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County budget cuts hamper local services

by DAN DILLON

Clackamas County officials sliced \$1.8 million from the general fund and laid off some 35 county employees last Thursday in a move that has local officials taking a "wait-and-see" attitude.

The cuts in services came after a \$1.8 million deficit was uncovered two weeks ago. Commissioner Dale Harlan, chairman of the Expenditures and Revenue Committee, pushed to carve out a solution that led to budget reductions and the layoff notices effective Sept. 1. More layoffs could follow.

Hard hit by the layoffs was the Juvenile Court department. That department lost \$120,000 from its budget and three more counselors to

go along with four laid off in March and one who retired and was not replaced — a 54 percent reduction in personnel in the last 14 months.

These latest layoffs leave just six juvenile counselors countywide.

Monday evening Sandy Police Chief Fred Punzel said the layoffs in that department will affect how the local police department does its business.

"It's definitely going to have an impact on how we deal with juveniles," he told the Sandy City Council.

For local youth in trouble, it means the loss of one counselor from the two-person team that serves eastern Clackamas County.

Linda Nickerson Miller, a juvenile counselor for seven and a half years in the Sandy area, was among those

laid off in the latest round of cuts. She said the cutbacks will take away the personal approach counselors brought to this area.

"We worked with a lot of prevention," she said. "Like Welches School would say, 'We think this kid's going to get in trouble,' and we'd talk to him."

"There's not going to be that individual attention and I think that's real sad."

A resident of the Mount Hood area, she said being part of the community makes counselors more aware of ongoing problems than if they only get their information from crime statistics furnished by the county.

"I like to believe, meeting with kids out here, we had more of an impact on them," Miller said, "being

part of the community, not just some entity in Oregon City."

Her partner in the team that serves Damascus, Estacada, Sandy, Colton and the Mount Hood area, Don Schuld, agrees.

"The quality of service in this area will be greatly diminished because of her absence," he said. "Because of the size of the area, we won't be able to meet as effectively with parents as we have been."

Schuld who used to make at least one trip a week to Sandy is hoping the greater territory and increased duties will allow him to visit his charges in Sandy twice a month.

Along with their caseloads, which numbered approximately 30 before the cuts, counselors provide rides to and from court for residents of the

Juvenile Detention Hall, do intake work at the Oregon City office, present cases at court hearings, and interview new referrals which can number up to 50 a month.

Both Miller and Schuld are at a loss to explain what steps the Juvenile Court department will take in the wake of this latest cut. After the March layoffs, the department stopped stopped counseling runaways and family problems for four months.

"Obviously they're going to cut back services," Miller said. "They just haven't decided where."

