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SUHS cuts budget, agrees with Peters

by SCOTT NEWTON

After a lengthy explanation of the new Sandy Union High School district budget, district patron Cathy Coleman expressed surprise at the size, or lack of it, of the new budget document.

Coleman had one of the old budget documents with more than 100 pages. "Cathy, new players, new ball game," said Board Member Gary Cleland, explaining the trimmer document.

Deputy clerk Angus Anderson spent the last half of a 3½-hour board of directors meeting Monday explaining his seven-page document.

The "new players," Anderson and new Superintendent Roberta Hutton were hired this spring, replacing former deputy clerk Joan Hay, who moved to Hillsboro, and Superintendent Jack Peters, whose contract was terminated, effective June 30.

The board also signed an agreement with one of those former team members Monday evening.

"They met the terms of the contract, and that's what I was interested in," Peters said Tuesday. He didn't attend the meeting Monday evening.

That included his salary of \$42,978, discounted 6 percent and paid in a lump sum of \$40,380.49. Through the course of the year the district will also pay \$4,125.36 for life, medical, dental and other health insurance policies; \$4,914.31 for Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); \$5,410.99 for FICA; \$355 for professional dues and \$1,848 for PERS sick leave.

Peters said he is eligible for PERS retirement benefits. He and his wife plan to stay in the area "because we really like it here."

"We intend to retire right here on Wildcat Mountain," he said, adding that he intends to stay involved in community activities.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

At the board meeting Hutton praised Anderson for both the brevity of the new budget, and its clarity.

The proposed tax levy is \$374,450 less than the one voters turned down in May. The assessed valuation per \$1,000 would be \$4.89 instead of \$5.35.

It is estimated that the budget spends approximately \$4,122.34 per student. Enrollment is projected at 1,080 students, and the proposed budget totals \$4,452,132. Of that, voters may be asked to approve a

proposed levy of \$2,629,739.

That per-student cost is a "bargain," Hutton said.

The current breakdown has an A ballot of \$2,025,318 and a B ballot of \$604,421.

A meeting for public comment and final budget decisions will be June 27 at 7:30 p.m. in rooms 50-51 at the school.

Comparisons between the old and new budgets are difficult. For example, utility expenses were previously listed in the maintenance budget, but has been moved to the "district administration" section.

Some of the increases include the library budget, which receives an additional \$13,000 for books and periodicals. The proposed library fund jumps from \$77,771 to \$96,391.

Hutton said that's "not at all unreasonable." The library took a considerable cut when the B ballot was voted down last year.

There is also \$15,400 in the math department's budget for 10 computers. "It's not a frill," Hutton said of computer education, adding that a state computer education requirement is in the works.

Also budgeted is \$40,000 for a school bus. Acting chairman Bob Boring said, "We absolutely are in need of rolling stock."

Anderson broke the budget down into four areas, which include instructional programs, instructional support programs, district administration and business services.

SERVICE COSTS

The breakdown of instructional services are as follows: mathematics, \$221,661; science, \$224,817; physical education, \$269,674; vocational education, \$354,480; participating and performing arts, \$335,493; and social sciences, \$236,385.

Asked why the new levy is almost \$400,000 less than the one voters were presented with in May, Anderson said the new budget was "rebuilt from the bottom up."

Hutton said it will be important to "say what we're going to do, and do what we say" to gain the community's trust.

She added that her goal for next year is to get the budget approved the first time it's presented to the public.

It's expected the public will vote on the proposed budget Aug. 9, but that depends on the outcome of the June 27 meeting.

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George Julien from Trinidad found days that Oregonians consider warm are still a bit chilly for one accustomed to balmy West Indies' temperatures as he scraped benches at Lost Creek Tuesday.

Three hurt in climbing accident

Strong winds Tuesday hampered efforts by rescuers to reach three men injured while climbing Mt. Hood.

It was more than 12 hours after the trio fell 400 feet down the mountain near the 10,500-foot level that rescuers were able to reach the injured climbers.

According to Hood River County sheriff's deputies, all three men suffered serious injuries and evacuation was to begin Wednesday morning on foot until winds died down enough to allow a helicopter to assist.

