NASA exhibition during opening day at the new location of the Washington County Museum.

Museum celebrates move downtown with ton of visitors

NASA exhibit, others draw hundreds to opening in new hall

By JIM REDDEN
The Hillsboro Tribune

Washington County Museum officials were thrilled with the turnout at Saturday's opening of their new exhibition space on the second floor of the Hillsboro Civic Center.

Officials say 435 people visited the museum on Nov. 17. That's more than 10 times the number of people that usually visit the former exhibit space on PCC's Rock Creek Campus in an entire month.

They included many parents with children and visitors from as far away as Eugene.

"Moving downtown was an excellent idea. We had no idea whether a small number or a large number of people would visit, but the opening went very well. A lot more people are going to take advantage of our excellent programs from now on," says Barbara Mason, a



Ilene O'Malley gives a presentation on the Bracero program.

member of the museum's board of directors.

Admission was free on Saturday, which boosted attendance. But 30 people visited Sunday when they had to pay and hours were limited from noon to 5 p.m. Some of them had visited on Saturday and returned the next day with friends.

"That's pretty exciting," says Mason.

The exhibitions are NASA's "Hubble Space Telescope: New

See MUSEUM / Page A9

Another Dickens Christmas? WHAT A DRAG!

It's not just the accents that are funny in Bag & Baggage's farcical romp through A Christmas Carol

If you're in downtown Hillsboro this holiday season and come across a clutch of women with thick, hairy legs and even thicker English accents, don't be alarmed. They're here to help.

You see, this winter, Bag & Baggage Director Scott Palmer wanted to create a holiday production that was equally heart-felt and funny, if not more hilarious than the Hillsboro theater company's last year adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

As luck would have it, the famously incompetent English ladies of Farnedale Avenue's Dramatic Society are in town on an intercultural exchange from the UK. And they have agreed to produce a Christmas classic of their own at the stately Venetian Theatre.

In the very British holiday tradition of Pantomime "panto" (song, dance, cross-dressing, slapstick and audience interaction), the Bag & Baggage posse tops its over-the-top entertainment tradition with "The Farnedale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol," which opens tomorrow night and runs through Dec. 23 in downtown Hillsboro.

Everything imaginable goes wrong for the four disaster-prone ladies of Farnedale, from misplaced costumes to collapsing scenery, line mix-ups and quarrels erupting on stage. The somewhat reluctant stage manager, Gordon, played by Rosalind Fell,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: CASEY CAMPBELL

It's beginning to look a lot like a Bag & Baggage Christmas, as "The Farnedale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen Guild's Dramatic Society's Production of a Christmas Carol" is performed at the Venetian Theatre downtown Hillsboro

tries to keep it all together in this hilarious, frantic comedy.

Think "Downton Abbey" meets "The Three Stooges"...in drag, reads the

Bag & Baggage press release.

Performing in wigs and tights are Patrick Spike as Phoebe Reece, Ian Armstrong

See DRAG / Page A9

Holy hilarity at HART

Nuns, youth to sing humorous versions of Christmas tunes

By CARI HACHMANN
The Hillsboro Tribune

Giving a new meaning to the idea of "holy holidays," everybody's favorite wise-cracking nuns are back in Hillsboro for Christmas. And tickets are already going faster than communion wafers at a candlelight service.

This time, the little Sisters from Hoboken, N.J. are up to their usual "nonsense," hosting a cable-access TV studio built in their convent basement with plans to go on air for the first time over the holidays.

But this year's shows at Hillsboro Artists' Repertory The-

Showtime

"Nuncrackers" will run at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays from Nov. 30 through Dec. 23 at 185 S.E. Washington St. in Hillsboro. To purchase tickets in advance, visit hart-theatre.org.

atre will include a more serious twist: the chance to donate to help residents living in the real Hoboken and still recovering from Hurricane Sandy.

A sequel to writer Dan Goggin's original "Nonsense," "Nuncrackers" is the fourth play in a series of six.

"It's like Wayne's World, only with nuns," said director Butch Vandehey.

Loaded with slapstick humor, classic holiday tunes

and a "Secret Santa" audience participation, HART opens "Nuncrackers" this weekend.

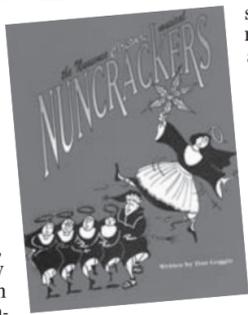
The Christmas comedy stars some returning nun veterans, including Vandehey (who plays the nuns' TV director and camera man), Jeanine Stassens, Jennifer Yamashiro and Wendy Bax, as well as a few new faces, such as a seven-member youth choir.

The youth will perform the show's humorous versions of traditional Christmas songs, such as, "Twelve Days Prior to Christmas," "Santa Ain't Comin' to Our House," "We Three

Kinds of Orient Are Us" and "It's Better to Give than to Receive."

"It's not brain surgery and we're not going to move anybody to tears, but it is a lot of fun," said Vandehey, who acted in HART's first two installations of Goggin's nun-themed plays and is replacing former directors Ken and Pruella Centers for this show. It's Vandehey's first experience directing at HART.

