

# Rhododendron group to survey water users

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Post Correspondent

The Rhododendron Neighborhood Group is surveying the area's water users about the proposed Henry Creek hydroelectric project.

According to Beth Baker,

## School presents play

Welches Grade School will present performances of Shakespeare's classic "Julius Caesar" on Jan. 26, 27 and 28.

The performances will be by Eileen Stanley's after-school drama class, which includes students in grades five through eight. All five scenes will be performed, which should take about an hour and fifteen minutes.

Linda Fredrickson, of the Wy East Artist Guild, has volunteered her talents, having made the sets for the play.

Twenty student actors and actresses will perform in the school's auditorium. The play is double-cast so there will be two of each character, which allows greater participation among the students in the program.

The first performance will be Jan. 26 at 12:30 p.m. and it will be for kindergarten through fourth grade students, and for any parent who wishes to attend.

For more information on performances, call the school at 622-3166.

## Welches program a success

The enthusiastic participation in Welches Grade School's after-school art and drama program has made it a success.

With the successful passage of the Welches School District levy last spring, the school has been able to offer art and drama classes after school as an alternative for those not participating in sports.

The school offers six to eight sessions of art classes for students in grades five through eight. Classes in oil painting and pottery have already been offered. The watercoloring class began this week, and sketching class will be offered sometime in mid-February.

Jeanine Boldt, junior high teacher, is the oil painting and sketching instructor. Rhonda Thompson, who teaches sixth grade, teaches pottery. Substitute teacher Mary Thulen, teaches water color.

Eileen Stanley is in charge of the drama program, which will be offering three performances of William Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" Jan. 26, 27 and 28.

The school's vice principal, Gary Dieterich, said that another play will be presented this next spring, but what will be produced has not yet been determined.

Dieterich said that the after-school art and drama program has created a necessary balance that was needed with sports. He said that "now you may have 15 or 20 students out for sports and 15 to 20 out for art and drama."

"It was a budget item we thought was a necessity," said Dieterich. "A lot of kids have participated and it's really worked out well. The parents have also been very supportive."

Students involved spend from 3:30 to 5 p.m., four days a week, taking part in the program.

Instruction is done through an individualized approach. Dieterich said that like those participating in athletics, the parents arrange the transportation home from school.

On Jan. 22 the boys basketball team will officially end its season with a game against the faculty. The girls basketball season has just begun.

secretary-treasurer of the organization, the RNG has sent out ballots to some 350 water users of the Rhododendron Summer Home Association, which utilizes Henry Creek as a domestic water source.

She said a written statement presenting the group's concerns on the proposed project was enclosed with the annual billing order.

The RNG wrote that they fear that the hydro, which would be constructed near

its water system, "would not only endanger the purity and quality of our water but would also interfere greatly with the anadromous fish (steelhead and salmon) flow because of the necessity of building a powerhouse, a dam and access roads, which in turn would cause undue turbidity due to erosion."

The RNG, which represents property owners, businesses and

residents in Rhododendron, Mount Hood Woodlands and Faubian, has met infrequently in recent years. This year, according to Ms. Baker, they have met several times because of the possible installation of the hydroelectric plant.

On Dec. 29 the RNG met with the two representatives of the Forest Service, Chuck Smay, ranger, and Ron Martin, who is special resources administrator. At that

meeting they told Smay and Martin that there was no way they would allow such a project to be installed on Henry Creek.

In a letter dated Jan. 4, the RNG Chairperson, Wendell Tobey, wrote Smay and reaffirmed their position.

We are an "organized and county-recognized group who unanimously oppose all of the proposed hydroelectric systems

within the Mt. Hood National Forest," wrote Tobey. "Specifically the one on Henry Creek, which would be placed above our domestic water system, endangering the purity of our water supply and the anadromous fish flow. Pure drinking water for human consumption is fast dwindling due to human pollution, acid rain, etc. We believe that as many streams as possible should be kept pollution free for the use of future genera-

tions." In addition, the neighborhood association has been corresponding with Senator Bob Packwood and Representative Denny Smith concerning the proposed hydro. This, incidentally, according to the RNG, did not set too kindly with the Mt. Hood National Forest supervisor, Richard J. Pflif, who felt they were bypassing proper channels. He welcomed them to contact Smay "directly with

their concerns." "The District Ranger at Zigzag has worked with the water company in recent improvements of their water system and is aware of the potential conflicts of hydroelectric developments on domestic water uses in this area. The Rhododendron Neighborhood Group will be informed of and involved in the review of any specific project proposal that will impact their domestic water system."

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