

Chimney inspections free to public

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Chimney fire season is here, with the seventh chimney fire occurring in the Mt. Hood area in the past three weeks.

The Hoodland Rural Fire Department is stressing that home owners ought to know what to do in case this type of fire strikes their residence.

Fire Chief Don Armintrout said that the first thing to do is to call the fire department. Those few minutes could make a difference in preventing more damage to the house.

Next, if the chimney is equipped with a wood stove, shut off the dampers. If it's an open fireplace without a stove insert, the damper should be left open.

Armintrout said that no water should be squirted onto or in a hot chimney because the mortar will crack. Also, nothing should be poured into the chimney, such as baking soda or salt. Nor should anything be placed over the chimney's opening in an attempt to smother the fire.

He said such an effort will only force smoke back into the house. The third thing that should be done, said Armintrout, is to open the doors and windows of the house to rid it of the smoke. If the smoke does not clear in a short period of time, vacate the house immediately. Armintrout said that this could be an indication that the fire has escaped from the chimney into another part of the house.

Armintrout said that

once the department arrives, that they will monitor the fire to prevent it from escaping into another room of the house. He stressed that the immediate notification of the department is of utmost importance.

"We have the ability to go to the hidden accesses (of the fire)," said Armintrout. "If it escapes the chimney, most people never discover it until it's too late. While they're looking at the fire in the chimney, another part of the house could be burning."

Armintrout said that they are concerned about the safety of chimneys and woodstoves, and that his department offers an inspection service to the public, free of charge. He said that a reservation will have to be made in advance because they are currently swamped with such requests.

"Everybody is having an inspection done," said Armintrout. "A lot of insurance companies are requiring that stoves be inspected before they are installed." Inspections for woodstoves can be complicated, said Armintrout, because it depends upon the type of stove, the house structure, the type of walls, and the location.

Inspection requests may be made by calling the Hoodland Fire Department at 622-3256 if you live in the Mt. Hood area. Sandy residents can call the fire department at 668-8093 and Boring residents can call 663-4638, 658-3154 or 630-3537.

Hoodland happenings

Drug abuse topic of PTA

Thursday, Dec. 17
Loaves and Fishes will sponsor a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the Welches School library. These luncheons are for senior citizens.

Welches Community School's "Indoor Soccer" group will meet this evening at 6 p.m. in the school gym.

Saturday, Dec. 19
The Hoodland Chamber of Commerce will sponsor visits by Santa Claus today beginning at 10 a.m. Santa will be at the Village Store in Government Camp at 10 a.m.; the Mt. Hood Food

and General Store in Rhododendron at noon; the Hoodland Park Plaza shopping center in Welches at 1 p.m.; and at Ted's Brightwood Store in Brightwood at 2 p.m. Candy canes will be given to children by Santa.

This is the last weekend that the Wy'East Artisan's Guild shop will be open in Rhododendron, as they must vacate the gallery building. Plans are in process for the Guild to repair and move to the building next to "Log Home and Hearth" on Highway 26 in Wenme.

Monday, Dec. 21
Today is the first day of Christmas vacation for Welches school children. School will resume Jan. 4.

Wednesday, Dec. 23
Welches Community School's Tiny-Tots group meets from 10 a.m. until noon. Call Louise Hoyt, 622-3752, for information and meeting location.

The Clackamas County Library Bookmobile will be at the Mt. Hood Food and General Store parking lot in Rhododendron from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and at Ted's Store in Brightwood from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

At 8 p.m. the Mt. Hood Lions Club will hold its general meeting at the club building in Wenme.

On Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. the Welches PTA will sponsor a special program on "Drug Abuse." Nikki

Jehson, a counselor with CODA, "Comprehensive Options for Drug Abusers," will be the guest speaker. She will discuss topics including: "What is Drug Abuse? How can you tell?"; "My son is smoking pot? What should I do?"; "Drugs-What are the facts?"; and "What help is available?." A question and answer period will be included in the program. This program will be open to the adult public.

To place an event in "Hoodland Happenings" contact Dawn Morrison at 622-3538.

Wy'east gallery to be moved

A final Christmas sale is planned for this weekend by the Wy'east Artisans Guild at its present location in Rhododendron.

A grand re-opening at a new location in the Mt. Hood corridor is planned for sometime after the first of the year.

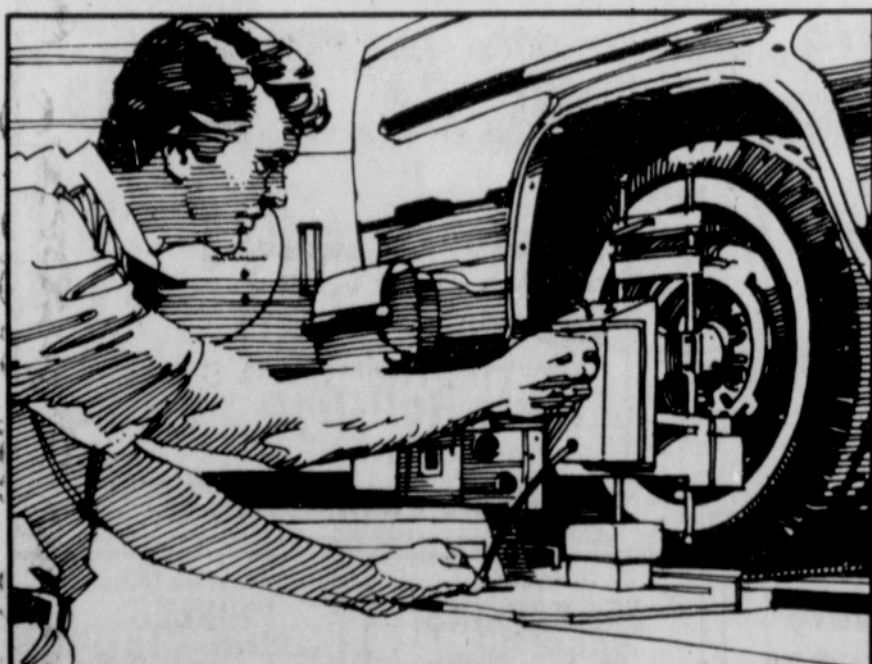
The sale will be held Dec. 18, 19 and 20 at the Wy'east gallery and shop from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Church to feature choirs

The theme of the Sunday worship service for the Pleasant Home Baptist Church will be "Then Came Jesus."

The 11 a.m. service will feature special music by the choir and small music groups. Kay Joham is directing the musical portion of the service.

At 6 p.m. the Sunday school will present its annual program, "And They Brought Unto Him Gifts," which will be performed at the 6 p.m. service. The program is directed by Fern Bissell and Kathy Fell.



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