

Damascus residents defend Boring firefighters

The heat has continued for the Boring Fire District following the Sunday morning blaze that destroyed a Damascus shopping center.

Portland newspaper and television reports of the fire included comments from bystanders who criticized fire crews, saying response was slow and

not enough water was put on the blaze that burned the True Value Hardware store, Highway 212 Auto Parts, the Deli-Barn and a new Mayflower Realty office.

Fire Chief Matt Shields said reports that crews didn't respond quickly were not true.

"Dispatch records show the call came in at 10:55 a.m.," he said. "The tone (call for volunteers) went out at 10:56. And the Damascus unit was in service at 10:58," Shields said. "They arrived at the shopping center at 10:59."

The fire started in the rear of the

building on a loading dock, according to fire officials. Shields said the people who are criticizing the performance of the department may have only seen activity in the front of the building.

One area resident who attends the Damascus Community Church across Highway 212 saw the Sunday blaze and criticized the firefighters. "We came out of church at 10 minutes until 11 a.m.," Susan Carlson said. "Once they arrived it took forever."

Highway 212 Auto Parts operator Norm Lowry said about the criticism "it's a bunch of baloney."

"With everything I know, I believe they were here on time and they did what they should have done," Lowry said. "I even called the TV news people to protest what was put on the air."

Mike Strickland, an officer who was on one of the first vehicles to arrive, said the first two or three rigs pulled around back.

Archie Padberg, building owner, said the fire department responded beautifully, but that he had talked to someone who was watching from the back of the building.

"They told me the fire could have been put out with a water hose," Padberg said. He said he had three

witnesses who say the crews were disorganized.

He also claimed the fire crews had trouble reaching fire hydrants and they were slow.

"Once the fire got going there was nothing they could do," Padberg said. Shields contests Padberg's statements. He said the first truck carries 750 gallons of water.

"It took us about 30 to 45 seconds to set up our lines," said Mike Strickland, officer with the Damascus crew. "There was a huge volume of flame. Our intent was to keep it from spreading," he said.

Shields said that charges that the fire companies were not putting water on the fire were false. The first truck drained its tank in the initial five minutes, he said. And there was a tanker there shortly after that.

"We were out of water for seven minutes, but at that point the fire was already in the attic and we couldn't get to it," he said. "Shortly after 11 a.m. we began drawing water from the hydrants," he said.

He referred to water-use graphs recorded during the fire by the water company. "We used 120,000 gallons between 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.," he said.

Shields said his evaluation of the firefighters was high, considering the progress of the fire before notification. "We think the fire had been burning about 35 minutes before the call came in," he said.

Clay Theander, a hardware store employee, reported the fire. He said he realized something was burning when he spotted a glow as he looked out a window in the rear of the building. He said he went out to try and douse the blaze with a hose, but decided he should evacuate the building instead.

"There was a delay. The young man evacuated customers first which must have taken four or five minutes," Shields said. "He handled it very well, though," the chief said.

"When the truck left Boring (at 10:58 a.m.) they reported black smoke coming off of the fire. That indicates it was already burning the roofing," he said.

He said the fire started on the back wall or in the overhang that extends from the roof.

Shields said the firefighters were battling the type of structure almost as much as the flame. The building had a heavy clay-tiled mansard, which is a French style roof that has slanted sides and an almost flat top.



Gloria Miller of Sandy is pictured with the bowl she received from the Oregon Wheat Commission for having the best chocolate layer cake at the Clackamas County

Fair. Miller also took top honors at the state fair with her layer cake, and received a second-place ribbon for her tablecloth, also pictured above.

Staff photo

Timberline Rim water board will try lowering the pump

by VON BRASCHLER

The water board of Timberline Rim near Brightwood voted in emergency session Saturday to lower the pump in the development's troubled well this week.

The \$900 short-term solution could triple the deep well's pumping time, since the pump previously could shut off after only 15 minutes. Theoretically, then, the deeper pump could work longer, before static water gets to it and its protective system shuts it off to avoid exposure to water.

"It's a risk," admits Marilyn Peterson of the Rim office.

"The only thing it will do is increase the head of water above the pump. Whether that really gives us three times more pumping time, we won't know until it's lowered in the well (from 30 to 97 feet) and we start getting new statistics."

The pump was lowered Tuesday from 30 feet to 97 feet in just three hours. "Down" time is critical to the development's well, since repairs this summer created a panic with short water supply. Added to that problem is an increasingly high drain on the Rim's water,

with 20 new homes and more landscape watering in the last year.

"The well's been unpredictable to this point," Peterson said, "so we can't give any guarantee."

D & A Pump of Oregon City lowered the well Tuesday morning.

Now a resident committee of three is charged with layout out short- and long-term plans for solving Timberline Rim's persistent water problem.

