

# Mock eruption staged on Hood

One year after the eruption of Mount St. Helens, Mount Hood erupted Monday, killing 12 people and sending pyroclastic flows down the Sandy River.

On paper at least. The mock eruption was staged Monday — the first anniversary of the devastating Mount St. Helens blast — to test the Mound Hood Interagency Volcanic Coordination Plan. A three-day scenario was crammed into one day as representatives from some 35 government agencies packed a small command post in the U.S. Forest Service's Mount Hood National Forest headquarters in Gresham.

The plan was developed last summer, partly because of the eruption of Mount St. Helens and partly because of seismic activity recorded on Mount Hood last July. The federal grant that financed the plan required it be tested within one year.

As the exercise began Monday morning, the agencies were aware of volcanic activity on the 11,245-foot Mount Hood and established an information center to carry out a hazard watch.

And then at 10:04 a.m. it happened.

Seismographs on the mountain indicated the peak had erupted, sending an ash plume some 30,000 feet into the sky and disintegrating a lava dome in the crater.

Pyroclastic flows were expected down the slopes of Mount Hood, flowing into the Sandy, Zigzag and Little Zigzag rivers.

Clouds obscured the mountain so airplanes could not be sent to confirm the information, according to the exercise.

"There is something major going on on Mount Hood," said Chris Newall of the U.S. Geological Survey, the agency which drafted the scenario.

Quickly the map-lined room buzzed as officials phoned other agencies to alert them. A variety of information began to pour into the center.

Weather forecasts, wind direction and speed, and more passed from person to person. Hourly updates



Jake Olson handles telephone during mock eruption Monday.

photo by K. J. Snipes

provided more information on the peak.

The second "day" began after lunch.

The mountain's eruptive stage was pretty well over, said Anne Heisler, Forest Service spokesperson. Participants learned all the bridges crossing the Sandy River — down as far as the Stark Street Bridge near Troutdale — had been lost making several populated areas inaccessible. The Bull Run conduits that supply water to Portland also were destroyed, leaving Portland with only the water stored in its reservoirs.

On the third "day," most of the search and rescue was completed. The ash plume started blowing south. Roadblocks and the emergency center were in place, Heisler

said. "I think on the whole we discovered it worked pretty well," Heisler said after the exercise.

The drill revealed several areas of internal communication that need sprucing up, such as making sure everyone in the communications center knows what is happening. Officials also realized that in a real situation as much information would be coming into the center as was being sent out, Heisler said.

There also needs to be a person to assess information as it arrives and make necessary decisions about how it should be used and its validity, she said.

Heisler said the USGS labeled the mock eruption "middle of the road; it wasn't the worst possible nor the easiest."

## Road project in phases

# Council okays Tupper repairs

When improvements to Tupper Road begin this summer, the project will follow the lead of earlier Sandy street improvements and be done in a phased approach.

The Sandy City Council Monday night gave its approval to the plan because the money is not available to do the entire project immediately.

As a result, the street will be improved to 24 feet from Highway 211 to 300 feet past Sandy Heights Street where curbs already exist. At some future date, the city and county will widen the road to 32 feet and add a curb and sidewalk on one side.

Cost of the first phase will be \$110,000, according to Nawzad Othman, a representative of Marx & Chase, the Gresham engineering firm in charge of the project.

The city, in cooperation with Clackamas County Department of Environmental Services, received a Community Block Grant for \$105,000 to improve the road. The county at that time in-

dicated it would improve a 28-foot section along Tupper Road, which is a county road inside the city limits as Tupper Road is.

Unfortunately, the county's road budget was slashed and the city was notified that the Department of Environmental Services could no longer participate in the project, in terms of actual cash outlay.

The city agreed to transfer its Community Block Grant Funds to the county so some improvements could be made. The city will not take over the street until either the county or city have the total funds necessary to make the improvements.

Last year, the Community Block Grant program allocated an additional \$35,000 to the Tupper Road improvement project, but \$140,000 still would not pay for the entire project, so the phased approach was initiated.

The Sandy comprehensive plan originally indicated that Tupper Road would become a 40-foot collector

street. However, topography and right-of-way limits prevent that from occurring, along with the gross expense.

Thus, the project was dropped to a 32-foot improvement which will allow two-way traffic and parking on one side.

In other action, the city council:

—Awarded a bid for a new backhoe to Case Power and Equipment for \$16,601.34.

