

# around the county

## Zone change sought to build motel at Welches

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

Mauka Motor Inn, an 80-unit motel and restaurant complex that is planned for the Welches area, will go before the Clackamas County hearings officer today at 9 a.m.

The hearing will be held at

the Clackamas County Environmental Services Building at 902 Abernethy Road, in Oregon City. The applicant, Olson-Argo Architects of Beaverton, is seeking a zone change from planned commercial to rural tourist commercial, which would allow the construction of the facilities.

During the mid-70s the county rejected a similar zone change for a pizza parlor at the same location. The Mauka Motor Inn development would occupy about four acres on the south side of Highway 26, approximately 450 feet east of Welches Road, next to the Hoodland Thriftway.

The facilities, which were designed by Olson-Argo, would be built by Mauka Construction, also of Beaverton, which is owned by the developers. Ralph Olson, a partner in the architectural firm, confirmed, in a telephone interview, that the 5,000-square-foot restaurant planned in

conjunction with the motel could be an Elmer's Pancake House. Olson said that officials with Elmer's had been talked to, but no official word on the restaurant will be available unless the development is approved by the county and the design review process begun.

Olson said that the new development would be "geared towards a middle income group, and not necessarily lower income, as rumored." He said that the complex would be tailored to people who will be both skiing and golfing, but could not afford the lodging at Rippling River.

The proposed Mauka development will also provide eight spaces for recreational vehicles. The space will be able to accommodate large, self-contained units in addition to pickups and boats.

The only opposition to the development, so far, was registered in a letter to Robert Schumacker, Clackamas County commis-

sioner, and Dominic Mancini, planning director. The staff report of the planning department has recommended approval of the project. The area to be developed is currently undeveloped and vacant, and has been designated by the Mt. Hood Community Plan as part of the Corridor's commercial center.

## Eagle Creek girl persists and attains goal

by GWEN BOGH  
Post Correspondent

Birthday wishes and childhood dreams don't always materialize, but for Tracie Ruple both held true. Six years ago on her 10th birthday she became the proud owner of Linda Lee King, her first, but not last, horse.

She had spent most of that birthday at her grandmother's. It was unusual for her to spend that special day away from her home and her father, but she didn't think to question it.

She remembers, though, hearing her mother call home to see if her father was ready for them.

After returning home, Ruple's mother told her that her father wanted to talk with her in the barn. Her first reaction was—what could I have done?

As she walked to the barn she prepared herself for the worst and got the best. Standing erect and proud, a beautiful chestnut-brown quarter horse peered through the stable gate. Nothing could have matched this 10 year old's surprise

and excitement.

Since that special birthday, Ruple has owned and trained six other horses for showing. The 16 year old can recite their names, ages and appearances without hesitation.

The unpleasant experiences, along with the good ones, are also recalled instantly.

"I've come off a horse just about any way you can imagine," Ruple said. Not only has she been bucked, but she's been bitten too. These unpleasant experiences didn't stop her from doing what she set out to do. Showing her horse at state was her ultimate goal.

For Ruple, the failures were just as important as successes. Each was a learning experience. She remembers one time at a state competition when she fell flat on her face in front of a huge audience. She reports having never been so embarrassed, and of course it knocked her out of the competition.

As she was finishing a pattern she thinks she got too close to her horse, getting her pant leg stepped on,

which tripped her up.

It was a disappointment for her but not a deterrent. She went back the next year and had a good run.

The last six years of Ruple's life with horses have been good, but it's meant a lot of hard work and dedication.

Every day the horses had to be fed and groomed. The stalls had to be cleaned and the horses had to be exercised in their routines.

Ruple performed her daily tasks early in the mornings and after school. As busy as she had, it was only fair that she take a break after school and fix something to eat. One horse she had must not have liked that part of her schedule.

As Ruple snacked at the kitchen window, her horse looked in as if he were wanting her to feed him first. As guilty as Ruple felt about eating first, she did not succumb—at least not at that minute. She closed the curtains and ate in peace.

Training horses takes a great deal of time, but most of all it takes "a lot of patience," said Ruple.

Currently, Ruple owns two

horses. Tinky's Tav, a quarter horse, and Gay Raf-fonel, an Arabian. Each are trained to do what their breed does best. The quarter horse is best at jumping and cutting for rodeos, and the Arabian is strictly a show horse.

This summer the Arabian, Gay, won a medalion at the Oregon State Fair for showmanship. Ruple said that when she first purchased the Arabian she thought she'd made a mistake, but realized later that the Ara-

bian "didn't need as much work as she had pictured. He learns fast," according to Ruple. "That's why he made it to state."

Without her parents, Ruple said that she wouldn't have been able to achieve the success she has. "A lot of credit goes to my parents or otherwise I wouldn't be into this," she said. "They've provided me with riding lessons, and as long as I've worked and put out the effort, they've always been willing to help me."

While no definite decisions need to be made now, Ruple does have some long range goals in mind. After college and attaining a career, she hopes to have a stable in the country where she can break and train her own horses. It may be years down the road, but it's quite visible to her.



Tracie Ruple and Gay

Photo by Gwen Bogh

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