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Sandy resident Harriet Kuchta was fatally injured Tuesday night when the car she was driving collided with a vehicle driven by a Portland man. The accident occurred on Highway 26 near Vista Loop, one mile east of Sandy.

Photo by Dan Dillon

## Two Sandy residents killed in accidents

Two Sandy area residents died Tuesday night as the result of separate traffic accidents on Highway 26.

Dead are Daniel Bernhardt, 27, and Harriet Kuchta, 52.

Bernhardt died when the bicycle he was riding collided with a 1979 Dodge, driven by Phyllis Miller, 28, of Warm Springs, at 9:30 p.m. Both vehicles were eastbound at the time of the accident, according to Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputy Bernie Thoensen.

He said that no citations have been issued in the 9:30 p.m. accident, but that investigation is continuing.

Kuchta was killed in a three-car collision which occurred near Vista Loop,

one mile east of Sandy.

Her 1967 Cadillac collided with a 1968 Pontiac station wagon driven by Scott Huserik, 22, of Portland.

Two passengers in the Huserik vehicle were hospitalized with injuries sustained in the accident. Lisa McCarthy, 23, and Greg Jepson, 23, both of Portland, were listed in satisfactory condition Wednesday morning at Gresham Community Hospital. Huserik was treated and released.

The driver of the third vehicle involved in the accident, a Volkswagen, was not identified, according to Thoensen who came upon the collision as he was responding to the earlier accident. The second crash occurred at 11:09 p.m.

## Solution to Alder Creek woes at hand

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

The Alder Creek Water Users Association will vote in early January to determine what alternative to the existing water company they want.

Two options are open to the group. The users could form a non-profit corporation to operate the company or form a district with taxing powers, according to Nan Slanning, vice chairperson of the Association.

She said each would be locally controlled and each would have advantages and disadvantages for the customers of the Sleepy Hollow, Country Club, Wildwood Annex, Riverside and Barlow water systems.

Sunday, the Association's board of directors will mail a letter to each of its approximately 350 members explaining each option. At that time, the members will be asked to cast their vote.

Ballots are due by Jan. 5 and will remain sealed until Jan. 7 when a meeting of representatives from each of the five systems will be held

to count the ballots.

Slanning said the Association's attorney, Edward Sullivan of Portland, recommended the organization select the taxing district (a 264 district) because of benefits involved.

Sullivan made his recommendation at a number of meetings held since Nov. 13 when hearings, held by the state Health Division and Environmental Protection Agency, were postponed to allow the users time to come up with their own plan to correct the systems. The hearings were being held to determine if a health hazard exists in the systems.

Slanning agrees with Sullivan's recommendation. "We have gotten so much information on the 264 district that it would be harmful if we did not go this route," she said. "The people will be able to locally control their own water district and they would have a say in everything."

Gene Ginther of Ginther and Associates, receiver for the water company, agrees with approving the 264 district. He said that this alternative could satisfy the responsibility he has to the U.S. District Court to in-

sure "that there has to be something found to alleviate the area's water problems."

He said, "My duty, as a receiver, that is spelled out by the courts is to get the financial support for the systems, rebuild or replace, or do and use whatever vehicle I have to make sure the people are getting good water."

Ginther said he is pleased that the citizens have taken an active role in the area's water issue because "originally when it was before them, there was no concentrated group interested in solving the problems instead of just complaining about them."

Since he was appointed receiver by U.S. District Court, Ginther has accumulated a bill against the company ranging as high as \$200,000. According to Ginther, this bill will have to be taken care of in the financing of the new district.

Ginther added that until the water system is rebuilt and put into service, he will continue as receiver and be paid for his services.

"I will continue on as the company's receiver just to monitor

their efforts on behalf of the courts, just to make sure that they are going forward in good faith," he said.

Once the new water system is operation and financially secure, Ginther said, he will go directly to the judge who made him receiver and recommend that the receivership be terminated.

Association President Jock Stewart thinks Ginther is perceiving his future role differently than how the customers foresee it. He agreed, however, that Ginther's bill will be a "major issue in any settlement."

"Right now, we're not concerned about his role or his bill," Stewart said. "Both of these issues are to be dealt with further up the road. We are currently moving forward in an effort to obtain the right to operate the systems ourselves."

"Interjecting our own controls and our own ability to fix and upgrade the facility is our main concern now," he said. "It is our intent to find our own solution that is reasonable and financially feasible, instead of accepting the solutions the receiver has recommended in the past."

## Elementary budgeters cut revived TAG plan

by DAN DILLON

A limited sports program in Sandy elementary schools survived the first round of budget cuts Tuesday evening, but a Talented and Gifted program and one new school bus were scrapped.

The Sandy Elementary District Budget Committee will meet again Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. to continue deliberations over the \$5.7 million budget proposal presented by Superintendent Clark Lund. The new proposal marks an 18.75 percent jump over what voters approved earlier in 1981.

"The budget committee has already trimmed out about \$90,000 to \$100,000 of the proposal," Lund said Wednesday. "That increase is going to look substantially different."

The budget proposal is primarily a maintenance budget, with the addition of a limited sports program (\$26,000) and the Talented and Gifted program (\$37,000).

"My basic proposal is to maintain what we have," Lund said. "I'm not recommending to cut back on anything."

Tuesday evening, the budget said so to the TAG program and axed the purchase of one school bus and an extra bus driver which would have cost an additional \$37,000.

