

# Alderwood hearing are back at local level

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

ponents of the Alderwood Mobile Home subdivision will meet, once again, back at the local hearings level. Up until last week the controversial 192-unit Brightwood development was in the hands of the state Land Use Board of Appeals.

Robert Stephens, whose property adjoins the proposed subdivision, along with his neighbors Andrea and Gordon Cabral, Robert and Judith Decker, as well as Carolyn Smith of Rhododendron, have appealed the development of the project to LUBA. They are contesting the May 10 approval for a conditional use permit issued by the Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners, which reversed an earlier decision by a hearing officer.



Wildlife Safari of the Salem area presented an assembly Tuesday at Firwood School. Pictured petting a cheetah are, from left to right, Susan Hoff, Cheryl Cochran, Konnie Jones, Dan Gannon, Brennon Frey, Jim Sutton and Deanna Johnson.

In previous hearings the developers and the planning staff both failed to recognize the existence of wetlands in the area.

In a recent interview Jeannie Hubbard, secretary to the LUBA commissioners, said the Alderwood development is being sent back to the county commissioners for a rehearing. She said her office has received word that on Sept. 16 the commissioners withdrew their May 10 order.

"This means the board (LUBA) will not decide on the case because it's moot," said Hubbard. "There is no case because there is no approval from the Clackamas County Commissioners."

Hubbard said the county's reconsideration order is based on a voluntary remand motion filed on behalf of the developers by Diane Spies.

Spies, a Portland land use attorney, also represents the developers of the neighboring Brightwood Glen development, which is proposed for 92 acres south of the proposed Alderwood subdivision.

Spies' motion contends that the "original" preliminary plat of the subdivision has been modified.

Cynthia Phillips, assistant Clackamas County counsel who was assigned to the LUBA appeal, said the commissioners (in their role as hearing officers) will rehear the Alderwood proposal on Nov. 10 in the Court House Annex in Oregon City.

## Tree uprooted near school

High winds toppled a cottonwood tree near the new addition to Welches Grade School on Sept. 14.

The 65-foot tree, located on school property behind the Barlow Trail Inn, was uprooted by winds with gusts up to 30 to 40 miles per hour.

The tree crashed through a cyclone fence and damaged a metal light pole. About 24 feet of the fence was knocked down and the light pole was bent near its base, forcing the metal pole into a 45-degree angle.

The incident occurred about 2 p.m., a short time prior to when students are released from school.

Kenneth Blackburn, superintendent and principal, said the cost of the damage has not yet been established. He said bids are still coming in, but estimated the total repairs will be under \$1,000.

Coverage is provided by a \$1,000-deductible policy, so the loss will have to be absorbed by the district.

Blackburn said the new section of fence will have to be replaced. The damaged one-foot section of the light pole will have to be cut off from the base and reweilded. He said he anticipates the repairs will be completed by the end of October.

The tree was cut-up and removed by firefighters from Hoodland.

# Tarantula briefly makes its home in Rhody

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A Theraphosidae, a suborder of the Mygalomorphae, more commonly known as the tarantula spider, was recently discovered in Rhododendron.

The red and black tarantula was discovered Sept. 24 in a house behind the Alpine Hut Restaurant, rented by Samanta and John Carter.

Samanta, better known as "Sam," works as a waitress at the Cascade Room at Timberline Lodge. She is credited with discovering the large, hairy spider, which measures two inches by three inches in diameter (just the right size for one to comfortably hold in the palm of the hand, if one dares). With its eight legs stretched out, it measures a good four by five inches.

Carter discovered the intruder laying contently under the coffee table in their living room shortly after setting her boots down. She said it easily stood out as the spider's black body and red spots were in contrast with the brown carpet in the room.

"I looked down and I became paralyzed," said Carter. "It just laid there with its legs moving up and down, but it didn't go anywhere."

Fearing for the safety of her two dogs, which "enjoy playing with bugs," she let them out and contemplated what she should do. Unbeknownst to her, the tarantula's bite, though poisonous, is reportedly not fatal to warm-blooded animals.

Carter said she must have watched the tarantula for 10 minutes while trying to decide what to do. Finally she decided to call the owners of the house. She wanted the uninvited guest evicted.

"I didn't care if they thought I was crazy or not," said Carter. "It was the biggest spider I'd ever seen and I wasn't going to touch it, yet I couldn't let it remain in my house."

Carter called the owners, Albert and May Clossner, who live a short distance away.

May Clossner said when she heard of the giant spider's presence she laughed. She thought it would be no bigger than a fifty-cent piece at the most. She dispatched her son-in-law, Ivan King, to rid the house of the pest.

King is the spider expert in the family. He and his wife, Jeannie, who are both graduates of Sandy Union High School, have spent the last 10 years working for the Baptist Foreign Mission Society in Borneo, Indonesia. They had just returned to the United States for a year's leave.

In Indonesia, Jeannie taught at the Bamboo River International School, and Ivan divided his time working as both a teacher and principal.

There, they both gained plenty of experience in dealing with poisonous spiders (and snakes).

King said he too was surprised to see such a large spider in Rhododendron, where the climate isn't attractive to such a species of spider. Not wanting to risk touching the tarantula, he donned leather gloves and gave the spider a whack with one of Carter's boots.

A white liquid secreted from the spider.

The tarantula was placed in a margarine container. Upon seeing the size of the spider, the Clossners were dumbfounded. They have lived in the area for 32 years. Never have they seen a tarantula in this cold climate.

Wanting verification the spider was really a tarantula, May Clossner took the specimen to the Rhododendron Post Office. There the spider was presented to Juanita Hagen, the postmaster, who gave it a close inspection.

Hagen, a longtime area resident who left the U.S. Forest Service in 1971, has seen most local species of insects, including spiders. But this was nothing like she had ever seen on the mountain.

The largest spiders I've seen on the mountain are wolf spiders, said Hagen. Generally, she said, they get up to about an inch and a half in diameter. But this was no wolf spider. This was, no doubt, a tarantula.

How the tarantula actually arrived in Rhododendron will probably always be a mystery. But the Clossners each have their own individual theories.

May Clossner believes the spider could have come in on one of the thousands of trucks that pass through the Mt. Hood corridor from such places as Southern Oregon or California.

Or, it could have even hitched a ride with a Mexican coming across the border to work in the area, she said.

Albert Clossner, who has traveled the country extensively, from the Canadian border to Southern California, assisting with aerial surveys for power companies, made his own guess on how the spider got to Carter's house.

Clossner said tarantulas are known to migrate in the fall. There is a possibility a truck from a warm-climate state left the spider along with produce or goods at a store or restaurant in the area.

How the tarantula actually got to Rhododendron may never be known. What is known, the migration of the spider into Carter's house, may have officially marked the coming of fall to the mountain.

## Fire District meeting to be held Tuesday

The Hoodland Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, Oct. 12.

All regularly scheduled meetings of the fire board are held the second Tuesday of each month.

The 7:30 p.m. meetings are held in the staff lounge at the fire district's main station in Zig Zag.

All meetings are open to the public.

Minutes, agendas, policies and other documents pertaining to the meetings are posted on a public bulletin board inside the main station.

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