

See section II  
for a festival  
wrap-up



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## Chemical identified as 'phenol'

The chemical in three five-gallon barrels found last Monday afternoon along Highway 26 was identified as "phenol", a strong, corrosive poison. It is commonly called carbolic acid.

Sandy Fire Chief Bob Rathke said the chemical is "highly toxic." He said exposure to the chemical over eight square inches of skin could be fatal. "The big danger," Rathke said, "is some kid coming along and getting into it."

Phenol is an industrial solvent that is used as an antiseptic.

About 2 p.m. last Monday, a crew from the State Highway Department found three barrels, labeled "poison," in the ditch next to Highway 26 near Langensand Road. The Environmental Protection Agency was notified and a special team from Multnomah County and Fire District No. 10 responded to the scene.

The special team spent about 90 minutes at the scene transferring the chemical into transportable containers.

## Geologists study Hood just in case

Any eruption of Mount Hood would likely send floods and mudslides down the peak's slopes into the Sandy River and other streams.

The U.S. Geological Survey hopes to determine just how great the flooding and mudslides may be.

The federal agency last week began a study of the 11,245-foot peak and two California peaks as part of a volcanic hazards assessment.

Scientists are measuring the depth of snow and ice on the mountain's glaciers and snowfields by bouncing electronic signals off the rock underneath. The data will help determine the volume of floods and mudslides.

Studies are also being conducted on Mount Shasta and Mount Lassen in California. Permanent markers are being placed on each mountain. The distance between the markers will be measured annually by laser beam to determine if the mountains are swelling.

Although scientists expect little change in the measurements, any significant increase would result in a more intensive monitoring program.

A series of earthquakes on Mount Hood last July prompted a hazard watch for the dormant volcano. Similar quakes preceded the eruption of Washington state's Mount St. Helens. Although many of the Mount Hood quakes were later attributed to dynamite blasts, federal and state agencies have since prepared disaster plans for the mountain.

Mount Hood's last major eruption occurred Sept. 21, 1865. A soldier standing guard at Fort Vancouver reported seeing the peak enveloped in smoke and flame.

However, in August 1921, a number of people witnessed hot sand pouring from a crevice below Crater Rock. Sulfur smoke is commonly seen coming from fumaroles on the mountain.



Photo by Dan Dillon

The sounds of the big bands of the 1940's filled Meinig Park Sunday afternoon under sunny skies helping bring the Sandy Mountain Festival to a shining conclusion.

## SUHS administrators await state decision

by DAN DILLON

Administrators at Sandy Union High School are playing a waiting game while the Oregon Legislature finalizes how it will spend state money.

As a result, the school's board of directors will wait until its Aug. 10 meeting to finalize a new 'B' ballot proposal for the Sept. 15 special election.

In the interim, the district's projected shortfall of approximately \$235,000 in state funding could be eliminated if a plan in the Legislature is OK'd. The Grannell Plan, introduced by Rep. William Grannell, D-Coos Bay, would put \$77 million back into basic school support.

"In which case, the 'B' ballot could go back to what it was — the bus and renovations," said Superintendent Jack Peters. The district had placed a 'B' ballot proposal before the voters June 30 which included monies to make up for the projected shortfall, along with the bus and renovations. It was defeated by voters, 905-614.

Peters told the school board Monday evening that if the Grannell Plan is approved by the Legislature, "we'll be awfully close to our basic school support for last year." But, he added, "I just have no way of predicting what the Legislature will do."

The Grannell Plan has been passed by the House and awaits Senate approval.

Board member Bob Boring is con-

cerned what the school district will do if the Grannell Plan doesn't pass and Monday evening he voted against renovations to Pop Rannow Stadium and drainage near the field.

"I think we should take an awful long look at spending \$70,000 here," he said, "when we might possibly need it in some area if this other money doesn't come through. We're not set on our total financial picture and that bothers me."

The renovation and drainage project will cost \$74,650.

Board member Gary Cleland pointed out, "We've been waiting five years for this. We're going to be scrambling every year for bucks."

Wayne Johnson, while seconding Boring's concerns, pointed out that the stadium is not just an athletic facility, but serves as a teaching station and community facility.

The spending was approved 4-1.

The board learned that one investment made is paying off. Librarian Jan Luelling told the board that the new library security system works. Last year, the library suffered \$1,913 in lost books, compared to nearly \$9,000 the previous year.

Most of the loss, she said, occurred before the system was installed during the year.

Peters declared a "one-month amnesty" during which all SUHS library books may be returned with no questions asked.

## Annual breakfast flies this Sunday at airport

Planes from eastern Oregon to the coast will have Sandy as their destination this Sunday, July 19, when the Sandy Kiwanis Club hosts its 24th annual Fly-In Breakfast at Rich's Airport.

The annual fundraiser will be held at the airport, three miles northeast of Sandy on Oral Hull Road, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Along with the traditional breakfast of pancakes, ham and eggs, the club has lined up a number of added attractions.

Airplane rides will be offered to the public for a fee. The hangar where the

breakfast is served will also house some live musical entertainment. And a display of antique automobiles is planned.

Money raised will go to support the Crippled Children's Camp on Mount Hood.

