



SUNSHINE IN THE FORECAST
FULL REPORT ON A2

WEEKDAY EDITION

August 25, 2009

75¢

HILLSBORO ARGUS



Colt Lyerla and the Hillsboro Spartans prepare for their first season under new coach Ken Ingram. See story on page B1.

VOLUME 116, No. 41, 36 PAGES

WASHINGTON COUNTY'S LEADING INFORMATION SOURCE SINCE 1873

Drivers killed in head-on collision

High speed is considered a contributing factor in a Thursday night head-on collision in unincorporated east Washington County that left both drivers dead.

Preliminary investigation shows that Belinda Lopez, 47, of Washington County, was speeding westbound on German town Road between Kaiser Road and Northwest 185th Avenue in a 2003 Volkswagen Beetle when she reportedly crossed the white fog line.

An eyewitness said she overcorrected and crossed the center line at about 5:45 p.m., driving head-on into an eastbound 2000 Dodge minivan driven by 34-year-old Thai Hoang-Williams of Vancouver, Wash. The impact forced the minivan into a ditch. Passersby pulled Hoang-Williams from the wreckage, but could not resuscitate him.

Both drivers were pronounced dead at the scene.

The Washington County Crash Reconstruction Team is investigating. Alcohol is not believed to be a factor.

Aloha men arrested on sex abuse charges

Two Aloha men were arrested Wednesday for allegedly having sex with a 12-year-old girl who was an acquaintance of both.

Ramiro Vargas-Ramos, 18, and Francisco Lopez-Mendez were booked into Washington County Jail on charges including sex abuse, rape, sodomy and unlawful penetration. Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement has placed a hold on both suspects.

Police believe each man befriended the girl and later had sexual contact with her, but the meeting does not appear to be Internet-related.

Washington County Sheriff's Office detectives believe each had sexual contact with the girl on only one occasion and on different dates.

Detectives are concerned the men may have victimized other girls. Anyone with information regarding this case or any unreported case involving these suspects is asked to call 503-846-2524 and ask for Det. Markos.

Remodeling raises spirits at Venetian



Illustration by Christa Seyferth

Unexplainable events bring paranormal investigators to Main Street Hillsboro theater

By Susan Gordanier
The Argus

It's closing time at the Venetian Theater and Bistro, and a staff member heads into the auditorium.

A tall, gray-haired man remains in the back-most row of seats. "It's time to leave," he's told. He does, only not through the door. He simply disappears.

Saxony Peterson, co-owner of the theater at 253 Main St., says the same man has appeared three different times and to different people too.

If this were the only odd occurrence at the Venetian, it might be blamed on late

hours, power of suggestion or the overactive imaginations of a weary crew. But it's not.

Peterson said, during play rehearsals, Bag and Baggage's Scott Palmer has heard unexplained footsteps crossing the stage. Staff returning from the upper dining area reported turning off the lights and music, only to have them come back on as they started down the stairs. This happens regularly, she said.

Normal work flow in the kitchen was once interrupted by water streaming from above. After mopping up, the

See **Venetian Spirits** on A2

Thunderbirds rule Oregon's Air Show

Old friends, new features also dance in Hillsboro's sky soiree

By Kurt Eckert
The Argus

The U.S. Thunderbirds' deafening closing acts will serve as dessert after the 2009 Oregon International Air Show serves up a host of new features, regular returnees and old friends Saturday and Sunday in a delectable tribute to past and present members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

And don't forget about the plateful of appetizers planned for Friday night, when a feast of performances closes with a fiery pyrotechnic show.

Returning after a four-year absence, the marquee performance of the air show should come from the U.S. Air Force Thunderbird jet team, scheduled to close the show with performances Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

Air show President Judy Willey says the Thunderbirds were in such demand, this year's schedule was built around their availability.

Premiering their season with a flyover of the Super Bowl, Thunderbird Lt. Col. Greg Thomas says this year's act is new, demonstrating the highest standards and capabilities of both pilots and their flying machines.

"We are proud to represent our fellow airmen who continually execute the Air Force mission; to fly, fight and win, in air space and cyberspace," Thomas said.

Two more acts returning after long absences are aerial acrobatic Patty Wagstaff and car-chomping cyborg Robosaurus.

More than 20 years ago in British Columbia, Wagstaff attended her first air show, and was hooked. She left thinking "I can do that."

But unlike so many others, she's made it come true, and has since received the title "First Lady of Aerobatics," and earned induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Wagstaff flies one of the most thrilling low-level aerobatic routines in the world, giving spectators a front-row view of her smooth, aggressive style.

Robosaurus returns for the first time since 1995, when it was named



Photo courtesy of U.S. Thunderbirds

U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds — star attraction of the 2009 Air Show

Most Creative and Effective New Stunt by the International Festivals and Events Association.