Long-term planning should take the development to the year 2000 when the Rim fills to capacity of 477 home units.

Oregon Department of Health's engineering office is expected to help with long-range planning.

The development's reserve tank now is full with 250,000 gallons, after seven weeks of conservation that cut user rate down 17 percent to 53,000 gallons per day.

Recent comparison of current usage and consumption last year suggests increase hasn't tripled with 20 more homes as earlier feared, but still higher. In one way the development's separate water company is paying for Rim Recreation Club encouragement of landscaping and yard watering to beautify the 168-unit planned develop-

ment nestled in the trees.

Peterson maintains after Rim cross-checking of statistics that current usage is "not unreasonably high" for the number of users on the system.

State of Oregon average per household per day, Peterson said, is 300 to 400 gallons, but 2,000 gallons per day is not uncommon statewide for 5,000 square feet involving domestic watering.

"Nothing leads us to believe that there is a major leak in the system," she said.

The water committee will make a skeletal presentation on both short- and long-term solutions at the governing board's annual meeting Sept. 27.

"There's not going to be a quick and easy solution to the problem," Peterson said.

Currently, the development does not meter individual water use, and home metering could prove costly in terms of manpower and equipment, Peterson noted.

To date, the independent water company has been able to pay for emergency measures out of its own funds and should close books for the fiscal year Sept. 30 financially solvent.

Capital funds could benefit MHCC's vocational programs

Instructional facilities for more than 15 vocational training programs will be improved with proposed additions to two buildings at Mt. Hood Community College.

"No new or increased tax funds will be needed to pay to the building addi-

tions," according to Dr. R. Stephen Nicholson, MHCC president.

Nicholson said that the estimated \$3.4 million building addition will be funded by the remainder of a bond issue approved in 1974 and by state reimbursement which the college has received for

prior construction.

"In essence, the money is in the bank and can only be used for capital construction," Nicholson said.

Problems of inadequate space for growing vocational programs, subsequent crowding and safety concerns have been the subject of considerable board discussion and review over the past four years, the college president said. The past eight years of program and student enrollment growth must now be matched with facilities equal to this growth.

"We have proceeded slowly and carefully at looking at alternative solutions to these problems and now propose the building additions as the most cost effective and educationally sound solution," Nicholson said.

"We have held the capital funds in reserve, drawing interest, while conducting this rather deliberate study of the problems," he added.

Additions are proposed for the college's industrial technology and physical plant buildings.

The industrial technology addition will provide increased classroom and lab space for training programs in automotive servicing, automotive parts, automotive machine shop, industrial machine shop, metallurgy, and welding technologies.

This space also will include an independent study center with video, audio and slide projection systems and faculty offices.

Existing space gained by the addition to the physical plant building will provide additional facilities for programs in architectural technology, engineering drafting and design, business equipment servicing, electronic engineering and servicing, civil engineering, forestry, mass communications and computer technology.

Scheduled for relocation in this addition are the college's graphic services, bookstore storage, business records storage, warehouse and maintenance shops.

The space gained by relocating these services then will be converted for instructional use.

The college's vocational programs have shown steady growth through the years. In the late 1960s, about 25 percent of the MHCC students were enrolled in vocational-technical classes. Today, nearly 50 percent of all students are in vocational-technical classes.

Hoodland happenings:

Hoodland blood drive set

Friday, Sept. 18

A blood drive, sponsored by the Hoodland Fire Department, will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. at the fire hall. No appointment is necessary.

Saturday, Sept. 19

The Wy'east Artisans Guild will have a booth at the Fall Festival, to be held at Mt. Hood Meadows Ski area today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Welches Community School's Mushroom I.D. class will continue today with a planned field trip. For field trip information, call Reva Cox, 622-3397.

Monday, Sept. 21

The Mt. Hood Pre-School Co-op will hold its monthly board meeting at 9 a.m. in the Hoodland Women's Club office.

A senior citizens lunch, sponsored by Loaves and Fishes, will be held at Welches School library beginning at 11:30 p.m. Transportation and further information is available by calling 622-3331.

A class in "Hunter Safety," sponsored by Welches Community School, will begin at 7 p.m. Kids age 12 and older, parents, and other adults are welcome to attend this class, which will include hunter safety as well as a course in winter survival. Group Leaders Ralph Greener, Don Quint and Dan Wolf will teach this class through Sept. 24 in Welches School, room 11. To register call 622-3397. A \$1 fee will be charged.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Welches Community School Tiny Tots group meets from 10 a.m. to noon. Call Louise Hoyt, 622-3752, for information and meeting location.

