



The Sandy Post

Vol. 71 No. 47

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1981

(USPS 481-180)

Single Copy 25¢

Athletics proposal readied for study

by DAN DILLON

An athletic program in Sandy's elementary schools will be part of the proposal Superintendent Clark Lund will present to the Sandy Elementary District budget committee when it meets Dec. 9.

Lund told a group of concerned parents last Thursday evening that athletics and a Talented and Gifted program will be included for budget committee consideration. Both were eliminated last summer when the district's 'B' ballot was rejected by voters.

Denise Redman, a Sandy Youth League spokesperson, asked that the school board "earnestly consider"

reinstating inter-city athletics for major sports. The youth basketball league was begun by parents this fall to help fill the void of no school athletics.

Redman said 20 coaches and 130 players are involved in the program but security problems have occurred, putting the league on a touch-and-go basis.

Steve Crampton, the coach of a girls team in the league, said participation and organization would be greater if the school district were involved. As a freeholder on the district's budget committee, he said, he will work to bring athletics back into local schools.

Lund agreed, "It's a tremendous

mistake when we allow to happen to our students and children what we allowed to happen this year."

A concern among the parents is that the district's students will not be prepared for the Sandy Union High School athletic program.

Hank Emrich, a parent involved in the youth basketball league, said that along with teaching sportsmanship and working toward a common goal for the participants, there are other values to be derived.

"When you have school sports, even kids who aren't involved can be part of the team," he said.

The new proposal will be different than athletics have been in the past, Lund said.

"It probably won't be exactly as it was," he said. "We're definitely coming with a recommendation for bringing back student athletics. I know it's really a big void in public school activities."

The void, he said, "sets the stage for other activities not socially acceptable or wholesome."

In other business, the Sandy Elementary District Board:

—Accepted an \$11,500-bid by Reyco Construction of Portland for new siding on the district's aquatic center.

That project had also been a part of the district's 'B' ballot proposal, but Lund said that board members felt

the problem was acute enough that money was taken from the contingency fund to complete the siding.

He told The Post the district has spent \$8,000-\$10,000 every three years repainting the facility and that the new vinyl siding will pay for itself in about six years.

—Agreed to have an architectural study to plan a construction sequence for new components in the Sandy Grade School building based on the state Standardization Report last spring.

The architectural study will coincide with an energy audit for the building and allow the school district to plan future renovations all at once, rather than in a piecemeal fashion.

Reward set for Hoodland area arsonist

An arsonist, or arsonists, are loose in the Hoodland Rural Fire District and the district's board and fire chief have declared war.

Fire Chief Don Armintrout said Monday that a \$500 reward is available for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who has engaged in first- or second-degree arson. Names of persons providing information will be kept confidential.

The reward will only be in effect until Jan. 1, 1982.

The reward is the result of an Oct. 31 house fire in Wemme. In that fire, like eight earlier fires, it is believed the same person used gasoline to set the structure on fire.

The house had just been purchased by Konrad L. Daas of Portland from Greg Hessler. It was completely destroyed with the loss estimated at approximately \$47,500.

Armintrout stressed that the reward is not just for that fire. He said the reward would cover the two Welches School fires last year and any other arson-set fires in the area.

"The fire district has suffered a lot of losses due to arson fires the last several years," Armintrout said, "and the board and I are looking seriously into solving these fires."

The chief said that since 1979, more than \$927,000 in structure and personal damage can be attributed to arson in the Mt. Hood corridor. The loss figure represents some 31 suspicious fires.

"We are trying to entice people to come out of the woods to help us," Armintrout said. "Their name will be kept strictly confidential. We're making a sincere effort to do something about this arson problem, and this arson reward fund is just part of it."

Reward posters went up last week in area post offices and local businesses. Persons with information are urged to call the fire station, 622-3256, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or 622-3921 after hours.

Sandy home gutted by Monday night blaze

Fire swept through a house at 37975 Sandy Heights Road Monday night, leaving the interior and its contents a total loss.

Ron Hasselman, who said he has rented the house owned by Ron Johnson for two years, had been home from work for about 45 minutes when he discovered the fire.

He said that his wife, Andrea, had just left the house and he was in the kitchen when he smelled smoke. He investigated and noticed smoke filling the hallway, coming from the sewing room.

Hasselmann said he immediately called the Sandy Fire Department and got out of the house, just before it burst into flames.

Sandy Fire Department responded

to the scene at 6:17 p.m., according to the run sheet. The blaze was under control in 30 minutes.

Sandy Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher, who was treated for smoke inhalation at Gresham Community Hospital and released, said Tuesday, "It appears the fire started from an iron that was left on."

He said the house is a total loss on the inside and estimated that damage to the house was \$35,000; damage to contents is approximately \$17,500, Gallagher said.

Twenty-eight firefighters, four fire engines and the rescue rig were at the scene of the fire. Mop-up was completed and the crews were back in the main station by 9:06 p.m., Gallagher said.

Mountain travelers face new traction test

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

If you're planning to drive between Rhododendron and the Warm Springs Junction, the Robinhood Forest Camp near the Mt. Hood Meadows, Timberline Road, and in a 20-mile corridor down the summit of the Cascade Range, you had better have traction tires or traction devices OK'd by the State Highway Department.

Sergeant Dan Wolf of the Oregon State Police said the state Transportation Commission met Nov. 18 in Salem and adopted the administrative rules to govern winter driving in several designated passes and four recreational areas.

A new house bill provides that several areas of the Mt. Hood corridor above Rhododendron have stations of signs warning motorists of snow conditions in the area. Each station would require motorists to be equipped with the recommended tires or device to make driving in the area safe.

