



The Sandy Post

Vol. 71 No. 41

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1981

(USPS 481-180)

Single Copy 25¢

Budget sliced as SUHS board expects cuts

Budget cuts were one of the main topics of discussion at the Sandy Union High School District board meeting Monday night.

The district is expecting a shortfall of \$219,346, but reduced the budget by \$232,944 in case of possible reductions in revenue sharing and federal forest fees.

Superintendent Jack Peters told the board he met the department heads and asked them to cut as much from their budgets as possible. The total instructional reduction was \$57,365.

Support services picked up the bulk of the reductions, including \$25,000 from operations and maintenance. The board also will not purchase computer equipment totaling \$17,407, which was to be for classroom and support service use.

Asked if the cuts will undermine the quality of education, Peters said, "As long as I can keep teachers in the classroom we'll educate students."

Wayne Johnson, talking about the B ballot that failed in September, said, "I think the money was needed, and I still think we need it."

However, he approved the budget cuts, which passed 4-1. Gary Clelland cast the no vote. He had earlier questioned the \$4,950 reduction in the science department and the \$2,100 math department reduction.

In a related item, Joan Hay, business manager, received unanimous permission to receive bids on a bus. The school has \$39,000 budgeted for a bus.

Hay said that of 16 district buses, five have traveled over 100,000 miles. Two more are approaching that mark.

A second bus was included in the B ballot that was voted down. Hay said that they are behind on their bus replacement program.

In other business, the SUHS board approved unanimously the hiring of Glenda Massie to teach math and science, and William Boyd to teach social studies. Eighty more students enrolled this year than were expected, Peters pointed out. He asked that the teachers be hired "to keep class loads in line."

There was a 16-1 student-teacher ratio last year. This year, with the hiring of the two teachers, it will be 18-1.

Heard Richard Gessford of Gessford and Associates, architects for the proposed performing arts center and renovations, discuss progress on the projects.

Discussed its desire to get volunteers for a community-wide advisory committee.

Heard a discussion of eligibility requirements for activities with the board. Peters has talked with coaches and the student senate. He is to make recommendations at the November meeting.

Approved third readings for the security personnel policy, student attendance and discipline. The first reading for library policy was approved.

Gave Bruce Scarth, vocal music instructor, permission to take a group of students to a festival in California, provided certain guidelines are met.



Photos by Dan Dillon

Sandy firefighters, like Jim Gallagher, were on the scene for more than six hours mopping up after fire destroyed the \$70,000 home on Phelps Road.

Arson suspected as home destroyed

by DAN DILLON

Oregon State Police arson investigators this week sifted for clues through the charred remains of a Sandy area home destroyed last Thursday by an early-morning blaze.

The living room and basement of the Sharon Holman residence, 44490

S.E. Phelps Road, were totally involved in flames when the first Sandy volunteer firefighters arrived on the scene at 5:51 a.m., according to Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher. Holman was in Gresham at the time of the blaze.

The house, valued at \$70,000, was a total loss as were the contents, valued at \$35,000.



Fire was blazing from the front windows of the home when firefighters arrived.

The fire was reported at 5:43 a.m. by an Oregonian newspaper deliverer on his morning route. Eight minutes later when a crew from the Roslyn Lake substation of the Sandy Fire District arrived, the blaze was out of control.

Firefighters fought the fire for nearly an hour before it was brought under control, Gallagher said, but the battle was hampered by two problems.

First, the home was constructed with non-fire stopped walls which allowed the flames to travel between walls and the ceiling. Secondly, the bar tile roof allowed the fire to cook unseen for hours, Gallagher said. When firefighters broke through the roof of the house, the flames had been working for some time.

According to Gallagher, the fire appears to have started in the basement. What caused the blaze is under investigation.

"All available hands" from the Sandy Fire District fought the fire, aided by three fire engines and two tanker trucks. Firefighters pumped water out of a portable swimming pool in the yard for a while, Gallagher said.

Firefighters were on the scene until nearly noon mopping up.

Investigations vary on herbicide fire danger

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

An investigation into the Sept. 6 brushfire, which injured eight Hoodland Fire District volunteers, under a power line right-of-way revealed that a mixture of diesel oil and herbicides had been applied to foliage in the area on Aug. 7.

The mixture measured out to be four gallons of Weedon 170 (2-4-D) and 96 gallons of diesel oil, according to a report released by the Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC). It added, "A red dye, thought to be a product called Rhodamine-B, was added to this mixture as an aid in identifying the specific applications."