The three climbers, all from Portland, were in a five-man party on the Eliot Glacier when the accident occurred about 10 a.m. Tuesday. The two uninjured climbers then descended the mountain, reporting the accident some six hours after it occurred.

Injured in the fall were Mike Colasurdo, 25, Harry Herdman, 30, and Dan Raven, 27.

Bernie Colasurdo, 25, one of the uninjured climbers, said the five spent Monday night at the 8,500-foot level before making their final ascent. They were about 500 feet from the summit when the accident occurred.

He said the climbers were in two groups, using two ropes.

Although four of the five climbers were described as "experienced," none had ascended by the Eliot Glacier route before, which a member of the Alpinists climbing group described as "dangerous."

Members of the Alpinists, Crag Rats and the Air Force's 304th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron.

School fire nets youth arson charge

by DAN DILLON

Two 16-year-old Sandy youths were apprehended by local police last Wednesday in connection with three fires set at Sandy Union High School.

According to Sandy Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher, one of the boys was arrested and charged with three counts of first-degree arson and lodged in the Donald E. Long Juvenile Home in Portland. The other boy was released to the custody of his parents.

Gallagher said the three fires had been extinguished by school staff when firefighters arrived shortly after 1 p.m. Most of the students had gone home for the day by the time the fires were set, but a few who remained saw the two youths and were able to identify them for authorities.

A cigarette lighter was used to ignite paper on a table in the school commons area and in two waste containers on the second floor.

Although damage to the school was limited, Gallagher said other considerations are taken into account in an arson investigation.

"We have to look at the potential from our end," he said. "It definitely could have developed into something very serious with very few people in the building."

The suspects were identified by students and a staff member after they were seen running from the area. One was identified by name, the other by a picture in a yearbook.

"The entire investigation took a little over three hours, thanks to the observant students in the area who saw the two male juveniles running after setting the first fire," Gallagher said.

One juvenile, detained at juvenile hall, was arrested in a wooded area off Meinig Avenue by police officer Carl Faught who was assisted by his police dog, Moose. That youth later admitted setting the fires, Gallagher said.

The other juvenile was picked up, questioned and released to his parents.

Gallagher credited the Sandy Police Department with helping the investigation go so smoothly.

"It was an excellent job done by Sandy police," he said. "They were right on top of it."

"If things would have sat for a day or so, there's a good chance we'd never got it."

If tried as an adult, the arrested juvenile faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$2,500 fine on each of the three charges.

Worldwide help boosts park

by HANK EMRICH
Post Correspondent

One would expect working with persons from several different countries for the first time would be a handicap. However, persons working as volunteers at the Lost Creek Campground allowed neither that nor the fact they are physically disabled to slow their efforts.

Local, national, and international groups have combined efforts to make the Zigzag site Oregon's first overnight campground for disabled persons.

The groups hope to make Lost Creek Campground and Nature Trail off Lolo Pass Road into more than the day-use facility it was developed to be 10 years ago.

Handisporters Club, a Portland organization hosting Mobility International and other groups this week, is the moving force behind the project.

"We adopted maintenance of the campground two years ago," said Bill Lettengarver, president of Handisporters. "The idea for improving the area came about when we camped up here for a work weekend."

Lettengarver said the weekend, spent in pouring rain, showed not only how much could be gained from an all-night facility, but also improvements that could be made. One of the improvements would be more paved areas.

"It's not easy to get around in a wheelchair sinking into wet sandy soil," he said.

Covering the paved trails from his wheelchair seemed to be no problem for Lettengarver, however, as he supervised the project, moving to each area of the campground at a pace that seemed more suited for jogging than taking notes.

Handisporters joined Easter Seals, SOAR (Shared Outdoor Adventure Recreation), the Mt. Hood National Forest, and Mobility International on the project.

Mobility International flew 11 persons from several countries to aid in the effort. The group, which consists of both disabled and able-bodied persons, will work on other projects in the Northwest as well as Lost Creek.

Although the day's work was done with a respite from Oregon's relentless rain, George Julien of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, wore a heavy sweater as he wielded a wire

brush from his wheelchair to a park bench in the campground.

"We have no winter in Trinidad," explained Julien, who had the chance for a first-ever view of snow on an earlier trip to Timberline Lodge.

