

'Tourism needs boost'

Japanese travelers are interested in visiting Mt. Hood during summer, Don Rickel of Oregon Host and Visitor Association told the Sandy Chamber of Commerce this week.

Rickel also said the state might be helpful in studies to urge a motel to locate here to handle traffic headed through town.

The recent inquiry from a Japanese group, he said, points up a growing tourist market which area restaurants, motels and resorts should jointly seek. "We're sitting on a virtual gold mine here in Oregon,"

the OHVA executive director said, "and I should think that politicians would realize this and turn to tourism when agriculture and logging face a declining job market."

Part of the problem in promoting visitor traffic in Oregon, he said, is the lack of cooperation of businesses in supplying market information.

He suggested on the local level that restaurant owners should call resorts and resorts should contact motels to pass on information when visitors come.

"The key is getting those

visitors to stay one extra day," Rickel said.

"The bottom line is that they spend money when they come to our state and they do spend money. Money is the name of the game."

Tourism is a fast-growing \$1.541 billion industry in Oregon, and ranks third behind declining logging and agriculture.

Some 7 percent of the state's taxable payroll, he said, is found in the visitor industry, according to a recent U.S. Senate report on tourism.

He cited a lack of working together in Oregon to develop this industry, and mentioned the U.S. Park Department as a case in point.

He said that the state's toll-free visitor information telephone line is seeing increasingly heavy use from out-of-towners, and mentioned Oklahoma and Texas visitors interested in Oregon guest ranches and Easterners seeking cleaner air.

"People who call our office don't seem to understand the size and diversity of our state. Some ask us if they can see Medford, Ashland and drive up Mt. Hood with time left in the day to visit the Seattle Space Needle.

"For the visitor," he said, "Oregon has everything: mountains, deserts, valleys, rivers and a coast. The industry here is not dependent on just one season."

Tourism, he said, is a clean, easy industry, where visitors come in a town not greatly impacting need for sewers, power, water or traffic control.

"But they do spend money."

By 1985, he figures, tourism will be the top industry in the world with increasing leisure time. And every state in the union is already "fighting like dogs for those tourism dollars."

He said that his department regularly faces difficulty gaining support from the state legislature, and he urged voters in this election to question candidates on how they feel about the visitor industry on the Oregon economy.



DON RICKEL
OHVA Executive Director

Camp session nears

The 1978 camping season at the Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp for Handicapped Children is scheduled for an eight-week run, starting June 18 and ending Aug. 11, according to C. R. Tulley, executive secretary.

Located on the slopes of Mt. Hood about six miles east of Rhododendron, the camp program provides a supervised indoor-outdoor camping experience in six-day sessions for more than 250 children from Oregon and southwestern Washington with varying degrees of physical and mental handicaps.

Registration for the sessions will continue through June until the camp is filled to capacity for all sessions. Beds are provided for 32 campers and a staff of 16 to 20 administrators and counselors each week.

While the early sessions are filled, there are openings still available in all sessions after July 14, Tulley said.

Anyone having a handicapped child between 9 and 18 years wishing to have a group camping experience may call the camp office at 244-2551 or write for enrollment forms to P.O. Box 19023, Portland, 97219.



SEVENTH and eighth graders make preparations to see Shakespeare plays.

Class makes plans for Ashland trip

A group of 20 seventh and eighth graders at Sandy Upper Grade School have been scraping nickels and dimes together from fund raising projects for the past several months.

The funds will go toward a class trip for the students to

Ashland June 22 and 23 for the Shakespeare Festival there.

"It should be quite a trip," said English teacher Terry Hardie who has been coordinating plans for the group. "The students have worked very hard on the project."

The group has raised approximately \$375 for the trip, more than half of what the total cost will be. They raised the bulk of the funds from a carnival and the rest came from small sales.

The school board has pledged to pay the rest of the cost of the trip which is ex-

pected to be around \$600.

The students will see two plays, "The Taming of the Shrew" and a lesser known Shakespeare work, "Timon of Athens" while they are in Ashland. They will stay overnight in dorms at Southern Oregon State.

After merger approval

CRAG - MSD transition committee at work

Establishment of an eight-member Transition Committee, and changing the jurisdictional billing procedure to fund the fiscal 1979 Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG) budget, are two early results of the May 23 vote to merge CRAG with the Metropolitan Service District (MSD).

Passage of the ballot measure by voters in Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties to abolish CRAG and merge its functions with MSD somewhat complicated adoption of the \$2 million fiscal 1979 CRAG budget when the budget came before the CRAG Board of Directors and General Assembly two days after the vote.

The budget runs from July 1 to June 30, 1979. The regional government takes effect Jan. 1, 1979. The

pending merger created questions concerning the second six months of the CRAG budget, particularly regarding the budget's funding. Though CRAG's regional planning functions will continue with some modification after the merger, details are unclear as to how the CRAG work program will be affected by the smaller boundaries of the reorganized MSD.

At present, the CRAG region includes Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties in their entirety, and Clark County in the state of Washington. The pending merger, however, changes the boundaries to include only the urban sections of the three Oregon counties and does not include Clark County.