The 40-foot tall metal monster exhales 20-foot fingers of flame to incinerate autos, then crushes the cars with 24 tons of gripping force, biting and ripping off roofs and doors before tossing the mangled morsels to the ground.

Unlike its tiny-brained biological brethren, Robosaurus represents state of the art hydraulic, electric

and mechanical robot technology, with a sophisticated fly-by wire system operated by a pilot strapped inside the beast's cranium.

As for trying new things, Bob Carlton's Vertigo Airshows visits the air show for the first time, featuring the Super Salto jet sailplane. With a military grade 225-pound thrust jet engine, the Salto self-launches into a show that is half

See **Thunderbirds** on A2

Advanced ticket sales hope to land more Air Show fans

By Kurt Eckert
The Argus

The thrust of the 2009 Oregon International Air Show ticket promotional is to prevent local families from taking off to traditional vacation spots and encourage them to spend precious discretionary dollars close to home.

Discounts on advanced ticket purchases and two-for-one specials have been extended through Thursday at 5 p.m. to keep the Aug. 28 through Aug. 30 events more affordable.

General admission for Saturday or Sunday is \$20 for adults and \$15

for kids 6 to 12 at the gate, but advanced tickets are for sale online at \$15 and \$10, respectively.

Reserved seating for Friday is \$13 for advanced purchase. Two kids age 2 to 12 get in free with every paying adult and a school supply donation. After Thursday, the price is \$15.

Reserved seating Saturday or Sunday is \$20 for adults, and \$15 for kids before Thursday, and \$25 and \$20 thereafter. Each additional child all three nights is \$5. The U.S. Thunderbirds do not perform Friday.

The Weekend Adventure pass bundles a paid reserved seat for

Sunday's finale with a free ticket to Friday's opening acts.

The Buddy Pass gets a wingman (or wingwoman) in for free when an adult reserve seat for Sunday is purchased.

For the best value for families

See **Ticket sales** on A2



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The Hillsboro Argus is printed on recycled content newsprint

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PLUS LIVE UPDATES ON OUR NEWS FEED @ BLOG.OREGONLIVE.COM/HILLSBOROARGUS

Hillsboro cop named 'hero' jetflight winner

By Kurt Eckert
The Argus

A much-respected school enforcement officer and detective with the Hillsboro Police Department will get a chance to play "Top Gun" as the Oregon winner of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds' Hometown Heroes contest. While the Tom Cruise movie of the same name featured Navy fliers, Det. Victor Castro will still receive something akin to celebrity treatment during a one-hour orientation flight in a U.S. Air Force premier fighter jet, the Lockheed Martin F-16D. Castro will be aboard as the jet team screams overhead during its Thursday practice run, scheduled to take off at 3:30 p.m. from Portland International Airport. Hometown Hero flights showcase American people doing amazing things in their communities, according to a Thunder-

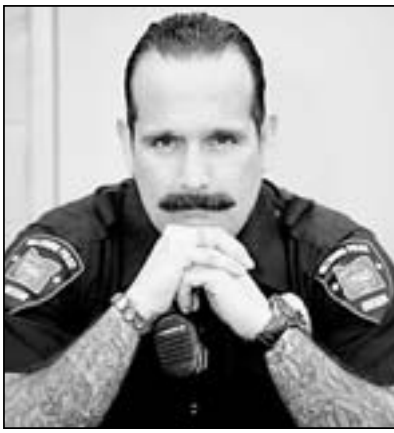


Photo courtesy of Hillsboro Police Dept.

Det. Victor Castro to fly with Thunderbirds.

birds press release. Officer Victor, as students refer to him, has served as a School Resource Officer in the Hillsboro School District since 2003. Victor was sought after by many specialized units, but requested a transfer to the Youth Services Unit to teach children about the dangers of gangs and drugs. Like many police officers, Victor recognized the need to reach the youth early on. His intense passion and commitment stands out when he declares "It's all about the kids."

Ticket sales —

From A1

or small groups, Private Flightline Box Seats, for groups of up to 10 Friday night, are \$150, or available with Flightline seats for Sunday's show for \$330. For Saturday or Sunday's show only, the Flightline Box Seats price is \$250, or \$450 both days.

President's Club Chalet seats for Friday night are \$65 for adults and \$25 for children age 2 to 12. These include VIP access to Chalet Village, a covered area, tables, chairs and a complimentary meal.

Chalet seats including the same amenities for Saturday or Sunday are \$85 for adults, and \$40 for children. Children under 2 are free all three nights, but don't receive meals.

Gates open at 5 p.m. Friday with the show starting at 7 p.m.

Gates open at 9 a.m. and shows start at 10:30 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

Celebrating its 22nd year in 2009, the air show draws an average of 80,000 aviation fans each summer.

A licensed nonprofit organization, the air show has donated nearly \$1.1 million to local charities and community projects.

