

New Welches school planned

by CAROL THURLKILL
and JOHN KLINE

There's no doubt that the Welches school is overcrowded. Built in 1968, it was designed to hold 300 students. This year there are approximately 350 enrolled, according to superintendent Jack Callaghan.

That's the problem. Finding a solution to ease the present overcrowding and to plan for the future is now being debated by residents of the area.

Voters in the district overwhelmingly turned down a \$2.9 million bond referendum last fall to finance construction of a new facility on the school grounds for the upper grades. The school board is now thinking in smaller terms.

An advisory committee to the board has recommended construction of a \$1 million building with 15-18,000 square feet on the northwest corner of the school property. It would be for kindergarten through grade three.

A group of residents and teachers turned out for an informational meeting last Thursday night to discuss the plan and to talk about other options. Among the options considered by the advisory committee was adding on the existing school, and year-round school.

Both were rejected as too costly, according to committee chairman Ed Burke.

A cost breakdown on the proposed new building, and how much the construction will cost taxpayers will be presented next Thursday night (Feb. 8) at the school board meeting at 7:30.

The board will also present a breakdown of costs for the options that were dropped by the advisory committee.

If all goes as planned by the board, a bond package will be submitted to the voters for the building April 3. If approved, construction would begin right away with a completion date goal of January, 1980.

The new building would contain eight classrooms, a library, health room, commons area and a play area for physical education.

Callaghan speculated at the meeting that six of the eight classrooms would be filled as soon as the building is finished.

At least two residents of the area would prefer the school board to go for a larger addition to accommodate what they believe will be a big jump in the school-age population of the district.

"Maybe we should look at 10 or 12 classrooms," said Wally McKenzie. "With the sewer system (voted in last week), you won't experience growth less than 16 percent."

Bruce Erickson stated, "That's what happened with this building nine to 10 years ago. We never do it big enough."

Burke responded that it is difficult to plan for what is essentially a small resort community. He said the committee's recommended plan is for a five to seven year period.

"If you look at growth over the last 10 years, it has been up and down," he said.

Erickson countered that. "It seems like we wanted an awful lot last time (the \$2.9 million plan) that we didn't get. It bothers me that you changed that much."

"I'd rather pay the \$2.9 million now than buy a cheapie that is not going to last."

Among the options included in the first plan that were dropped by the committee were a new gym, five science and art classrooms, four other unfinished classrooms, site development for a football field and a bus garage.

Board members Alan Jensen explained that the \$1 million plan would cost taxpayers an additional \$2.40 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for a five year payoff.

If spread over 10 years, the rate increase would be \$1.30; if 20 years, the rate would increase \$1.



WELCHES SCHOOL Board and advisory committee members discussed the proposed building program for the school at last Thursday's informational meeting. Pictured from left are Dick Claus, Jean Stein, Peggy Hergert, Bill Dunham (speaking) and Alan Jensen. The board will meet again next Thursday

at 7:30 p.m. to go over funding of the proposed new building and to present a breakdown of costs of other alternatives to accommodate an increase in the number of students.

Federal grants cut back

by JOHN KLINE

A kink in the works has developed in plans to design and construct the proposed Hoodland sewage treatment plant.

Voters in the proposed boundaries of the Hoodland sewage district approved the district's formation last week, 146-75. But funding problems for the \$3.1 million plant have arisen.

The federal government has cut back on grant funds to build waste water

treatment plants all across the country. Among the projects which could be delayed — or postponed indefinitely — is the half-million gallon per day plant in Welches.

The state Department of Environmental Quality, which determines how federal grant money will be spent in Oregon, announced last week that it will receive \$11.1 million less than was originally allocated by Congress.

Tom Blankenship, grants administrator at DEQ, said the state will receive \$53.7 million for 1979. It had expected to get \$64.8 million.

The Hoodland project is 58th on the list of 162 projects identified by DEQ. Had the full \$64.8 million been approved, there would have been enough to cover the first 64 projects.

The list is made up each year by the state Environmental Quality Commission and the Director of DEQ.

The Clackamas County Department of Environmental Services, which has laid the groundwork for formation of the sewage district, expected to get \$2 million to cover the Hoodland project. The funds were to be received over at least a two-year period.

Of the \$2 million, \$150,000 was expected in 1979 for the design of the project. The rest would have been

allocated for construction in following years.

The reduction in federal dollars for sewage plants is not just for this year. DEQ said in a prepared statement last week that further reductions can be expected in 1980 and '81.

The funding level for waste water plants could drop in 1981 to one-fifth the level of 1979.