Welches Community School class in hunter safety continues this evening at 7 p.m. in room 11 at Welches School.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

The Welches Community School's hike program meets at 10 a.m. for carpooling at the Hoodland Women's Club. Bring a lunch and beverage. Mothers with babies in packs and carriers are welcome. For more information, call Lou Tipton, 622-4316.

The hunters safety course continues this evening at 7 p.m. in room 11 at Welches School.

The Mt. Hood Lions Club will hold a general meeting at the club building in Wemme at 8 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 24

The Clackamas County Well-Baby Clinic and WIC programs will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Hoodland Women's Club on Salmon River Road. Call Patty Henniger, 622-3607, to make an appointment for immunizations or examinations of children of ages newborn through five.

A senior citizens lunch, sponsored by Loaves and Fishes, will be held at the Welches School library beginning at 11:30 a.m. Transportation and further information is available by calling 622-3331.

Club wants out of city

The Hoodland Women's Club voted Monday night to withdraw their 11-acre tract of land, which they lease from the Clackamas County Park Department, from the boundaries of the proposed city of Welches.

Renee Knapp, Women's Club president, told the members before the decision was made that she had discussed the situation with the Clackamas County Commissioners, and that there is a possibility that the county will lease the land to the proposed city so that they would have full responsibility for its

operation and maintenance.

Knapp also said that if it was the consensus of the membership to withdraw from the city's boundaries, then the city's developer, Carl Bright of Rippling River, said that he would make the proper adjustments.

Marilyn Leslie, a member of the Women's Club board of directors, questioned how legal it was for Bright to arbitrarily select the boundaries for the city, to get people to sign the petition for incorporation, and then later change the boundary.

Oregon State Fair winners

Winners at the Oregon State Fair include Carl Aschoff of Boring, who had the reserve senior grand champion female, for cows five years old and over, best uddered five-year-old cow, reserve senior champion female and county of club, herd of eight.

Melissa Zwirn of Sutherlin received a special award from Dave and Donna Skelton of Sandy for showing the Nubian goat with the best udder. The Skeltons sponsor the award.

Overall reserve champion honors in 4-H Nubian classes went to the milking

two-year-old doe shown by Jennifer Fetters of Gresham, who belongs to the Sandy 4-H Club.

In the annual meat animal judging contest Mike McManon of Sandy was reserve champion in the senior division.

In the team judging contest 4-H members were asked to judge classes of beef, sheep and swine, a class of forage and a class of grain and to identify cuts of meat and grains. Pattie Ten Eyck of Sandy was one of the top eight individual judges in the senior division.

Two groups organize

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Two groups have joined together to fight the proposed incorporation of the city of Welches.

The proposal for incorporation was set in motion by Carl Bright, Rippling River developer, who maintains that the area could keep hotel-motel tax monies, as well as be eligible for state revenue sharing funds, should the area be incorporated.

One group that has banded together to oppose the incorporation plans is now officially known as "Concerned Residents of Welches," or CROW.

Bob Pearson, one of the organizers, said that he and a growing number of

people are beginning a petition campaign against the city, claiming that assessments could be levied for street installations, sidewalks, and streetlights, and that there is also a possibility a property tax would be added.

They also fear that those not currently connected to the Hoodland Service District's sewer could be forced to do so, and be assessed for it.

A second group, led by Dennis Cox and Karen Hannibal, both of Brightwood, has formed an organization called "Concerned Area Mountain Residents," or CAMP. This group is for those living outside the proposed Welches city boundaries.

Stoplight discussed

In recent months the question of safety involved in installing a traffic light at the junction of Highway 26 and Welches Road has been debated among residents of the mountain.

According to the State Highway Division, the light will be in operation Oct. 31.

Duane Hofstetter, traffic control engineer, said that he is aware of the growing opposition to the stoplight, but said there has been no formal moves to halt installation.

Hofstetter said that in the beginning demand for the stoplight was quite strong, and initially came from a written request from the Hoodland Chamber of Commerce on Aug. 15, 1979.

He said that the Chamber was concerned about an increase in the number of fatalities and accidents.

Hofstetter said that Wayne Fawbush, state representative from Hood River, has written a letter in support of installing a traffic light.

He said that the area did not warrant a signal due to the lack of accidents at the junction, but did have enough traffic volume to justify its installation.

Hofstetter said that the Highway Division's primary goal is to "maximize safety in the area," which could be accomplished by the light's installation.

He does admit, however, that he knows that "when a signal is installed you are going to have an increase of rear-end collisions."

He said that the light should decrease turning and angle-type accidents.

Ron Failmezer said that stoplights are generally "an acceptable item to most people, this is the first time we've had this sort of problem."

"First the people want it. Now they don't."

Failmezer said that if people have concerns with the light's safety, they should contact the State Safety Commission and voice their complaints.