The tighter boundaries create a problem for the budget because, in addition

to state and federal grant money, the CRAG budget is funded by local per capita des assessments to each of its member cities and counties. Grant revenue amounts to about 65.5 percent of the budget, local dues about 31.1 percent, and the remaining 5.17 percent is carryover.

Normally the local dues assessment — 50 cents per capita for the three Oregon counties and 32 cents per specific projects rather than on a division basis.

The purpose is to provide greater accountability within the agency's member cities and counties. Examples are funding categories such as the expanded Local Government Assistance capita for Clark County — is paid by the jurisdictions in

one billing to cover the entire fiscal year.

But to conform to the pending reorganization, the CRAG board and General Assembly have agreed to modify the billing procedure so that the existing CRAG region will be billed for a period to cover only the first six months of the budget, or the period from July 1 through Dec. 31.

The CRAG board and General Assembly have requested that the Transition Committee devise a system for billing the jurisdictions according to the adjusted boundary, with this second billing to cover the second six months of the budget, from Jan. 1 to June 30, 1979.

The new CRAG budget is \$347,000 smaller than for fiscal 1978, and is structured differently from previous CRAG budgets by allocating funds according to goals and objectives of the regional planning program, with spending set up according to program — designed to aid jurisdictions in obtaining state and federal grants —

from \$33,000 to \$53,000 in the new budget, and a special allocation in the transportation division budget of nearly \$60,000 for direct technical assistance to local jurisdictions. Also, the expanded Economic Development project is to develop a substantial data base to aid local jurisdictions in their own economic development planning.

The new budget also alters the way local dues money is spent, so that more money will be available for local matching funds for state and federal grants.

In the last budget the per capita dues assessment was 48 cents, with 13 cents of that total used as matching funds for grants. The new budget, with its 50-cent per capita dues assessment, has 18 cents allocated for local match. The shift was made by reducing the dues money allocated for CRAG overhead costs, cutting it from 14 cents in the last budget to 11 cents in the new budget.

Students recognized

GRESHAM — Thirty-six Mt. Hood Community College students have been selected as being among the country's most outstanding campus leaders.

They will be listed in the 1977-78 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges." Outstanding students have been honored in this annual directory since it was first published in 1966.

To quality, the students must have been listed on the

MHCC president's honor roll with a 3.85 grade point average and 72 or more credit hours. They join a group of students selected from more than 700 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The MHCC students named this year are: Linda Allaway, Mark Allred, Phillip Baker, Julie Beaton, Diane Bechtel, Diane Berry, Gertrude Cardoza, Carol Clark, Kathleen Cook, Ira

Decker, Mike Doolin, Jan Elmes, Karen Geath, Linda Heacock, Gretchen Ingram, Christopher Jones, Susan Liebman, Susan MacGregor, Patti Matheson, Susan May, Merry Jo Miller, Sheryl Peterson, Pamela Pierce, Kathleen Purser, Sandra Rebalkin, Karen Renner, Patricia Schnellen, Randall Sewell, Terrill Shields, Margaret Stone, Jonni Stolsig, Theresa Sumoge, Roasale Tangen, Marcia Veach, Linda Venker, and Dorene Walker.

Park needs preparation

The Sandy Mountain Festival Committee members expressed alarm at their Tuesday meeting over the condition of Meinig Memorial Park, which they consider untidy and unready to house the festival July 8 and 9.

The committee group adjourned its meeting to the city park behind Sandy City Hall to survey the condition of the grounds.

Committee members decried litter, overgrown sticker bushes, broken railing on a park stage and downed trees.

They also noted the unreadiness of the city's park train which lies covered awaiting a brake job.

The City of Sandy is responsible for maintenance of the park grounds, and the task falls on the Public Works Department.

That department has undergone some recent personnel changes, according to City Manager Paul Helton, and is reorganizing.

The department's staff complement is seven men.

The city manager said that the city's priority to date has been completion of a new park kitchen area, although the Public Works Department would begin concentrating the next three weeks on park maintenance.

The broken railing on the

park's stage, he said, is a result of vandalism.

Some CETA personnel might be added, he said, to help ready the park for the festival, now four weeks away.

Scouts and other volunteers have picked up litter in recent weeks to help ready the park.

Helton said that the new 2,400-square foot building to house a covered kitchen area should be completed in time for dedication during the arts and crafts festival.

Park emphasis, he said, has been on completing the wiring and carpentry of this new building, to be located in the south end of the park.

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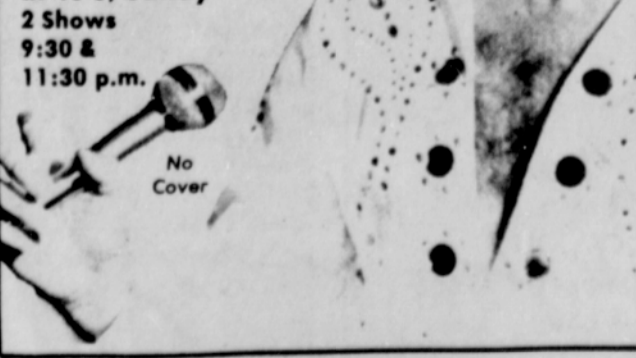
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