Last day for voluntary island annexations: Friday

By Susan Gordanier
The Argus

As Friday approaches some Hillsboro property owners have some quick decisions to make.

Aug. 28 is the last day to take advantage of incentives offered to spur the number of voluntary annexations to the city by owners of properties still under county governance despite being surrounded by Hillsboro lands.

Under a first reading of an ordinance passed April 24 by the city council, island owners can file for annexation without paying annexation and zone change fees — \$1,600 and \$2,625 respectively.

They also will enjoy a five-year phase-in of city service-related property taxes. From zero in year one, the percentage of assessed city taxes will increase each year by 20 percent of the normal total until reaching the full liability in year five. Property owners who do not

voluntarily apply will be subject to forced annexation three years following the council's second reading and vote on the ordinance, now scheduled for Dec. 15. They will receive the same exemption from fees as those voluntarily annexing, but following a three year waiting period, they will pay all assessed city taxes. Also, during those three years, owners will be unable to apply for annexation, which is necessary in order to develop such properties or to obtain city utility services.

Ruth Klein, of the Hillsboro Planning Department, said Friday about 70 voluntary annexation requests have been filed thus far, out of a total 189 to which it is available. She said four or five filings had been coming in daily, but the pace seemed to be picking up as the deadline nears.

Klein is available to help owners fill out the applications. She can be reached at 503-681-6153 or by e-mail to ruthk@ci.hillsboro.or.us.

Venetian spirits

From A1

crew removed the ceiling panels to find the leak's source. Peterson said they found no water pipes, nothing there containing any water. Strangest of all, the removed panels were not even damp, even though a flood had passed through them not long before.

Then there's Dale Buck's experience. One night she was alone in the auditorium, on her way to check the rear exit door, when she heard whispers coming from the left side of the room. Then a "big rush of cold air came past my left ear," she said. "It was colored gray and black, and as it passed my ear, it whispered 'stop.'"

So Peterson and Denzil

Scheller invited a team of paranormal investigators, volunteers from the International Paranormal Reporting Group, to conduct an investigation. IPRG, which itself has allied teams in Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Germany, is recognized by The Atlantic Paranormal Society. TAPS, for fans of events that defy scientific explanation, is the group behind the Ghost Hunters show on the Syfy network.

The team came to The Venetian on July 25. They brought digital voice recorders, infrared cameras, temperature sensors and K-2 meters for reading electromagnetic disturbances.

Greg Gieler, who led the

IPRG investigators, reported back to Peterson and Scheller Aug. 18 with IPRG's findings.

Gieler set up his laptop on a table in the Venetian Bistro. He explained how he'd pored through hours of recordings made at The Venetian searching for electronic voice phenomena. Such EVPs are disembodied voices, or sounds with no explainable source, that are picked up by recording devices but are not audible to people present at the time.

Passing headphones around the table, everyone present took turns listening to the examples Gieler had discovered. In one, recorded in the theater's projection room, a voice could be clear-

ly and slowly, saying, "Sorry ... I'm sorry ... sorry."

Gieler said paranormal events, by their very nature, have no scientific explanation. That's why they are "paranormal." IPRG, first of all, tries to find a verifiable cause for its findings. The EVPs, like other such incidents don't have one. That doesn't stop ghost hunters from speculating on their nature. In this case, Gieler said, spirits may make use of some actual source — perhaps a chair sliding back — and draw it out to create a word.

Investigators also had a strange encounter in the theater's projection room.

As background, Scheller emphasized that room is the

only climate-controlled space in the building. The heat given off by the projector in a confined space makes it necessary to keep a constant temperature of about 68 degrees.

Gieler said he could feel the temperature warming while he was in the projection room, so he asked the presence to raise the temperature to exactly 70 degrees. His sensor measured 70. Then, by steps, he asked for 71, then 72, then 73 degrees. Each time the temperature rose to the requested point and held until asked to go higher.

Gieler said he then said aloud, "If you make it go to 78 degrees, I promise I won't ask you to go higher because

I know it's really hard." That happened. And the process repeated this time in reverse, back down to 68 degrees.

Gieler thinks The Venetian is an interesting enough site to warrant further investigation. He asked Scheller whether he would be interested in hosting a TAPS boot camp, a ticketed event in which up to 60 paranormal investigators gather.

In the meantime, Bag and Baggage is preparing for its first play of the new season. Peterson says the unexplainable events seem to increase whenever more people are in the theater's space.

Thunderbirds

From A1

aerial ballet and half screaming low level jet aerobatics.

A rocket scientist when not performing, Carlton is considered one of the most versatile performers in the nation, with innovative performances like barnstorming biplane, helicopter sailplane tow and the twin jet sailplane. See him Friday in his strobe-lit aerobatics and pyro show.

