



Angela 'Kipper', 2, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Skipper of Sandy, seems to enjoy being out on the wrestling mat nearly as much as the wrestlers. She is pictured between rounds at the district meet Saturday in Canby.

# Hoodland Rural responds to truck, house fires

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

The Hoodland Rural Fire Department spent a quiet week in spite of the unusual

## Damage set at \$6,500, not \$17,000 as reported

The financial damage to a truck which caught fire at the Shamrock Condominiums just west of Brightwood Feb. 13 and reported in The Post last week was in error. The total loss of the vehicle and its contents was \$6,500 and not \$17,000 as reported.

A quick response by firefighters from the Hoodland Rural Fire Department prevented the fire from destroying the entire vehicle and its contents which included a mobile telephone.

Fire Chief Don Armintrout was the first to arrive

warming temperatures and rain, which swelled the area's rivers.

Armintrout said that his department treated six persons for first aid and

at the scene, and found the 1979 Scout International pickup belonging to Steve Hougak of S.E. Hoffmeister of Boring on fire. Armintrout used a 20-pound dry chemical fire extinguisher to push the fire back from the passenger compartment, and contained it in the engine compartment.

The fire crew arrived three minutes later and extinguished the blaze.

The cause of the blaze has been determined to be a fuel line, which came off of the fuel filter, and spilled gasoline on the engine block.

answered two calls.

Last Thursday, Feb. 15, at 1:25 p.m., firefighters responded to an alarm concerning a house on Sandy River Lane in Timberline Rim, near Brightwood.

Armintrout said that the homeowner smelled smoke and called the department. An overheated exhaust fan in the bathroom was determined to be the cause.

Firefighters had located

the source of the smoke before the fan had caught fire.

On Sunday, Feb. 21, at 6:36 p.m., fire crews responded to a truck fire on Highway 26 at Lolo Pass Road.

Armintrout said that an 18-wheel truck lost its brakes going down the mountain.

The truck's overheated brakes caught the two rear

wheels of the vehicle on fire. The blaze was extinguished before any major damage could be done.

The fire chief said that February had been an unusual month, as compared with January and December which were the busiest months the department has had.

On the average, according to Armintrout, the department responds to 40

to 50 calls per month. In December they responded to 78 calls, and in January, 89 calls.

Cold weather, said Armintrout, is a primary factor in the number of calls the department will receive. Because of the cold, Armintrout says that people will tax their heating systems, resulting in more chimney and structural fires.

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