

Budget cut hurts deputies' morale

OREGON CITY — Clackamas County sheriff's deputies are now slower to answer a call and less likely to investigate it, as a result of budget cuts, according to Sheriff John Renfro.

"It's creating a serious morale problem among our staff. Our deputies are becoming frustrated," Renfro said.

Renfro suffered a \$130,000 cut in his budget from fiscal year 1977-78 to 1978-79, part of a \$1.8 million cut in the Clackamas County general fund.

Renfro has not had to lay off any deputies since June, when the cuts were made. However, he said, he has had to forego replacing employees who take a vacation.

Under the current set up, if a deputy goes on vacation, the deputy patrolling an adjacent district is responsible for that beat also. For example, Renfro said, if the deputy covering swing shift on the Mt. Hood

run goes on vacation, the Boring swing deputy will cover both districts during his shift.

The result, Renfro said, is that deputies will need more time to answer a call, particularly if it is in another district. And as calls stack up, deputies are likely to give only a brief investigation. If there is no apparent danger, he said, they move on to the next call.

"We've had complaints that our officers are not spending much time on various types of calls," Renfro admitted.

Renfro said the deputies will continue to answer all calls until the department calculates how much of their time is spent on "non-mandated" calls, such as nuisance reports, noise complaints and civil disturbances.

Renfro said he is considering refusing to answer repeatedly false burglar alarms.



Staff photo

Mission accomplished

CLYDE SUTHERLAND, right, presents Senior Center Director Dick Halvorson a \$400 check for completion of the Kiwanis Calendar. The calendar project is contracted out each year to a community agency as a fund-raising project. The senior citizens compiled 856 birthday and anniversary listings and 634 organizational meeting dates for the 1979 calendar.

Scouts set paper drive

Cub Scout Pack 248 will hold its annual paper drive Saturday, Sept. 30. Cub Scouts will be collecting newspapers in the Sandy area from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The drop box will be located on Pleasant Street

behind Clackamas County Bank, or the boys will pick up papers by prearrangement.

Persons with papers should call Stu Simonson at 668-6024, Ed Harris at 668-6826 or Gareth York at 668-4425, to arrange for pick-up.

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By Cheryl Hollingworth

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Another armed robber hits service station

The second armed robbery in 10 days occurred Sept. 15 at R.S. Smith's service station at 39191 Proctor Blvd. in Sandy. The robber entered the building at 3:35 a.m., brandished a weapon and demanded cash.

The suspect is described as a white male, 18-20 years old, 5'8"-5'9" tall, 145-150 pounds, with blond, wavy hair. He was wearing a brown leather-like jacket and blue slacks. His gun was possibly a two-inch .38 caliber revolver.

The robber left the station on foot with \$77 in cash. In a similar robbery Sept. 5, \$71 was taken. Police are still investigating but have no suspects in either case.

A \$700 canvas tarp was taken Sept. 16 from a flat bed trailer belonging to Charles Snyder of Sandy. The trailer was parked on Industrial Way near 362nd Ave.

Stereo equipment and tapes valued at \$550 was stolen from Randolph Nelson's car while it was parked at Babe's Big Boy Pizza at 38707 S.E. Pioneer Blvd. in Sandy. The theft

occurred between midnight and 1:30 a.m. Sept. 16.

At \$275 white shag rug belonging to Mrs. Roger Shearer of Boring was taken Sept. 18 from Mt. Hood Cleaners and Laundry at 38862 Proctor Blvd in Sandy. The six-by-eight foot rug had been left in a coin operated cleaning machine.

A juvenile shoplifter was apprehended Sept. 18 at Foxy Bottoms clothing store, 39210 Proctor Blvd in Sandy. The store management caught the girl after she had shoplifted a \$7 shirt. The property was returned to the store and police released the girl to her parents.

Two juvenile shoplifters took a hunting hat Sept. 14 from the County Fair Department store at 39065 Pioneer Blvd. in Sandy. One of the suspects returned the hat. The other suspect is being questioned by police.

District garden clubs will meet in Wemme

The nineteen garden clubs of Clackamas district will hold the annual fall meeting Wednesday, Sept. 27, at Bowman's Resort in Wemme.

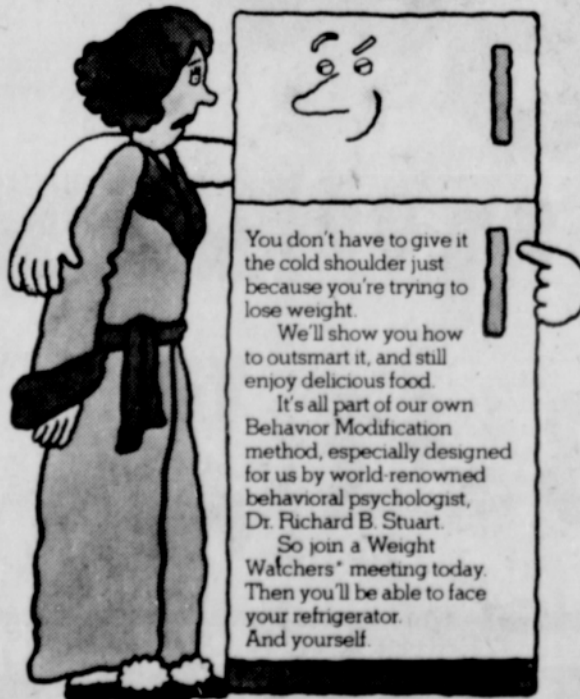
Registration is from 9:15-10 a.m. The business meeting

will follow. Luncheon reservations should be sent to Mrs. Herman Zahler, 659-1492.

