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Residents complain of lack of discipline at SUHS

by MARK FLOYD

A group of men representing the Hoodland Lutheran congregation met Tuesday with Sandy High School principal John McMahan and expressed concern over problems facing the school. Many are parents of high school age children.

"We're concerned about discipline, study habits, discipline in the classroom, drugs and drinking," said parent Terry Kent. "We're trying to broaden our base of knowledge and find out how we can help."

The group was disturbed over a number of incidents that have hap-

pened lately and by the number of kids in the Hoodland area who have dropped out of SUHS. Steve Sweitzer, who has a daughter at Sandy High, was specific in his charges.

"The drinking and drug problem is bad and it's getting worse," he said. "I talk to a lot of kids and, if they're not in trouble or on the spot, they'll talk to you. There's drinking and smoking on the buses — smoking and marijuana. The kids have booze in their lockers and there are drugs everywhere. What happens if they get caught is that you (the administration) will talk to them or kick them out of school for a day."

"I've heard of teachers having af-

fairs and putting the move on kids, on young girls," Sweitzer added. "It happened to a friend of mine. And I heard of a teacher who took some kids to a function and was so drunk the kids tried to take over the wheel so he wouldn't drive."

"I know a kid, a good kid who won't go to a dance because there is so much peer pressure to drink. He stays home. No kid should have to do that and miss out on what I feel is the best part of school. I realize that there are kids who go all the way through high school without any problems but there aren't many."

The group asked McMahan what was

being done about the situation, what could be done and how they could help.

"I take this responsibility seriously," McMahan said. "If I find out there's marijuana, I'll search it out. I'm not past searching or getting the police involved. I think drinking is a big problem, but it's not out of the norm with other places. The problem is that parents will buy; that has to stop. Some establishments will sell to minors; the OLCC must stop that."

Sandy High has already taken a number of steps during the last 1½ years to curb its problems. Students are no longer allowed to leave athletic events and re-enter the building since it

was discovered many would drink alcoholic beverages in the parking lot.

A 20-minute break was instituted two days a week in order to give students a chance to socialize, study or hold assemblies in an attempt to decrease skipping. McMahan began an Advisor-Advisee program to give students more personalized attention.

McMahan agrees that Sandy High has problems, but no more than any other learning institute.

"If you're going to challenge us, I want you to come in and get down to brass tacks," McMahan said. "I want to know the basis of your facts. I'd like to hear from you. If what you say is true, all I want to do is find it. But if you're willing to complain, you better be willing to support. It could be your child, and one day we'll be dealing with you."

The Hoodland men admitted that they had been silent until now because they weren't aware of the extent of the problems. But when one of their children became involved in a drinking incident, stories of other problems began to surface around the community.

"It's finally coming to a head," Sweitzer said. "There has been an incident here, an incident there and the more I dig into it, the worse it gets."

Some other specific problems the group brought up were teachers who give exclusively open book tests, a lack of college preparation, the policy (set by the Oregon School Activities) that lets students participate in sports despite getting four Ds and two Fs and the lack of a measuring device to compare Sandy students and curriculum with other schools.

The group made several requests to McMahan. They see the major problems as drinking, drugs, attendance, teacher ineffectiveness on an individual basis and a general lack of discipline.

They would like to see unannounced locker searches, stricter teacher evaluations and more long-term suspensions, six weeks to a term instead of one or three days.

There may be problems meeting those requests, however. Locker searches have had to be announced in the past because of a fine legal line with search and seizure laws. Long-term suspensions may also be illegal and McMahan said the Juveniles Services Division has been reluctant to deal with truancy problems.

Another problem is location. Sandy High students are spread out over a large area and most depend on buses for transportation. If a student gets in trouble or is suspended, he often has no place to go. The administration usually keeps the student in school.

"If we were in a Portland setting, I'd say pick him up and get him the heck out of here," McMahan said. "But that's not realistic with our transportation situation."

McMahan said that he was glad to receive some input and that he hoped to deal with the Hoodland men and other parents individually so that the school can get to the bottom of any problems. He suggested using the school board as a reference point for any policy decisions and welcomed any more public input.

"Everyone has got to be involved," he said. "It goes beyond shooting at me. When we load up, we load up together."

