

Restaurants back in business

The Ivy Bear and Forest Inn Restaurants, forced to shut down by order of the State Health Division last week, are now reopen for business after the installation of water chlorination systems.

State sanitary engineer Ken Kaufman issued the directive last week after EPA tests revealed high levels of coliform bacteria in the Alder Creek-Barlow

Water system which serves them.

Both restaurants reopened for the weekend after installation of the systems but owners reported business was off.

The two restaurants installed separate systems each with 10 water tanks and a chlorinator-injection device. The systems were installed at costs of \$6,000 and \$9,500.



EPA clamps down on Alder Creek Water Co.

by JOHN KLINE

The federal government, in the form of the Environmental Protection Agency, has stepped in to force compliance of safe drinking water standards on the Alder Creek Water Company.

EPA sanitary engineer Peter Von Ohlan warned company owner Red Bennett last week that he must install adequate water purification facilities on the Alder Creek-Barlow system or be subject to fines of up to \$5,000 a day for each day not in compliance.

Alder Creek-Barlow serves approximately 300 persons north of Highway 26 and east of Alder Creek 10 miles from Sandy.

The warning came after EPA tests on 30 water systems in Clackamas County conducted three weeks ago found the Alder Creek-Barlow system to be "grossly" out of compliance with federal drinking water standards. Three other systems including Alder Creek-Country Club owned by Bennett further up Mt. Hood, were also found to be out of compliance with the federal standards.

The tests involved taking water samples from the taps of residences on the various water systems. Lab tests then determined the amount of coliform bacteria present in the samples.

Readings on the Alder Creek Barlow revealed that system to have counts of 66, 46, 69 and 91 parts per million (ppm) from one tap. Another reading showed counts of 74, 49, 7 and 3 at a second tap.

Federal standards require that drinking water not contain more than

four ppm of coliform bacteria.

Alder Creek-Country Club system, which serves approximately 200 persons, showed coliform readings of 20, 5, 8 and 5.

The other two systems show readings above the accepted standards were Salmon Valley Water Co. and Sleepy Hollow Water Co.

The EPA issued a warning to persons on the Alder Creek-Barlow system last week to boil their water before drinking it. A similar warning has been in effect since the early part of the year when the state health division tested portions of the system and found them below standards.

The coliform bacteria does not necessarily indicate the presence of water born bacteria which could be harmful for human consumption, Von Ohlan stated. But it does indicate the presence of pathogens which could lead to virul sickness.

Bennett claimed this week that the water in the Alder Creek-Barlow system has been sufficiently pure for human consumption. He noted that the high coliform readings were "not typical" of the water.

"Our testing record is damn good," he said.

Bennett installed a chlorinator on the system over the weekend but Von Ohlan is skeptical of its effectiveness. Water is required to have contact time of 30 minutes with the chlorine before it reaches the tap of the first customer on the line.

However, Bennett's first customer is 200 yards from the chlorinator across Highway 26. Von Ohlan does not feel the

distance is great enough for the water to be adequately purified.

Bennett and Von Ohlan met Tuesday afternoon and again Wednesday morning to go over what would be needed to bring the system into compliance. Bennett was told he would have until Friday, Aug. 4, to come up with an assessment of the water problem and measures he will take to clean it up.

"We've got a real problem," Von Ohlan said yesterday, "I'm not overly enthralled with his attitude. We've made it clear to him that he has a problem and that he's going to have to solve it."

"I think he feels we're asking him to meet standards that are ridiculously unreal," Von Ohlan said. "The reality of the situation is that they are not (unrealistic). They are standards accepted throughout the country."

The Oregon Health Division also has action pending against Alder Creek Water Company. Sanitary engineer Ken Kaufman sent a letter by way of the Clackamas County Sheriff's department to Bennett earlier this week informing him that he must install adequate purification equipment.

However, Bennett has been reluctant to follow orders from the state Health Division because he feels they are not lawfully empowered to enforce the state's water standards.

The state legislature stripped the health division of much of its power to enforce the water drinking laws two years ago. Thirteen health division officials were released because of that action. Among them was Von Ohlan who moved over to the EPA.



Red Bennett: 'Our testing record is damn good'

Police wage settlement hinges on decision by Supreme Court

by JOHN KLINE

An impasse still exists between the nine rank and file members of the Sandy Police Department and city council over the city's offer of an effective 9.5 percent pay raise for the current fiscal year.

Council has offered the officers a 7 percent pay hike effective July 1 plus an additional 5 percent Jan. 1 of next year for a total raise of 9.5 percent.

The officers, who voted unofficially to unionize last December as an affiliate of the Clackamas County Peace Officers Association (CCPOA), rejected the offer.

"We just don't feel it's enough," said police sergeant Dennis Wolf who is also a candidate for mayor in the Nov. 7 general election.

Wolf stated this week that he has heard the cost of living may reach 10 percent this year. He believes the council's offer would barely keep up with the cost of living increase and would not allow for an additional raise for continued years of experience on the force.

Wolf admits that the salaries for officers in Sandy are comparable to those in other cities of similar size. But he points out that sheriff's deputies in Clackamas County receive 15-20 percent more than those in the Sandy police department.

The issue of police salaries has come before council on several occasions over the past months. But after the defeat of the three-year serial levy in the June 27 election, council does not appear willing to offer the policemen more than the 7 and 5 percent increases.

"We would like to be able to afford to pay the same kind of salaries that the county does," said Councilman Bruce Cook at last week's meeting. "But

we've got to be talking about ways to cut down on the budget. That's what it appears the people are telling us with a 2-1 defeat in the levy election."

The vote of the nine Sandy officers (excluding Police Chief Fred Punzel who is considered "management") to join the CCPOA was not officially recognized by the State Employee Relations Board (ERB). The ERB is expected to hold such an election later this year.

