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Alder Creek water problems resolved

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Customers of the Alder Creek Water Company have voted to form a self-governed special service district (261 district) to alleviate the water problems of five residential districts.

Jock Stewart, chairperson of the Alder Creek Water Users Association, said the vote showed a promising future for the five systems. The association has been engaged in a battle with the Oregon State Health Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency and the company's court-appointed receiver, Gene Ginther, over the future of the water company.

Stewart said that of 440 ballots

mailed to customers in the Sleepy Hollow, Riverside, Country Club, Barlow and Wildwood Annex, the majority returned favored the 261 district over a non-profit corporation to operate the systems.

He said that 112 customers voted in favor of the 261 district, while only eight favored the non-profit corporation plan.

Stewart said the non-profit had drawbacks including the inability to generate revenues for the reconstruction or updating of the systems.

"The vote gives each of the five areas their own special district," he said, "which means that one system's responsibility is not the

other four's."

Each of the five areas would have autonomy from the others which essentially protects each from the others' financial or legal responsibilities.

"In the past, the common umbrella ownership of all the systems lead all the systems into near condemnation through a health hazard hearing."

The five special districts would have their own five-member board of directors which, Stewart said, will keep "at least five people involved and paying attention to what's going on."

John Huffman, manager of the Health Division's water supply section, said, "The state's future role will be to stand back and see what

happens with the water systems."

Huffman said the straw vote of the customers shows progress and any future actions by his office would come after evaluating the steps the people are taking to solve their water problems. He said the health hazard proceedings that began last fall will be postponed.

"As long as they are working and attempting to come up with a workable solution to the problem, we will not push our health hazard annexation proceedings any further," Huffman said.

Edward Sullivan, attorney for the users' association, said his would clients would now informally approach the Clackamas County Board

of Commissioners and ask them to initiate the formation procedures for the five special districts.

He said the county will have to draft a resolution proposing the 262 district so the association can appear before the Portland Metropolitan Area Local Government Boundary Commission at its mid-March meeting.

At that meeting, the five districts' legal boundaries would be defined.

Stewart said that after the five districts are legally formed, the receiver's \$140,000 bill for operating the company will have to be dealt with, including the purchase of the company from the system's legal owner, Gerald "Red" Bennett, of Portland.

Police seek identity of dead woman

The nude body of a woman was found Sunday along Highway 26 above Rhododendron, state police said.

At 9:20 a.m. a passenger aboard a ski bus spotted the body lying face down in the snow as he was wiping steam from the window. He told the driver what he had seen when the bus stopped a few miles up the road to put on chains.

The driver then flagged down a passing Oregon State policeman who went to the scene with the witness.

The body was discovered about 10 feet north of Highway 26, about one-quarter mile above Camp Creek Campground.

OSP trooper Les Frank released a description of the victim Tuesday, seeking assistance to establish her identity.

Frank said the victim is a white female, 20-30 years old, between 5' 4" and 5' 5" tall, and weighs 115-125 pounds.

She has shoulder-length hair that had been dyed blonde or reddish. Frank said that all but three or four inches had grown out.

Frank said she has a scar on her abdomen which indicates she gave birth to a child by Caesarean section.

The victim wore a black emerald ring on her right ring finger, and wore gold post earrings. Three emeralds were tangled in her hair: a gold crucifix, a gold monogrammed "L," and a silver-colored, heart-shaped locket.

Clackamas County Deputy District Attorney Dennis Miller said Tuesday, "The woman's death could be accidental, but we don't know right now."

"The death was suspicious and occurred under suspicious circumstances," he said, "so we are treating it as foul play."

Preliminary investigation indicated that no footprints lead up to where the body was found, Miller said, "which didn't mean that there wasn't."

Cause of death had not been determined by late Tuesday afternoon, according to OSP Trooper Al Corson, who said there were no bruises or wounds on the victim.

How long the victim was at the site before she was discovered is unknown. The body was frozen and no clothing was found at the scene.

Frank asked that anyone having any information about the victim's identity or concerning the incident contact Oregon State Police immediately.

Illness claims Sandy realtor

Longtime Sandy businessman Charles "Chuck" Baker died Tuesday following an illness.

Baker, 63, was a realtor for 25 years and was one of the organizers and served as first chairman of the board of the Independent Bank of Sandy.

Born Sept. 8, 1919, in Conrad, Mont., Baker was a sportsman, businessman and investor. He delighted in taking friends from Sandy out fishing on the Pacific Ocean, according to Bruce Cook, co-owner of the boat.

Baker is survived by his wife Catherine; two sons, William Baker of Sandy, and Gary Ray Molen of Sandy, Utah; his mother, Mary C. Baker of Portland, and three granddaughters.

Funeral services will be held Friday at Sandy Funeral Home. Time for the services is pending.

The family asks that memorials be given to Mt. Hood Hospice in his name.

Mayor followed opportunities to citizen-of-year

by DAN DILLON

Sandy Mayor Ruth Loundree just takes advantage of the opportunities that open up to her.

Last Friday evening, following those opportunities lead to her being named Sandy's 1981 Citizen of the Year at the annual Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce banquet.

"The opportunities have come to me and I was lucky enough to take advantage of them," she said Tuesday. "Everything I did I seemed to have a learning process and it's been a vital education."

After moving to Sandy in 1943 when it was a "sleepy, little town" of 600, she and her husband operated a grocery store where meatcutter Albert Hull gave her a lesson she was at first reluctant to learn.

