

around the county



House destroyed

Photo by Mark Floyd

Fire destroyed this house in Rhododendron this week. The Hoodland Fire Department responded to an alarm but the house on Road 20C was already involved. The owners were out of town at the time and no one was injured.

Cause of the blaze is under investigation. Fire also destroyed a house in the Cherryville area on Highway 26 Thursday. Arson is suspected.

For Forest Service

Tree cutting turns profit

by KAYE BARTON BAKKE
Post Correspondent

The Zigzag Ranger District has netted nearly \$46,000 for the U.S. Forest Service in seven years of Christmas tree sales, according to Curt Kessler, timber sales officer for the district.

At the same time, the Christmas tree sale program has provided the public with an opportunity for family outings and the chance to save many dollars on the purchase of a holiday tree.

For the past 11 years, the Zigzag district has been selling permits which allow citizens to cut their own Christmas trees from the right-of-ways under power lines owned and maintained by Bonneville Power Administration on Forest Service Property.

During the 1980 season, 4,429 permits were sold at \$2

each, for a profit of \$8,858. Prior to 1977, permits were sold for \$1 each.

When the permit fee is contrasted with the price of a tree from a downtown Portland parking lot, or even a Sandy area Christmas tree farm, participants in the Forest Service program appear to come away with a bargain.

Tree farms were charging from \$1 to \$2 for each foot of a tree's height this season, while five-foot tall Noble Firs could be had for \$10 to \$20 in some Portland lot sales.

Kessler pointed out that even with the cost of gas for a trip to the National Forest, Portland residents can save.

"And there's the basic appeal of going out to the wilds with your family and cutting your own tree," he said. "People feel it's better than picking one from a lot or cutting one down from

somebody's pasture." Kessler said it's common for two or more families to make the trip together in one car, "and you see all these kids piling out for their big adventure."

Kessler said that before 1969, permits to cut trees were given free. He had figures for revenues from 1973 on, with the exception of 1976, when the program didn't operate because of the closure of the Bull Run watershed in the Lolo Pass area.

During the seven years of sales, 29,354 trees were sold, for a total of \$45,900 in fees.

Hoodland happenings

Wy-East Artisans Guild meets Monday

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.

Monday, Jan. 12
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.

The Wy-East Artisans Guild will meet this evening at 7 p.m. at Room 20 in Welches School on Salmon River Road. Nominations for guild officers, the starting of a gallery, and tentative plans for a "Folk Festival" will be on the evening's agenda.

The purpose of the guild is to promote arts and crafts on the mountain, and to offer educational services, opportunities for exhibits and sales, encouragement and friendship to members. Anyone interested in the arts is invited to attend. Call Phid Simons, 622-4331, for more information.

Tuesday, Jan. 13
The Hoodland Senior Citizens' Potluck Luncheon will be held at noon today at the Hoodland Women's Club on Salmon River Road. Maxine Worley, program coordinator for the Senior Center said that all seniors are invited to attend. Women's Club members will be serving beef stew.

Wednesday, Jan. 14
Welches Community School "Tiny-Tots" group will meet from 10 a.m. to noon. Call Connie Westly at 622-3073 for information and meeting location. At 8 p.m. the Mt. Hood Lions Club will hold its

general meeting at the club building in Wemme. The Lions Ladies Auxiliary will also meet tonight at 8 p.m. in the rear of the club building in Wemme.

Thursday, Jan. 15
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. The Mt. Hood Pre-school Co-Op will hold its monthly parents meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Women's Club. The pre-school has openings for 4-year-olds.

Classes for 4-year-olds are held Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 2:30 p.m. For more information call Sue Enna at 622-4546.

To place an event in "Hoodland Happenings", contact Dawn Morrison at 622-3538.

County health board to discuss Bennett issue

Another chapter in the saga of Gerald "Red" Bennett will take place today, Jan. 8.

The Clackamas County Board of Health will meet to consider a resolution requesting the State Board of Health to investigate Bennett's Alder Creek Water Company and take appropriate action.

The state would have to decide if the company's water was unsafe and whether to form a service district near Sandy.

The Alder Creek Water Company, made up of the Alder Creek, Country Club, Sleepy Hollow, Barlow and

Riverside water systems, has been sued by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Oregon Health Division. Both claim the company has produced unsafe drinking water.

Bennett was restrained from operating his company in September and a receiver was appointed by the U.S. District Court. Gene Ginther has been running the water system which has been monitored daily.

The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room in the Courthouse Annex in Oregon City.

Benefits for older vets outlined by VA

A new Veterans Administration publication, "Veterans Benefits for Older Americans", is available through VA regional offices and veterans service organizations.

The free pamphlet highlights eligibility for VA medical care, compensation and pension programs, and burial benefits. It includes a quick reference inventory for listing a veteran's VA file number and other information for use in case of an emergency.

The pamphlet is another in a series of steps VA is taking to meet the needs of the aging veteran population.

According to VA statistics, some 3 million veterans are 65 years of age or older, and by 1985 this number is expected to be 5 million and by 1990 it will be over 7 million.

To receive the pamphlet, write, visit or telephone the nearest VA regional office. The address and toll-free telephone number may be found in the white pages of local telephone directories under "U.S. Government."

Light Rail meeting set

Tri-Met's Banfield Light Rail Citizen's Forum meeting will be held next Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Oregon Department of Transportation building. The building is located at 5821 N.E. Glisan in Portland.

The Forum will meet regularly on the second Wednesday of each month to discuss major issues involved in planning and construction of the Banfield Light Rail.

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