As in previous years, Sisters of St. Mary's in Beaverton invites the entire HART cast to the convent for a friendly luncheon. In return, HART saves



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Director Butch Vandehey joins several sisters in "Nuncrackers," opening this weekend at Hillsboro Artists' Repertory Theatre.

seats for the Sisters to enjoy a night of hilarious self-deprecation.

That night of sisterhood is Vandehey's favorite part of the performance run. "They just get such a kick out of it," he said. "They're funny people —

they are just regular people with a love of the Lord."

Last year, HART's production of "Nunsensations" sold out for its Halloween showing. This year, a few of the new shows have already sold out, Vandehey said.

Pacific University Oregon

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUTUMN CHOREOGRAPHERS CONCERT
7:30 p.m. Nov. 15, 16, 17 and 2 p.m. Nov. 18 | Tom Miles Theatre
Pacific University's Dance Ensemble Company will perform a new work by prestigious guest choreographer Les Watanabe and company director Jennifer Camp. Student choreographers also will debut unique and innovative new works. For information or advance tickets, call the box office at 503-352-2918.

PACIFIC'S WRITERS SERIES
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15 | Milky Way
Pacific University professors Darlene Pagan, Kathlene Postma and Brent Johnson will read from their own works of fiction, nonfiction and poetry. The event is free and open to the public.

ALUMNI REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY
Noon, Friday, Nov. 16 | Old College Hall
Pacific University honors alumni who have recently passed away with a short ceremony in Old College Hall. Alumni names are read and inscribed into a book of remembrance, and the Old College Hall bell is rung in their memory. Friends, family and former classmates are welcome to attend.

Most Pacific University offices will close at noon Wednesday, Nov. 21, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Offices reopen Monday, Nov. 26.

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120 E Main Street, Hillsboro, Oregon
503.645.5353 | washingtoncountymuseum.org

www.nasa.gov

CALENDAR

THROUGH DEC. 2

AIDS QUILT DISPLAY Pacific University is hosting two displays of the 12-foot by 12-foot AIDS Memorial Quilt. Each AIDS Quilt block contains eight individual panels. Each panel features the name of a loved one who has died of HIV/AIDS. Pacific University Health Professions Campus 222 S.E. Eighth Avenue, Hillsboro and Pacific University Library, 2043 College Way, Forest Grove.

NOV. 30

QUILTING HISTORY Members of Westside Quilters Guild will present the history of quilting. Free. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Hillsboro Main Library, 2850 Brookwood Parkway.

GUITAR SUMMIT Grammy winners Acoustic Guitar Summit display their finger-picking abilities while playing a range of musical styles, from Gypsy jazz to folk to blues. 7:30 p.m., Walters Cultural Arts Center, 527 E. Main St., Hillsboro. 503-615-3485.

NOV. 30 THROUGH DEC. 23

HOLIDAY CRACKERS HART Theatre presents the Nunsense Christmas musical, Nuncrackers. It stars the nuns you love, plus Father Virgil. Ticket \$16 adults, \$14 seniors, \$12 students. 503-693-7815. Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. through Dec. 23.

DEC. 1

IDOL AUDITIONS Audition for the next Hillsboro Teen Idol. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Liberty High School, 21945 N.W. Wagon Way, Hillsboro. Open to students in 7-12 grade. Contact cindy.allen@hillsboro-oregon.gov for more information.

HOLLY DAYS Hillsboro's annual Holly Days and tree lighting festivities begin at 1 p.m. with a special winter marketplace featuring local artists, crafts, food and drinks, fresh winter produce, live entertainment, kids craft booth and Radio Disney. Tom Hughes Civic Center Plaza will be bustling with holiday cheer and excitement leading up to the 5:30 p.m. tree lighting ceremony. Come explore all that historic downtown Hillsboro has to offer.

DEC. 2

CRAFT FAIR St. Matthew Catholic Church hosts its annual holiday bazaar. A wide variety of arts and crafts will be set up in the school gymnasium. The event is open to the community and much of the booth proceeds go to charity. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 447 S.E. Third Ave., Hillsboro.

OREGON CHORALE The Oregon Chorale 50-voice choir will present Vom Himmel Hoch by Felix Mendelssohn. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, 18 and under free. 7:30 p.m., St. Matthew Catholic Church, 447 S.E. Third Ave., Hillsboro.

DEC. 4 TO JAN. 29

THREE GENERATION ART Three generations of Nelsons will exhibit their work at the Walters Cultural Arts Center. Ceramics, charcoal drawings, photography capturing often overlooked flora, lamps inspired by organic forms and whimsical works. 527 E. Main St., Hillsboro.

DEC. 4

ART SHOW Artists Linda Holland, JanSu Hirst, James Tschida, Heather Wells, Elina Zebergs, Lam Ton and Priscilla Decker of Influence Art Gallery in Hillsboro, which closed in 2011, will display their work on First Tuesday at Summa Real Estate, 231 E. Main St., Hillsboro. 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 4. The show will run throughout the month, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

ARTISTS' RECEPTION Sequoia Gallery + Studios opens its show "My Favorite Things," a show featuring all 34 Sequoia artists, with a reception from 6-8 p.m. at the gallery, 136 SE Third Ave., Hillsboro. The show runs Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., through Feb. 1.

