High school fires teacher

The Sandy Union High School District board voted Monday night to uphold its dismissal of reading teacher Joan Ferdun.

Ferdun was dismissed from her job Dec. 8 after nearly a year of intensive evaluation by the school administration. A public hearing was held Feb. 2 at her request to allow the board to hear her reasons for reinstatement to her former job.

No further testimony was heard Monday night regarding her case. Four board members voted yes to the the motion to uphold her dismissal. Board member Gary Cleland abstained.

Cleland had stated earlier that he would abstain from voting to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest, because his wife had worked with Ferdun as a teacher's aide last year.

In other action, the board voted to allow student members of Sandy High's Key Club to travel to a mid-spring convention in Washington State. Travel expeses for the three students will be paid from the club funds.

Another student travel request was presented by band director Steve Christensen. He is proposing a concert tour that will be performed by the high school's band during the five days receding spring vacation.

Board members approved Christensen's proposal that the band travel in a chartered bus for the tour, which will take 55 students to six cities in Oregon and California.

Christensen told board members the tour will cost $6,160.

Cuts government duplicity

City official now inspects VA homes

Sandy Building Official Tom Day now makes the inspections, necessary for veterans building a home, that were performed by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

In an effort to reduce duplicity, redundancy and red tape, ODVA discontinued its policy of reviewing and requiring modifications to plans and specifications, as well as on-site inspections, that previously combined minimum technical considerations and aspects of quality.

The minimum technical standards are now left completely up to local building officials and all considerations of quality become simply adjustments in the appraised value of the structure.

ODVA no longer reviews plans for compliance with HUD Minimum Property Standards and the Oregon Uniform Building Code. The responsibility for the technical aspects of the design that relate to fire and life safety, sanitation and energy conservation are left entirely to local building officials like Day.

Plan review and approval by Day is now required by ODVA before a construction loan application can be accepted. Poor design, inferior detailing and use of poor materials which are not addressed by the code are treated as appraisal value problems, rather than as design and construction deficiencies, as they have been in the past.

On-site inspections by ODVA representatives are no longer made. ODVA appraisers visit the site, but only to verify the size and quality of the construction. These appraisers are looking at the non-technical aspects of the construction that relate to value.

In addition, new ODVA mortgage loan policy now requires building permits and construction inspections by local building officials on all agricultural buildings.

As a condition of the loan, a building permit must be requested and received by the veteran before the loan application can be accepted. Written evidence of normal on-site construction inspections by Building Official Day must be submitted before disbursements of loan funds can be made.

Oregon law exempts most agricultural structures from the building permit requirement. However, the law does not make the issuance of a building permit illegal when requested by the owner.

The new ODVA policy also calls for building permits on all structures, improvements and additions normally subject to the law. This includes garages, carports, swimming pools, most retaining walls, wood stoves and many other small scale projects.

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Action Center robbed twice

The Sandy Community Action Center was robbed twice this week, according to Sandy police reports.

Last Thursday morning, volunteers at the center reported that someone had kicked in the building's basement door and broken into the cash box. According to Pete Sulzbach, chairman of the center, $47 was taken.

That evening a neighbor noticed two women drive up to the center and load mattresses and clothes, left on the front porch as donations, into an El Camino pickup. According to Sulzbach, the vehicle was dark blue with a lighter blue left front door. Police are investigating both cases.

Thursday, at 12:11 a.m. police cited Suzanne Adele Futrell of Sandy for driving while under the influence of intoxicants after the car she was driving struck a parked vehicle near the intersection of Proctor Boulevard and Beers Avenue.

Gresham builder Brad Thomas told police that someone took more than $500 worth of lumber from a Sandy home under construction sometime Saturday.

Personnel at the Sandy Swimming Pool told police Monday that someone had broken into the facility and damaged a door, the pace clock and the boy's dressing room.

Also on Monday, Michael Thad Nicholson of Boring told police that someone had taken the grille guard, splash guard and license plate bracket from a vehicle he had parked at Janz Berryland. The vehicle was for sale.

Local movie club sets sci-fi, Dick Tracy films

The Mt. Hood Movie Club will present the definitive 1953 science fiction film, "Invaders from Mars," at its regular monthly meeting this Sunday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. Movies are screened in Room 51 at Sandy Union High School.

Directed by William Cameron Menzies, who designed "Gone With the Wind" in 3,000 color sketches, "Invaders from Mars" tells the story of David MacLean and his adventures when a flying saucer lands behind his home.

The original screenplay by John Tucker Battle incorporates an important in science fiction — the control of human behavior by aliens. The Martians overpower humans in the movie and manipulate them through surgical implants in the backs of their necks. The film has an almost ghostly quality with rich colors, an uncanny choir of voices and the robot-like daze of the controlled humans who are at the mercy of the alien invaders.

A recurring favorite at science fiction conventions, "Invaders from Mars" is considered a minor masterpiece and has been the subject of 20 and 30-page photographic essays in professional fan magazines.

Just preceding the main feature, the Mt. Hood Movie Club will show chapter 11 of "Dick Tracy Versus Crime Incorporated." Guests are invited to share a potluck dinner with club members at 6 p.m. in Room 55.

All film enthusiasts are welcome.

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