

Enrollment slump causes GED concern

The General Education Development (GED) Test program in Sandy could be in trouble unless more people become involved in the program.

Because the instructor travels twice weekly from Portland to teach the class, sagging enrollment and participation has caused some concern at Mt. Hood Community College. During the fall term, only "three or four" people attended the class on a regular basis, according to Eileen Houser, assistant instructor.

"It's only logical that they're (MHCC) not going to want to continue if there's no interest in Sandy," said Carolyn Yandell, Sandy coordinator of MHCC extension services. However, she said, "I don't see that there's any danger."

The program was established through the Sandy Community School to alleviate the necessity of travel to MHCC for the program. That trip could become a reality again if interest doesn't pick up and Houser is certain there are more residents who could benefit from the class.

The GED tests are taken in order to obtain a Certificate of Equivalency which is given in lieu of a high school diploma. Applications for the Certificate will be filled out the first testing session. To qualify a person must be a resident of Oregon, be at least 18 years old or have a waiver and obtain a standard score of 40 on each of the five tests.

Those tests are in mathematics, science, reading, social studies and writing skills. Houser said that each student progresses at their own pace until they are ready for the individual tests. There is no pressure, she said.

The GED preparation classes will again be available through the Sandy Community School beginning Wednesday, Jan. 2. They meet each Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Room 18 at the Sandy Upper Grade building.

The classes are also available at Welches Grade School. They meet from 7 to 10 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. They will begin after the new year.

For more information, call 667-7333 or contact the community schools.



Conversion begins

Construction is underway to convert the old Mt. Hood Fruit Market into a restaurant. The project is being done by C-3 Builders of Clackamas and is expected to be completed by late spring.

Photo by Dan Dillon

LID assessments draw legal challenges

by DAN DILLON

Two lawsuits have been filed in Clackamas County Circuit Court against the City of Sandy challenging its jurisdiction to collect the assessments for financing the controversial Local Improvement District No. 4.

Rather than pay the assessment by Bancroft bonding, Warren Decker and Bolster-Scales have filed

suits charging that the city's handling of the project was subject to question.

Final assessments on the project had been adopted in an ordinance before the Sandy City Council at its Nov. 5 meeting. At that time, the Decker property was assessed \$8,675.50 and the Bolster-Scales property was assessed \$18,087.49. Both suits charge that not all who benefited from the parking

lot east of Shelley Street between Pioneer and Proctor Boulevards were assessed.

Others named in the ordinance which assessed the amounts were Heritage Square Development Corporation, TJ's Fireside Dining, the Radar property, and the Double Dragon.

Of those, TJ's Fireside Dining, the Double Dragon and the Raders met the

deadline imposed by the council for filing an application for the Bancroft bonds. Under that process, the property owners will pay their assessments with eight percent interest. The bonding period will be 15 years.

In determining the final assessments, the city took into account the condemnation rate of \$3.33 per square foot. The condemnation was necessary to acquire some of the property needed when the project was initially proposed in May 1976.

The city applied that rate to the property owners who donated their land as a credit on their assessments.

The city donated \$33,716 in land to the project and spent approximately \$30,000 improving Shelley Street and paid \$9,000 in offsetting costs.

Both suits said the size of the project was smaller than originally presented. At the time of the proposal, the suits claim, the area was 66,405

square feet. The final engineer's report said the LID was 44,743.

The Decker suit claims that "costs were incurred and assessed for items other than those specified in the engineer's report which increased the cost of the project from the engineer's estimated \$57,565 to the sum of \$104,979.76 actually assessed."

The Bolster-Scales suit concurs, though doesn't mention what the cost change is. "Certain sums of money have been expended which were not authorized by the Defendant (the city) as set forth in Resolution 4.76."

Both suits charge that the project has not been completed as was originally presented. The Decker suit alleges that the reduction eliminated 49 parking spaces with an unauthorized change.

The suit is now in the hands of the city attorney, Jack Hammond.

Keeping posted:

Santa due at story hour

Thursday, Dec. 20

A public hearing in Oregon City will consider whether or not a Clackamas County water district should be installed in the Hoodland area to replace the five systems owned by Red Bennett. The meeting will take place in the County Commissioner's chambers. The Sandy Community Players production "A Christmas Carol" will be presented at The Theatre at 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 21

Santa Claus will be at Sandy Public Library for a Story Hour at 10 a.m. "A Christmas Carol," presented by Sandy Com-

munity Players will be presented at The Theatre at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 22

The final presentation of "A Christmas Carol" will be at The Theatre at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 23

Chapel of the Hills will have a Christmas musical presentation of "Mary Had Little Lamb" at 11 a.m. Sandy Post 4273 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will have a music session with live performers. The presentation is for members and guests from 3 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 26

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

The Sandy TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets at 9 a.m. at the Community Action Center; and at 6:45 p.m. at the community room in 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 Shirley Rada at 668-7348.

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Hearing scheduled in pot heist case

The trial of a Rhododendron man charged with stealing marijuana from the Gresham police property room has been rescheduled as a hearing in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

The trial of David C. Mooers, a Gresham police officer, was scheduled to start Monday, Dec. 17. It has been changed to a hearing tomorrow, Dec. 21, at 9:30 a.m., before Judge Irving Steinbock.

"We're trying to work out a deal in the case," said Sean O'Halloran, Mooers' attorney.

Neither she nor Chuck Pritchard, prosecutor with the state attorney general's office, would say specifically what the deal is.

But Pritchard said, "Obviously, something has happened or we wouldn't be having a hearing (instead of a trial)."

He said charges have not been dropped in the case. "But that's not to say if a plea agreement was to be reached on this case, some charges would not be dismissed."

The trial has been postponed three times, twice because the defense requested more time and once

because of a conflict in court scheduling.

Mooers was arrested in August following the theft of marijuana with a street value estimated between \$150,000 and \$250,000.

He has been charged with two counts of theft, two counts of conspiracy to commit theft, coercion, delivery of a controlled substance (marijuana), conspiracy to deliver marijuana for consideration and possession of a controlled substance.

He has pleaded innocent to all counts.

Mooers is charged with conspiring to steal the marijuana with Gregory B. Wilmarth, an East Multnomah County insurance agent. Wilmarth has not been indicted on any charges in connection with the incident, and Pritchard would not comment on whether any charges are pending.

The coercion charge alleges that between April 1 and July 16, Mooers threatened Wilmarth with physical injury if he discussed the marijuana theft with authorities.

Mooers, 34, has been a Gresham police officer since 1971.

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