HOLocaust SURVIVOR Alter Wiener, author of "64735 - From a Name to a Number," is one of the few Holocaust survivors still living in Oregon. A resident of Hillsboro, he has shared his life story with over 700 audiences at

universities, colleges, schools, churches, synagogues, prisons, companies and libraries. Free. 6:30-8 p.m., Hillsboro Main Library, 2850 Brookwood Parkway.

DEC. 5

FAIR BOOSTERS The Washington County Fairground Boosters will hold a Christmas dinner potluck and end of the year meeting at the Fair Complex Cloverleaf Building from 7-9 p.m. Join the 501(c)(3) organization, which promotes the Annual Washington County Fair. Bring a hot or cold potluck dish to share.

DEC. 6-15

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Glencoe Theatre presents "Little Shop of Horrors." Show runs Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. In this hilarious macabre musical, a desperate florist assistant, Seymour, gets far more than he imagines when a strange plant appears during a total eclipse of the sun. Follow Seymour as he tries to get the girl, riches and fame. Recommended for ages 12 and up. Tickets \$10, available at the high school office or at SHOWTIX4U.com.

DEC. 6 TO DEC. 23

CHRISTMAS THEATER The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic

Society's Production of a Christmas Carol. 7:30 p.m. curtain. 2 p.m. Sunday matinees. Tickets \$28 adults, \$19 seniors and students. 503-345-9590. Venetian Theatre, 253 E. Main St., Hillsboro.

DEC. 8

FAMILY DAY Washington County Museum hosts Family Day from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free. Make a solar themed ornament for the holidays, sample astronaut ice cream and add to the museum's model solar system. At 11 a.m. Dick Pugh of the Cascadia Meteorite Laboratory and Portland State University talks about asteroids and meteorites in Oregon. Think your family has a meteorite? Bring it along and let Dick make an assessment. 120 E. Main St., Hillsboro.

CHOIR CONCERT Hillsboro Community Youth Choir will present "Ode to Joy" and feature holiday music. \$8 for adults and \$2 for children. 4 p.m. Hillsboro High School Auditorium, 3285 S.E. Rood Bridge Road, Hillsboro.

DEC. 13

BAND CONCERT Hillsboro High School's band program will present a holiday concert at 7 p.m. Free. Hillsboro High School, 3285 S.E. Rood Bridge Road, Hillsboro.

DEC. 13 TO DEC. 22

HOLIDAY THEATER The Velveteen Rabbit production will be at the Venetian Theatre in Hillsboro. Tickets \$18 adults and seniors, \$10 students and children. 503-345-9590. Venetian Theatre, 253 E. Main St., Hillsboro.

DEC. 14

MANDOLIN CHRISTMAS Oregon Mandolin Orchestra will present a holiday concert at the Walters Cultural Arts Center, 527 E. Main St., Hillsboro. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 day of show. 503-615-3485.

DEC. 17

JOURNAL MAKING Learn how to make a quick and beautiful pamphlet stitch nature journal for notes and drawings. For children in grades first through third. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Hillsboro Main Library Story time Room, 2850 N.E. Brookwood Parkway, Hillsboro.

DEC. 18

ORPHEUS CURSE Curtis Yehmert looks at The Orpheus Curse: Looking Back at a Mythical Taboo during December's Spoken Word event at the Walters Cultural Arts Center, 527 E. Main St., Hillsboro. Free. 7 p.m.

Drag: English tradition

From page A1

as Thelma, Sean Powell as Mercedes, Tylor Neist as Felicity.

"Men playing women in Christmas shows is a very English tradition," said Palmer, who had a challenging yet hilarious time directing this season's Christmas classic.

Getting the guys to sing and dance in heels was particularly daring, he said. "It's difficult to find good heels for a man who wears a size 13 shoe."

About half the men in the Christmas Carol cast had experience with cross-dressing roles, Palmer said, but others had never strut the stage in heels and initially struggled to keep their balance.

All the actors developed a thick English accent for a show that features laugh-a-minute jokes and silly musical numbers.

As foreigners to the American suburbs, the middle-aged, church-going ladies of Farndale wonder why a man named Fred Meyer keeps such a large office and why the International house doesn't serve anything British.

"It's incredibly funny," said Palmer, "The slapstick humor, the word play is all hilarious." The show "encapsulates the feelings of the season," he said.

Audiences familiar and unfamiliar with Bag&Baggage's alternative twist to traditional theater will enjoy some of the show's prouder moments, said Palmer.

Like the four-and-a-half minute spoof of Michael Flatley's leg-flailing Lord of the Dance and Bag&Baggage's impression of the adorably sad orphan child, Tiny Tim. "It is without question one of the funniest things I have seen in my life... ever," said the director.

"We had a hard time keeping it together during rehearsals."



Patrick Spike (aka Phoebe Reece) is one of the "women of Farndale" who are helping Bag&Baggage stage a less-than-traditional version of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO: GASEY CAMPBELL

Museum: Free admission

From page A1

Views of the Universe," "Americans All: The Braceros Program in Washington County," and artifacts from the museum's collection. They will be on display through the end of June.

The new exhibition space is at 120 E. Main St. in Hillsboro. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children and free for members. Hours are: Wednesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Satur-

day, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

Admission is free from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month.

