

# around the county

## Landfill problems on area rivers unresolved

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

Problems with illegal landfills in the flood plains of the Zigzag and Sandy Rivers "have not been solved," according to Walter Cate of the Code Compliance Section of the Clackamas County Department of Environmental Services.

Cate, whose office has been investigating the landfills since July, said in an interview Monday that he has given the three property owners responsible—William Steinbarger, Steven Sweitzer and Ray Thornberg, all of Hoodland—until Oct. 26 to comply.

He said that if the problems are not corrected by that time, or unless the

necessary permits are taken out, the three compliance cases "will be sent to the county commissioners to decide if they should take legal action."

Cate said that he had spoken to all three property owners quite some time ago and felt confident that the necessary permits would be taken out and the situation resolved.

He said that 1,300 yards of fill behind the Mt. Hood Lions Club at Wemme, which Steinbarger is responsible for, had to have some engineering work done and other organic wastes, as well as tires and other contaminated debris, to be removed from the site and "deposited at an appropriate site for such wastes." Instead, according to Cate,

more fill has been added.

The Rhododendron site along the Zigzag River, owned by Steven Sweitzer, was determined to be the biggest problem of all because of its potential impact on the river's fisheries, according to Jay Massey, a fish biologist with the state's Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Cate said that at this site also, even more dump truck loads of fill have been added. He said his initial investigation revealed that the Sweitzer property has had over 1,200 yards of fill dumped into the flood plains.

"Nobody has done anything up there," Cate said, "and I don't know why. All I know is that there has been continued filling when I ordered it to cease."

Cate said that the Thornberg site at the junction of Highway 26 and Grouse Lane in Wemme, even though it has had 200 to 600 yards of fill removed, is still in violation.

He said that Thornberg had been told to either get a grading permit or remove

the entire fill by Oct. 1. Failing to do so is a violation of county ordinances.

Cate said that if the three landowners are turned over to the commissioners, that he feels they will aggressively deal with the situations.

## Answers overdue on sewage spill investigation

Sewage spill problems, both at the Rippling River resort in Welches and at Rhododendron, will be pursued, according to Stan Skoko, Clackamas County commissioner.

Both sewage spills have been in the investigatory process for several months,

but no answers have been forthcoming.

"We had promised answers a long time ago," Skoko said Monday. "I'll see that we have the answers within the week."

In June of this year a problem was identified with the

temporary sewage holding tanks at Rippling River. Dick Wixon, of the State Department of Environmental Quality, said that he could not determine if the greaseballs, toilettries and other byproducts from the resort's six 5,000-gallon holding tanks, were from ac-

cidental spills or were deliberate dumpings.

In mid-July, it was learned that a sanitation worker with the Clackamas County Health Department, Bob Johnson, had discovered sewage in a creek behind the Dairy Queen restaurant in

Rhododendron.

About that investigation, John McIntyre of the Department of Environmental Services, said, "If anyone says there is not a problem in Rhododendron that is false. There is definitely a problem."

## Mobile home fire investigation proves difficult

Oregon fire officials have ruled that a trailer house fire on Oct. 4 at the Hilltop Mobile Court near Eagle Creek was likely caused by an electrical overload.

Harry Barnett, of the state Fire Marshal's office, said the findings of the investigation are inconclusive. "There are no definite conclusions. A previous fire in the trailer confused things for the investigator — and the scene was burned pretty thoroughly," he said.

"We're saying that it was an accidental fire," Barnett said. Oregon State Police arson investigators ruled out arson, he said. Smoker's carelessness was ruled out as a possible cause.

"Trailers can be quite difficult because the material in them usually gets completely burned," Barnett said.

Matt Shields, chief of the Boring Fire Department, said the fire started in the living room near an

overstuffed chair. There was an extension cord with four or five things plugged into it near the chair, he said.

The Boring Neighborhood Advisory Committee will hold its next meeting Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Boring Fire Station.

Attending the meeting will

be Bernie Straight, a county traffic engineer, who will present the results of a speed survey recently completed along Richey Road and 282nd and 272nd Avenues.

Winston Kurth, deputy director of the Department of Environmental Services, will also be present to discuss the proposed street and drainage improvements for Fairmont Drive.

The agenda also includes discussions of other neighborhood improvement projects including community identification signs, downtown lighting, and drainage problems on Church Road.

Shane Smith, 5, died in the fire at 29200 SE Judd Road four miles south of here toward Eagle Creek.

## Speed survey Boring topic



Work continues on the remodeling of the Clackamas County Bank at Welches.

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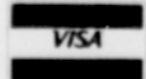
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