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City backs off 'hard line' on parking lot

by DAN DILLON

The city is going to bide its time before it takes the hard-line approach with property owners over Local Improvement District 4.

Monday evening the Sandy City Council voted to table the notion of declaring the controversial Heritage Square parking lot surplus property until its Feb. 7 meeting. Such a declaration could lead to shut-down of the lot and eliminate needed parking for adjacent businesses.

The property would have to be sold, lease or exchanged to another party if it is declared surplus property, according to City Attorney Jack Hammond.

"I think, personally, we should take action," said Councilor Jim Duff. "By taking action, we're not going to tie our hands anyway. It's not a scare tactic; it's realistic."

A "cooling-off time" may be a better tack to take, however, noted Councilor Tim Ward. That would benefit both the city and the property owners who remonstrated against the latest set of billings for the five-year-old lot.

Declaring the lot surplus property for the purpose of selling it isn't going to build rapport between the city and the business community, he argued.

The property owners "refused to participate and I don't look at it as a threat," Duff said. "I think the strongest statement we can make as a council is we don't need the parking lot. They do."

"I'm very concerned about the taxpayers who are going to get stuck with the bill if we don't solve this problem," he said.

Councilor Deane Wesselink noted an unwillingness on the property owners' part to negotiate.

"I sat here last year and made three different offers and they all went downhill," he said. "That tells me they aren't interested in the common sense the business people are supposed to have. They're cutting their own throats by not trying to deal."

Vandals ransack Welches School

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Vandals struck Welches Grade School New Year's weekend, causing an estimated \$20,000 damage and forcing cancellation Monday of 10 classes.

Fire extinguishers throughout A, B and C wings, and in the multipurpose room created a potentially dangerous situation because of the toxicity of the dry chemicals, said Superintendent Ken Blackburn. Because of possible adverse effects, Blackburn cancelled school for grades one to five on Hoodland Fire Chief Don Armintrout's recommendation.

Damage was focused on two fourth-grade classrooms where windows were broken from room doors and a globe was shattered. Tables, chairs and other furniture was turned upside down. Desk contents were dumped and scattered. Books, student papers and lesson plans were also scattered.

Student art projects were smashed. Posters and murals were either damaged and torn off the walls.

Scribbled on the blackboard with a black felt pen in one of the damaged rooms was the message:

"123082 This was done by the 'S.A.D.' Company. We are demolition experts. And you aren't going to have any services for a long time. P.S. We live in Portland."

Blue, red, orange and white paint was splattered, smeared and sprayed on walls, floors and ceilings. The vandals urinated on the floor and walls in the multipurpose room and some air vent coverings were smashed.

The blue velvet stage curtain, valued at \$1,000, was damaged beyond repair when the vandals slashed it. The curtain was purchased just over a year ago.

Oregon State Police investigators believe the vandal's message was left to throw them off track. One example pointed out by Detective Craig George was the Dec. 30 date of the message. That evening custodians



Photo by Michael P. Jones

Vandals ransacked two fourth-grade classrooms at Welches Grade School over the weekend and destroyed the school's new \$4,000 curtain in the new addition.

were waxing and polishing floors in the building. During the day of Dec. 31, staff and administrators were in the building.

One portion of the message they will try to decipher is the acronym. Depending on the reading of the first letter, a "J" or "R," the acronym makes little sense. However, if it is an "S," reading "S.A.D.," it is the acronym of a fictitious anti-development group joked about in the Mt. Hood area since late 1980—"Stop Adversive Development."

The vandalism was discovered by

Ralph Bruns, transportation supervisor, around 7 a.m. Monday, according to Blackburn.

George and fellow detective Kirk McBride spent four and a half hours Monday sifting through the damages for clues. They believe two to three persons, probably between 10 and 18 years of age, are responsible for the vandalism.

George said a number of fingerprints and distinguishable footprints were secured at the scene. The prints are from tennis shoes, sizes seven and ten and a half. One has a dot or ball pattern on its sole, and the other

a series of jagged lines.

Assistant Fire Chief Lane Wintermute said the dry chemicals from the extinguishers could be harmful to the lungs and an irritant to the eyes, particularly in a large quantity. He thinks those responsible for the vandalism should have been affected by the chemicals as they discharged the extinguishers.

Wintermute said the chemical eats up electrical wiring.

Custodians involved in the cleanup efforts wore breathing apparatus provided by the fire department. The total cleanup took about 15 hours.

An incendiary device, fashioned out of a plastic pill bottle, was found outside the building's west door. A firecracker was embedded in its cap, with another inside the bottle with some flammable liquid though to be paint thinner. Wooden matches were discovered in a pile where the bottle had spilled.

Neither the OSP nor Fire Chief Armintrout believes that the vandals had an opportunity to use the cocktail. However, a garbage dumpster located at the loading dock was discovered to have been set afire.

Four vying for SUHS board seat

Four residents of the Sandy Elementary School District area are seeking appointment to the Sandy Union High School board of directors.