Dick Pugh of the Cascadia Meteorite Laboratory and Portland State University will present an interactive talk on asteroids and meteorites in Oregon on Dec. 8. Visitors can touch \$10,000 worth of meteorites.

If you think you have one, bring it in and Pugh will assess it.



TRIBUNE PHOTO: CHASE ALLGOOD

Visitors flocked to the opening of the Washington County Museum's new exhibition space in the Hillsboro Civic Center on Nov. 17. NASA's "Hubble Space Telescope: New Views of the Universe" was a big hit.

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Accalia

Some cats want to climb your curtains. Accalia thinks, why bother, when she can climb in your lap instead? She is a quiet, well-mannered cat with beautiful blue eyes-all the better to see you with when you come home from work, so she can keep you faithful company. Accalia is eight years old and just knows that someone out there prefers calm sweetness to rowdiness. She's waiting to meet you at CAT's Sherwood shelter: 14175 SW Galbreath Drive/503-925

CHLOE:

Weighing in at only 10 pounds - Chloe is quite the dynamo! She is full of energy and is a ton of fun to be around. Chloe's a youngster, born 9/20/10, and a diamond in the ruff. She is sharing a home with other dogs and a cat and gets along with and wants to play with everyone! Please call Animal Aid 503-292-6628 or visit our Web site: www.animalaidpdx.org for more information.

Florentine - young adult

DSH Tortoiseshell about 1 year old. Florentine is very pretty with her multi-colored coat containing all the colors of Fall. And what a sweetheart she is too! She loves to be around people and will give you a ready purr when you pet her. She is still quite young and likes to play with the other kittens and gets along well with the older cats. She has been a Mom and is now ready to move on to a life of her own.

Florentine is spayed, microchipped, vaccinated, and has had worming and flea treatment. She comes with a vet exam and free 30-day insurance offer. Cat's Cradle is an all-volunteer, non-profit foster-home based rescue serving Oregon cats who need new homes. For information contact 503-320-6079 or apply online at www.catscradlerescue.com

Galaga

Galaga's family moved and couldn't take her along. But this six-year-old sweetheart is looking hopefully toward the future. She's an active, easygoing cat who likes to talk, purr, and chirp, especially when she's happy, which means especially when she's visiting with people. She's waiting for you at CAT's Sherwood shelter: 14175 SW Galbreath Drive/503-925 8903/cataadoptionteam.org

PIPPY

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Items valued \$1001-\$3000:
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17 newspapers - \$26

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Call 503-620-SELL

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6	3	1	9	4	2	5	7	8
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SUDOKU
Difficulty: 5 (of 5)

			4				5	7
9				2		1		
			1					
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HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