Although 60-degree temperatures seemed a little chilly for Julien, he was pleased with his visit to the area. "The country is beautiful and the people are wonderful, very friendly," he said.

The largest project for the week-long effort is a dam the groups are building on the creek. Nora Winegar of Handisporters said the resulting pond would eventually be stocked for fishing.

"Most of the rocks in the dam were placed almost one by one, using a 'human chain' method," said Charlotte Baker, also of Handisporters. Baker shoveled more rocks into buckets as the finishing touches were being put on the dam by Inge Rose-Hansen and Nick Hanschkat of Mobility International.

Rose-Hansen of Denmark and Hanschkat of Germany are both able-bodied but Baker, who is disabled had no trouble keeping the buckets full as they ferried them across the stream. "We're on our ninth pick-up load of rocks," she said without missing a beat of the regular cadence with which she was shoveling.

Although some confusion might be expected with so many different organizations working on the project, all efforts appeared to be well co-ordinated.

Tim Shearer, a director with SOAR, said his group had worked with Handisporters before but this was their first experience with Mobility International. "We're just making sure everything runs smooth," he said.

SOAR's chief responsibility in the project has been locating transportation and lodging for persons working on the project said Shearer. Mt. Hood Evangelical Church, Welches School and the Hoodland Lions Club have helped in these areas.

SOAR is a Portland group providing opportunities for disabled adults in outdoor activities such as skiing, fishing, and horseback riding.

The Lost Creek project marks the first time Mobility International has sent a delegation to the United States, although several members have worked on projects

in Europe. They join together representatives from England, Finland, Sweden, Japan, Trinidad, Bahrain, Denmark and Germany.

Lettengarver said the Forest Service provided a great deal of help and "is great to work with."

"We meet with them once a month," said Lettengarver, "e have to get permission for every step and so do they."

"It's a long process but it's working out fine," he said.

Larry Zimmerman of the Forest Service said converting the camp to overnight use is now part of the master plan for the area. "They (groups working at the site) have shown there is even more potential for the campground," said Zimmerman.

Before the week is done, the groups hope to paint the restrooms, restore tables and benches, and complete the regular maintenance such as trimming back brush from the paved pathways. The volunteers from SOAR and Handisporters plan to return again this year to continue with their work at the campground.

Up to her knees in the chilly waters of Lost Creek, Rose-Hansen appeared ready for Mobility International's next stop, a project at Dorena Lake near Cottage Grove.

Julien anticipated the move south. "I just hope it's warm," he said.



Bill Lettengarver, president of Handisporters, oversees the project.

Mountain lake search continues for victim

A bottom search of Clear Lake, 15 miles south of Mt. Hood, is expected as searchers attempt to locate the body of a man they believe was in a light aircraft that broke up and crashed into the lake last Tuesday.

A diving school has volunteered its services for an extensive search of the two-mile-long lake to locate the body of Myron Questo, 61, who was a 19-year member of the Amador County Board of Supervisors, according to the Wasco County Sheriff's Department.

Earlier the bodies of his wife, Delores Questo, and daughter, Susan Kaye Questo, and her fiancée, Ramsey Ali, all of Sunnyvale, Calif., were recovered. Ali was the pilot.

A violent thunderstorm last Tuesday tore the single-engine Piper Turbo-Arrow into pieces, which fell into the lake.

The four had left Kitsap County Airport at Port Orchard, Wash., en route to California.

Local summer camp a first for sightless

The Oral Hull Foundation for the Blind is sponsoring a summer camp for the visually impaired the week of July 23-30.

This is the first summer camp of its kind and will include handicraft, sports, games, fishing, treasure hunt and evening entertainment.

An effort is being made to reach visually impaired persons who have not been to the park to visit and enjoy its facilities. Due to recent publicity, the park has received inquiries from

throughout the United States and Oral Hull Foundation members expect visitors from many states this summer.

Cost for the week is \$98 which includes lodging and three meals a day with snacks.

Any visually impaired person hearing about the summer camp for the first time should call or write for an application. Telephone number is 668-7587 or write 43233 SE Oral Hull Road, Sandy, OR 97055.

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