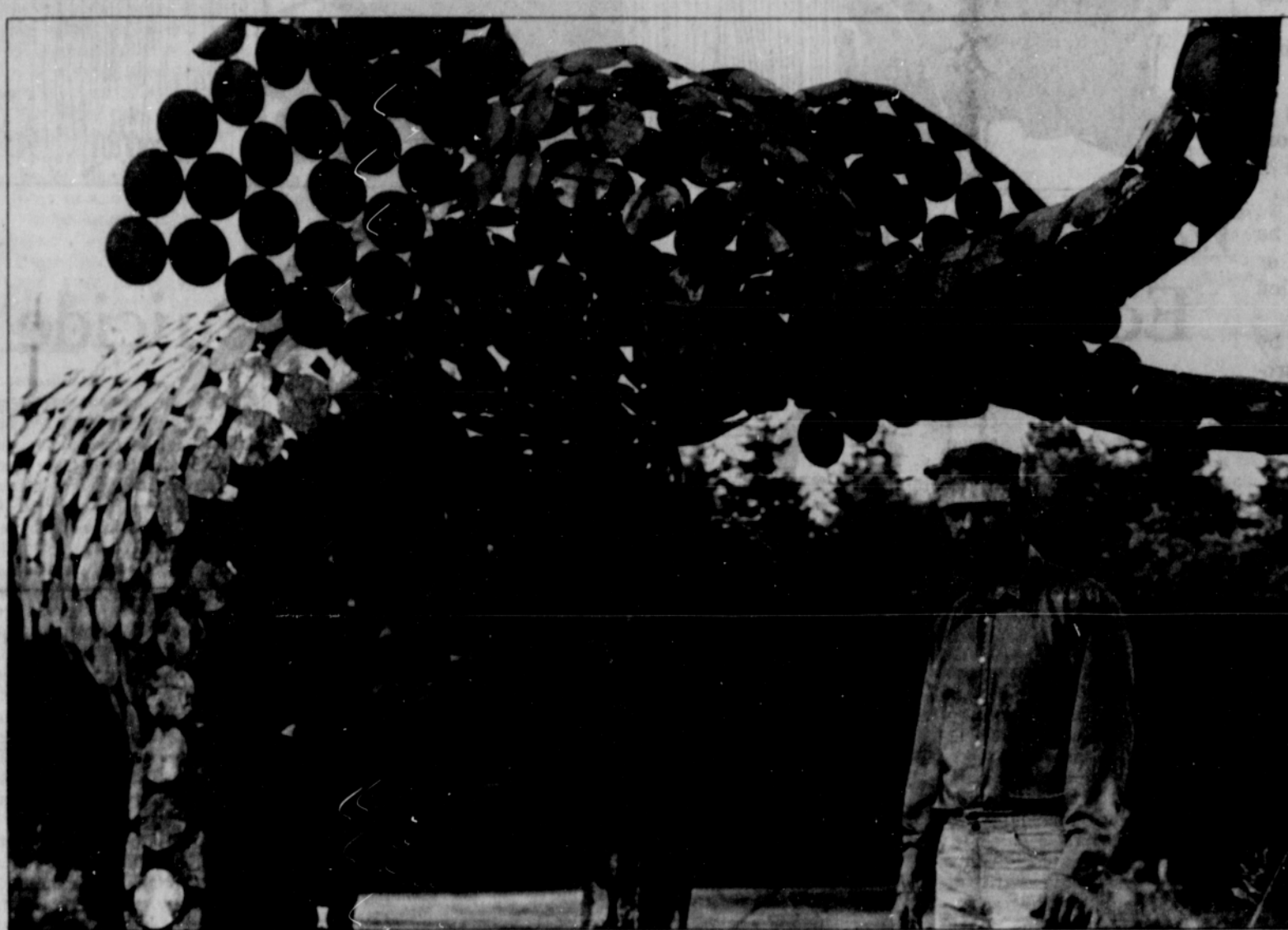
Another service-oriented department, the District Attorney's office, faced with a \$190,000 deficit, cut two from its staff and will not be able to prosecute some cases.

"We may have to come up with some alternate ways to defend our cases in court," Punzel told the city council. That could find police officers presenting cases, interviewing witnesses or even cross-examining witnesses in court.

The County Counsel's office lost two of five attorneys after \$54,000 was cut from its budget. The County Assessor's office lost 14 of 54 employees and \$350,000. The Public Health Department and Mental Health Department also faced cuts, but federal funds may help tide them through.

The Veteran's Department lost all funding but state support will allow it to remain open with limited hours.

The OSU Extension Service in the county will close Sept. 1.



Passersby slow down for a double-take at J.D. Higdon's lifesize elephant. The metals artist has created a menagerie that includes six-foot beetles.

Pet pachyderm permanently poised

by HANK EMRICH
Post Correspondent

There are few places outside of the African continent where an elephant can most likely be expected to be found. Two are, not surprisingly, a circus or a zoo.

A third is Keisecker Road, just east of Sandy.

Webster's Dictionary defines an elephant as huge, thick-skinned and almost hairless. The local one-ton plus mammoth clearly meets those criteria, but falls short in comparison with the African model upon further scrutiny.

The elephant is the creation of metals artist J.D. Higdon, whose nearby 16-foot dragon-shaped mailbox has become something of a landmark in the area.

The monstrous metal mammal is nearly life size and dwarfs most automobiles which almost always slow as they pass by. It is rare for anyone to drive by without quickly turning for a second look at either the elephant or the dragon.

Higdon's yard is adorned with several other metal creatures, among them a six-foot beetle, several turtles and a large hawk. His current projects include a com-

mission for a steel stallion.

Higdon's imagination is not limited to the metal creations. Long interested in alternative energy sources, he is in the process of building a wind generator from a 65-amp alternator.

