

*The year began
with skiers praying for snow,
progressed into a record hot spell
and ended with a blizzard,
but that's how it was in*

1981



A year ago ski area operators were praying for snow. This year, the snow got so bad that, for a time, ski lifts were inaccessible to motorists.

by DAN DILLON

1981 began with a drought that caused the area's economy to slump as winter recreationists stayed away from Mt. Hood's winter playland in drove.

It ended with a five-day fall of snow that, ironically, again shut down mountain ski resorts temporarily as Highway 26 was closed to motorists trying to reach the lifts.

The slumping economy played a major role throughout the year as rising loan rates slowed housing starts and reduced the number of working loggers and lumber mills.

In its last report for the year, Western Wood Products Association reported that 33 percent of the state's mills were closed and that 26 percent had curtailed activity.

But, while the economy cut into purse strings, some old nemeses returned to the surface, some new challenges tested the community and the area goes into a new year under a blanket of snow that hints, while we look back, that new surprises are on the horizon for 1982.

JANUARY

A three-week dry spell drained the Mt. Hood ski slopes of their snow and their skiers.

"The ski area has lost any opportunity to have an excellent season," the manager of the Clackamas County Bank branch in Wemme said.

Richard Busby, Independent Bank of Sandy president, was elected president of the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sandy Postmaster John Metsger stepped down after 25 years of service.

Darrell Dempster, co-chairman of the Sandy Mountain Festival, was named winner of Sandy's annual Community Service Award.

FEBRUARY

Sandy officials moved ahead to appeal a Clackamas County Cir-

cuit Court decision limiting the amount of assessments it may collect on the Heritage Square parking lot.

Judge Winston L. Bradshaw ruled that property owners involved in the construction of the local improvement district could be assessed only \$66,198 of the \$105,000 the city spent to build the parking lot.

By year's end the appeal was finally ready for presentation to the Oregon Court of Appeals. A decision is expected sometime during the coming year.

Hildebrand North America moved into Sandy Industrial Park, transferring its production of lumber dry kilns, wood waste burners and microprocessor process control systems. The firm hired nearly 100 area employees.

The company went out of business in August. Creditors met in October to plan a course of action after the firm filed bankruptcy papers in September.

MARCH

Sandy experienced its first bank robbery March 24. Wayne Woodmancy, 22, of Sandy, was arrested in Portland and charged with the robbery of the Sandy branch of the Benj. Franklin Savings and Loan hours later, following anonymous tips to Sandy police.

Sandy's Dorothy Shrum was chosen volunteer of the year by the Oregon Community Education Association—the city's first-ever recipient of the award.

Sandy voters nixed the idea of a new kindergarten in the Sandy Elementary District, but approved the district's A ballot proposal and elected Dennis Traxler to serve on the board.

In the high school district, voters denied all money measures and re-elected Paul Tucker to his seat on the school board.

APRIL

A team of specialists from the state Department of Education

gave the Sandy Elementary District a clean bill of health in its standardization test.

The city kicked off a crime prevention program aimed at educating local residents about burglar-proofing their homes through a series of neighborhood meetings. The police department will conduct a similar program as the new year moves ahead, hoping for a larger response from area homeowners.

Trimble Construction Co. of Sandy was named as one of 10 participants in the 1981 Solar Parade of Homes, a showcasing of solar construction techniques in a Hillsboro subdivision that could garner national attention.

MAY

Four developers plan to build a heliport on Salmon River Road, near Highway 26, met with stout opposition. Opponents cited its proximity to the Welches School, Hoodland Women's Club and the highway as reasons for stopping the project. Efforts are underway to have the site dedicated as a park.

Mt. Hood Hospice organized to provide care and attention to persons with terminal illnesses and their families. The program generated interest when actress Ann Sothern appeared in Portland in its behalf during the fall in a series of benefits.

Voters OK'd Sandy Union High School's budget proposal, but again nixed the Sandy Elementary District's attempt at a B ballot proposal for the second time.

The B proposal was resubmitted in June and again vetoed by voters, spelling doom for the district's interscholastic athletic program, Talented and Gifted program and its support for Sandy Community School.