The committee also agreed to curtail the amount of service provided by teachers' aides to approximately two-thirds of the existing level. The

committee saved approximately \$18,000 with that action.

Lund said the committee was reluctant to take any final action on the sports program until the budget has been thoroughly reviewed and final cuts are made.

The revised sports program would include winter basketball for fifth- and sixth-grade girls and boys. Lund said that fall and spring activities are covered well by local recreation leagues for soccer in the fall and baseball and softball in the spring.

For the seventh- and eighth-grade students, Lund recommends co-ed soccer in the fall, but the elimination of football. He cited three reasons for that move.

Football requires twice as many coaches as other sports, the equipment is costly to maintain and the number of middle schools which offer football is dwindling, so competition is sometimes difficult to find, he said.

Baseball and softball were also pared from the spring sports list in the proposal. The weather and number of missed games were cited as reasons for that. The leagues which flourish later in the season offer students an opportunity to enjoy those sports, Lund said.

If the budget is approved, girls' volleyball and boys' wrestling will be reinstated, along with a basketball program and co-ed track for students at Cedar Ridge School.

## Boring bobcat hunters spend cold night out

Two Boring bobcat hunters spent a cold night near the 3,400-foot level of Lolo Pass Sunday night when their four-wheel drive pickup truck got stuck on a muddy spur road.

Floyd Workman and his grandson, Steve Cowan, were in good condition Monday, however, when they were rescued at 11:45 a.m., according to Lt. Lonnie Ryan, Clackamas County sheriff's spokesman.

Workman, 63, and Cowan, 16, left early Sunday morning at 1 a.m. with four hunting hounds to hunt for bobcat in the Lolo Pass area, just north of Zigzag, in the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Workman said they first hunted near the McNeil and Riley Campground and along the Horseshoe Trail before they changed course for the Blue Ridge in Hood River County.

They hunted along a spur road on Cathedral Ridge near the top of the pass, where snow depth was 18-20 inches and "still snowing."

Later, deep ruts in the road and a heavy rain began to pose problems for the hunters.

After being stuck and freeing themselves a number of times, their vehicle finally became high-centered approximately one and a half miles from the top of Lolo Pass Road.

Workman and Cowan tore up a dog

box in the bed of the pickup and placed the boards under the wheels for traction, inching their way along.

Sunday evening Workman's wife, Beula, realized something must be wrong.

When a family friend, Ed Knuell, who often hunts in the area stopped by, he headed for Lolo Pass.

At 11:30 p.m., after getting stuck himself on a side road, Knuell notified the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department and reported the missing hunters.

Ryan said a ground crew began searching the area early Monday morning. Hood River County sheriff's deputies searched the east side of the pass.

Later than morning, five out-of-work loggers heard about the lost hunters and headed for the area with three snowmobiles. They found the missing hunters a half mile west of the Hood River County line on an old logging skid road.

Workman said the snowmobilers first took his grandson out and then returned to help get the truck and the dogs out. He said they hooked onto the vehicle and easily pulled him the remaining half-mile.

"It was nerve-racking," said Workman. "I've gotten stuck before but I could always get out."

## Brightwood woman 'allergic' to Christmas

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

Beverly Stonebrook is itching for the end of the Christmas season.

It isn't the spirit of Scrooge that afflicts this Brightwood resident. She says she's allergic to Christmas.

"Christmas is my favorite time of year," said Stonebrook, a florist for 20 years, "but, like all of the other florists, it's also the busiest time of year. So last year when I learned I was allergic to Christmas, I just couldn't accept it."

Stonebrook spends most of the year making wreaths, wall hangings and arrangements with dried weeds and seasonal flowers. She stays in relatively good health.

But, come Christmas time, her hands break out in a rash and she begins to scratch.

She admits she's not really allergic to Christmas—at least not its festivities—but, rather, nearly everything else associated with it. "Nearly everything" means noble fir, cedar and the greens from

white pine with which she makes wreaths, swags and garlands.

For at least 24 hours after her hands come in contact with the Christmas greens, she spends her time being miserable and scratching.

This year the allergy has created considerable problems because she cut and decorated six Christmas trees at Rippling River, and made and hung countless wreaths and swags, including a 40-foot garland which she hung in the resort's lounge.

At Mt. Hood Meadows she decorated three floors of the lodge, transforming the ski resort into Christmas. She used more than 200 yards of ribbons which she interweave with Christmas greens and, naturally, itched for days as a result.

"I love the Christmas season and the Christmas greens," Stonebrook said, "but being allergic to them is getting to be more than I can handle."

She tried wearing gloves to protect her hands but, with all the season's projects and arrangements, they restricted her

too much.

"I'd like to give my hands away," said Stonebrook. "They're sure not beautiful anymore. But again, I love arranging and working with greens too much to keep my hands out of Christmas."

The season won't turn Stonebrook into a Scrooge. She won't accept the allergy.

Rather, she will just keep on working from Christmas season to the next, doing what she does best—spreading the holiday cheer through her itchy greens.

"Don't give up" is my attitude in life. I remember 19 years ago a doctor told me that I'd be living on pain-killers because of a hip disorder I was born with," she said.

"Well, I never accepted that diagnosis and today I'm doing fine without the drugs. I'll not accept this situation either."

When Christmas is over, Stonebrook is looking forward to the other holidays when she can abandon the boughs and begin working with other natural things like weeds.

Recently, however, she found out she is also allergic to weeds.



Photo by Michael P. Jones

Beverly Stonebrook can't wait for the Christmas season to end so the allergies the season brings will subside.