This Week's Crossword Puzzle

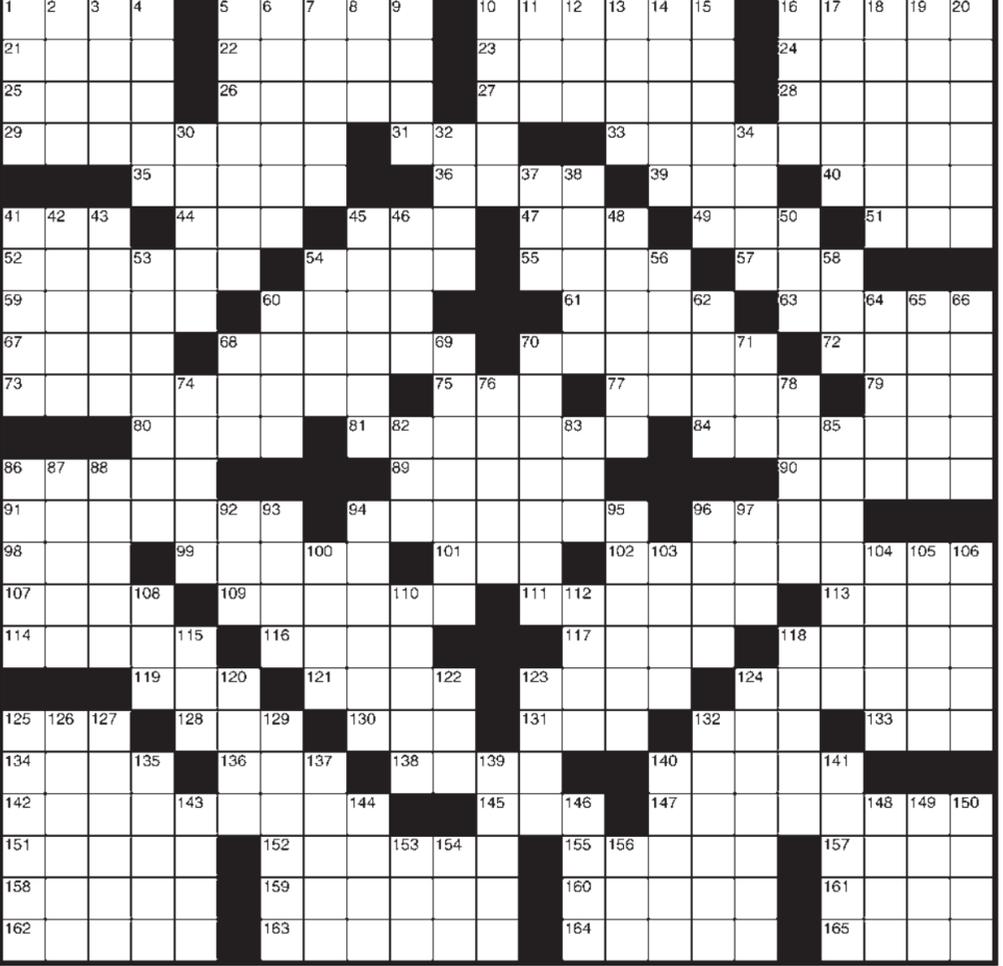
ACROSS

- 1 Kitchen meas.
- 5 Drawing room
- 10 "Bhagavad Gita" hero
- 16 Mountain top
- 21 Earth goddess
- 22 Insurance center
- 23 Dried fruit
- 24 Intend (2 wds.)
- 25 Cyrus' realm, today
- 26 Verdict giver
- 27 Miff
- 28 --toothed tiger
- 29 Hydrant hookup
- 31 551, to Ovid
- 33 Show-offs
- 35 Libertines
- 36 Likelihood
- 39 That woman
- 40 Tuscan river
- 41 Tarzan's nanny
- 44 7 on the phone
- 45 Deviate, as a rocket
- 47 Resistance unit
- 49 --cool!
- 51 Plea at sea
- 52 Collapsed
- 54 Dollops
- 55 Warty critter
- 57 --di-dah
- 59 Ran in neutral
- 60 Jet route
- 61 Wallet stuffers
- 63 Eastman invention
- 67 Hauled into court
- 68 Duck's gait
- 70 Repress
- 72 Arizona river
- 73 Stay calm (2 wds.)
- 75 JFK followed him

DOWN

- 77 Japan's highest volcano
- 79 Understood
- 80 Cartoon shrieks
- 81 Monarchs' stand-ins
- 84 Kind of look
- 86 Close shave
- 89 Rental agreement
- 90 --crafty
- 91 Soft leather
- 94 Orchestra section
- 96 Realty unit
- 98 Explorer -- Helen Johnson
- 99 Tea biscuit
- 101 Admiral's org.
- 102 Walker's gadget
- 107 Tart
- 109 Joust competitor
- 111 Small pet
- 113 Tree trunk
- 114 Navigation system
- 116 Gymnast -- Korbut
- 117 Cell block brawl
- 118 Pharaoh's textile
- 119 Kid's marble
- 121 Royal honorific
- 123 Lapp neighbor
- 124 Sheep's coat
- 125 Vime and vigor
- 128 "--Man Fever"
- 130 911 responder
- 131 Colony member
- 132 Battery size
- 133 Country addr.
- 134 Ice skater's leap
- 136 Attorney's deg.
- 138 Teamster rig
- 140 Stays afloat

- 142 Very hungry
- 145 Go -- diet
- 147 Luxurious
- 151 Piano exercise
- 152 Caulked
- 155 Zen master's poem
- 157 Westernmost Aleutian
- 158 Above the horizon
- 159 Box up
- 160 Lou Grant portrayer
- 161 Bracken
- 162 Hound's trail
- 163 Loafer doodad
- 164 Not those
- 165 Keg-party site
- 85 No-charge item
- 86 "Cheers!"
- 87 Kid who rode Diablo
- 88 Robin of ballads
- 92 "Gross!"
- 93 Kid's taboo (hyph.)
- 94 Carrot or spud
- 95 Track event
- 96 Mine access
- 97 Blimp title
- 100 Swedish name
- 103 Poet's black
- 104 Copy machine need
- 105 Vote in
- 106 Ms. Zellweger
- 108 Filly's mother
- 110 Is destructive
- 112 A Walton daughter
- 115 Touch of frost
- 118 Animal that hisses
- 120 Romantic island
- 122 Monsieur's summer
- 123 Gladly, old-style
- 124 Vain attempt
- 125 Patio stones
- 126 Glamorous
- 127 Read
- 129 Storage place
- 132 Rouses from slumber
- 135 Encumbered
- 137 Good, to Teresa
- 139 Shape clay
- 140 Cactus defense
- 141 Personnel
- 143 Bronze coin
- 144 Marsupial pockets
- 146 At the drop of --
- 148 Livy's route
- 149 Razor brand
- 150 Fontanne's husband
- 153 -- Cruces, N.M.
- 154 Flight dir.
- 156 Hearth residue