Dr. Frank Dost, an Oregon State University extension specialist in toxicology and chemistry, assessed the possible impact on the firefighters which could have resulted from the burning herbicide and fuel.

"I can't come up with anything that would cause these types of physical reactions with 2-4-D," Dost said. "Who knows, this may have happened before. Maybe the people just accepted this as a consequence in fighting fires of this nature. We may be dealing with something here that happens all the time."

Approximately 45 minutes after Hoodland volunteer firefighters and personnel from the state Forestry Department and U.S. Forest Service began fighting the blaze along Homestead Road above Brightwood, one firefighter complained of "abnormal physical conditions" and was taken by ambulance to Gresham Community Hospital.

Later, seven other firefighters complained of the same symptoms—swollen bronchial tubes, headaches, difficulty breathing and skin irritation—which Hoodland Fire Chief Don Armintrout described as abnormal in wildland fires.

Dr. Joel Brenner, an emergency room physician at the Gresham hospital, maintained telephone contact with the paramedic attending the ill firefighters and monitored their condition. At Brenner's recommendation, oxygen was given to some of the firefighters.

After the firefighters began getting sick, Armintrout pulled his men back off the line and let the fire burn itself out. All persons at the scene were equipped with respirators to prevent any more ill effects from the fire.

INVESTIGATIONS LAUNCHED

After the fire, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) which owns the power lines and PARC launched their investigations.

At a press conference last Wednesday, Oct. 7, BPA officials announced that their study showed "the symptoms reported by the firefighters were not caused by the BPA application of Weedon 170." Rather, the study suggested, the ill-effects were caused by "smoke inhalation."

Dost said the symptoms were

"bewildering." He said the skin irritations and headaches were something he never run across, either in experimental or actual cases involving that small dosage of 2-4-D. He added, "Large doses of 2-4-D could cause headaches."

"You can always explain one rare case, but here we have a situation where six people had the same reactions," Dost said. He was not aware of the other two cases reported.

"We have guys who have skin rashes which don't make sense, based on everything we know, and you have people with swollen bronchial tubes. From all my research, that also doesn't make sense," he said. "So, what in the hell caused it?"

BPA officials said that no other chemicals could have been used to treat the area and that illegal dumping would have been impossible.

James McIntosh, BPA superintendent in charge of transmission line maintenance, said that because of controls used when applying herbicides, that large of quantities could not have been applied. If chemicals had been illegally dumped, the fire investigation would have revealed it, he said.

McIntosh said, however, that none of the investigations into the incident had conducted soil tests at the site.

At the Oct. 7 press conference, Armintrout challenged the BPA findings. "You and your education says that 2-4-D was not the problem," he said. "You say it was smoke inhalation. In my uneducated guess, I say it was not smoke inhalation."

Armintrout said personnel from his department who got sick could not have been affected by the same smoke as they were spread throughout the area at different locations.

FINDINGS DEEMED UNSATISFACTORY

Both the Hoodland fire chief and representatives from the state Forestry Department were unsatisfied with the findings.

"I'd be real hesitant to put my people out there on another fire," said Forest Technician Joe Crawford of the state. "I think BPA should be concerned that we may not aggressively attack a fire beneath their lines."

"I don't know what more we can do regarding this situation. We have done all we can," McIntosh said. "As a superintendent, I certainly wouldn't sent anyone out on a fire that I didn't feel was safe. But, these types of fires are (safe), because of the small amount of herbicides used."

Dost said, "There would be no way to recreate what happened on the line that night of the fire." The cost would be approximately \$100,000 to recreate duplicate conditions. Thus, the only available answers are the results of laboratory testing.

Tuesday, Armintrout said his department will take precautions fighting future fires along transmission line rights-of-way. He said his firefighters will be equipped with breathing apparatus and caution will be exercised to avoid health complications.

Water systems fight to avoid district

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The five Alder Creek Water Company systems have joined together to fight the proposed of a service district, proposed by Gene Ginther who was named receiver of the company in 1980.

Opponents of the service district claim it could cost customers nearly double for water service.

Oct. 4, customers in the area served

by the Riverside Water system officially formed the Riverside Homeowners Association (RHP) to develop an organization to battle the service district and devise an alternative plan to improve quality and quantity of the area's water.

Jock Stewart, chairman of RHP, told residents at the meeting that they must ask the four other systems to join them if they are to defeat the district at a state Health Division condemnation hearing Oct. 30.

"If we go there with a disorganized group and attempt to go against an organized one," Stewart said, "we're going to be a district."

Stewart said that in earlier fights against the water district proposal he was not concerned because the Riverside system's water tested clean.

