

Chapel school gives personal touch

by HANK EMRICH

Students at the Chapel Christian School 10 miles east of Sandy are greeted by a brightly-colored sign with a long-necked giraffe poking his head out from an overcrowded ark.

The students won't find their "ark"—as their classroom is called—nearly as crowded as Noah's; only seven students are enrolled at the school.

Kent McKinnon, pastor of the Chapel of the Hills, would like to see more students at the school but is pleased with the results of a small student-teacher ratio.

"This is our second year for the school," said McKinnon, "and our students are not only learning, but enjoying it as they do."

He cited three reasons for enrolling his son, Kyle, in the school. The first is academic.

"We wanted our children to have the very best opportunity to learn the basics, reading, writing and math," McKinnon said.

Teacher Jane Rath, a graduate of the University of Michigan, believes that is a priority. She points to the lone second-grader in the school, Nathan Roads, as an example. Roads just completed his scholastic aptitude testing and is doing fourth-grade level work in almost all subjects.

McKinnon lists "Christian environment" as his second priority, adding this means not just learning, but practicing those principles.

Rath uses an ABEKA curriculum, a method using a phonetic approach to reading.

"It is a strong program with real value in the fact that the stories also teach character values," she said. "Our students are learning and practicing caring, being kind, helping out, etc."

"Strong discipline" is the third attribute McKinnon lists, "a chance to help structure the student's life to develop habits that



Teacher Jane Rath can give individualized attention to each of her seven students at the Chapel Christian School. In its second year, the school offers alternatives to public school life.

will make that student successful in school and in life."

McKinnon is careful to emphasize that strong discipline doesn't necessarily mean physical punishment and in fact could not think of a time when a student had been spanked.

"Discipline is an opportunity to teach, more than to correct," said McKinnon.

Currently, all students are children of church members, however, the school accepts students from outside the church and next year hopes to expand to pre-school (4-5 years) through third grade.

Parents are required to help out one day a week, a process Jan McKinnon encourages. "The parent-helper can see first hand

what and how the kids are learning, and the kids enjoy seeing parents there."

Art, music, physical education and field trips are an important part of the school atmosphere. The small class has enabled the children to visit potters' studios, beaver dams and helicopter logging operations.

Laurie Hendershott said of her

son, "Jeremy looks forward to school and has developed an attitude where he loves to learn instead of being forced to learn."

Least people would think the school turns out a new breed of "superkid"—Nathan was quick to comment that although he is doing fourth-grade work, his favorite part of school is quite simply "playing."

Hood clouds stir visions of eruption

Portland radio and television stations made more of a blast than Mount Hood's "eruption" Friday morning.

Several stations dealt at great length with an apparent steam plume that rose from the mountain's peak and was easily visible from Portland.

Although the plume proved to be nothing more than a passing cloud, visions of a Mount St. Helens-like eruption were enough to send camera crews to the air. Officials from Zigzag Ranger Station scurried to the east slope of the mountain for a closer look.

Herb Evans, public affairs officer for the Mt. Hood National Forest, explained that unusually high east winds had backed a lenticular cloud up against the mountain, eventually causing it to "slide" up and over the peak.

"Steam rising from the mountain is not an unusual occurrence," said Evans. "There are fumaroles which constantly emit steam, but winds and warmth in the air usually dissipate the steam before it is visible from any distance."

"Given the right conditions—that is cold, clear days with little or no wind—these plumes are much more evident," he said.

'Boil water' order given customers

Customers of the Minikahda drinking water system near Mt. Hood are being urged to boil their water before using it because of its contamination by fecal bacteria.

The contamination was found by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency after a laboratory analysis of samples collected in early February during an EPA survey of 14 water systems in the Mount Hood area.

Minikahda, located north of Highway 26 on Lolo Pass Road, was the only system whose water did not meet federal standards for drinking water purity.

Upon the discovery of the contamination, EPA recommended that operators of the Minikahda system issue a "boil water" advisory to the people living in the 20 homes hooked up to the local water supply. The water, according to EPA, should be brought to a rolling boil for one minute before it is used.

Other water systems whose water was sampled in the EPA survey and found to be acceptable included Timberline Lodge, Summit Ski Area, Ski Bowl, Mt. Hood Meadows, Government Camp Water Company, Salmon Valley Water Company, Timberline Rim, along with restaurant systems at Kitchen Little in Rhododendron, Zig Zag Inn and Whistle Stop Tavern in Wemme.

Hoodland senior center aids whole community

There is help available to Hoodland area residents who are experiencing financial difficulties because of the depressed economy, according to Gretchen Casey, outreach worker at the Hoodland Senior Center.

Although primarily a service center for senior citizens, the Senior Center, located in the Women's Club building on Salmon River Road, also facilitates other programs for non-seniors.

Two programs offered through the center in February are the distribution of surplus cheese provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Clackamas County Fuel Assistance program.

Casey pointed out that providing these services for area residents also

makes them available for the seniors.

"There are no other social service agencies on the mountain, and without monies available, I don't see any in the near future," she said.

"We help where we can and refer quite regularly to the Community Ac-

tion Agency in Sandy."

There are more than 600 pounds of cheese to be distributed this Saturday, Feb. 19, and Casey hopes to distribute the entire amount between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

To be eligible for either a five- or 10-pound loaf of cheese, Hoodland residents must meet these

guidelines: a family of one with gross monthly income of \$487.50; two, \$648; three, \$808.33; four, \$968.75; five, \$1,129.17; six, \$1,289.58.

Clackamas County residents will be served only at the site nearest their home and must bring some form of identification showing their

name and address.

The fuel assistance program is based solely on income and served 60 households during January in the Hoodland area. Applications have declined during February but there is still some assistance available. Appointments may be arranged by calling 622-3331.

Firefighter undergoes special training

A third firefighter from the Hoodland Fire District is undergoing two weeks of training at the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, Md.

Battalion Chief Neil Senger is currently attending the intensive train-

ing with firefighters from around the country.

Hoodland Fire Chief Don Armintrout was the first Hoodland firefighter to attend and points to the

sessions as "superb training."

"There is a 12 to 18 month waiting period, if you meet the requirements of an extensive application process covering the individual, the department and your service area," Armin-

trout explained.

"They have a good philosophy. Once they get you there, you are in your seat for two weeks and they try to put as much in you as they can," he said.

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