- 1 Happy-hour letters
 - 2 Rani's garment
 - 3 Orchard produce
 - 4 More rational
 - 5 Brief stay
 - 6 Makes laugh
 - 7 Roman household gods
 - 8 Melodrama shout
 - 9 Ancient ointment
 - 10 Calla lily, e.g.
 - 11 U.K. fliers
 - 12 Skippy rival
 - 13 Treats shabbily
 - 14 Beethoven symphony
 - 15 Fergie's ex
 - 16 Do horoscopes
 - 17 Vaquero's rope
 - 18 Bonfire residue
 - 19 Camp-stove fuel
 - 20 Museum sculptures
 - 30 Aspired
 - 32 Stock-market stats
 - 34 Siberian river
 - 37 Pixel
 - 38 Tender sprig
 - 41 Like -- out of water
 - 42 Where Galileo taught
 - 43 Ms. Barkin of films
 - 45 Wild blue --
 - 46 Gance or Ferrara
 - 48 Obsessions
 - 50 Talk, talk, talk
 - 53 Account books
 - 54 Roams around
 - 56 Dict. entries
 - 58 Monopolize
 - 60 Cambodia neighbor
 - 62 Burger side
 - 64 Finger or toe
 - 65 Throw for --
 - 66 Actress -- Bates
 - 68 Stir-fry pan
 - 69 Barely beat (2 wds.)
 - 70 Knowing somehow
 - 71 A funny Philips
 - 74 Mild onions
 - 76 Starts a card game
 - 78 Burglar deterrent
 - 82 Cotton gin name
 - 83 Dice throw
- Answers on previous page

Bypass: Project still has support

■ From page A1

study a new automobile and freight link from Interstate 5 near Wilsonville past Hillsboro to the Port of Portland. The study is to be completed in time for the 2015 legislative session.

The vote follows the release of a new white paper commissioned by the council that predicts motor vehicle congestion will spread beyond the rush hours in Washington County — and beyond — without such a project. The paper, "Transportation Infrastructure and the Westside Economy," was prepared during the past three months by the ECONorthwest economic consulting firm and the Transpo Group, a Kirkland, Wash., transportation consulting firm.

"Many of the suburban and rural highways that link Hillsboro, Cornelius and Forest Grove with Beaverton, Tualatin, Tigard and Wilsonville, will experience heavy congestion. These routes were not designed and built to withstand the growth in urban commuter and freight mobility demand expected in the future. Traffic safety will be an key concern on these routes," according to the consultants' report.

Although the council is requesting a study, Mayor Jerry Willey already sounds like he supports the project. In a Nov. 7 letter to regional elected officials, Willey wrote, "White paper data and analysis makes a strong case that the state and Northwest Oregon communities should rigorously assess the long-term need for a Westside freight and mobility corridor alternative to I-5."

In his letter, Willey also correctly predicts there will be strong opposition to the proposal because of its potential cost and impact on agricultural and natural resource lands.

"It's hard to imagine that such a project is justifiable. It's well proven that there are less expensive alternatives that can be put into place, like giving people options to using their cars," says Mary Kyle McCurdy, policy director of the 1000 Friends of Oregon land-use watchdog organization.

Multi-modal approach

Washington County's economic engine has been growing faster than the rest of the region for many years. Between 1967 and 1987, retail sales in the county increased nearly 12 percent compared to less than 2 percent in Portland, which dominates Multnomah County. Since then, companies like Intel have fueled a high tech boom in and around Hillsboro. The most recent U.S. Census figures show Washington County grew 1.2 percent in 2012, faster than either Multnomah County at 0.09 percent or Clackamas County at 0.08 percent.

The white paper says the growth is creating congestion that cannot be adequately reduced by transit and other alternative forms of transportation. It contends congestion is spreading throughout an interstate region that stretches from the coast through the Willamette Valley and up into the state of Washington.

According to the paper, affected counties include Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas, Yamhill, Marion, Columbia, Clackamas, Clatsop and



Rush hour traffic is already congested in both direction on Highway 26 near Highway 217. A new white paper predicts it will get much worse in coming years but could be relieved by a new Westside Transportation Corridor.

Tillamook in Oregon, and Clark and Skamania counties in Washington.

The council believes the extent of the of the congestion makes the issue a matter of state concern.

Oregon and Washington County transportation officials began planning for the westside bypass in the 1980s. In 1987, Metro formally amended its regional transportation plan to include the bypass. At that time, it was planned to be a four-lane freeway from I-5 near Wilsonville to the Sunset Highway near the 185th Avenue interchange. Construction was expected to begin after Interstate 205 was completed.

Some Washington County residents opposed the project, however, because portions of it would cut through farm and forest lands. They formed Sensible Transportation Options for People — or STOP — modeled after the citizens group that blocked the Mt. Hood Freeway in Portland in the 1970s.

Aided by the land-use watchdog organization 1000 Friends of Oregon, STOP sued Metro, charging that the project violated the state's land use and urban growth boundary rules. 1000 Friends instituted its own suit against Washington County for its role in project. Oregon's Land Use Board of Appeals ruled the county needed to consider alternatives to the westside bypass.

As a result, ODOT agreed to study a range of options. In addition to the proposed project, they included: a no-build alternative that included completion of Westside MAX, expanded feeder TriMet bus service, and already funded roadway improvements; a transportation system management/planned projects alternative that added unfunded roadway improvements and transportation demand management features, such as parking charges and "dial-a-ride" transit service; and an arterial expansion/high occupancy vehicle express alternative that added the construction of new express arterials and preferred access for HOVs.

At the invitation of ODOT, 1000 Friends of Oregon helped prepare another alternative. Called the land-use/transportation/air quality alternative, it added an emphasis on dense transit-oriented developments, new light-rail lines along Highway 217 and Highway 99 West,

include Barbur Boulevard. The alternative argued that such measures would eliminate the need for the bypass.

In the end, Metro dropped the bypass from the transportation plan in 1997, instead adopting a multi-modal approach to transportation.

