

## RNG makes plans for STEP boxes

The Rhododendron Neighborhood Group is awaiting word from the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to learn how many coho salmon eggs will be allotted to the organization in its attempt to improve the area's fisheries.

The coho eggs will come through the department's Salmon and Trout Enhancement Project (STEP), and will be placed in two specially-designed nesting boxes. Each nesting box can hold around 25,000 eggs.

The locations for the nesting boxes will be Meadow Creek and the Little Henry Creek. Both streams are located in Rhododendron.

At one time both of these waterways, along with Henry Creek, were considered major streams for steelhead, trout and salmon.

Over the years, however, poachers and development took their toll.

Long-time residents in the area say that poachers set up traps and nets in the streams. Along with greedy fishermen who took more than their share, the fish runs became smaller and smaller until they were practically depleted.

However, the blame for the area's ailing fisheries resource goes beyond the poachers and greedy fishermen.

Fearing that high waters would wash away the bank on their property, they hired a backhoe operator which removed gravel and rock from the middle of the creeks.

The RNG hopes to be rewarded for the effort, with the creeks will be replenished with fish.

## In RNG tradition

# Nesting boxes to benefit wildlife, birds

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

The Rhododendron Neighborhood Group is doing its part to help save habitats, as well as provide alternative ones for birds and other critters who depend upon them for their continued survival.

The RNG, which reportedly was the first citizen planning organization to band together in Clackamas County, was founded with this in mind. They did so back in the late '60s as a housing development threatened a 30-acre meadow that served as an important habitat for small fur-bearing animals and a nesting area for birds.

The organization successfully battled the development to a defeat and, since then, made habitat protection and im-

provement a priority.

Recently the RNG secured a dozen cedar nesting boxes from the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The nesting boxes, which were constructed by the Boy Scouts, are to serve as replacement nesting and denning sites for wildlife and birds, which depend upon snags for shelter.

It is estimated that at least 85 species of birds in North America rely upon snags. According to naturalists, 40 percent or better are cavity nesters.

There are over nine species of birds of prey, 11 species of woodpeckers, seven species of ducks, eight species of bats, and over 20 species of songbirds, all which rely upon snags for a nesting habitat.

There are over 15 species

of small mammals, such as squirrels, opossum, mice and weasels, who den-up in snag cavities.

Added to this list are four

species of furbearers.

The RNG is concerned because critical wild acreage in the Mt. Hood corridor, which once provided these necessary

snags, as well as food, water and other essential habitat elements like reasonably safety from weather and predators, are quickly disappearing.

The distribution area where the nesting boxes have been placed range from the base of West Zig Zag Mountain to riparian areas near Brightwood.

## Sandy class of 1962 plans reunion

The 1962 graduating class of Sandy Union High School is planning a 20-year reunion the weekend of July 30-31.

Information is being mailed to classmates

regarding the planned events. A number of persons have not been located, and class members are requesting community assistance in doing so.

Persons missing include

Alvin Byrd, Gloria Dornend, JoAnn Duncan, Dick Cortwright, Pat Edes, Ann Fegel, Larry Ford, Blanche Gualt, Rodney Heiser, Bonnie Lake, Karen Ness, Conrad Pittman, Linda

Snyder, Russ Turney, Joe Weatherford, Edna Lattin, Ken Hunter, Nancy Gregson, Gary Wheeler, Lynn Odum, Cecil Hukee, Dwayne Williams and Irene Williams.

If relatives or friends can determine the whereabouts of these people, contact Carl Amstad at 668-6736, Vern or Daylene Mann at 668-6476, Fran Will at 644-2032, or Dennis Cutsforth at 645-6645.

Also, a reunion invitation is extended to all persons who were on the high school faculty in 1962.

## Timberline activities set

Oregon's historic Timberline Lodge is the site of three late summer events focusing on the arts.

On Aug. 14 and 15 the mountain is for kids as Timberline presents "Tall

Tales," a weekend of mime, music, puppetry and storytelling for children of all ages.

The work of Oregon's artists and craftspeople will be featured on Labor Day

Weekend Sept. 4, 5 and 6. "High Crafts Plus" offers special musical performances, too.

On Oct. 9 and 10, the "Mountain People" festival will be featured.



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**Hours — 7 am-10 pm daily**

# SANDY SENTRY

39180 Pioneer in Sandy. 668-7418

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