

around the county



Mic Eby, voted Hoodland's Firefighter of the Year.

Photo by Kaye Barton Bakke

Eby named 'Volunteer of the Year'

Mic Eby says that everything he's done to date in his varied career has prepared him to be a fireman, and contributed to the "Volunteer of the Year" award he was given this month by Hoodland Fire District.

Eby, 29, has been with the fire district since July, 1979. His background has included sports, art school, counseling and teaching.

Although Eby majored in art at Occidental College in southern California, "What I really wanted to be was a pro baseball player," he said. "But that didn't work out — my knees couldn't take it."

His athletic ability and training led him from California to the Willamette Valley and a job with the Oregon City organization known as Youth Adventures.

The job involved some counseling, and Eby's education took a turn in that direction. "I also ended up with a whole lot of management

courses," he said.

All of this taught him that "I've got to have a job working with people," he said. "I need the contact with people."

When Eby moved to Brightwood and became a volunteer firefighter in 1979, he was employed as a counselor and teacher at Serendipity School, an alternative school in East Multnomah County which enrolls high school students dropping out of the traditional school systems.

He said at that time he was spending four days a week teaching in Gresham and three days a week at the Hoodland fire station. Early in 1980, he decided to "take a plunge" and give up his paying job to serve as a full-time volunteer for the district.

Eby said he decided to make the change and spend a full year "scraping by" and living on his wife's salary, earned as a counselor with Youth Adventures.

"I wanted the education of being a firefighter," he said. "There are a lot of talented, well-trained people in this district, and I was willing to take a chance so that I could glom onto their talents and learn from them."

He said he is achieving his goal. "Working here is very open-ended — I just keep on learning," he said. "The work is so varied."

Eby said he is glad he is learning the work at the Hoodland district. "Being a rural firefighter there is so much more that you do than being a city firefighter."

He cited last January's ice storm as an example. "It was like a five-day training session," he said. "I lived here for five days. During that time I went from being a greenhorn rookie to a hardened veteran rookie."

In November, the fire district hired Eby as a paid firefighter to staff the new Government Camp fire station. Even before that time,

he was spending as much as seven or eight hours a day at the station.

"I didn't realize how much time I was spending here — it came as a kind of a shock to me," he said. "I just enjoyed it so much, it seemed like home."

Hoodland Fire Chief Don Armintrout called Eby "a very dynamic individual — very people-oriented," and said his varied background has been an asset to the district. "He has people management training, he's a skier, a climber, a rappeller, a multi-lettered athlete," — and an art major.

When Eby was asked how his art training might affect his firefighting skills, he eyed the painted concrete walls of the Hoodland fire station.

"Before I'm done," he said, "I hope to have some impact on the color schemes."

Hoodland happenings

Mountain Players to meet

Monday, Jan. 5
The first day of school at Welches after Christmas vacation.

A senior citizens lunch, sponsored by "Loaves and Fishes," will be served at 11:30 a.m. at Welches School Library. Transportation and further information may be obtained by calling the Senior Center, 622-3331.

Tuesday, Jan. 6
The first meeting of the Hoodland Women's Club for 1981 will be a luncheon meeting today at the Zig Zag Inn on Highway 26 starting at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 7
The Senior Citizens Steering Committee meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the Hoodland Women's Club on Salmon River Road.

Welches Community School "Tiny-Tots" group will meet from 10 a.m. to noon. "Tiny-Tots" is an opportunity for mothers with babies or toddlers to spend a morning with their mountain neighbors, while toddlers develop play skills. Call

Connie Westly at 622-3073 for information and meeting location.

The Clackamas County Bookmobile will be at the Post Office in Government Camp from 2:15 to 3:30 p.m., and at the Hoodland Plaza Shopping Center parking lot from 4:30 to 7 p.m. this evening.

There will be a Mountain Players general meeting tonight at 8 p.m. in the Wemme Lions Club on Highway 26. Discussion and selection of the next

production offered by the Mountain Players will be the subject of this meeting. Milt Fox will direct the next production of the Mountain Players.

Thursday, Jan. 8

A senior citizens lunch, sponsored by "Loaves and Fishes," will be served at 11:30 a.m. at Welches School library. Transportation and further information can be obtained by calling the Senior Center at 622-3331.