At the same time, Metro promised to help fund improvements to some existing arterials in southwest Washington County, including a better connection between I-5 and Highway 99 West. That work was blocked in October 2009, however, when Wilsonville and the Clackamas County Commission opposed it. Discussions are continuing on the project, however.

Resolve the issues

Support for the westside bypass never died, however. The concept has repeatedly surfaced at state and county meetings. During the Columbia River Crossing planning process, activists repeatedly presented the bypass as a lower-cost alternative to the controversial Columbia River Crossing project. And a citizen group called Third Bridge Now proposed linking it to Clark County with a new bridge over the Columbia River.

Those ideas were rejected in favor of a replacement bridge between Oregon and Washington.

Some improvements have subsequently been made to existing roads in southwest Washington County to increase access between Sherwood and Hillsboro. They include portions of Roy Rogers Road, River Road, Farmington Road and Highway 219.

The current version of the South Hillsboro annexation plan envisions extending Cornelius Pass Road south of the Tualatin Valley Highway, where it might connect with them.

But Hillsboro Mayor Jerry Willey and the City Council says these completed and planned improvements are not enough to prevent growing congestion from strangling the 11 county interstate region. In fact, a recent Metro transportation survey found that the percent of trips taken by automobiles in the region has barely changed in the past two decades, despite increased investment in transit and pedestrian and bike trails. The white paper argues that something along the lines of the westside

bypass is still needed.

The proposed bill authorized by the council calls for a study of a new transportation corridor running from I-5 near Wilsonville through portions of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties to Highway 30, which connects to I-5 and the Port of Portland. The exact route would be determined by ODOT.

Although the westside bypass project has been declared dead in the past, the council's vote comes at a time when once-settled transportation decisions are being challenged throughout the region.

This year alone, Clackamas County voters derailed the long-planned Portland Streetcar extension to Lake Oswego, approved a measure requiring public votes on future rail projects, and replaced two commissioners who support the Portland-to-Milwaukie light-rail line with opponents. Voters in Tigard and King City also approved measures that may require public votes on rail projects. And leaders in all three counties now want Metro to streamline its traditional public process and approve spending \$34 million in unexpected federal transportation funds on economic development projects.

"It's time we resolve this very important Westside Corridor debate," Willey wrote in his Nov. 7 letter.

Report says economy gains new strength

Regional evaluation says area needs to produce better jobs

By JIM REDDEN
The Hillsboro Tribune

Intel is credited with helping the regional economy recover in the most recent checkup report released by the Value of Jobs Coalition.

According to the report released on Wednesday, the Hillsboro semiconductor company is part of a manufacturing resurgence that has helped the region gain back about 60 percent of the jobs lost since the Great Recession took hold in December 2007. As noted by the Brookings Institution, only New Orleans is increasing its gross metropolitan product faster than the Portland area.

The well-respected think tank also ranks Portland ninth among the top 100 metropolitan regions in the country for its recovery.

But the report presented at the Portland Business Alliance's monthly breakfast forum is not all good news. It notes that Portland fell further than the national average for metropolitan regions during the recession and so has a longer climb to fully recover. And incomes in the Portland region continue to lag behind many comparable regions and the national average, meaning hardships for a large percent of families and less tax revenue for vital services like schools and public safety.

"What does this all mean? Certainly we should celebrate that we have had success, but we must also recognize that there is still a long ways to go," according to the 2011 Checkup on the Portland Region's Economic Health.

The Value of Jobs Coalition includes the Portland Business Alliance, Associated Oregon Industries, Oregon Business Association, Oregon Business Council, Greater Portland Inc. and Port of Portland. It came together in 2010 and contracted with the ECONorthwest economic consultant firm to better understand why the Portland region consistently fell further behind than similar regions in the country during recessions and took longer to recover.

An uphill climb

The group's early reports documented how Oregon had been overly dependent on the timber industry that collapsed in the state in the 1980s. The high-tech Silicon Forest subsequently created in Washington County helped stabilize the state's economy. But by then, many similar metropolitan regions had diversified their economies even more, including Seattle and Denver. As a result, incomes in the Portland region continued to trail these regions and the national average.

But after losing 72,400 jobs from August 2008 to August 2009, the region has since added 42,700 jobs, according to the report. Forty-seven percent of the new jobs are in the manufacturing and professional and business services — key traded sector industries that bring money into the region from the rest of the country and the world.

Construction jobs also increased significantly. In addition to those on Intel's Washington County campuses, they include Oregon University System projects in South Waterfront and light-rail construction work. Employment gains were also made in the retail and food services sectors, reflecting renewed consumer confidence.

The recovery has attracted national attention, with Slate Magazine calling it a "renaissance," the report says.

But the report notes the Portland region is still 29,700 jobs below pre-recession levels, meaning much work remains to be done. It recommends an even greater emphasis on creating traded sector jobs, and urges policy-makers to take action on the following issues: improving education to attain the goal graduating more students, both at the high school and college levels; making more market-ready industrial land available; investing in transportation infrastructure projects such as the Columbia River Crossing; and reforming the tax system to stabilize public services and attract more private investments.

"Until we see a return of higher-paying jobs, growing investments in critical public services — especially education — will continue to be an uphill climb," according to the report.