Dempster named 1980's outstanding citizen

Darrell Dempster, 57, co-chairman of the 1980 Sandy Mountain Festival, has won Sandy's annual Community Service Award.

The honor primarily celebrated Dempster's leadership of the last Festival, when he stepped in to fill the void of Festival founder and organizer Lynn Ellis who died during the 1979 Festival.

Dempster, originally from Sioux Falls, S.D., moved to Sandy in 1977 with wife Margo.

He works as associate broker at Pioneer Real Estate in Sandy.

In addition to the Mountain Festival, he also is active in Sandy Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis.

He makes his home in Alder Creek where he and his wife have refurbished a big log house.

Dempster is the seventeenth person honored by Sandy Chamber of Commerce for outstanding citizenship.

The first was Lyle Seaman in 1965. Seaman actually was named citizen of the year in 1964, but the Sandy Chamber set the practice then of awarding citizenship plaques at the annual installation banquet in January.

Other Community Service Award winners include Mike Paluck and Bob Smith (posthumously), 1966; Ivan Barker, 1967; Hazel Murray, 1968; Don Deming, 1969; Clyde Sutherland, 1970, and Howard Berger, 1971.

Other winners are Olin Bignall, 1972; Phil Jonsrud, 1973; George Morgan, 1974; Dale Nicholls, 1975; Florence Schmitz, 1976; Mel Haneberg, 1977; Pete Sulzbach, 1978, and Marjory Hoffman, 1979.

Nominees are screened by a chamber committee that includes the last two award recipients.

"Darrell has a deep personal commitment to community service," presenter George Morgan said of 1980 winner Dempster at the Chamber banquet last Friday.

"He wants to help make Sandy the best place to live. This feeling and his previously shown concern for youth is evident in the time he devotes to Sandy Kiwanis and the Sandy Mountain Festival."

Prior to real estate sales in Sandy and



Darrell Dempster, right, receives Community Service Award from George Morgan of Sandy Chamber of Commerce as Sandy's outstanding citizen of the year for 1980.

Tigard, Dempster served as a professional Boy Scout organizer.

His 10 years of professional Boy Scout work took him from the Dakotas — where he employed a college education in poultry farming — to Scout posts in Rapid City, Astoria and Beaverton.

Dempster took a trip to Juneau where he directed a Boy Scout camp in 1966.

In other Chamber banquet activity, Dick Busby of Independent Bank of Sandy was installed as new Chamber president.

Also installed were Chuck Jones, vice president; Vicki Ward, secretary, and Ed Storey, treasurer.

Other new board members are Marge Hoffman, Kathleen Eldridge, George Morgan and Arnie Poutala.

Outgoing Chamber President Bob Kallen in a farewell address pledged the Sandy chamber to more political activity in coalition with Hoodland and Estacada chambers.

"We all know that we're stuck out in left field here at this end of the county,

which makes it tough dealing with the county, let alone the state or the feds," Kallen said.

"Our voice alone might not amount to much, but with other chambers we might get heard."

Kallen also urged the Chamber this year to continue to support the city of Sandy's efforts to pass a tax base — "provided Roger (Jordan, city manager) comes up with something we can support again."

Area resorts rejoicing over return of snow

It's too late to salvage the financial losses incurred over the dry Christmas season, but snow has finally come to Mount Hood's drought-plagued ski areas.

"Winter has returned," said Richard Kohntamm, operator of Mount Hood's Timberline Lodge. "It's really accumulating. We anticipate night skiing by Wednesday and full operation by this coming weekend."

Meanwhile, Mount Hood Meadows still needs more snow before it can open, said Kathleen Wiscavage, marketing assistant at the area. "We're really excited about the snow. It's been very quiet around here."

Timberline has been one of the few areas to operate, running its summer chairlift on the permanent Palmer snowfield high on Mount Hood.

The resort opened its Pucci chairlift below the lodge Monday on a 12-inch base of snow.

Meadows opened Dec. 3 and remained open most of the month. But rains and warm temperatures forced Meadows officials to close the resort at the end of December.

The rains which melted most of the snow in December also caused large

mud slides which closed much of Highway 35 between Government Camp and Hood River, prompting Gov. Vic Atiyeh to declare the region a disaster area.

