

Petition written to prod government agencies

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

To "ensure that the Mt. Hood corridor will retain the ability for its natural resources to be the dominant attraction," two Welches residents are circulating a petition they hope will aid in protecting the area.

Dennis Tylka and his wife, Joyce, said they are

attempting to get politicians and state authorities to recognize the importance of preserving Mt. Hood's western slopes. They claim the Sandy and Salmon River drainages should be of special concern, due to recreational value.

A member of the Portland Audubon Society, Tylka said the appropriate government agencies must

begin responding to the conflicts that developments are posing to wetlands, deer and elk range and to water quality in the corridor.

The Tylkas, who have been active in land-use planning issues in the area, said that it is "in the best interest of the state of Oregon and the United States" that these

resources be protected.

The pressure by land speculators to develop "sensitive" areas on the mountain is sparked by its close proximity to the Portland metropolitan area, said Tylka. However, he said he believes this same proximity could also be an advantage in protecting wetlands and wildlife areas. If the area retains its natural beauty, the

tourists and the outdoor enthusiasts will more than likely return.

To do this, said Tylka, people need to show their concern by signing his petition.

Needed are 1000 signatures, which he said he hopes to secure soon. Tylka said he believes if this many people would show support, politicians

and the representatives of various agencies who by law have the responsibility to protect these areas, would begin doing so.

Tylka said the petition will not be used to place the issue on the ballot for a vote of the public. Instead, it would provide a way to measure support for environmental concerns in the Mt. Hood area.

Due to Mt. Hood's "national prominence as a recreational area, every citizen should have a voice when the possible degradation of those valuable resources are at stake," said Tylka.

There are already enough laws on the books to protect the corridor, said Tylka. He said such state agencies as the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Division of State Lands and the Water Resources Department are under funded but do look upon the area as a high enough priority to enforce these laws.

Service, enforce these laws.

"This will ensure that the Mt. Hood corridor will retain the ability for its natural resources to be the dominant attraction for this recreational economy," said Tylka.

A second reason Tylka cited is the need to know what importance the general public places on maintaining the Mt. Hood corridor's "important natural characteristics."

"I wasn't sure if we were a minority or a majority in our efforts to help preserve the area," said Tylka. "The petition will help to provide the answer to that question."

Tylka said persons interested in circulating petitions, or who have any questions concerning the intent of the petition, can contact him at P.O. Box 369, Welches, Ore. 97067 or call 622-3833.

Speakers to address Sandy High seniors

On Nov. 9 speakers will be on hand at the Sandy Union High School cafeteria to address college-bound seniors and their parents.

The activities will begin at 7:30 p.m.

A representative of Portland State University will speak on admission requirements, college entrance exams and finan-

cial aid.

A Mt. Hood Community College representative will talk about the community college option.

Welcome Rumbaugh will speak on the career center at the high school and how to use it.

For more information contact Debbie Borge at the high school.

School's extra-duty positions filled

The positions of boys basketball coach and after-school drama instructor were recently awarded by the Welches School Board.

Two teachers who have filled the positions in the past were denied the extra-duty contracts. Both were negotiators during the last contract talks for the Welches Education Association.

In a statement prepared by the board it was

reported the contracts for Jeanine Boldt and Tom Well were rejected because they had resigned. Boldt and Well claim they didn't resign. Boldt has called the board's action "vindictive," a result of over nine months of often intense contract negotiations.

Mark Hamby will be the head basketball coach. He will be assisted by Kent McKinnon, a pastor at Chapel of the Hills. McKinnon is a certified teacher.

The basketball team has a 12-game season, which ends Jan. 13.

Eileen Stanley, a sixth grade teacher, was accepted as the after-school drama instructor. A play has been scheduled sometime before Christmas vacation. The students will take six weeks to prepare for the play.

School pictures for the entire student body of Welches Grade School will have to be retaken, due to a piece of lint on the camera lens.

The new photo session is scheduled for this Friday at the school, said Gary Dietderich, vice principal.

Dietderich said there will be no additional costs for the pictures. He said the pictures should still be ready for distribution prior to Christmas vacation so

they can be given away for presents, as originally planned.

The Tylkas' petition is requesting that these agencies, as well as such federal agencies as the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Marine Fisheries

Service, enforce these laws.

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The football rally squad, comprised of all seniors, were, from top to bottom: Brenda Carpenter, Beth Kai, Tammie Schulson and Dayna Rainier. At left is Pebbles Moore. On the right is Tracie Ruple.

Days off set at Welches

Students at Welches Grade School will receive a three-day vacation next week.

A work day for teachers has been scheduled Nov. 10, Thursday is Veterans Day, and parent-teacher conferences will be held Friday.

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