JUNE

Tiny Bull Run School District

came under fire when its school board attempted to terminate the contracts of three school teachers. Overwhelming community support, amid charges of state violations during the termination process, led to the reinstatement of two of the three educators.

Treva Tompkins of Sandy, separated from her son for 19 years after he was taken from the family's front porch, was reunited with her son, a restaurant manager in Woodburn.

Sandy Country Market opened as an outlet for local growers and craftspeople to sell their wares in Nelson Pioneer Memorial Park.

Developer Carl Bright unveiled his plan for incorporation of Welches as a city. The proposal split the mountain area until it was tabled. The plan, however, is not officially dead.

JULY

The Sandy Mountain Festival attracted record crowds, again, with its two-day festival of arts and crafts in Meing Park. Local resident George Bruns, who served for many years as a musician for Walt Disney Studios, was named grand marshal of the parade.

Sandy Fire District dedicated its new expanded fire hall. The \$460,464 project now allows the district to provide space for firefighters to sleep at the program—a move which has met with great success, according to Sandy Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher, as response times have greatly decreased.

Otis and Erma Rich of Boring were named king and queen of the annual Sandy Pioneer Association picnic.

Reedway Manufacturing, a sawmill on Orient Drive, was nearly destroyed by a late night fire. Eighty-three firefighters from six fire districts battled the flames for more than two hours. Loss was estimated at \$100,000.

AUGUST

Arnold Becker, postmaster at Cannon Beach, was named to head Sandy's post office.

Five days of temperatures over 100 degrees hit the area. As a result, the woods were closed to loggers and campers. Sandy's water system withstood the test, however.

Welches School, with its history of construction problems, faced another. Faulty workmanship caused by building to settle unevenly and quickly, causing the floors to buckle, as cracks appeared.

SEPTEMBER

Chuck Jones, proprietor of Ferguson's Power Equipment, was named Sandy's retailer of the year. The nomination followed a letter to the editor in The Post which cited his honesty in standing behind what he sells.

Six Hoodland Fire District firefighters were stricken when they fought a brush fire under Bonneville Power Administration power lines near Lolo Pass Road. The BPA said the reaction, suffered by the firefighters, should not have been caused by the brush-retarding chemicals they said they used. However, reaction from the state Department of Forestry and Hoodland Fire District disagreed.

OCTOBER

Sandy Elementary School celebrated its 50th birthday with a community-wide party which featured past teachers and administrators.

The Wy'east Day Lodge was dedicated at Timberline. The 44,000-square-foot facility was designed to take some of the pressure of daily use off the historic Timberline Lodge.

Mt. Hood Timeshare was ordered to stop selling vacation plans at the Green Tee Motel in Welches by the state Real Estate Division after charges of ques-

tionable sales practices and lack of a state license.

NOVEMBER

A tragic traffic accident stunned the community when a vehicle carrying three Sandy High School students collided with a Tri-Met bus on Orient Drive as the students were on their way to the school's state football playoff game in Gresham.

Dead was senior Carey Larson. Senior Chris Jones was seriously injured and hospitalized for nearly two months. He is now recovering at home. Senior Dean Fischer suffered a broken arm in the crash.

That same evening, Clackamas County sheriff's deputy Jimmy Shoop was killed when his patrol car was struck as he was responding to a second accident on Orient Drive. The driver of the car which struck Shoop's cruiser, Gay May of Boring, was later indicted for second-degree manslaughter in the accident.

High winds, estimated at more than 70 mph, swept through the Sandy area uprooting trees and leaving homes in some places without power for up to four days.

DECEMBER

After years of controversy, the Alder Creek Water Company woes appeared to be near an end as users of the system prepared to choose a new management method to correct the system's deficiencies after it had been placed in receivership more than one year earlier.

The city of Yeosu, Korea, made overtures to the city of Sandy seeking to become its sister city in a cultural exchange program.

Snowstorms hit the area, dumping more than a foot of snow in the Sandy area and much, much more farther up the mountain. Power outages were spotty and heavy snows made correcting them difficult.



Matt Hutchinson got a kick out of the Sandy Pioneers' football season.



The Sandy Mountain Festival again drew record crowds.



High November winds uprooted two trees in Larry and Cladie Spurgeon's front yard, sending one through the roof and pinning their pickup to the ground.