

ROUND AND ROUND



Rep. Peter DeFazio sits atop a carved dragon last week during a visit to the Historic Carousel & Museum in downtown Albany.

Albany carousel expects to need no public funds

BY CATHY INGALLS
ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD

The Albany carousel will not take public money to operate after it opens, preferring instead to rely on private funds, according to the chief organizer.

"We don't want to be part of the city of Albany because we want to retain as much control as we can," Wendy Kirby, the president of the board, said in an interview. "We like the idea of being self-sufficient, and we want to be an asset to Albany and not a drain on the city's finances."

The plan is to break ground in 2013, with construction taking about a year.

The Democrat-Herald wondered how carousels like the one being created in Albany were funded, and to what extent they relied on continued infusions of

public funds.

The paper contacted representatives from several carousels to find out how they paid for their operations.

The majority did not accept public money. Those in charge said they did not want to be subject to any rules or requirements that a public agency might impose.

Salem's Riverfront Carousel is one such merry-go-round that does not use public funds, covering costs instead with ticket sales, donations, gift shop receipts and room rental revenues, said Marie Bradford Blevins, the executive director.

The city of Salem does assist with writing requests for grants.

The Salem carousel budget this year is \$395,000, she said. Ticket sales, at \$1.50 per person per ride, are expected to gen-

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FIRST LOOK



Arrest made in 1957 slaying

SYCAMORE, Ill. — Charles "Chuck" Ridulph always assumed the person who stole his little sister from the neighborhood corner where she played and dumped her body in a wooded stretch some 100 miles away was a trucker or passing stranger — surely not anyone from the hometown he remembers as one big, friendly playground.

And, after more than a half-century passed since her death, he assumed the culprit also had died or was in prison for some other crime.

On Saturday, he said he was stunned by the news that a one-time neighbor had been charged in the kidnapping and killing that captured national attention.

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THE NATION

Credibility issues could clear Strauss-Kahn

NEW YORK — Former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, has been released from house arrest following concerns about the credibility of a hotel maid who accused him of sexual assault.

Strauss-Kahn has been accused by the maid of trying to rape her in May. Prosecutors told a judge on Friday they had discovered serious problems with the maid's credibility. The judge subsequently lifted his house arrest, allowing him to travel in the U.S. but not abroad. Page A2

OREGON

Legislature faces busy agenda in 2012

SALEM — When Oregon lawmakers return to the Capitol in February, they'll have to pick up the cans they kicked down the road.

They face tough decisions on the major education and health care changes that they halfway adopted this year. And they'll have to do it in just 35 days while also keeping at least one eye on the November election.

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Court papers: Knox denies false memory claims

Lawsuit blames counselor for ruining former Albany man's life

BY JENNIFER MOODY
ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD

The attorney for a Lebanon grass seed farmer accused in a lawsuit of implanting false memories during family counseling sessions has filed a response saying his client denies the allegations.

Ohio resident Stephan Skotko, formerly of Albany, filed the suit last August in Linn County Circuit

Court against Marion Knox of Lebanon and his wife, Doris.

An amended version of the suit has been filed, increasing the claim for relief from \$1 million to \$1.5 million, plus court costs.

Skotko said he and his wife sought family counseling about eight years ago with Marion Knox, who was known for working spiritually with people with personal problems. He claims Knox's counseling led Skotko's wife, who has since divorced him, to file false charges of child abuse against him.

Skotko is seeking \$500,000 for each of three claims — one claim of negligence, one claim of negligent

infliction of emotional distress and one of intentional infliction of emotional distress — to cover economic losses from damage to his business interests, loss of his home and the court costs from a Department of Human Services action prompted by the charges.

Skotko is represented by Dan Armstrong of Corvallis. The Knoxes are represented by Michael Long of Eugene.

According to the suit, Marion Knox, while not a licensed therapist or an ordained minister, nevertheless counseled many individuals, couples and families. He told Skotko and his wife and teenage children

that their problems "were largely a result of anal sodomy and evil spirits instilled by anal sodomy."

Both Marion and Doris Knox told police officers that Skotko had admitted to sexually molesting his children and that the children had revealed during a "deliverance" session that they had been sodomized by him, according to the complaint.

"Defendants had no reasonable basis for those statements and they were untrue," the suit states.

Both the Knoxes and their lawyer have refused to comment on the case outside of the legal process.

In a response filed this week, Long said the couple acknowledge

that the Skotkos came to them seeking "spiritual guidance" and that Marion Knox provided similar guidance to others over the years.

The response acknowledges that Marion Knox "personally believes that the majority of people have been anally sodomized at an early age" and that he discussed that opinion with the Skotkos. However, according to the response, the Knoxes deny counseling the Skotkos that they had been victims of sodomy, and they further deny that they ever told anyone, including police, that Skotko had admitted to sexually molesting his children.



Bale bonding
LOCAL/REGION, D1

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13th year
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The Weather Beaver says

So there's a few clouds. Tomorrow, it gets even better/D6