Multitorpor-Ski Bowl opened Dec. 5 and remained open for two weeks. But things have been totally shut down since, except for one rainy weekend.

Meadows had received about 19 inches of snow by Tuesday morning — nine inches in one 24-hour period, Wascavage said.

"It's good wet snow," said Mike Clark, director of marketing and sales. "That's what we really need to rebuild the base. The wet stuff makes for a better skiing base. We hope it continues through the week."

Clark said the area will need 24 inches before it can open. It will have to snow throughout the week if the resort is to open this weekend. For a daily update, skiers may call 227-SNOW for skiing conditions.

Clark said the area won't open unless it can "go full bore and have some real quality skiing."

The lack of snow provided Meadows one advantage. Crews were able to clear trees and add new trails off the Blue chair and one trail off the Red

chair, Clark said.

Clark also said he thinks the ski season will last longer this year because of its late start. Meadows usually closes in April because crowds thin out, not because of a lack of snow. If snow does come back, the skiing should be great in March and April, he added.

Rick Scott, manager of the Hoodland Branch of Clackamas County Bank, pointed out at the height of the dry sepl that it is not only the ski resorts which are affected by the lack of snow. "The grocery stores, ski attire shops, equipment rental shops, taverns and bars are all involved in some way."

But some businesses have not been too hurt by the lack of snow.

Kurt Mezger, owner of the Chalet Swiss restaurant at Welches, said, "We've been busier than hell. Business has been as good as last year or even better."

Mezger explained that the skiing trade is "really the icing on the cake" for his business. He said his clientele is primarily Portland residents.

"My business is 75 percent turnaround from the greater metropolitan area — mostly people in their 40s, 50s

and 60s," he said.

"When they see there is no snow in the foothills, they love to make the drive up here. When there is snow, they stay home."

So far the lack of snow isn't much for Willamette Valley residents to worry about, said Tom George, snow survey supervisor for the U.S. Soil and Conservation Service.

"If it keeps raining and we have normal precipitation, we don't see too many (water supply) problems for the Willamette Valley," George said. "But it has to keep raining."

The lack of snow could have major impacts this summer on the water supply east of the Cascades and in southwest Oregon. "There will be shortages of irrigation water," George said.

At the first of this year, the amount of snow was 25 percent or normal near Timberline and zero percent of normal at Government Camp, George said.

This year's winter can't yet be compared to the dry 1976-77 winter which also resulted in poor snowfall, a dismal ski season and low water supplies, said Earl Bates, Oregon State University meteorologist.

City grants variance to fire sprinkler code

The Sandy Building Code Board of Appeals granted its first variance to the fire sprinkler ordinance last Wednesday on a request by Baert's Metal Products in Sandy Industrial Park.

"It was a pretty good (request) to start out with," said City Manager Jordan, because it was a "good illustration of the clause that provides for alternatives."

Ben Salisbury asked that a sprinkler requirement be waived for a 4,800-square-foot building addition which the metal fabrication plant plans.

Currently, the building is sprinklered in the office and lunchroom. A firewall and doors separate a portion of the building which is used for painting and dipping manufactured parts. The remaining part of the building is not sprinklered. The company manufactures septic tanks, aluminum guard railings and other metal products.

Salisbury told the board that the building addition would be non-combustible and most of the material

stored inside would not be flammable.

According to Bob Rathke, Sandy fire chief who chairs the board, the variance was granted on the condition the company would not manufacture or store flammable materials and based on the fact that it is a noncombustible building.

"It's contingent on it remaining the same business," he said. "If the business changes, they're going to be required to go before the board again."

The Building Code Board of Appeals who appointed by Mayor Ruth Loundree in November to hear such appeals to the city's building code. Along with Rathke, the board consists of Duncan Brinkley, a contractor; Ivars Lazdins, an architect; Dick Rasmussen, Timberline Electric, and Bryon Tolle, Timberline Glass and Mirror.

When the city adopted the fire sprinkler ordinance requirements, it passed an ordinance which established the board of appeals to review variance requests to the requirements and the building code.

For hundreds of skiers who have impatiently waited to try out that new ski equipment they got for Christmas, that is good enough. For the many businesses dependent on snow, it may offer some opportunity to make up for the lull between storms.

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