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State lauds school district, makes suggestions

by DAN DILLON

A visit by the state Standardization Review team last spring resulted in a clean bill of health for the Sandy Elementary School District. Now Superintendent Clark Lund is looking toward implementing some suggestions that resulted from that visit.

In the Evaluation Report, issued July 29, the 18-member review team gave the school district good marks for its facilities, organization, school and transportation programs, special education and all of its support services.

"If you're considered deficient in one place," Lund explained, "then you are deficient overall." Deficiency can be costly, resulting in the loss of some avenues of funding.

The review team's "Standard" rating, however, alleviates those fears.

"You have to demonstrate visibly that you are doing what you say you are going to do," Lund said. The state team reviews the written school district policies and studies how they are implemented throughout the four district schools—Firwood, Sandy Elementary, Kelso and Cedar Ridge.

"There are certain school districts around the state that have a reputation for being exceedingly good districts," Lund said. "The kinds of practices carried out in those districts are found to be in Sandy Elementary District, even though we're small."

"I'm not saying we're as good or better than those districts, but the report's conclusion is that we're a well-organized, highly-professional district."

The Standard rating is also an indication to the local public that you have a good school system, he said.

"I'm not saying every last thing we do is right," Lund added. "There are things that can be better."

While the report praises the district operation, it does make recommendations—some quite costly.

The recommendations are not binding, but when the district is re-evaluated in five years, they could become liabilities if they are not implemented, Lund explained.

Sandy Elementary Remodeling

The most costly recommendation concerned Sandy Elementary School. The review team suggested, "The en-

tire building be remodeled and brought up to current building code standards, giving consideration to an interior design which will unify the building."

That is one recommendation the district had already considered before the standardization review. Like the final report the school board had considered the building's dry food storage, counseling center, media center space and facilities for health care.

Toward the goal of implementing the review team's suggestion, the school district is making an energy audit of the building and conducting a technical assistance study, with the help of a Beaverton firm, Timmer and Associates.

The results of that firm's study will be used to apply for federal grant monies, through the Oregon Department of Energy, to implement energy conservation measures.

"I know that our building is not energy-efficient," Lund said, citing obsolete lighting, heat distribution and the lack of insulation.

"I'm highly suspicious we're spending more money than we need to to heat and light that building," he said. One catch is that the grant money

must be matched by the local jurisdiction and the school district doesn't have that budgeted for currently, which could mean a bond election, serial levy or just budgeting for it.

"This is only for the energy portion," Lund pointed out. "The state people are talking about the whole building."

"The school board thinks that if the energy grant comes through, then why not do the whole thing so we don't have a hodgepodge approach," he said.

Because less than half of those who apply for the energy grant monies are approved, there is still no guarantee the district will be given any money.

That, however, is a gamble the district is willing to take.

Timmer and Associates are familiar with the district. The firm did the engineering on a five-year study for the district in 1977 and completed the engineering on the addition at Firwood School and on Kelso School.

Because Kelso School is an energy-efficient building, Lund is confident the firm is qualified to undertake the Sandy Elementary Building study.

"They know what they're talking about, along with the fact they're familiar with the district," he said.

Other Recommendations

In other recommendations, the Standardization Review team suggested building principals "monitor more closely the neglected area of language arts, especially speaking, listening and handwriting."

Lund called that "a key point" and pointed to a statewide trend which Superintendent of Public Instruction Verne Duncan is pushing that students do not get sufficient instruction in these communicative skills at the elementary level and, therefore, suffer for the lack later on.

The team suggested selling or trading the Sandy Ridge site, a move Lund says has "poor community sensitivity."

Along with that suggestion the team recommended the Sandy Elementary District plan for a district service center, including the district offices, transportation facilities, maintenance facilities and storage facilities to remove these from the Cedar Ridge-Sandy Elementary campus.

That would be another costly item for the district to implement and Lund doubts whether it is necessary or sup-

portable in a community Sandy's size.

Finally, the team recommended that steps be taken to make the Cedar Ridge-Sandy Elementary campus aesthetically cohesive.

The team applauded the design and planning of the newer buildings, Kelso and Firwood schools, but added, "the growth of Sandy Elementary-Cedar Ridge campus represents a hodgepodge of architectural styles, construction techniques and materials."

That, Lund said, could be accomplished through the process which the energy-efficiency study of Sandy Elementary is putting into motion.

Sandy Elementary was built 50 years ago and wasn't designed for the programs which have developed over the years, such as the media centers and counseling facilities. If those are implemented in a restructuring of the building, the exterior could just as easily be made more cohesive with Cedar Ridge, Lund said.

"If we make a commitment to do one thing, it should coordinate with everything else," he said.

Hazards rise as forests face long dry spell

With national forests closed to firewood cutting, many potential problems that could have occurred during the recent dry spell have been averted, according to Fire Management Officer Bing Beckman of the Zigzag Ranger Station.

Nevertheless, Beckman said, ignorance of the dangers associated with fireworks, campfires, rifles and catalytic converters on automobiles have caused fires in the Mt. Hood area because "people were not used to this much dry fuel."

He said despite the recent rains, the area is still in a "really serious condition" because of the lack of moisture. He urged forest users to continue to exercise caution, particularly when driving off the main roads, handling cigarettes and using campfires.

"We are still in a precautionary class," warned Beckman. "After this frontal system moves through, like in the years before, the east winds will start and dry the area out even more."

Lack of caution and fire prevention habits have already kept firefighters busy this summer.

Beckman said Zigzag fire crews fought two fires over the July 4 weekend that were caused by careless use of fireworks in the national forest, a practice prohibited by law.