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BUSINESS

■ New local business aims to revive dying industry, popular luxury sport

Hillsboro's military-paintball complex

By SAUNDRA SORENSON
The Hillsboro Tribune

Keith and Crystal Duvall are slowly building a paintball empire in Hillsboro.

The couple knows they're staking their claim in a declining industry; they're aware that many indoor facilities for this "pure luxury sport" have closed throughout the metro area.

But with a strong Web presence and a storefront that opened on Northeast 25th Avenue in April, Gearheadz has already established itself as a formidable paintball supply outpost.

Keith, himself a passionate paintball player since 2000, has a nuanced understanding of paintball culture — and paintballers themselves. Specifically, that paintball can essentially be whatever you want it to be.

"It can be a very simple game, where it's all about two minutes of eliminating everybody, getting the flag — a points-based thing," Duvall says. "Or it can be up to hundreds and hundreds of people (competing) on the field."

Paintball can be played indoors, in obstacle courses built to be permanently messy. Or it can be a more elaborate event in the woods, involving extensive strategy and specialized equipment where, Duvall says, "A typical game can last anywhere from a couple of minutes to 24 hours."

The paintball demographic

"There's not one kind of paintball player," Keith said. "A lot of paintball players are very eccentric and they have a lot of custom gear. It's common for someone to have a very unique setup versus what any other player has. We have to position ourselves so we can tap into that market (at Gearheadz)."

After what Keith describes as a year and a half of "fact finding," or marketing research, the couple knew they had to tap into a niche line of merchandise. In addition to selling the requisite paintball supplies — bags and backpacks, tanks and air solutions, padded and camouflaged field apparel, barrels, masks — the Duvalls knew that product customization was key. They also decided to offer their own line of Gearheadz goods.

Every item in the Gearheadz line is manufactured in the United States and, when possible, even more locally: Oregon businesses get first consideration when Gearheadz is looking to



TRIBUNE PHOTO: CHASE ALLGOOD
Keith DuVall owner of Gearheadz uses an indoor shooting range in the back of his store to measure paintball velocity.

work with a new vendor or service provider.

"We're pretty firm believers at shopping at home, shopping at small business," Keith said.

The retail aspect of Gearheadz has allowed the company to create and promote its own product line, in part by sharing some of the Gearheadz commercial space with machinist Ryan McKee, who helps Keith do research and development on Gearheadz's own prototypes. This has allowed the store to become "one-stop shopping for paintball," Keith says, for both the newbie clientele and the "weekend warriors" who come into Gearheadz seeking a custom setup to intimidate both teammates and opponents on the paintball course.

"My original intent was to be nothing but a one-off custom work, offering nothing but custom gear," Keith said.

More practically, Gearheadz decided to sell other trusted brands and a full offering of modifications so that customers could upgrade their equipment. Gearheadz customers can be confident they'll be able to bring something new and unique with

them onto the field.

Meanwhile, Gearheadz aims to be a resource to help paintball enthusiasts find places to play, other members and teams to join.

"We're really trying to push that kind of community outreach aspect of the sport," Keith says, "all the way up to professional players who play two or three times a week and are practicing for tournaments and may need paint sponsorship."

And that's just phase one.

Gearheadz expanded

The Duvalls plan to expand Gearheadz to include a large park facility with multiple indoor and outdoor fields for every subculture of paintball play, from children's parties to large teams competing in guerilla-style paintball warfare.

There would be a full store onsite that would offer party rooms where parents could organize birthday gatherings without having to deal with the messier aspects of paintball play themselves. There would also be a lounge with a café, where players could take a breather and monitor outdoor play from in-

Go play

Gearheadz Paintball is at 1960 N.E. 25th Ave, Suite 21, Hillsboro. For more information, visit gearheadzpaintball.com, or call 503-547-0888.

door television screens.

In many ways, the facility would be modeled after a high-end gym, with locker rooms for rent.

"Say you work a 9-to-5 job," Keith says, "you can come in on your lunch break, play paintball for a while, shower and go back to work."

Keith ought to know: He has a day job, too, as an engineering technician at Intel.

"I live two lives, really," Keith says. "I spend half my week at Intel, the other half of the week at the store."

Paintball as a way of life

The storefront may be less than a year old, but Gearheadz spent about three years establishing its brand by attending trade shows and the twice-yearly "supergames" at Sniperz Den, a huge paintball locale in St. Paul, Ore., which typically attracts more than 1,000 paintball players to its larger events.

Inspired by the Sniperz Den games — and naming as their mentor Dan Bonebrake, owner of Salem-based paintball facility Warpaint International — Gearheadz quickly became a business with the tagline, "What's your scenario?"

"Scenario" games in paintball involve a longer-term format, Keith explains. Scenarios can involve up to 700 people, and "can take on more of a military-style play with a command structure, radios — it's for hardcore players."

Scenario paintball games can last anywhere from 45 minutes to 24 hours. The day-long games have been known to involve the use of night vision goggles.

"But we really try to cater to everybody," Keith said. "The spirit is: How do you as an individual want to play paintball? What will make you the happiest playing paintball, and how can we help you get there?"

As he explains, paintball is an incredibly inclusive sport — one which, he's observed, is possibly the best form of family therapy.

The entire Duvall family plays, he says.

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