"Then the water company was put into receivership and we're told not only are we a health hazard, but we are going to be part of the district," Stewart said.

This past Sunday, Oct. 11, the Sleepy Hollow, Barlow, Wildwood Annex and Country Club systems voted to join Riverside in the fight.

According to Jo Paull, a Sleepy Hollow customer, the various water systems will each devise their own plans for upgrading and maintaining their individual water sources. She said that the five systems are retaining Portland land-use attorney Ed Sullivan to present their case at the condemnation hearing.

Paull said that a company has

already offered to sell them pipe at 35 percent off retail price.

Dennis Yates, chairman of the Alder Creek Water Advisory Board and Country Club customer, is also optimistic with the new consortium of water systems.

Yates, who has been involved with the Alder Creek Water Company problems since 1979, said he feels a primary reason for the district is to provide enough water for new developments along the Mount Hood corridor. And, like other customers, he questions whether a health hazard actually exists with each of the systems' sources.

COUNTY USED

He said the Clackamas County Commission has been used by the health division in the condemnation process.

In a letter to County Commissioner Stan Skoko, state Health Division Administrator Kristine M. Gebbie wrote, "Because it is taking such a long time to gain compliance from the water system operator, and because the hazard presented to the users of the water is severe, I am requesting that you consider prohibiting the issuance of any permits or new buildings to be served by the Alder Creek-Barlow Water Supply System."

On Jan. 8, 1981, when the health division requested that the Clackamas County Commissioners begin an investigation to determine if they constituted a "danger to public health" and begin proceedings for the service

district, Skoko called the process "a railroad job."

After being outvoted, Skoko held fast and refused to sign the resolution requesting the investigation be made.

He said, "There is nothing concrete, regardless of what has been said this morning, to indicate that there is a hazard."

Yates claims that the district's formation was planned from the outset and points to a letter written by Ginther to U.S. District Court Judge Gus Solomon on Nov. 25, 1980.

In that letter, Ginther wrote, "I explained to you that we are rapidly approaching a point at which we will be able to submit data for the formation of the water district utilizing the health hazard proceedings." Those do not permit voter referendum.

Yates claims that if it were put up to a vote, it would be rejected as it was two years ago.

Yates said he feels confident that by retaining an attorney as a united water system, the customers can emerge victorious. He said that he and his organization had attempted to represent various customers earlier without total support and failed.

Yates claims to be wearing the battle scars of trying to deal with the system, but he has learned that by being a private citizen and standing the \$1.5 million water district would never be defeated.

"But, united," he said, "Ginther will have a difficult time getting his water district."

Shooting wounds three; three suspects arrested

Three men were apprehended in Boring early Sunday after a shooting incident left three men other men wounded. And it wasn't an ordinary arrest.

The three who were wounded were sitting in a car in the parking lot at McCall's Country Store on Highway 212 Sunday morning at about 12:15 a.m. Another car pulled in and at least three shots were fired. Following a chase, the three suspects were arrested.

The arrest was made by off-duty Hillsboro police officer Greg Spaete, Boring volunteer firefighter Rick Hager and Timber, a police dog.

Spaete, the arresting officer, was more than 60 miles from his home jurisdiction when he chased the suspects. But he happened to drive by shortly after the shooting. He called his dispatcher, who then called Clackamas County sheriff's deputies and the fire department paramedics.

Firefighter Hager went along, according to Boring Fire Chief Matt Shields, because Spaete didn't want to go alone, and Hager was the biggest guy there.

Timber, the police dog, is what brought Spaete to the area in the first place. He was giving a demonstration on the use of police dogs to Explorer Scouts at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas Saturday. Hillsboro police

officials said he was on his way to Boring to stay with his parents when the incident occurred.

Authorities said all six men were migrant workers who have been working in the Boring area.

Sheriff's deputies identified the victims as Antonio Samora, 19, Luis Saubado, 29, and Maximo Hernandez, 18.

Hernandez was in serious condition in Gresham Community Hospital's intensive care unit Monday, according to Charlotte Vail, hospital spokeswoman. The other two were treated and released, she said.

Shields said the paramedic's report shows Hernandez was shot through the chest below the left lung.

Another was shot in the wrist, and the third was wounded in the buttocks, he said.

Lt. Frank Baird, of the Clackamas County sheriff's department, said there were two weapons involved, a .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle and a .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol. He said three empty shells were found at the scene.

Sheriff's deputies said that Cararino Parra, 18, Encarnacion Bueno, 42, and Ellodoro P. Diaz, 18, are in the county jail. Each was charged with three counts of attempted murder, according to sheriff's deputies.

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