The outcome of the wage disagreement hinges on the broader constitutional question of local versus state jurisdiction concerning the salaries cities pay their employees. The issue will be decided when the state supreme court hands down a reconsideration of an earlier decision on a similar dispute involving state versus "home-rule."

The case involves a suit filed against the state by the cities of Astoria and LaGrande. The cities claim the state has taken away their traditional power of home rule by forcing them to accept a decision by the ERB on retirement benefits for city employees.

Annexation proposal receives endorsement

Petitions to annex eight acres of county land into Sandy for use as a possible shopping center site have been recommended for approval by the administrative staff of the Portland Metropolitan Area Boundary Commission.

The Boundary Commission was to have met Wednesday night (July 26) to

act on the joint request to annex the four parcels across from Sandy Industrial Park.

One of the parcels—a 3.64 plot owned by Chuck Baker, Dale Brokens and Bruce Cook—is under consideration as a possible shopping center location. Sharon's Food King owner Gayle Meier has said he would like to expand his store to the new shopping center.

Also included in the annexation request is a two-section, 2.6 acre plot on the west side of the proposed shopping center site owned by Dale Nicolls. On the east is a 2.5 acres piece owned by Herman Steen.

City council approved resolutions for annexations in previous meetings.

The property in question is within the immediate growth area of Sandy in the existing LCDC Comprehensive Plan.

Hello (again) Redland students

REDLAND — The Redland School Board voted 4-3 Monday to return its high school students to Sandy Union High School for the 1978-79 school year in front of a hostile audience of 200.

The decision came in the wake of a suit filed in Clackamas County Circuit Court last week by the Sandy Union High School District charging the Redland district with a breach of contract.

Monday's vote reversed a board vote July 10 to send all Redland high school students to David Douglas High School in southeast Portland.

The Sandy High School board voted in June not to accept Redland students after the 1978-79 school year.

Redland board members defended their earlier decision to go with David Douglas, saying that since they were going to have to leave Sandy in 1979, the transition may as well begin this year.

"I think the David Douglas decision was basically a good decision," said board member Bill Westley. "Sooner or later, we have to face the issue that Sandy's not going to take any more students." Westley voted against returning to Sandy.

Board member Diana Freisem, who made the motion for the return to Sandy, felt the Sandy district's suit presented "new information it is prudent for us to look at." The chance that Sandy's suit could succeed, coupled with the potential cost of attorney's fees to the Redland district in defending against the suit, made returning to Sandy seem the most practical solution to Freisem.

Board chairman Kirk Braun echoed Freisem's feelings in casting the tie-breaking vote in favor of the motion. "If we stand by the original decision, are we going to put the district in a position where we can't deliver education?" Braun asked.

Redland voters have yet to pass an operating levy for the coming school year. A \$596,000 levy is on the Aug. 8 ballot.

Board members seemed to fear that persisting in the unpopular move to David Douglas could hurt the levy's chances of passing, as well as risking the district budget in litigation.

Joining Braun and Freisem in supporting the return to Sandy High were George Simmons and James Anderson. Westley, Bob Bates and Donna Robinson opposed the motion.

The meeting, held in the Redland grade school auditorium, was marked by obvious hostility from the 200 parents and citizens present toward the school board, particularly chairman Braun. Statements by board members often drew sharp retorts from members of the audience, who in turn often received long, loud applause.

As the board prepared to go into executive session to discuss the Sandy suit with attorney Bill Paulus, Gertrude Hubbard asked, "There's been so much hanky-panky on this, why can't we hold this discussion out in the open?" She drew loud applause from the audience.

Caught between the two factions, new principal Mark Carlton issued a plea for unity. "This rift is affecting the students," he said.

Cost, as well as the desire for a permanent home for Redland students, was the reason for the board's original choice of David Douglas, Braun explained. Redland's agreement with Sandy calls for a maximum \$2475 per student per year. Braun indicated that the Douglas tuition was lower.

The Redland board also objected to Sandy's requirement that the Redland district pay tuition for 200 students, no matter how many were attending. Braun estimated that 188 Redland students will be attending Sandy in the fall.

Paulus told the audience that the terms of the contract with Sandy will be negotiated for the coming year.

The Sandy board in June cited pressures of growth in the area as the reason for refusing Redland students after the coming year.

"I do not want to send my child into town," said Sue Critchlow, 16991 S. Hattan Road. "We're a rural high school, and our kids are bonded together."

"If you send a country child to a city school, you have trouble," Critchlow said. "They don't adjust as well."

Critchlow, the mother of children in the fifth and seventh grades, said she

hopes Redland will build its own high school in time for her children to attend.

Bond issues to build a high school have failed regularly in Redland over the past few years. Critchlow thinks this year holds a difference.

"It's all been turned around," she said. "We haven't had this much citizen involvement, this much discontent among the people since I've been here."

Critchlow said she sees "more support rallying around" the idea of a high school in Redland. "It's a younger group with younger children."

Across the room from Critchlow, a parent arguing heatedly with a board member on the merits of a high school bond issue drew a crowd. "If you work as hard with us as you have against us, we can get a bond issue through. If you give us a chance," Her chin nodded in emphasis at each word.

Backed against a table, the board member had no reply.

Carnival planned Saturday

The second annual Sandy Kids' Carnival will be held Saturday at Meinig Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Sandy Recreation Department. No admission will be charged but tickets will be sold for most of the activities.

Kids can choose from a wide array of activities including watermelon seed-spitting contests, darts and balloons, a ring toss, apple bobbing, throwing a football through a tire and knocking down pins with a softball.

Prizes will be offered in many of the activities. Small children will be able to "fish" for prizes. For more information contact Marita Gowan at 668-5569.

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