The SUHS board is expected to make its appointment Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Room 50-51 and give the elementary district area a voice on the board. Currently, all board members are from the other high school feeder districts.

Superintendent Jack Peters said the vacancy was created when board member Ralph Griffin Jr. stepped down in November for health reasons. He had been appointed in June to fill the vacancy created by the death of board member Paul Tucker.

The four applicants for the board seat are Boyd Crane, a Portland dentist; Dan MacDonald, a Portland advertising agency executive; Kaye Morrison, personnel director for a Portland health-care management firm; and Jeanne Doty, retired principal of Gordon Russell Middle School in Gresham.

Former city worker lobbies for pipeline support

A former Sandy city maintenance supervisor and his Gresham partner Tuesday asked the Sandy Chamber of Commerce for lobby support for their dream to build a pipeline across the state.

Only their pipeline wouldn't carry gas or oil. They propose jobs, reduced government expense and solution for Oregon's landfill problems by construction of a solid waste pipeline.

Their 260-mile pipeline would carry solid waste from Portland down the valley to Eugene and across the Cascades to desert land in eastern Oregon. It would service Redmond and Bend along the way.

A processing plant at the end of the

pipeline would recover solid waste material for use in manufacture of houses, novelties and some 60 other products.

Glen Markgraf, former Sandy city maintenance supervisor 1970-73, said he and partner Bob Lawson have contracts pending for construction of 6,500 homes with recycled waste at their plant.

The three-bedroom homes would sell for approximately \$35,000.

The Operation Pipeline partners met as research and development specialists and have worked full-time two years on this project.

They claim financial support and

construction interest by eight major national corporations.

Their big hurdle now, Lawson said, is securing rights-of-way in communities along the pipeline route and state legislative concessions including water transportation to different levels.

Polluted water would carry the waste across the Cascades to be recycled, which Lawson figures is better than dumping it or burning it at taxpayer expense.

He proposes buying waste from cities and making the waste recovery system self-supporting through private enterprise.

Other groups would build and maintain the line, while real interest of Lawson and Markgraf would be manufacture of new products from the recovered waste.

Sandy, however, wouldn't be on the pipeline route or adjacent.

They estimate construction would generate some 15,000 jobs for Oregonians through private financing for the \$2 billion project.

"Nobody seems to want processing of solid waste in their backyard," Lawson said of early attempts to build a model test plant in Portland to demonstrate his plan.

Then he answered a challenge

from Gov. Vic Atiyeh as to recycle material value by constructing a contoured map of the pipeline route, using all recycled material he processed.

Lawson estimated some 4 million tons of waste are dumped each year in Oregon. Meanwhile, acceptable landfill sites are becoming scarce and disposal of solid waste in Portland a major problem, he said.

He said he launched the pipeline project when Metropolitan Service District rejected his offer to buy solid waste to recover for use in manufacturing.

In special programs

'TLC' makes toys special gifts for local students

by DAN DILLON

The tender loving care of some retirement home residents in Milwaukie is making the horizons a little brighter for local elementary school students.

An annual Christmas gift from Willamette View Manor Retirement Home makes learning easier for children with learning problems and gives them a better focus on school.

Toys produced by the residents are used to augment classroom training for the students, primarily first-graders who enter school a year or two behind their fellow students. Besides in-class use, parents check toys out of the toy library, headquartered at Kelso School, for work at home.

"It's kind of a fun thing they can do instead of drilling them on their homework," said Kelso resource room teacher Amy Walker. "The kids really enjoy it."

The toys primarily give the children a chance to catch up on hand-eye coordination and sequencing, said Ralph Branson, district special education director.

The toys allow teachers to help kids on an individual basis develop basic academic skills, he said.

A set of dolls have a special use. They are used by speech therapists for language development as students make up stories and learn to name the individual items, and by

counselors for play therapy, Branson said.

"As kids' needs differ, toys are shifted between schools," Branson said.

Playing with toys, often thought of as a diversion from the needs of schoolwork by some, has been a successful way to get students interested and on a development level with their classmates, so going to school is more enjoyable.

"Most of the things are pretty successful," Walker said.

The special annual gifts from the Milwaukie center have allowed the local school district to enlarge its library without a great expense. "It's really been an asset to the program as we've really been allowed to expand our program," Branson said.

And the quality of the toys reflects the care and time put into each one's creation.

Oak and fir are used in the Alphabet Worm that helps teach the alphabet sequence and a spinning wheel for color and number association. Each edge has been meticulously sanded so no one gets splinters.

Ornate hand-crocheted blankets and afghans are accessories with every doll.

The T.L.C. that went into those things is just out of this world," Branson said.



Photo by Dan Dillon

Kelso first-grader Keith Hillis tries his hand at the Alphabet Worm, one of many toys crafted for area school by a Milwaukie retirement home now in use in Sandy Elementary District.

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WEATHER

Extended Forecast for Western Oregon: Thursday through Saturday. Rainy periods with chance of sun. Highs, 45 to 55. Lows, 35 to 45.

Trousdale airport

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