A program on mushrooms will be presented by Mr. Floyd Hand.

Hostess clubs are Wildwood, Sandy and Estacada.

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From page one

Jury hears murder trial

is only relying on repetition to convince you those are masks," Crist said.

Urnau had testified that the robbers' masks were the size of oversized pillowcases and came down over their shoulders and Smith testified they came down to the chest, Crist reminded the jury.

Pointing to the alleged masks, Crist said, "Neither of those are oversized pillowcases."

Defense attorney Lowe later produced a plastic bag about the size of a pillowcase. Lowe said the bag had been seized as evidence by state police until "it didn't fit the theory" that Reynolds was one of the robbers.

Lowe contended that "there has been a consistent refusal by the state to consider the possibility that there were more than two people involved in the incident." That, he said, would undermine their case.

As to the M-1 rifle found at Reynolds'

home, Crist said "it is not an unusual or a unique gun," and noted that only one witness out of seven or eight persons in the tavern had said the gun was similar to the one used in the robbery.

Crist charged that Matsuda had given an inadequate test of the gun. "He didn't even check to see if it had been fired recently."

Crist said the fact Matsuda used only one bullet in his comparison was a weakness, and said no testing had been made of the gun's barrel. "Is this the type of quality evidence you're going to rely on?" he asked.

Lowe said an "alcoholic blackout" may have caused Reynolds to forget much of what happened that evening. The morning of the arrest, he said, Reynolds couldn't remember what he did around 1:30 a.m.

Lowe contrasted this explanation with the description of the gunman as confident and commanding.

Budget wounds discussed

By JOHN DEAN

OREGON CITY — Clackamas County officials held a group therapy session Friday. But the meeting dealt with wounded budgets, not wounded psyches.

The county's budget committee is looking for ways to meet a \$417,000 shortfall in the general fund, the result of a newly-revised estimate of receipts from Oregon and California Railroad (O&C) timber lands by the Federal Bureau of Land Management.

The budgeters are looking for ways to raise more revenue, as well as cut programs. Suggestions ranged from charging for rabies examinations on animals to closing the Canby ferry.

Peter Schnell, vice-president of Publishers' Paper Corp. of Oregon City and a budget committee member, put the county's problem in perspective: "The decisions we make now are not for-the-moment or superficial." Schnell felt the county should take advantage of the opportunity now to make preparations for even larger cuts if Measure 6, the 1.5 percent property-tax limitation, passes in November.

A problem the county faces on top of the \$417,000 cut is that Surveyor Dexter Milne has refused to lay off any of his staff in accordance with the budget he was given in July.

The budget committee cut Milne's budget by 60 percent to \$57,000, expecting he would have to cut his staff from six to two. Milne has maintained his staff and has spent 40 percent of his salary budget since July.

At that rate, said Finance Director Robert Queen, Milne will run out of salary funds in three months. "When the budget runs out, I can make no more payments," Green warned.

Milne responded that he has not been given a clear directive from the Board of County Commissioners to lay off his staff. "If it is the policy decision of this board that I shall cut persons indicated by the budget, the board has the power to order me to do so," he said.

Commissioner Ralph Groener asked Milne to develop a schedule service of fees as a means of raising his budget.

Milne estimated that 70 percent of his office's time is devoted primarily to private developers on subdivision inspection and maintenance of survey records.

John McIntyre, environmental services director, suggested the county institute a systems development charge to cover the cost of planning for a developing area.

McIntyre said a recent controversy

over a development proposal in Lake Oswego cost the county \$10,000 in planning staff time. Had the fee not been waived, the county could have recouped \$250 of that expense, he said.

"If we spend that kind of money on someone, there ought to be some mechanism to get that money back," McIntyre said.

McIntyre gave the committee several other suggestions for raising revenue or cutting his budget:

— Closing the Canby ferry would save the county \$80,000 per year. McIntyre also suggested charging \$1 for a single trip or a \$10 yearly pass. On summer weekends, he said, the ferry often carries 1,000 cars a day.

— The county could double the fees it charges landfill owners and garbage collectors, raising \$94,000.

— Either closing or reinstating charges in the county parks might be in order, he said.

McIntyre said the Clackamas Town Center on Sunnyside Road, to open in 1980, will give the county a financial boost.

"I hope it will pull us out of our hole by June," he said.

Human Resources Director Jono Hildner said he could find \$190,000 to save or cut in his budget. The biggest single source would be an eight-year grant from the federal government for a mental-health center that Hildner thought the county would not receive.

"We may be able to free up \$50,000 to \$75,000 of general fund support by accepting the grant," Hildner said. He said the grant could pay for some services the county funds now.

Hildner said his department could cut \$100,000 in administrative costs by not filling open positions and by cutting two positions.

He said another \$45,000 could come from reserve funds the federal government has designated to prevent layoffs.

Hildner said charging fees in the public health office "isn't going to amount to beans in terms of money."

Homeowners get tax break

The county assessor's office has a piece of good news for property owners in the city. The tax rate for the city will be 86 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation below original estimates by former City Manager Paul Helton.

Helton informed The Post Wednesday morning that he had learned from the assessor's office that the city's total valuation of property will be \$6 million more than he had originally planned in making an estimate on the tax rate for the city.

Helton had based his projections on a total assessed valuation of \$31,400,000. However, County Assessor Edith Bowen said the total will be \$37,411,780.

Last year's total was \$29,478,030 while the tax rate for the city was \$4.57.

City voters last week approved an operating levy of \$92,902 for the present fiscal year.

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