The new highway signs will designate whether the roadway is in A, B, or C conditions.

In A conditions, a sign would instruct motorists to carry traction tires and devices. This sign would appear in snow zones where such devices aren't necessary, but must be available in the vehicle.

Wolf expects that the A conditions sign will be most common in the Mt.

Hood area.

In B conditions, a sign will require motorists to be equipped with either traction tires or devices on the vehicle.

Under C conditions, the sign would require that traction devices be used. Snow tires or studded tires will not be exempt.

Wolf said the new traction device law is long overdue because of the number of traffic tie-ups on ski weekends. He estimated that on a busy weekend up to 200 separate incidents occur in the Mt. Hood area alone.

"Obviously everybody loses," said Wolf, "because nobody can get to the ski area. And it's because of a few irresponsible drivers who ignore the road conditions."

Wolf said strict enforcement will be the key to untangling and keeping the flow of traffic along the Mt. Hood corridor moving this winter, because of the odd things that people do.

"People would drive as far as they could get and then park at what they believe is the side of the road. They they lock up their car and hitchhike with their skis to a ski area," he said.

"What these people fail to understand," said Wolf, "is that they have followed a snow plow and the side of the road is actually the middle. When the plow comes around the second time, it will go around the stranded car and leave it out on an island of snow on the highway."



Photo by Dan Dillon

Sandy firefighters cut a hole in the roof of a Sandy Heights home Monday night to ventilate the attic as they battle the blaze which gutted the home. One firefighter was examined for smoke inhalation.

Alternatives offered to water group

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Oregon State Health Division have offered the Alder Creek Water Users Association three alternatives in lieu of calling the water system a health hazard and creating a service district.

Jock Stewart, chairperson of the association, said Sunday that the three alternatives include formation of a special district, a water service cooperative or a private, non-profit corporation.

Any of those three alternatives, Stewart said, would be an improvement over the original county service district proposal which would occur if the current set of hearings finds the system to be a health hazard.

The county service district would be administered by the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners.

Assessment of all properties within the area would be without a vote of the people.

The special 264 district, which is a new alternative, could consist of three to five separate areas which would be operated by the people within the designated geographic boundaries.

There would be assessments, but it would be up to the governing board, comprised of area water users, who would decide who would be assessed.

Unlike the county service district, which would assess everyone in the area whether they own a private well or have a vacant piece of property, the 264 district could allow only developed property on the system to be assessed.

Ron Hall, manager of the state Health Division's Health Hazard Studies Program, said the alternatives were previously discussed

and that his office has always been open to proposals based on those options.

The primary objective for selecting an alternative would be that the system's problems be resolved, he said.

"Each of the options has its own set of criteria and problems," Hall said. "I think that the 264 district is the most viable one in the minds of the Health Division staff because of what it could do."

"All of the other proposals have liability problems and the inability to assess property owners in order to pay for the system's repairs. But, we are open to any new slant the people may have to the alternatives and we will surely look at any new proposal they may have," he said.

The water service cooperative would allow water users to elect their own operating board composed of representatives of each water system.

Stewart said one drawback to this alternative would be that the board would not be protected in terms of liability. In case of accidents or legal problems, each board member could be held personally responsible.

"The benefit of this district is that there would be no assessments levied against property owners," Stewart said. "The cost of the water system's improvement would come out of the monthly fees paid by the people for their water."

The third alternative, a private, non-profit corporation, would be controlled and administered by the customers of the system. The people would contract with someone to maintain the system on a daily basis to meet all health requirements to provide clean water.

Stewart said this option looks good because of the control and the board would not be personally liable. There would be no outside interference or

monthly assessments.

Nan Slanning, vice chairperson of the water users association, feels the alternatives are worth looking into and are more practical than the county service district proposed by the Health Division and EPA.

Now is the time, she said, for those not involved in the association to get involved or a decision on how to provide good water will be made for them.

"Those that have not joined with us, I think, it will be assumed by the Oregon State Health Department that they want a health hazard district that would be controlled by the county commissioners with no option for the people to vote or have a say in how it is to be operated," she said.

"We have to make a decision as to what type of entity we want. It will be

Boring zone proposals go to LCDC

In what may be the final chapter of a two-year dispute over zoning of land in Clackamas County, a panel has developed recommendations for the zoning of the disputed Carmel Estates near Boring.

A subcommittee for the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) made preliminary recommendations last Friday on both Carmel Estates and the Boring rural center.

The panel contested Clackamas County's decision to zone the Carmel Estates area as commercial. That 30-parcel is across from Heidi's Swiss Village at the intersection of Highway 26 and Oregon Highway 212.

The subcommittee recommends the area for a farm and forest classification.

The city of Sandy has contested the designation of Carmel Estates as a commercial center since the plan for a shopping center was launched.

City officials contend that the proposed center would take away from Sandy's commercial establishments' economic base and create a hardship on the city which could have to provide services for a site some three miles beyond the city limits.

While the LCDC subcommittee disagreed with the county on Carmel Estates, the subcommittee went along with county's plan to zone the Boring rural center as rural-industrial.

The three-member panel also requested additional information on many smaller parcels including the Rock Creek area near Damascus.

The county is attempting to resolve its differences with LCDC on approximately 3,600 acres throughout the county.

These are zone designations that have been challenged by area residents and 1,000 Friends of Oregon, a land conservation watchdog agency.

The LCDC has twice turned down the county's comprehensive land-use plan, but has recently accepted most of a revised zoning plan.

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