

14 year old rescues cat in top of tree

by SCOTT NEWTON

do what she did," said Gracia.

The image of a fireman rescuing a cat in a tree is common, but Pam Gracia of 17860 Van Fleet in Sandy has had that image dispelled.

The Gracias heard a cat in distress, but for a couple of days didn't know where it was. On the second day the cat was fairly quiet. But on Monday, which is believed to have been its third day in 40- to 50-foot Douglas fir, the cat "cried" all day.

So Gracia called the Sandy Fire Department, only to learn emergency vehicles can't be tied up for the rescue of a cat.

So Gracia called Clackamas County animal control. A representative is reported to have said they

About her attempts to get help for the rescue, Gracia said, "I was so mad at these other facilities I could have screamed."

The cat fled upon arrival on the ground.



Erika Reagan

can't "concern themselves with this kind of problem."

A representative of the Humane Society in Portland told Gracia they don't have the equipment that would make such a rescue possible, but did know of a service that would do it for a fee.

A call to the Sandy police department proved fruitless. They reportedly told Gracia they couldn't make the rescue.

A spokesman for Portland General Electric said they would do it only if the animal was interfering with their lines.

Finally Gracia's husband, Dan, told his wife that he'd climb the tree and rescue the cat. But Erika Reagan, 14, beat him to it.

Reagan, who was baby sitting for Michael and Stella Hemmer, made the climb. A group of about 10 youngsters on the ground cheered when she got to the top.

Asked if she was scared, the Sandy Union High School freshman said, "Yeah, a little bit when I got to the top and it started shaking."

Asked why she made the climb, Reagan said, "I didn't want to see it die in that tree."

"It took a lot of guts to

Parent-Teacher Association sets potluck

The Parent-Teacher Association for Welches Grade School has set Thursday, Oct. 14 for its first activity of the year.

PTA President Judy Donaldson said a number of events will be taking place, and encourages parents, family members and interested persons in the community to attend.

A potluck dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and will last

until 7. It will be held in the multi-purpose room of the new addition, said Donaldson.

By early next week the PTA will be sending home notices with students, giving parents ideas about what to prepare for the potluck. Donaldson said the PTA will furnish eating utensils and the beverage.

At 7 p.m. a half-hour

open house will be held for parents.

The PTA will not hold a

business meeting. Rather, the school board will meet in the school's new library

beginning at 7:30 p.m. Donaldson also announced the PTA's membership

drive will officially begin on that night. Persons wishing to join are urged to attend.

For more information contact Judy Donaldson at 622-3292 or Kathy McKenzie at 622-3368.

Blankenship elected to Fire District board

Bill Blankenship of Welches has been elected to fill the vacant position on the Hoodland Rural Fire Protection District Board.

Blankenship was elected at the board's Sept. 14 meeting. He replaces Gary Cleland of Brightwood, who resigned at the board's

August meeting.

The term on the board will be served by Blankenship until elections for new directors take place in March.

Also new on the board is Verla Rogers of Brightwood. She replaced Riley Caton of Wemme earlier in the summer.

Sandy Preschool Coop has a few openings

The newly-established Sandy Preschool Coop has a few openings remaining for three- to five-year-old participants.

The Coop will be meeting Tuesdays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Sandy Community Center.

A preschool instructor has been hired and a Mt. Hood Community College early education student, in addition to parents, will

serve as volunteers.

The monthly tuition for interested parents is \$15 for one child and \$7.50 for each child thereafter.

For more information contact Bill Knight-Weiler at the Sandy Community Center, 668-5569.

Bridge to close in Brightwood

The Sleepy Hollow Bridge between Barlow Trail Road and Sleepy Hollow drive in the Brightwood area will be closed for six months, beginning at noon on Oct. 7, according to Dennis Everson, Clackamas County bridge inspector.

"We're reconstructing the bridge to eliminate the 20-ton load limit that has existed since 1972," Everson said. "We're also improving the access. The weight limit and the angle that the bridge meets Sleepy Hollow Drive have (caused) problems for log trucks."

The \$376,743 project will realign the bridge to the east of its present position to provide better traffic flow onto Sleepy Hollow Drive. The wooden approach will be replaced with concrete.

The project is funded by federal dollars and a local match of \$86,460.

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