Unattended campfires have also been a problem for Zigzag fire crews.

A fire in early August was caused when a campfire got out of the control of a hiker. It was reported to a resource crew working on the trail. They were able to put it out before it did much damage.

Yet, not all fire sources are so readily apparent.

Forest Service crews battled a half-acre blaze near Road 27 just off Highway 26 Aug. 23. Beckman said the fire is still being investigated, but is believed to have been caused by either a bullet or a cigarette. The area is used heavily for target shooting practice.

He said the fire could have started when a bullet ricocheted off a broken bottle, causing a spark and igniting dry grass.

"Most people don't realize that shotguns and rifles can cause fires, especially black powder rifles which are especially dangerous," he said.

Beckman also cautioned persons who drive off-road during the dry periods to be extremely cautious because of the dangers posed by catalytic converters, the air-pollution device on newer model vehicles.

He said most people are not aware of the potential hazards driving through a field of tall grass.

Near Brightwood, one such fire burned two acres of state land two weeks ago.



The man leaning out of the van found himself high-centered Friday about four miles south of Sandy on Highway 211. He told an Oregon state policeman, who did not file a report, that the recently-purchased vehicle

started wobbling and then went out of control. With some help, he got out of the ditch with only minor damage. He refused to identify himself.

Photo by Scott Newton

Welches city flap grows among residents

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The idea of turning a Mt. Hood area town into a city isn't a new one, according to some oldtimers in the area. Rhododendron tried to incorporate itself twice and failed.

The concerns raised then are being raised today since Rippling River developer Carl Bright unveiled his proposal for the incorporation of the Welches area into a city and the debate has both enraged and delighted residents of the area.

Nancy Turner is a Welches resident who grew up in the area and owns property near Welches Road. She told those attending the Aug. 18 meeting at which the plan was initially unfolded that incorporation could do much to alleviate the "Burma shaves, the squat signs and the trash" which, she said, has turn the area into a

"disgrace."

She said, "It's a 'Dogpatch' up here. I've lived up here all my life and I'm ashamed of it."

Bob Dorman, Turner's neighbor, disagrees. "The area is a Dogpatch. That's what's nice about it," he said. He fears incorporation will force more urbanization of the area and encourage a greater influx of people. That, he said, would pose a burden on both the area's economy and natural environment.

Dorman said the people living with the proposed city limits had better examine their consciences and "keep the area rural in order to continue attracting the tourists which the mountain so dearly depends on."

He added, "They want to get out into the woods and see the crooked roads, the streams and the wildlife. Pretty soon we'll have golden arches and Big Boys up here."

"The more people you get up here,

the mountain will go downhill as an outdoor area. The trails will be trampled down and the area ruined by too many people," Dorman said. "We already have too many examples of this already, right here."

Dorman fears that the increased population that Bright predicts will come to the city might have a negative impact on the area's local businesses, claiming new businesses would also arrive, disrupt the economy and provide competition for those which took years to establish themselves.

Alan Jensen, board member of the Salmon Valley Water Company which would have to pay a utilities tax if the area is incorporated, said the water company has taken no stand on the issue of incorporation.

Charlie Augustine, former owner and proprietor of the Hoodland Telephone Company and 23-year resident, thinks

the city is a bad idea. He called it a "benefit for an economically-select group."

He asked, "Who would rule this city? The special interest group that represents the well-to-do. This whole thing has been generated by the well-to-do and will benefit only the well-to-do."

Augustine fears that if the city is formed, a property tax will be voted into existence and that would place an economic strain on the majority of people who, he said, were of modest means and "struggling to get by making great sacrifices in order to live up here on the mountain."

He calls the plan "premature" and recommends the city be postponed until it is really needed to be formed.

The next meeting on the city of Welches proposal will be tomorrow, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m. in the Pow Wow Room at Bowman's.

Substation joint venture appears dead

For the past couple years, the possibility of a new fire protection facility in Government Camp lay in the prospects of a joint venture between the Hoodland Rural Fire District and the U.S. Forest Service.

Now, after two and half years of work appealing to the Forest Service to share costs in a fire district substation in the mountain town, the final blow to that joint venture has apparently been made.

According to Hoodland Fire Chief Don Armintrout, the U.S. Forest Service leader in Washington D.C., Max Peterson, declined to commit his agency to the cooperative venture and issued a five-page report stating reasons why his agency should not share the fire-protection burdens for the area.

Armintrout said money for the substation will have to be acquired through a tax assessment of the Government Camp area.

He said those who live in the area have never been burdened by paying the bill for fire protection elsewhere in the Mt. Hood area and those who live down the mountain should not be required to pay Government Camp's.

The fire district is still assessing the area's needs and will soon identify the priorities to be accomplished by the new substation, Armintrout said.

He added that a building design committee has a preliminary design for the new substation. The committee is composed of Bob Brock and John Larson, Government Camp volunteer firefighters, district board member Dave Olsen and Armintrout.

The chief said the new substation will be manned by volunteers and house a fire engine, tanker and a snow cat.

Post deadlines change during holiday break

Due to the Labor Day holiday this Monday, Sept. 7, the deadline for placing classified advertisements has been moved forward to today.

That means that to place a classified advertisement in next week's edition of the Sandy Post, readers should call their ad in today by 3 p.m.

The telephone number for placing classified advertisements in The Post is 667-6633.

Holiday deadline for display advertising has been moved up to Friday afternoon for the Sept. 10 issue.

News releases for next issue also should be delivered to The Post by Friday afternoon.