



Winners in the National Children's Book Week poster contest at Sandy Grade School are all smiles as they display their winning creations. Front row, left to right: Brian Berglund,

Greg Heaton, Amy Sah. Back row, left to right: Darlene Smith, Sonja Tanner, Corinna Parker.

Staff photo

Sprinkler proposal offers 'vision'

by DAN DILLON

A hearing to sample public sentiment about a proposed fire sprinkler ordinance is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 26, at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall.

At the special City Council meeting, Bob Rathke, Sandy Fire Chief, will outline a proposal that would require certain new constructions and major remodelings to be equipped with fire sprinkler systems.

The ordinance is not a necessity for today, but it is for the future, according to Rathke. He told the council Nov. 5 that the question is one of "vision."

"We don't have a problem today," he said. "But, there's no doubt about it, we're going to be facing the problems other cities are having. Do we have vision to anticipate that problem?"

The sprinkler system would offer the city an opportunity to eliminate the problem in the fire district.

At the rate the city is growing, the district would have to add three to five paid personnel and purchase a ladder truck to meet the city's fire protection needs. The ladder truck costs approximately \$200,000.

The city would have to undertake a major water system improvement in the downtown district, Rathke said, to get the necessary water in the event of a major fire.

"Sprinklers are the alternative," he said.

The ordinance would apply to all new public assembly buildings because of life hazards and numbers of occupants. Enclosed areas under grandstands would be sprinklered to avoid a fire

similar to Gresham's a few years ago, according to Jim Gallagher, fire prevention officer.

All schools would be sprinklered. Industrial buildings more than 2,000 square feet or with more than one story; service stations more than 5,000 square feet or one story and hotels, apartments and lodging houses over three stories would have to be sprinklered. The enclosed stairways above the second story of the latter would also be sprinklered.

The proposal is stricter than the state statute because "we're proposing what we're capable of protecting," Rathke said.

A point of contention with Councilman Don Blair has been the required sprinkler installation for major remodelings. A major

remodeling is one that is more than 50 percent of the value of the existing building.

Blair feels that is too high and wants it cut down further.

Rathke agrees, but is realistic about the chances of such a proposal getting approved. "I would like to see where the 50 percent is an accumulative thing for the life of the building. I really don't know if we can do that," he said.

Rathke is confident that the proposal is workable. "We have the 100-year history of the thing. It's all down in black and white if somebody wants to look at it," he said. "I would hope questions have been raised. That's what we're going into the public hearing with—the idea of answering those questions."

MHCC seeks budget increase

Hoping it can sell a budget that reflects the cost-of-living increase, the Mt. Hood Community College District board told the administration Wednesday to prepare a 1980-81 budget with a 14.3 percent increase over this year.

The board slightly pared the administration's request for 15.7 percent budget increase over the strong objections of board member Polly Casterline, who said the new figure would require cutting programs.

But the other six board members contended the voters will be more receptive to a cost-of-living increase that reflects the consumer price index in the Portland metropolitan area.

The 15.7 percent increase would have funded all existing programs but added nothing new to the budget, business manager Bob Scott said. He said the administration had to request an amount above the CPI because tuition and state support will increase only 7 percent next year.

The administration's request would have required a \$3.29 million operating levy to support a \$15.7 million total budget. It would have set the tax rate at \$1.82 per \$1,000 assessed value.

Last year, voters approved a \$1.9 million levy on the second try, which was a 12 percent increase, setting the tax rate at \$1.76.

Scott said he will figure a new levy amount and tax rate based on the board's directive and present those figures, with a complete budget, when the board holds its first budget committee meeting Dec. 12.

The college is planning a Feb. 19 election, but that date won't be set until the December meeting.

If the board adopts the 14.3 percent budget increase in December, the college still will have to request 4.2 percent of its levy in a supplemental budget.

Under the Legislature's tax relief formula, districts can request a base

budget (on the "A" ballot) and a supplemental budget (on the "B" ballot). The formula allows the college to request a base budget with a 10.1 percent increase over this year's figure, Scott said. The state pays 30 percent of each property taxpayer's bill for that amount.

Any request above that amount must be put in a supplemental budget, for which the state will contribute no tax relief.

Taxpayers will vote on both budgets. The base budget (Ballot A) can be submitted as many times as there are budget dates. But the supplemental budget (Ballot B) can be submitted to voters only twice after the A ballot is submitted.

The 30 percent tax relief on the A ballot would have reduced the tax rate for the administration's proposed 15.7 percent budget increase from \$1.82 to \$1.42, Scott explained.

Keeping Posted:

Veterans' dance set Sunday

Saturday, Nov. 24

The Sandy High School class of 1954 will be honored at the annual Sandy Alumni Dance at Bowman's Resort. Music will begin at 9 p.m. with a no host bar starting at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 25

The Sandy Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will hold a dance from 3 to 8 p.m. Music will be country-western, provided by the Chipkickers. All VFW members and guests are welcomed.

Monday, Nov. 26

A public hearing on a proposed fire sprinkler system ordinance will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall.

Sandy Kaffee Klatsch will hold Men's Night at 7:30 p.m. at the Sandy Community Center.

Boring Fire Department's annual blood drive is scheduled at the Boring Fire Department, 28655 SE Highway 212, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 27

Hoodland Women's Aglow Fellowship meets for a luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. at Bowman's Resort. Babysitting will be available.

Sandy Chamber of Commerce meets at noon at TJ's Fireside Dining on Proctor Boulevard.

Damascus sets bazaar with help for kids

The Damascus PTA Christmas Bazaar will be held Dec. 8 at the Damascus Middle School, 14151 SE 242nd.

The bazaar will feature Santa's Secret Shop for children only. There will be people to help the children with their gift selection, according to Valerie Minick, PTA president. The purpose of the children-only shop is to help them learn to make decisions and work with money, she said.

Wednesday, Nov. 28

Clackamas County Bookmobile will be at Aims Community Church from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; and at Western Farms market in Boring from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Sandy Area Merchants meet at 7 p.m. at TJ's Fireside Dining.

The Sandy TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets at 9

a.m. at the Community Action Center; and at 6:45 p.m. in the community room at Independent Bank of Sandy. For more information on the morning club, call Shirley Reed at 668-5338. For more information on the evening club, call Ginny Rada at 668-7348.

Thursday, Nov. 29
The Clackamas County

Mental Health Council will hold a public meeting at noon. The general public is invited to discuss and comment on the delivery of mental health services in the county. The meeting will be held in Education Hall on Marylhurst Campus. For further information, contact Barbara Brotherton at 665-8338.

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