

around the county

County writing contest offers \$100 prize

Are public school students learning to write? High school juniors enrolled in Clackamas County high schools have a

chance to prove they can and win \$100 besides, by entering the Clackamas County Essay Contest, sponsored by Clackamas

County Education Service District (ESD). The prize is being offered by Tony Bryant of Sandy. Bryant was Superintendent

of Clackamas ESD until he retired by 1981. He is offering the prize because he is "convinced that schools in Clackamas County are do-

ing a good job of teaching the basic skills to students."

According to Marlyn Willardson of the ESD curriculum department, who organized the contest, the format is "similar to that used by the National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Awards in Writing Contest."

Student writers must be nominated by their high school before their essay can be entered in the contest. Each school can nominate one student for

each 500 students enrolled in grades 10, 11 and 12. No more than four students can be nominated from any school.

High schools can use whatever method they choose to pick nominees. However, "students should write clearly and effectively, revealing the ability to think for oneself and demonstrating competence in a wide range of writing skills," according to Willardson.

Essays must be submitted by April 15, to the ESD

Curriculum Department, along with the nomination form available from the ESD.

Essays must be from 600 to 1,500 words in length and must focus on an educational theme. No entries can be returned.

Judging will be done by a panel of professional writers, teachers and school administrators.

For more information call Marlyn Willardson at Clackamas ESD 635-4341, 221-0116, or 266-1723.

Vehicle fire damage set at \$17,000

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The Hoodland Rural Fire Department got a breather the past two weeks, having responded to seven official calls and having treated ten persons for first aid.

Last Saturday the department responded to a report of a truck on fire at the Shamrock Condominiums, just west of Brightwood near Alder Creek.

Fire Chief Don Armintrout was the first to arrive, getting to the scene at 9:12 a.m. He found a 1979 Scout International pickup, belonging to Steve Hougak of S.E. Hoffmeister of Bor- ing, on fire.

Armintrout said that the fire had started in the engine, and burned through the vehicle's dash and was into the passenger compartment.

Using a 20-pound dry chemical fire extinguisher, he pushed the fire back into the engine compartment until a crew arrived three minutes later. The fire was under control at 9:24 a.m.

Hougak was not in the vehicle at the time of the fire, according to Armintrout.

He said that Hougak had just parked the truck at the building and was walking up to one of the condominiums when he realized he had forgotten something. When he returned to the vehicle, he noticed smoke coming from under the hood and called the fire department.

Armintrout said that "it appears the fuel line came off of the fuel filter and spilled gasoline on the block," which caused the fire.

Damage to the vehicle is estimated to be around \$6,000. The total damage to both the pickup and its contents is estimated to be around \$17,000. Included in that figure was a mobile telephone valued at \$400.

Earlier this week the department assisted with a

leak from a propane tank at a residence. No damage was reported.

A small brush fire on Sleepy Hollow Road of Feb. 7 at 1:20 p.m. posed no problem for the department, said Armintrout. The fire burned a small pile of leaves in an estimated two-by-two-foot area. It took only 3.2 gallons of water to extinguish the blaze.

On Feb. 4 20 firefighters searched the Welches-Brightwood area for a lost nine year old. Armintrout said that the search began at 6 p.m. and ended at 9:50 p.m., when the child was located in the Brightwood area.

Earlier that day, a chimney fire in Rhododendron sent a fire crew to the Snowline Motel. The fire was out when the department arrived.

On Feb. 2 the department responded to a truck fire at the east end of the Brightwood Loop on Highway 26. The vehicle was loaded with windows and had caught fire when its brakes heated up. Armintrout said it took 100 gallons of water to extinguish the fire.

In other matters the fire department is continuing its investigations of three fires in the Government Camp area.

In the Jan. 29 fire that broke out at the Edelweiss Condominiums in the middle of town, Armintrout said that there are indications that the blaze was caused by "the contacts on an electric can opener that closed and heated up."

Armintrout said that fires caused by electric can openers are nothing unusual and that it "happens all the time."

The car fire that occurred on Jan. 8 at 6 a.m., at the Summit rest area, located at the east end of Government Camp, has been turned over to the Oregon State Police arson investigators.

Armintrout said that the 1976 Fiat was totally

destroyed by flammable liquids. It had been left by its owner, Francis J. Ribera of Bend, the night before after developing mechanical problems.

The investigation of a blaze that totally destroyed

a rental house on Multnomah Drive has been put on hold until spring, said Armintrout.

He said that there is no danger that the evidence would not be preserved.

ESD Board to discuss boundaries

The Attorney General's opinion that would permit the Jackson High School area to break away from Portland Public Schools will be a major item for discussion when the Board of Directors of Clackamas Education Service District (ESD) meets February 23.

The ESD board also serves as the county School District Boundary Board. If the Jackson High School attendance area does petition to break away from Portland Public Schools and form a new district, Clackamas and Multnomah ESDs could be called upon to review the plan.

The board will also be asked to authorize the next planning step in ESD plans

to develop a fiscal data processing system to serve school districts in Clackamas County.

A task force has already specified fiscal data processing needs of county school districts. The next step would be to draw up software and hardware specifications that would meet those needs.

In its role as School District Boundary Board, the ESD board will also consider two requests to move property from Molalla Elementary School District to Mulino Elementary District and Rural Dell Elementary District.

Two ESD board seats are also up for election this year. Deadline for filing is Wednesday, February 24.



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