

Attendance problems aired

Oregon's compulsory school attendance law came under fire at a recent symposium at the Clackamas County Intermediate Education District.

Educators, counselors, politicians, attorneys and juvenile court authorities agreed that the law, or its enforcement, is lacking.

"How long do we chase kids to school?" Kelly Fried, Milwaukie High School administrative assistant asked, voicing what was to emerge as a common concern of educators and school administrators at the symposium.

According to Fried, schools have to spend an inordinate amount of staff time handling student attendance problems. Fried believes that time would be better spent educating students rather than chasing them.

As the symposium progressed, the question of who should do the "chasing" also was raised. Don Welch, Clackamas County Juvenile Court director and a member of the symposium panel with Fried, said he "questioned whether the Juvenile Court should be the enforcer for the schools."

It's a truism that a juvenile who is a "significant problem to the court is also a significant problem to the school," Welch said.

"However, a student who is a problem to the school isn't necessarily a court problem."

Don Arnold, assistant state attorney general and a panel member along with Fried and Welch, said that at the

state level, "attendance is considered to be a local problem."

Oregon passed its compulsory attendance law in 1889 and there hasn't been a lot of change in the law since then, Arnold said.

Attendance problems have other, less visible ramifications, as Lake Oswego School Board member Nancy Klinger pointed out. According to Klinger, about 40 percent of a district's students will come from state basic school support funds next year. The amount of money a school district gets is determined by its average daily membership, the average number of students enrolled.

According to Klinger, when a school district loses students, it also loses money. It's not wise to drop a student from the school enrollment list too soon, she told the group, but it's also unfair to list students still enrolled after they've quit coming.

Most of those at the symposium expressed concern for where students go after they drop out. A juvenile court worker, a counselor, and a social worker all said they felt they were the next stop for students who quit school.

Dian Connett, alternative school development specialist for the IED and a member of the symposium panel, said Clackamas County has 12 alternative school programs for school dropouts. However, the 12 programs have room for

doing a nearly impossible job, and look what we give them in return. If we paid them what we pay a baby sitter, 50 cents an hour times 30 kids times ten months, most of them would make more money," he asserted.

IED Counselor Consultant Paul Lambertsen, who organized the symposium, says he is pleased with the results, even though "most of the time was spent venting our frustrations."

"I think it's good that we vented some of our frustrations," Lambertsen said. "Now that we have kind of cleared the air, I believe we can settle down to working on some solutions."

He added that plans are under way for follow-up meetings to start taking some positive actions.



Seniors boogie to Hot Shots

GRESHAM SENIKOR Hotshots entertained other seniors last week at the first Golden Age Luncheon sponsored by the Boring Kiwanis Club. About 50 seniors from the Boring-Damascus area were on hand for the event at the Hollyview Baptist Church.

County budget to cut ten sheriff's deputies

A proposed \$37.7 million Clackamas County budget would slice 10 deputies from the sheriff's department, as commissioners and budget officers tighten financial strings in an attempt to slash \$9 million from the current budget.

The proposal would maintain most county departments at the current level and will not allow for expansion, Jerry Justice, budget officer, said.

The sheriff's department, which had requested 19 additional employees, found

instead that the budget trims its staff by 12 persons, including 10 deputies.

Sheriff John Renfro said the plan is "ridiculous," adding that the cuts would eliminate responses to neighborhood disturbances, family complaints or runaway juveniles.

Justice said cuts are necessary because of low revenue projections, expiration of federal grants and inflation. Among the programs that has had federal funding cut is a county transportation ser-

vice for the elderly and handicapped. Funding expires June 30 and the program is not included in the proposed budget.

In addition, \$100,000 in county and state funds was cut from the mental health budget because the county could not meet the state match.

More than 90 employees hired since 1976 under the CETA program also may be released or severely cutback because the county does not have the \$850,000 needed to

pick up their salaries.

The county had agreed to assume the salaries but funds are not available, Justice said.

Financial administration, personnel, data processing and a new general services department received increases in the budget. Justice said the increases will make county operations more efficient.

Departmental meetings on the proposed budget will begin April 18 and continue each Tuesday through May.

LCDC authority dropped in urban growth boundaries

Substantial portions of the Mt. Hood Corridor and several other towns in Clackamas County have been designated Immediate Growth Areas by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC).

The decision was made at

the request of the Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG) which has sought local jurisdiction over the areas in question.

The purpose of establishing the Immediate Growth Area is to determine land suitable for urban development in the near

future. Some of the land had previously been preserved by LCDC for agricultural use.

In the Mt. Hood area, LCDC restrictions have been lifted from Government Camp in sewer-served areas, parts of Welches with 50 percent development and areas in Rhododendron that

are commercially developed. Sandy, Canby and Estacada also had areas removed from the LCDC's authority.

Local jurisdictions will now apply to these areas with regard to planning, zoning and other land-use actions.

Good posture theme of contest

Fifth and sixth graders in Sandy, Welches, Bull Run and Cottrell elementary schools will have a chance to make a stand for good posture.

Sandy chiropractor Dr. H.H. Hazelett will award a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond to the winner of the "Posture

Poster Contest" sponsored by the Oregon Association of Chiropractic Physicians and the American Chiropractic Association.

The winning poster will be judged in Hazelett's office on April 25. Selected posters will be forwarded for district, state and national judging, according to the doctor.

"All entries should be to my office prior to noon, April 25," said Hazelett.

"The purpose of the competition is to bring student and community attention to Correct Posture Month (May) as a means of emphasizing the importance of correct posture to good health, and physical and

mental accomplishment," a representative from the chiropractic associations said.

Posters should be based on the theme, "Good posture does more than just make you look good."

For further information, phone 668-6524.

TOPS elect officers

TOPS Club 546 (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) has a new slate of officers.

Beginning their new term at the April 1 meeting were: Kathy Mohr, leader; Colleen Cunningham, co-leader; Mary Remmick, secretary; Barbara Boswell, treasurer; Norma House, weight recorder; and Florence Unger, assistant weight recorder.

Club members donated hand-made items for a table at the Sandy Senior Center Flea Market April 7. Proceeds will help sponsor a trip to Bend May 5 and 6 for the annual TOPS convention, according to Virginia Rada.

Shirley Nielson, Sandy, was winner of an afghan at the flea market drawing.

TOPS is open to all persons who need help with weight problems. For more information, phone 668-4802.

Arbor Day planting set

The Sandy Garden Club will hold a public planting in Meinig Memorial Park at 2 p.m. Friday.

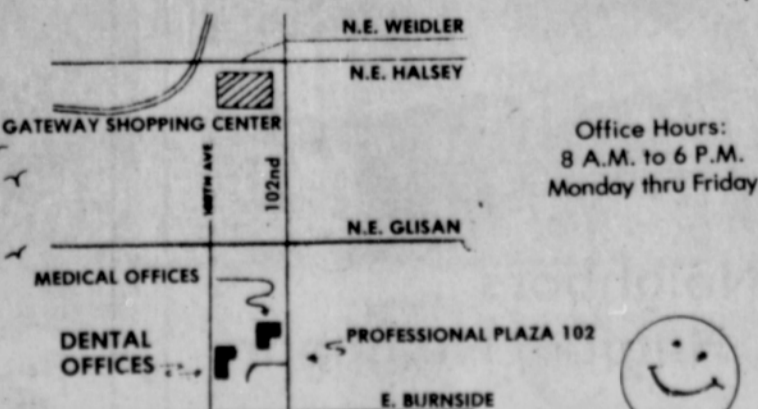
City Manager Paul Helton will represent the city. A rhododendron will be planted in honor of Arbor Day.

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