Limited reserved covered VIP seating is available in the new Ninkasi Craft Beer Garden, located along the flight line. Packages for groups of 10 are \$500 Friday and \$1,000 Saturday or Sunday. Limited meals and beverages are included. Tables for smaller groups or without benefits may be available at reduced cost. For more, call 503-629-0706. Representing both regular fa-

vorites and the Armed Forces, the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team will celebrate its 50th anniversary with the Oregon International Air Show crowds.

Now comprised of two demonstration teams, the original 13 Golden Knights were known as the Strategic Army Corps Sport Parachute Team when they formed in 1959.

Regular favorite Kid's Day has changed from a two-hour Friday morning event to part of the Friday evening show. Two children ages 2-12 are admitted free with paid admission by one adult and two school supply donations. An inflatable playground and special children's events are featured from 5 to 7 p.m., followed by a performance featuring Robosaurus and the fireworks.

ARGUS WEATHER REPORT AUGUST 25, 2009

Seven Day Forecast

	TUESDAY Partly Cloudy High: 72 Low: 48
	WEDNESDAY Mostly Sunny High: 85 Low: 50
	THURSDAY Sunny High: 84 Low: 51
	FRIDAY Mostly Cloudy High: 78 Low: 55
	SATURDAY Sunny High: 82 Low: 54
	SUNDAY Sunny High: 83 Low: 58
	MONDAY Mostly Sunny High: 81 Low: 55

In-Depth Local Forecast

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a slight chance of rain, high temperature of 72°, humidity of 47% and an overnight low of 48°. The record high temperature for today is 99° set in 1996. Wednesday, skies will be mostly sunny with a high temperature of 85°.

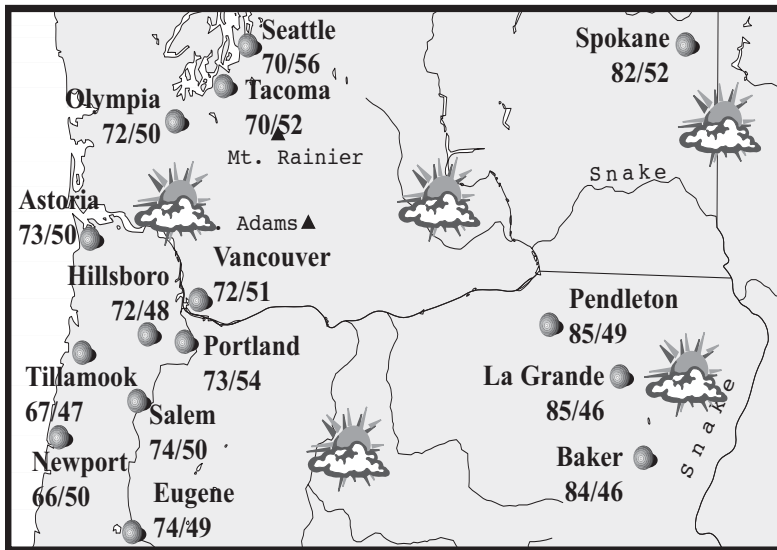
*Last Week's Local Almanac

Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip
Monday	90	59	80/57	0.00"
Tuesday	92	62	80/57	0.00"
Wednesday	97	63	80/57	0.00"
Thursday	86	62	80/57	0.00"
Friday	75	63	79/57	0.00"
Saturday	79	61	79/57	0.01"
Sunday	74	53	79/57	0.00"

Rainfall0.01" Average temp . .72.6
Normal rainfall .0.22" Average normal .68.3
Departure-0.21" Departure+4.3

* Data as reported from Hillsboro, OR.

Today's Regional Outlook



This Week's Extended Regional Outlook

City	Wednesday			Thursday			Friday		
	Hi	Lo	Wx	Hi	Lo	Wx	Hi	Lo	Wx
Astoria	78	53	s	72	54	s	70	56	mc
Portland	84	56	s	83	56	s	77	60	mc
Eugene	86	50	s	85	52	s	82	54	s

Weather (Wx): cl/cloudy; fl/flurries; pc/partly cloudy; r/rain; rs/rain & snow; s/sunny;sh/showers; sn/snow; t/thunderstorms; w/windy

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Day
First 8/27	6:25 a.m.	8:02 p.m.	1:04 p.m.	10:14 p.m.	Last 9/11
	6:26 a.m.	8:00 p.m.	2:12 p.m.	10:50 p.m.	
	6:27 a.m.	7:59 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	11:33 p.m.	
	6:28 a.m.	7:57 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	No Set	
Full 9/4	6:30 a.m.	7:55 p.m.	4:56 p.m.	12:24 a.m.	New 9/18
	6:31 a.m.	7:53 p.m.	5:33 p.m.	1:22 a.m.	
	6:32 a.m.	7:51 p.m.	6:04 p.m.	2:24 a.m.	



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