The cost for the event will be \$3.50 for adults and \$2 for children. Tickets are available from and Sandy Kiwanis Club member prior to the breakfast for those who don't like to stand in line.

The breakfast annually draws more than 2,000 hungry patrons to Johnny Johnson's airport.

## Hydro-electric project divides mountain residents

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

The Clackamas County hearings of fiercer will receive testimony tonight, July 16, on a plan to build a small-scale hydro-electric project on Hoodland's Boulder Creek.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at 902 Abernethy Rd. in Oregon City.

The application for a conditional use permit for the project was made by Steve Sweitzer, a Hoodland resident who owns approximately 160 acres on Country Club Drive. The land was clear cut last summer and Sweitzer is seeking to construct "utility facilities necessary for public service for the purpose of generating and transmitting power for public use or sale."

"If we can put in these little plants, you wouldn't need nuclear or coal-powered plants," Sweitzer said. "Environmentalists, somewhere down the line, are going to have to make the same decision I had to make — whether the same decision I had to make — whether to build more nuclear plants or small-scale hydro plants."

Sweitzer, representing SS Investments, may have some hurdles to clear before gaining approval, however. The county planning staff recommended Monday that the project be denied because there wasn't a need demonstrated for additional public service.

Sweitzer disagreed, citing the rising cost of power and potential blackout threats.

Much of the controversy revolves around the impact such construction would have on the environment. George Sheets, chairman of Environmental

Committee on Suitability (ECOS), has concerns for the project not only because of the diversion structure, but because of the wildlife that utilize the area for feeding.

"You have large tracts of land that have been clear cut and we have no guarantee that the area won't be developed," Sheets said. "How do we know the clear cut area will be replanted?"

Sweitzer responded to the charges, saying that he would replant the clear cut area and put in a fish ladder, if that

is what the Fish and Wildlife Department desired.

An environmental assessment study by Consultants Northwest claimed that any passage of fish above the diversion structure would be "questionable" after construction. The report stated that the structure would extend two to three feet above the bottom of the present stream channel, which could seriously curtail the movement of fish above the point.

The report added, however, that because of the steepness of the channel,

limited food supply and other factors, no fish habitats were known to exist above the proposed site.

Sheets questioned the reliability of the environmental assessment because there was no mention of the existing impact caused by erosion of the logged-off area forcing silt into the stream.

A question also arose over whether the proposed plant would increase the turbidity of the stream. Sweitzer denied the allegation and received support from Tom White, western states coordinator of a national hydro power study

for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "It should not cause any concern with turbidity," White said. "And it should, in fact, eliminate any erosion problem with the streambank."

Under existing laws, the proposed plant would only operate six months annually, from Dec. 1 to June 1.

Despite opposition from ECOS and the initial negative recommendation from the planning staff, Sweitzer said he isn't about to give up the battle.

"I'm going to take this one to the end," he vowed.

## Rhododendron sewage spill sparks investigation

A Rhododendron creek this week became the focal point of Clackamas County officials as residents complained of sewage in its waters.

The creek flows from the Zigzag Mountains through Rhododendron on the north side of Highway 26 and eventually winds up in the Zigzag River.

One source, close to County officials, indicated that the sewage problem was not a result of a leaking septic system, but was caused by a pumper truck which "both sprayed sewage on adjacent property, as well as pumped directly into the ditch."

Dave Phillips, in charge of the Code of Compliance for Environmental Services, said if something could be done his office would do so. But, he stressed, after sewage was dumped into a stream, there is little his office can do.

Phillips said his office would in-

vestigate the matter before holding a pumper truck or private septic system responsible, but added that he was aware of the Mount Hood area's past sewage problems.

According to Bob Johnson, sanitarian with the Clackamas County Health Department, on a regular inspection of restaurants in the area April 6, he noticed "a foul odor coming from the ditch" in Rhododendron.

He said that he dye-tested the septic system of the Mount Hood Dairy Queen April 20 to determine if it was responsible. After checking the results of the test April 21 and 23, Johnson said the leakage was not coming from the eating establishment.

He added that even though the odor is noticeable behind the restaurant, "the strong odor was not coming from their toilet or their septic system."

Johnson said the establishment had

been singled out because it had a backed-up handsink at the time and have had past problems with its septic system.

He said more tracking is needed to determine where the problem is coming from but, because the source isn't known and is probably a private septic system or pumper truck, there is nothing more his office can do.

John Borge, an environmental specialist with the Clackamas County Soils Department, indicated that the area had a history of problems and this week's could be the accumulation of previous years.

Borge said that in the past, an impractical "perk test" was the accepted way to identify site suitable for septic systems, but allowed seepage into rivers and streams.

"They used to pour water into a hole and time it to see how long it took to

seep down through the soil," he said. "People used to be concerned that sewage just went away, not where it went. Today we are concerned with just the opposite."

Phillips said the County has had frequent problems with illegal dumpings by truck operators and cautioned people dealing with unlicensed septic pumps because they are cheaper than licensed pumps.

"These pumps can't legally dispose into a legitimate sewage treatment facility," he said. "If people didn't hire them, these trucks would not have anything to dump."

Because of the distance the pumps must travel, they charge greater for transportation to treatment plants.

"People expect urban services and urban prices in a rural area, but they don't realize that it just doesn't work that way," he said.

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