

County schedules wastewater hearing

By Brooks Dareff
Of the Emerald

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission will hold a public hearing on the design and construction of a Phase I sludge handling system for the new Eugene/Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Phase I consists of applying the dried-out sludge to agricultural land during the summer, storing it for the winter at the Short Mountain Landfill, and mechanically dehydrating it at the new regional wastewater treatment facility on River Avenue in Eugene. The treatment facility is scheduled to start up sometime next year.

According to County Commissioner Jerry Rust, the treatment facility is the largest construction project in the history of Lane County.

The proposed sludge handling system is called Phase I because the Short Mountain

Landfill would be used only as a five-year temporary sludge disposal and storage site.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requested the hearing, which will take place Monday, June 27 at 7 p.m. at Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave.

The system of on-site sludge storage at the present treatment facility would be inadequate, according to the MWMC fact sheet on the June 27 hearing, because the new facility will produce too much sludge to be accommodated by the facility itself.

The permanent site date was delayed last year by area residents whose opposition to the project required the EPA to prepare an environmental impact statement on the proposed project, which postponed the design and construction of permanent sludge facilities until some time after the planned 1984 start-up date.

The June 27 hearing is intended to provide a forum for people who did not participate

in the March 3 hearing on Phase I, says an MWMC official.

Several citizens raised environmental concerns regarding the sludge's storage at the Short Mountain Landfill at the March 3 hearing. Debate centered on surface water contamination, ground water contamination and odor problems.

An MWMC fact sheet for the June 27 hearing states, "the concerns have been evaluated thoroughly and a determination has been made that the current design and operation of the Short Mountain Landfill adequately addresses and mitigates all environmental questions, including those raised at the hearing."

According to Rust, the Lane County Board of Commissioners were satisfied with the MWMC's environmental assessments, as long as the Short Mountain Landfill would only be used as a temporary storage site. With this

assurance, the County Commissioners signed an order on May 18 to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with MWMC to allow the disposal of sludge at the landfill.

On May 18 the Lane County Board of Commissioners and the MWMC signed an order to allow the disposal of sludge at the landfill.

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Police beat

Among recent campus-area crimes reported to the Eugene Police Department were:

Police arrested a male juvenile for stealing a purse and credit and bank cards from the University Inn June 6. The bank card was used to withdraw \$210 from the U.S. Bank of Oregon's campus branch. The property and currency were recovered.

A University Inn window valued at \$100 was broken on June 14 at 11:30 p.m. Nothing was stolen, Sgt. Rick Allison said.

A student's portfolio of architecture drawings valued at \$800 was stolen Saturday from Lawrence Hall, said Allison. The thief may attempt to pass the "false" portfolio off as his or her own, he said.

A locked car at 15th and University was broken and a purse, credit cards, birth certificate and calculator valued at \$100 were stolen Saturday. There was no indication of forced entry, Allison said.

A bicycle valued at \$175 was stolen from the University Inn after someone cut the bike's cable and padlock Monday.

An additional seven bicycles have been stolen from the campus area since last term.

Police have arrested several transients since spring term for crimes ranging from trespassing to theft, Allison

said.

An 8-year-old girl was sexually assaulted in a Gerlinger basement men's shower Wednesday morning between 8:30 and 9 p.m. Police are looking for a white male in his late 20s to early 30s with neck-length brownish-blond hair and beard, Allison said. He was wearing blue jeans and a white shirt, possibly with blue stripes.

The girl and her 8-year-old girlfriend, who were participating in summer sports activities at the University, were sitting on the grass outside Gerlinger's South side, when the man approached them and asked if they would help carry some sports equipment.

They agreed to help and the man led them into Gerlinger, leaving one girl outside the locker room and bringing the other into the shower area where he sexually assaulted her. The girl did not report the incident until one hour later.

Despite these crimes "things have been very quiet" around campus, Allison said. Students were "fairly well-behaved" at the end of the term compared to last year, when dormitory vandalism was more prevalent.

"This year we made an effort to reduce vandalism and people were cooperative," he said.

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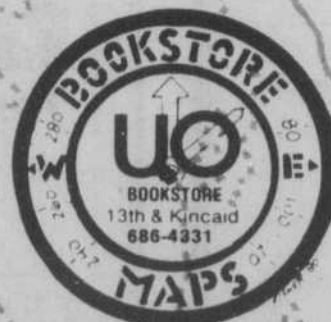
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