

Hoodland fire chief ponders Ballot Measure 3

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

How to run a fire department on 1983 prices with 1979-80 funding is the problem the Hoodland Rural Fire District officials will be facing if Ballot Measure 3 passes Nov. 2.

Hoodland Rural Fire Chief Don Armintrout said in a recent interview that he can only speculate on what affect the measure would have on service.

Currently, said Armintrout, the district's budget is \$332,000. Ballot Measure 3, the 1.5 percent property tax limitation, would

return the district to the 1979-80 budget of \$162,000.

However, Armintrout said the district just recently heard from state officials, who said they would be getting \$255,000.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions and we can't answer those questions until we get some answers from someone, like the state, who says this is exactly the amount of money you will have and this is official," said Armintrout.

Regardless of whether the district gets \$255,000 or \$162,000, there will still be an impact. Fuel for the fire

vehicles, as well as for maintenance and tire purchases, will have to be reduced substantially.

"It's a 'Catch 22' situation," said Armintrout. "If you don't have the money to buy new tires, what are you going to do if they blow?"

Uncertain just what the

financial effect Ballot Measure 3 will have, Armintrout said it will be up to the board to decide where the cuts will be made. They will determine this by holding public meetings and letting the district's residents have a say.

Speaking at the fire

board's September meeting, Armintrout outlined some potential problems the 1.5 percent property tax limitation could have on fire protection.

Armintrout said the current budget would be reduced 52 percent. If this happens, the people of the district can expect a reduction of services by one half.

Armintrout said there could be a possible elimination of three permanent positions in the department. Currently there are five paid staff members.

Dispatch costs and telephone services would also have to be reduced by one half, said Armintrout.

Last year the district spent \$76,000, which allowed for expanded protection. The passage of Ballot Measure 3 would reduce this to \$46,000.

There would be no purchase of additional radio equipment, office equipment, fire apparatus and other capital expenses.

One option would be to shut down the Brightwood Station, which is five miles west of the main station in Zig Zag on Highway 26. This would save \$20,000.

In addition, the district could save \$25,000 by eliminating special rescue services.

People who utilize the department's walk-in first aid service may find themselves forced to drive 31 miles to Gresham Community Hospital for treat-

ment. Currently an estimated 50 persons are treated for first aid each month.

The district would only maintain essential services, said Armintrout. Firefighters would respond only to fires and life-threatening situations. There would be a reduction, if not complete elimination, in emergency medical services and preventive services, such as chimney inspections.

"We're going to need to hear from the company officers as to how we are to do this (continue protection of the district) without any money," said Armintrout.

"Do you really think a community like this would let the fire department go

downhill," asked Shirley Dueber, the owner of The Book Place stores in Welches and Sandy. "I think the people may stand behind it (the fire department) with bucks out of their own pockets."

"I think the community may rise up on its hind legs and say, 'Here's the bucks,'" Armintrout responded

that it would take a lot of bake sales to continue the funding level of the department. If Ballot Measure 3 were to go into effect.

Board Member David Olson said if Ballot Measure 3 passes, the district will have to accept this "harsh fact" and live as the voters ask.

Harvest Festival set for Oct. 23 in Boring

The first Boring Harvest Festival will be Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Boring Grade School Naas Building.

It is being sponsored by members of the community, the Parent-Teacher Association and merchants.

Although many people have already expressed interest in showing their crafts, demonstrating their "home based" business opportunities or selling their wares, some table space is available, according to

Connie Reynolds, PTA president.

A table may be rented, indoors or out (weather permitting), for \$10.

Needed are home-sewn items, leather work, baked goods, antiques, produce and Christmas items, she said.

Lunch will be available, with a chili feed "at the top of the list."

For more information, contact Reynolds at 658-4057, Cam Schwab at 668-7594 or Jan Grenier at 658-3682.

Mt. Hood CPO sets 'important' meeting

The Mt. Hood Corridor Citizen Planning Organization will meet in the multipurpose room of Welches Grade School on Monday, Oct. 18.

Tom Morrison, vice chairperson of the CPO, said the agenda for the meeting "is lengthy but important." He urged that all the area representatives and members attend.

On the agenda is a discussion of the conditional use permit hearings for two developments proposed for the Cedar Ridge area, near Brightwood.

The Brightwood Glen subdivision is scheduled to go before the Board of Clackamas County Commissioners on Oct. 20. Proposed is 347 units for 98 acres of land.

A new hearing has been

granted for the Alderwood Mobile Home subdivision, a 192-unit mobile home park proposed for 48 acres of land. It is scheduled to be heard on Nov. 10.

For more information contact Tom Morrison at 622-3538.

Sus: 1 joins Hazelwoods

Susan Marie Hazlewood was born Sept. 13 at 3:05 p.m. at the Bess Kaiser Medical Center.

She weighed eight pounds, three ounces and was 20 and one-quarter inches long.

She joins Katherine, 5. The parents are David and Marcia Hazlewood of Sandy.

The grandparents are Irven and Eleanor Silkey of Ohio and Helen Knutson of Wisconsin.

A great-grandmother, Ara Felt, lives in Irvine, Calif.

Rescued cat is identified

The cat rescued from high up in a Douglas fir last week by Erika Reagan has been identified as Puddy Cat, the pet of Don and Harriet Christilaw.

Reagan, 14, climbed the tree, estimated to be 50-foot tall or taller, after Pam Gracia, 17860 Van Fleet, was unable to get the fire department to respond.

The Christilaws gave Reagan "a nice gift." Said Harriet, "I don't know how she ever got the nerve to do that."

The cat, which was up in the tree nearly four days, "hasn't been near a tree since it got down," Don said Tuesday.

Parakeet goes home

The parakeet that stopped in for a visit at Sandy Union High School last week belonged to Sally Founds and Darwin Buswell.

The bird flew into an open window and was kept by a student until claimed. It had been missing since May, Buswell told The Post.

He said, "I was just getting ready to go out and buy her another bird, too."

Buswell said Founds never gave up hope that they'd find the parakeet, named Pretty Bird.

He said the parakeet, which he chased for six hours the day it left, likes to land on people's heads, which is exactly what Pretty Bird did when she joined Georgia Lenon's literature class.

A neighbor, Edna Stewart, read about the parakeet in The Post and told Founds and Buswell about it.

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