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Postal service names Sandy postmaster

Sandy has a new postmaster. Arnold Becker, 42, postmaster at Cannon Beach since 1979, has been appointed postmaster at Sandy. He will take over Aug. 22.

He replaces John Metzger, who retired in January, after serving 26 years as Sandy postmaster.

Chuck Tropp of the Gladstone post office has served as interim postal official while the search for Metzger's replacement was conducted.

According to Postmaster Ben Luscher, who announced Becker's appointment, the new postmaster began his career in the postal service as a city carrier in Portland in 1962.

SUHS board OKs vote on new B ballot

by SCOTT NEWTON

The Sandy Union High School Board voted Monday night to put a \$255,846.03 B ballot before the public Sept. 15.

A \$355,293 B ballot was defeated, 905-614, June 30.

Library and art room renovations, field renovations and plans to hire a counselor have been cut from the first ballot.

The Sept. 15 ballot includes \$36,500 for bus replacement, with the other \$219,346.03 having been approved by the board at a public hearing Feb. 20.

"This budget was not developed in an easy manner," Superintendent Jack Peters pointed out. Asked about the alternatives, he said, "It means program deletion. It means a renovation of second semester."

Asked if he has a contingency plan, Peters replied, "I can tell you it takes the insides right out of the budget."

"You'll find everything that we offer here is a favorite area for a group of people, because when you have 1,200 students, you'll have segments that have success in everything we do."

"Mr. Chairman, it would appear to me that it's imperative that we go ahead (with) this election," said Paul Tucker, board member.

After discussing the fact that it would probably cost more to purchase a bus next year, the board decided to add bus replacement to the ballot, and then approved the ballot unanimously.

In other business, the minutes of the last meeting were approved after a change was made to include The Sandy Post as a designated newspaper, along with The Oregonian, to publish legal notices for the district.

Deputy Clerk Joan Hay gave a budget report, which showed a cash carry-over of \$4,412.50. That's "sound fiscal accountability," Peters said.

The Carnation Company, ITT Continental (Wonder Bread), Graybar Electric of Portland and Bud's Tire of Gresham received bids for the coming school year.

Decisions on bids for a tractor and custodial supplies have been postponed until the board's Aug. 24 meeting.

An increase in charges, from \$30 to \$35, was approved for the behind-the-wheel drivers education program to help the district absorb some cost increases and put it in line with similar programs in the area.

An electronic security system installed by Gresham Alarm at the bus facility and stadium area was praised by Peters. "It's a good system," he said.

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As temperatures rose into the 100-degree range for five straight days, the rivers and lakes in the Mt. Hood area became a popular magnet for people looking to escape the heat. Tuesday, Teresa Winter enjoyed the cool rapids along the Salmon River as she floated an inner tube downstream. Photo by Michael P. Jones

City water system handles heat wave

by DAN DILLON

The string of 100-plus temperatures ended Tuesday with the Sandy area coming through the heat with mixed reviews.

City officials were pleased with the performance of the city's water system—the million gallon filter plant performed admirably.

For persons who rely on the woods for work and play, the news was less brightening.

"We're sitting pretty good," said City Engineer John Lichtenheld Wednesday morning.

"The springs can keep us going through most of the year, but during the hot weather, we've got the new filter plant."

The city relies on Brownell Springs and Alder Creek for its water source. However, with the increased demand during peak temperature days, the million gallon tank kicks in and helps out.

There were some minor problems, Lichtenheld said, but those were not heat-related.

In the forests around the Sandy area, the picture was not so bright. But with

humidity returning to the area by the end of the week, the situation is improving.

"We've got all logging shut down right now," Bob Gulvin, forester with the Clackamas-Marion District of the state Forestry Department in Sandy, said Wednesday. "The last three days, we've had a complete shutdown."

The shutdown means loggers are not able to use chainsaws or cable yarding. As the humidity returns and the air cools, the tinder-dry forests will be reopened.

"We're on a humidity and moisture

recovery pattern right now," Gulvin said. "Supposedly, it's going to get better tomorrow."

For campers, restrictions limited campfires to improved campgrounds only. Smoking is not permitted while walking or working in the woods, according to Gulvin.

The humidity hit a low of 18 percent Monday, when the temperature reached 100 degrees. With that burning index, the woods became unsafe for work.

Prior to the total shutdown, loggers had been asked to leave the woods by 1 p.m. each day, Gulvin said.

For persons who simply wanted to enjoy the outdoors, there were some hangups.

The Gresham Community Hospital reported a land-office-business, breaking its one-day emergency room treatment record Sunday. According to Steve Kent, public relations director, the hospital treated 56 people in the emergency room that day, breaking the record of 53 set last summer.

In a normal 24-hour period, the hospital treats about 30 emergencies, Kent said.

Variety of hydro projects spring up

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Since James Watt became Secretary of the Interior, environmentalists have been concerned that his proposal to open National Forest lands to energy exploration might well be the end of the rugged lands that outdoor enthusiasts now know.

In the Mt. Hood area, these concerns have been voiced by Zigzag Mountain hikers who saw a survey crew paying particularly close attention to a waterfall.

According to John Geyer of the supervisor's office of the Mt. Hood National Forest, there are 100 sites being studied that are "technologically feasible for small-scale hydro plants." In the Zigzag District, Geyer said there are two such projects being proposed.

John Smay, ranger in charge of the Zigzag District, confirms there is a project proposed by Douglas Pagar of Gladstone on Devil's Creek and Henry Creek above Rhododendron on Zigzag Mountain. Henry Creek, water source for the community, is owned by the Rhododendron Summer Home Association.