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County OKs tax increment finance plan

Clackamas County became the first county in Oregon to establish a tax increment financing district when the Board of Commissioners approved, December 30, the Town Center Area Development Plan.

The TIF district will raise \$15 million over 6 years and, together with expected federal funds, will underwrite \$32 million in public improvements for an 853-acre area in the I-205-Sunnyside Road-82nd Avenue area.

The adopted development plan establishes a list of 12 transportation projects and eight community services projects and sets dollar amounts and a time schedule for each.

Road improvements, realignments and improved traffic signals, along with transit ways are planned to reduce congestion. The most costly project is a new I-205 freeway interchange due for construction at the end of the 6-year life of the taxing district.

The adoption of the financing package is the final step in a three year effort.

The comprehensive plan, which was adopted in January, 1980, identified the Town Center area as an "activity center." Land was rezoned for high density residential, commercial and campus industrial uses, and in October the County adopted the Town Center Area Design Plan that identified needed public facilities.

Deadline for legals is noon, Monday

Classified deadline is noon Monday
phone 667-6633

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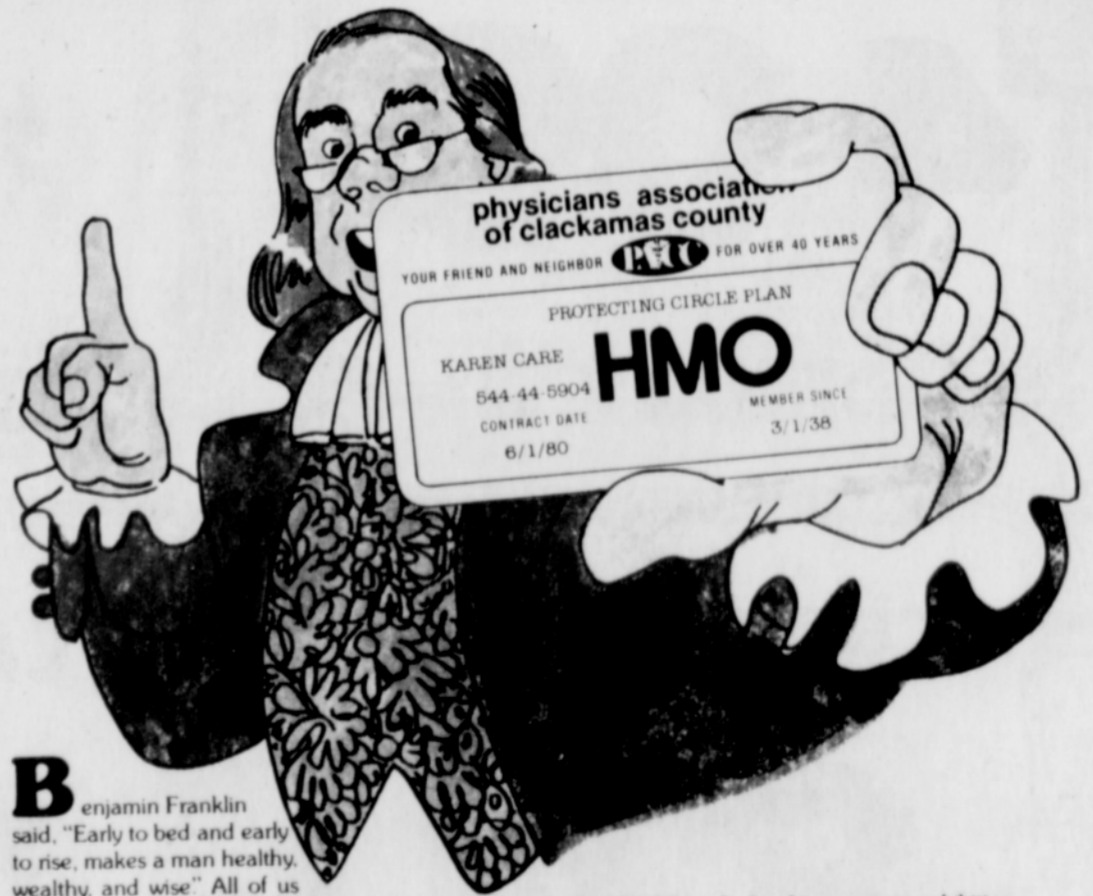
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