"I learned how to cut meat under him," she said. "That's how long I knew Oral Hull, from the first couple of years we were here."

Albert and Oral Hull donated 20 acres east of Sandy for a park for the Oral Hull Foundation for the Blind.

She then worked at the old Sandy Market for three years, but when she married her husband, Carl, Loundree had plans.

"I was going to take life easy. But Martin Clark (then editor of The Sandy Post) came down and said, 'How about becoming society editor?'"

"I told him, 'I don't know anything about writing society news.'" But in her six years with The Post, Loundree learned to write the society news as well as operate a linotype machine typesetting advertisements and tear down the presses after the paper was printed.

In 1958, then-Mayor Ruben Hoffman came up with a new challenge.

"Ruben asked me if I would be interested in running for city recorder," she said. She ran, was elected to the first of seven consecutive terms, which included duties as city judge, and began her long string of service to the city of Sandy.

When the city changed to a city manager form of government in 1972, Loundree stayed on as executive secretary until her retirement in 1978 and the beginning of a new challenge—a run for mayor.

"I basically felt that with the fellows who had their hats in the ring, they needed a choice," she said. "I did very little campaigning."

She won and was re-elected mayor in 1980, running unopposed.

The biggest obstacle facing the city, she



Mayor Ruth Loundree listens as master of ceremonies George Morgan reads the plaque honoring her as citizen of the year in Sandy.

said, is "the hassle with the budget because we don't have an adequate tax base. We don't have any set amount that we can fall back on."

That makes for a tough budgeting process. "Without an adequate tax base, we can project revenues," she said. "But with the downturn in the state you can only make a guess."

Sandy's tax base, established nearly 50 years ago, guarantees the city only about \$13,500 per year income.

In her 22 years of city service, Mayor Loundree has seen Sandy grow from the "sleepy, little town" that greeted her to one of 3,300 residents with a full slate of city services.

"One of the first big issues was the inadequate water system," she said. "It's been corrected over the years with a series of bond issues, each bigger than the one before."

During the first couple years she worked with the city, there was a problem with

beavers getting into the city's water source, Brownell Springs. But the system has overcome those problems and grown.

The city has built a substantial water and sewer system, she said, with much help from former City Engineer Martin Boatwright.

In the 1960s the state presented Sandy residents with three options: make Proctor Boulevard a four-lane highway, establish the two one-way couplets, or see the highway be taken out of town.

"The arguments rose hot and heavy to the point where an election was called by the city council," she said. The couplet system was chosen and walkways and planters were placed along Proctor to narrow the road.

About that time, the city renamed the streets. Pioneer names were chosen, but Main Street was a point of contention.

The county said there were already too many Main Streets in the county, Loundree said.

The new name was debated heavily. "So I made a remark to the city council, 'Why don't you just forget it and just name it Pioneer Boulevard.' I still think that's a pretty good name."

Another big issue early, was the institution of the zoning ordinance, Loundree said. "It was after that that the city started to grow, not by leaps and bounds, but it gave it some direction."

In the late 1960s, the city passed a bond issue to build the current city hall. Not many people knew it at the time, Loundree said, but the old city hall had been condemned.

"The roof leaked so bad in the old city hall, we had cans sitting around catching drips because we couldn't repair it," she remembered.

The city has come a ways since the leaky roofs and beavers in the water supply with the help of a citizen who's always tried to answer when opportunity knocked.

'Butterflies' raises curtain on busy theater year

by DAN DILLON

"It's a long, rocky road to get recognition from the theater community," Jim Wilhite of the Sandy Community Players said Tuesday. "We've come a long ways and we're starting to get recognized."

When "Butterflies Are Free" opens tomorrow evening at the Sandy Community Theater at 8 p.m., it will kick off a five-month stretch that will see the Community Players produce four plays, a record for the local group.

"We went through a period where it was tough to go from show to show," Wilhite said. "Now we're seeing overlapping rehearsals."

That is a step closer to what has become the SCP dream—live theater in Sandy nearly every weekend. "It's not just an ethereal dream. We can point all over the United States to cities that have done it," Wilhite said. "Performing arts act as a magnet to attract a lot of other things to a community—positive things."

Wilhite pointed to the pluralism of the performing arts as an attractive force.

"Butterflies Are Free" illustrates that point.

The production features Sandy High School drama teacher Mark Kuntz, a veteran of Portland Civic

Theater; Pauline Stafford, making her first on-stage appearance; Sandy High School student Suzanne Jones, and J.R. Knotts, an experienced actor nominated for a "Willies" award last year for his performance in "Bus Stop."

A wide variety of talent has always made SCP productions interesting, because of the range of experiences and the dedication the amateur actors bring to their roles.

Kuntz had to learn to play a convincing blind person on-stage and to play the guitar for his role—no small task.

Henry Emrich who has appeared in SCP productions such as "The Odd Couple" and "Imaginary Invalid" makes his debut as a director.

Jones is in her first major role, although she appeared in the SUHS production "West Side Story."

The production will be staged Jan. 22, 23, 29 and 30, and Feb. 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. each evening.

Tickets are available from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Sandy Country Florist, 39010 Pioneer Blvd. Prices are \$4 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens and students.

For reservations and information, call 661-0219 or 668-7737.

See page 3, section I for a related story.



Suzanne Jones and Mark Kuntz enjoy an impromptu picnic during the first scene of the Sandy Community Players' "Butterflies Are Free."

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