Gordon Pearigen, Forest Service resource assistant, is concerned after the field reviews of the site.

In a June 9 letter to Pagar, Pearigen cited a potential problem with the stream's volume of water in the summer. He said it could be greatly decreased by the project's diversion intake.

He noted that the effect would be particularly visible from Enola Point overlook on Road S-27, where people stop to look at the falls.

He noted that the Forest Service would have to evaluate the impact and "may require that a certain minimum flow must bypass your diversion intake and flow down the natural channel and falls."

"Not only is the water flow important to the visual quality," Pearigen wrote, "but maintaining some water flow will help prevent a severe impact on downstream vegetation dependent upon the water."

The small-scale project, located near the wilderness boundary, would require a bridge constructed across Devil's Creek, raising questions of washouts, design and sedimentation in the

stream. "These concerns," according to Pearigen, "can be dealt with through proper design and construction practices."

According to Pagar, the design of the hydroelectric plant would have little environmental impact because of its size. He said there would be no dam which would cut off the water supply, but there will be some diversion.

He added that since the Forest Service field studies, he has modified the design of his project to accommodate their concerns. He indicated that a pipeline would be underground and the hydro plant wouldn't be visible, "even if you were 10 feet away."

Pagar, representing Douglas Water

Company, said his company has been doing preliminary studies of the stream for about two years. The company is also working on a project at Canyon Creek in the Clackamas River drainage.

He said the plant could generate enough power, after construction, to serve "roughly 750 homes." The power would be sold to Portland General Electric Co.

Ranger Smay stressed that the Forest Service is not yet ready to approve or deny the project. He said an interdisciplinary team, composed of a geologist, a hydrologist and soils scientist, is still studying the project in respects to "protecting natural resources at the site."

Clackamas River feels effects of hydro

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Along the Clackamas River drainage, Portland General Electric currently operates four dams — at River Mill, Faraday, and on the Oak Grove and North forks of the river.

But, with an increasing demand for power and the availability of federal loan monies, there could be an additional nine dams in operation in the near future. All would be constructed on rivers and streams under U.S. Forest Service jurisdiction.

According to Jay Massey, a fish biologist with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, his office has been busy in the Clackamas River drainage, assessing potential impact of small-scale hydroelectric plants on the area's fisheries.

Massey said for those streams which "do not have anadromous fish (steelhead and salmon which spawn in fresh water, then return to the ocean), evaluating those waters for small hydro is easy. But," he added, "if they do have steelhead or salmon, then we've got another story altogether."

The projects on the Clackamas River and its tributaries being examined by the Fish and Game Commission range from a three-foot diversion structure to a 450-foot dam proposed by the city of Portland for the Collowash River.

Ed Whitmore, Estacada ranger, said his office has discussed projects on Canyon, Whale and Cripple creeks by Douglas Pagar of Gladstone's Douglas Power Company.

Maurice Baker of Portland has explored sites on both the South and North forks of the Clackamas River, which one source claims "represents a large financial investment that reaches into the millions."

Whitmore also said there are two separate proposals for exactly the same project on the Roaring River by two different applicants — Baker and Hydro Development Inc. of Los Angeles.

Whitmore said Baker had a temporary permit for the project, but apparently overlooked filing with the Federal Regulatory Commission.

As a result, the California-based company filed and was granted a

permit. Now both applicants are reportedly studying the river.

Three projects are proposed in the Clackamas Ranger District. One large dam on the Collowash River and another on Three Links Creek, proposed by Gale Marshall of Portland.

Baker has also designed a project which would divert two streams into a diversion structure, the Oak Grove Fork and Shellrock Creek.

Massey said there are a number of problems associated with the impact on the fisheries with the Roaring River dam that have to be overcome, before it becomes feasible from an ecological standpoint. That structure's cost has been estimated at \$9 million.

All the other sites, excluding the Canyon Creek site, will have to address fish runs and may have to include fish passage systems and screening protection, in order to maintain the fish populations at existing levels.

Critics of these projects say other problems have not yet been addressed by any applicants. These include the aesthetics of streams and waterfalls after their waters are diverted,

District, but added that his office would probably survey the stream sites to evaluate the diversion structures' impact on fisheries.

He indicated that the Camp Creek plant could have difficulties because of the stream's important fish runs.

Massey did reveal two other sites for mini-hydroelectric projects that are not on Forest Service land.

He said he looked at a site on the Salmon River, proposed by Don Swift of Welches, and one on Clear Creek, proposed by Wes Post of Zigzag.

Massey said both would have "fish hurdles" to overcome if they are to become environmentally feasible. He said Coho Salmon were observed last spring at Swift's site.

their effects on water-loving vegetation and the impact on wildlife.

Massey agrees and stresses that when streams are diverted, bypassing waterfalls, waterfalls are aesthetically affected and "certain types of plants and ferns that are found only around waterfalls that depend on the spray zone" are impacted.

By eliminating the amount of flows in streams, Massey said, vegetation along the streambanks are affected and could add to erosion problems which will already be a factor because of dam construction.

According to an employee of the Fish and Wildlife's information office, the elimination of vegetation has not yet been addressed in relation to hydroelectric projects, but doubts they would be a determining factor in the environmental assessment.

Massey said the dam site on Three Links Creek has a 113-foot waterfall and the 60-foot falls at Whale Creek near Indian Henry Campground "raises some of these concerns," but, he added, "the Forest Service will have the last word since it's their land."