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Preschool requests IFC loan to pay taxes due since 1982

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

The Westmoreland Cooperative Preschool is requesting a \$400 emergency loan from the Incidental Fee Committee to cover overdue back-tax payments to the State of Oregon Employment Division.

Julie McFarlan, Head Teacher / Curriculum Coordinator for the school, said the taxes had not been paid since 1982 due to a lack of knowledge about taxes, and an annual change of responsibility within the preschool.

The request sent to the IFC by McFarlan and Kim Shaw, Parent Director / President of the school, said that each year the school holds an election of new officers who help make decisions for the program.

"In 1982 we were told that we were exempt from filing employment tax; however, it turns out we were exempt for that year only. And since there are yearly changes in our offices, we had exempted it ever since," McFarlan said. "We did not know that the exemption was only for one year."

McFarlan said the parents who send their children to the preschool pay tuition based on whether or not they work within the cooperative. The tuition paid by the parents is used for the teachers' salaries.

The school received \$959 from the IFC to cover expenses such as the telephone, toys for the children, and office supplies. As far as McFarlan understands, that money is non-transferable, she said.

"It has basically been untouched because we did not know it was there until a while ago,"

McFarlan said.

She said the school became aware of the budget money when they were contacted by a member of the IFC.

According to IFC member Ron Munion, the preschool's money has a budget note on it, which has frozen the funds until the note is satisfied. The note states that the funds are to remain on reserve until it has been determined that there is no excessive liability due to a lack of a license.

The school is not registered with the Children's Services Division because they operate on a half-day basis only. McFarlan is a certified teacher.

Munion said the reason the budget note was put on the preschool in the first place is that the IFC is worried that because it is the school's underwriter it may be liable for anything that occurs at the school.

The money allocated to the preschool for the 1986-87 academic year was the first IFC funding the school had been eligible to receive, Munion said. The preschool's budget had been frozen since the beginning of the school year.

According to a request sent to the IFC on behalf of the preschool, the school has two options at present: either close the school due to "an innocent and perhaps incompetent error," or ask the IFC for a loan.

The school, has been in operation since the 1960s, and is a development-oriented preschool that currently has 21 children attending. Parents with children in the school participate within the program; each day one parent works as McFarlan's assistant, she said.

Nuclear-Free Task Force created to establish nuclear-free zone

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

The Eugene City Council passed a proposal Wednesday night establishing a Nuclear-Free Zone Task Force as a first step in implementing the nuclear-free zone measure approved by voters in the November general election.

The delay in implementing the measure was caused by council members' concern about ambiguity in the wording of the ordinance.

Four areas of the ordinance conflict with existing local, state or federal law, said Kathleen Pierce, a staff member with the city attorney's office.

The ban on nuclear weapons and nuclear war activities is unclear and is unconstitutionally vague, Pierce said. Also, the provision forbidding the disposal and transportation of nuclear wastes and the production of nuclear power within the city limits are pre-empted by either state or federal law, she said.

The two other potentially illegal areas include the ordinance's call for the immediate organization of a Nuclear-Free Zone Board with the power to develop administrative policy, and the provision allowing private citizens to sue in order to prevent violations and receive an award of attorney's fees, costs, and \$5,000 if successful.

The power accorded to the Nuclear-Free Zone Board by the ordinance is legally the exclusive privilege of the City Council and the city manager, Pierce said.

In the case of citizens filing lawsuits to prevent violations of the nuclear-free ordinance, the city government does not have the power to enlarge the statutory rights of cities and private citizens in state court, she said.

The other stipulations of the ordinance include prohibiting civil defense preparations, the posting of nuclear-free zone signs, and prohibiting the short-term storage of wastes and their use for food irradiation. These provisions were found to be legally sound by the city attorney's office.

The task force will essentially serve as the advisory Nuclear-Free Zone Board called for in the ordinance.

The implementation of the board was postponed for three months in order to give the council time to figure out how to proceed with the vague legal issue, said Councilor Cynthia Wooten.

Obie's proposal passed by a 7-1 margin, and the task force should be established within the next 30 days. Council President Debra Erhman was the lone dissenter.

The purpose of the task force will be to advise the city on the placement of nuclear-free zone signs, and to study the ordinance and propose amendments to deal with the legal issues and practical issues such as cost-effectiveness as well as the relationship of the zone to the city's economic development programs.

Mayor Obie stressed that the council has accepted the idea of a nuclear-free zone, and is obligated to act on the choice of the voters.

"It is clear to me that we are a nuclear-free zone. It is also clear to me that we have some significant legal problems as well," he said. "We have the responsibility to move forward to an end that the community has asked for."

It will be interesting to see how the ordinance develops over the next couple of months, Wooten said.



Maneuvering

Wheelchair users demonstrated and practiced their skills through an obstacle course on 13th Avenue on Wednesday. The wheelchair users were tested by obstacles designed to simulate everyday encounters.

Photo by Maria Corvallis

Construction to begin on new museum site

By B.J. Thomsen
Of the Emerald

Students will find less University-area parking early next week when contractors for McKenzie Commercial Construction start moving equipment into the parking area near the Bean Dormitory Complex.

The contractors will be moving equipment there in preparation for construction of a new home for the University Museum of Natural History.

The construction, part of the University's new science complex project, will eliminate about 150 to 170 parking spaces, said Oakley Glenn, University director of public safety.

The parking area to be affected will include those spaces west of the basketball courts between the row of cottonwood trees and the alley behind the buildings facing Agate Street, and south of 15th Avenue about half way to the back of the lot, Glenn said.

Glenn said his main concern is that the majority of cars in that lot are owned by students living in the

dorms. Many students don't drive their cars for a week at a time, so Glenn may have trouble contacting them, he said. The cars must be moved by Monday so the equipment can be moved in.

A letter about the situation is being drafted by Marjory Ramey, director of student housing, and will be distributed to student managers in Bean, Hamilton, Earl, and Walton complexes so they can notify residents, Glenn said.

Security personnel will take registration numbers of cars in the affected area and the Department of Public Safety will attempt to match them with students' addresses so they can be notified through the mail, Glenn said.

Also, flyers notifying car owners of the construction will be put on cars remaining in the area, he said.

"I don't know where we're going to put them all," Glenn said.

The Office of Public Safety will begin today "scouting" for a place for the cars to park during the construction, Glenn said.

A pre-construction conference

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