—Asked City Manager

Roger Jordan to prepare a staff report reviewing the minutes of the Off-Street Parking Committee which formulated the off-street parking ordinances.

A question has been raised regarding the feasibility of making the vacant lot west of News' Union 76 station a parking lot for the station. However, because of cost, the property owner is proposing that the lot be gravelled, rather covered with asphalt.

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## Tri-Met set to equip fleet with radios

By May of 1982, Tri-Met's entire fleet will be equipped with two-way radios and bus dispatchers will have much of their paperwork done for them by automated equipment.

Tri-Met recently awarded the two-way radio contract to Motorola Corporation of Illinois.

The contract calls for all components of the system to be in place within 52 weeks. Each bus operator will have the ability under the new system to signal the dispatcher silently when there is an emergency situation requiring law enforcement officials or medical technicians. The radio units will also allow the dispatcher to know when a bus encounters a major mechanical malfunction.

## Potluck nixed

Due to staff changes and the impending vacation season, "Your Community: Keeping it all together" potluck, scheduled for this Saturday, May 23, at the Sandy Community Center will be postponed until fall.

The event, sponsored by the Center and Sandy Community School, will be rescheduled and dates and times announced.

## Keeping Posted:

# SUHS graduation Wednesday

**Thursday, May 21**  
The Cottrell School Board meets at 8 p.m. in Room 3 in the East Building.

**Friday, May 22**  
Join Carol DeLude in a free-swinging Friday Fling, touring Portland's Washington Park Rose and Japanese Gardens. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Sandy Community School for carpooling.

The Timber Valley League District Track Meet convenes at Sandy High School's track at 11 a.m.

Cliffside Cemetery Association meets at 7 p.m. in the basement of Sandy Community Presbyterian

Church for the election of a board member.

**Saturday, May 23**  
A work day is scheduled at Cliffside Cemetery. For more information, call 668-4589.

The Timber Valley League District Track Meet gets underway at Sandy High School's track at 12:30 p.m. "Your Community—Keeping It All Together," a potluck at the Sandy Community Center scheduled for today, has been postponed. It will be rescheduled in the fall.

**Monday, May 25**  
Today is Memorial Day.

**Tuesday, May 26**  
Hoodland Women's Aglow Fellowship celebrates its sixth anniversary at the Red Lion Inn at Bowman in Welches with an 11:30 a.m. luncheon.

Sandy Union High School will host Baccalaureate at 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium.

**Wednesday, May 27**  
The Sandy TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) Club meets at 9 a.m. in the Sandy Community Action Center.

The Sandy Union High School Class of 1981 will hold its Commencement ceremony at 7 p.m. at Ranow Stadium. In the event of inclement weather, the

ceremony will be held in the school gymnasium.

**Thursday, May 28**  
Sen. Mark Hatfield will address the Sandy Chamber of Commerce at 12 noon at the Tollgate Inn, in lieu of the regular Tuesday luncheon meeting. Reservations may be made by calling the Chamber office, 668-4006.

The Sandy Golden Age Club will host its semi-monthly potluck at 12 noon at the Sandy Senior Center.

The Sandy Design Review Board meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Sandy City Hall. The Rebekah Lodge meets at 8 p.m. at the I.O.O.F. Hall.

## Obituaries

### Ernest M. Cox

Funeral services for Ernest Merritt Cox, formerly of Boring, were held Tuesday in the chapel of Carroll Funeral Home in Gresham. He died May 15 at a Portland hospital. He was 82.

Born March 19, 1899, at Eureka, Kan., he attended Manhattan State College in Manhattan, Kan. He married Clara Ida Whipple in November 1919 at Sappolpa, Okla. She has since died.

In 1944 he moved to Troutdale where he was employed as a pot tender at Reynolds Metals Co. He retired after more than 25 years service. Mr. Cox was a member of the United Steel Workers

Union.

He is survived by four sons, Charlie of Sandy, Richard and Ernest, both of Troutdale, and Robert of Kennewick, Wash.; seven daughters, Patricia Gasser of Sandy, Betty Winchester and Marilou Collins, both of Troutdale, Thelma Walker

of Gresham, Alberta Nettleton of Reno, Nev., Terry Larson of Camas, Wash., and Joan Moyer of Vancouver, Wash.; a brother, Wayne of Eureka, Kan.; 25 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren.

Private interment was at Douglass Cemetery.

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