Blankenship said Monday that unless something unforeseen happens, DEQ "probably cannot fund" the design phase of the Hoodland system this fiscal year.

"It will probably be delayed," he said. "There's no way to say how long that delay will be."

DEQ will hold an informational meeting Friday to discuss the options available to the department for funding waste water projects. A public hearing will be held March 5 to take testimony from interested parties on project funding.

The Environmental Quality Commission will then adopt a final plan for distribution of the funds.

Both hearings will be held at the Multnomah County courthouse, Room 602, 1021 SW Fourth Ave., in Portland.

Clackamas Department of Environmental Services Coordinator

John McIntyre said this week he hopes to convince the DEQ that the design phase of the Hoodland project should be funded with money in a reserve DEQ fund set aside for "unique" cases.

There is approximately \$750,000 in that fund, Blankenship acknowledged.

"I don't think that (DEQ) priority list is cast in concrete," McIntyre said.

McIntyre said he hopes to change the funding priority by pointing out that there is a serious sewage disposal problem in the Rhododendron area.

He also pointed out that DEQ has written a letter to the Timberline Rim Homeowners Association stating it wants to have the sewage treatment plant there in operation soon.

The plant was built several years ago but has never been operated because of the small number of houses. DEQ now feels there is sufficient waste water flow to require that the plant be turned on.

The plant has been sitting idle since it was built. To make it operable would require at least \$50,000, McIntyre said.

But if the Hoodland plant in Welches is built soon enough, the Timberline Rim system will connect with it thus making it unnecessary to put the plant in operation.

Parachute center appeal denied

by JAN LOVELL

OREGON CITY — The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners unanimously denied a permit appeal Monday from the Western Sport Parachute Center near Eagle Creek to use its property for parachuting and aircraft activities.

Ralph Hatley, co-owner of the property, and his attorney Charles Combs, said they had not yet decided whether to appeal the decision. Neither would comment on the commissioner's decision.

Commissioner Robert Schumacher said he ruled against the appeal because he felt the airport, located on Heiple Road, was more than a personal use airport and that parachuting was not an activity compatible with the present exclusive farm use-20 zone.

Commissioner Ralph Groener praised the parachute center and then went on to explain why he voted against the appeal. "This organization is an admirable one but you seem to have had problems wherever you go," Groener said.

"This is a question of freedom of individual choice and the welfare of the people in the surrounding area," he said. "And I would have to say the constant circling of the planes in the area make a noise which is not compatible."

Clackamas County Hearings Officer Richard Crist denied the original permit request in November, ruling the parachuting and airplane activities were not within the exclusive farm use zone.

He also ruled it was not just a personal use airport and the activities were detrimental to the surrounding

area.

Residents of the area testified at the November hearing the skydiving was detrimental to their properties. They charged the parachutists trampled crops, damaged fences and frightened wildlife and farm animals.

Residents reiterated their concerns at the commissioners' hearing Jan. 15. They also objected to the noise caused by the aircraft.

Combs told the commissioners his clients Cindy Gay and Roger Hatley did not plan to use a permanent runway but will use a grass strip. He argued it was a personal use airport and he questioned the neighbors' credibility who testified at the previous hearing.

Water users re-warned

The state Health Division has again warned persons served by the Alder Creek-Barlow water system to boil their water before drinking.

The warning was issued last week by Health Division Administrator Kristine Gebbie. It came in light of what Mrs. Gebbie has termed "incorrect or misleading" claims made by the Alder Creek Water Co. in its December bills to customers.

The company told its customers on the Barlow system that "No trace of bacteria was found in our water supplies" from tests performed last year.

Mrs. Gebbie pointed out that tests on water samples taken between February and December of last year from both the water source and distribution system "have frequently shown the presence of fecal organisms."

"These findings of fecal contamination indicate the water is not safe for consumption unless it has been first disinfected by boiling," she said.

Another part of the message from the company to its customers states that, "Chlorine can be hazardous to your health."

It goes on to "suggest" that "you do not drink water from any regularly chlorinated sources such as (the) city of Portland, (the) city of Sandy, etc."

Mrs. Gebbie refuted that claim. "The use of chlorine together with other processes in the treatment and disinfection of drinking water is still the most feasible method for most water systems," she said.

She added that chlorine used to disinfect water is not hazardous if properly applied and controlled.



But will he be here tomorrow?

DAVID SCHMIDT (left) and Mike Edmonds pose with a new, but temporary landmark on the Sandy High football field. The two Sandy High seniors along with Ken Urban and Ted

Donovan created the 10-foot snowman Saturday night after a storm dumped more than six inches of snow in the Sandy area.

Staff photo