"I've done a lot of work with both solar and wind-powered sources and hope to be able to do consulting in that area," Higdon said.

Both his workshop and hot-tub buildings are solar heated.

Solar power was not enough to assemble the elephant which required many hours of arc-welding

in Higdon's shop.

"It took a lot more work and a lot more material than I expected," he noted. "I probably couldn't sell it for less than \$5,000."

Higdon tries to use recycled materials whenever possible.

"It goes right along with my thing as far as alternative energy."

The dragon is made from flawed chainsaw sprockets and the elephant is fashioned from "cut-outs" supplied by a local septic-tank manufacturer.

Police arrest suspect in two Sandy robberies

A man suspected of twice robbing the Sandy branch of Benj. Franklin Savings and Loan was arrested recently by the Nevada Highway Patrol in Las Vegas.

John Eric Anjell, address unknown, was stopped July 27 for driving a vehicle which had no license plates. During that traffic stop, the suspect, who was using an alias, was determined to be Anjell and arrested.

He is accused of robbing the local savings and loan branch on April 27 and May 25 of this year. A bench war-

rant was issued June 15, charging him with those robberies.

The suspect was identified by photographs taken during a bank robbery and subsequent investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Anjell was also indicted July 27 for the robbery of Heart Federal Savings and Loan in Weed, Calif. That robbery occurred June 16, 1983.

Additional charges are pending for another robbery in Oregon, according to Brooks Cline, special agent for the FBI.

Ex-sheriff confesses to tapping telephone

Former Clackamas County Sheriff Paul McAllister and the former head of the department's Detective Division pleaded guilty Monday in U.S. District Court to federal charges of wiretapping in connection with a "bug" found in a Clackamas County Commissioner's telephone.

U.S. District Judge Owen M. Panter sentenced the former sheriff and Roy P. Reed to five years probation and fined each \$2,500 for his part in conspiring to tap County Commissioner Ralph Groener's phone in 1982.

Both had waived their right to a grand jury hearing.

The maximum penalty for a wiretapping conviction is a \$10,000 fine and five years imprisonment.

McAllister, who resigned his position as sheriff July 28, admitted in court that the wiretap was his idea.

Reed, a former lieutenant with the sheriff's office, resigned from the department June 3. He had received special training in intercepting telephone messages and admitted he placed the device in Groener's telephone.

U.S. Attorney Charles Turner recommended probation for Reed in

exchange for information concerning the case. Turner said his office began investigating the wiretapping incident shortly after a bug was discovered in Groener's telephone in June 1982. The FBI and Oregon State Police assisted in the investigation.

In a prepared statement, Turner said McAllister and Reed had not been motivated by greed or avarice, but by overzealousness. Both men were acknowledged as outstanding officers throughout their careers, he said, and law enforcement officers "must be held to a higher standard."

McAllister, a Sandy resident, was elected sheriff in November 1980. He replaced John Renfro who did not seek a second term. Prior to becoming sheriff, McAllister had served as the department's training officer.

A former deputy district attorney in Umatilla County, he also has resigned his membership with the Oregon State Bar.

Sheriff William Brooks was sworn in Tuesday morning to complete McAllister's term which ends in January 1985. Capt. Riz Bradshaw was sworn in as provisional Chief Deputy Sheriff.

Plan ahead to beat back-to-school blues

Extra frustrations and a dramatic change in environment at the beginning of a new school year may lead to stressful situations, according to Nancy Lamb, programs co-ordinator for Clackamas County Mental Health's child, adolescent, and family services.

The potential for stress is greatest when a child first enters school, whether it be first grade or kindergarten, according to Lamb. "It is relatively common for these kids to have bed-wetting or other kinds of problems."

"It is kind of a surprise for parents to see a child that has been pretty consistent have the bed-wetting problem or start clinging to Mom or Dad."

Children aren't the only ones to face stress however, according to Lamb.

"Some parents feel a loss, especially if it is the last child at home." Lamb said the most common feeling is a mixture of excitement and sadness, for both students and parents.

Different schedules, different activities, and the fact that school is never exactly what was anticipated, make for many adjustments, she said.

Lamb suggests several ways to

"break students in" to the idea of school. If the school offers an orientation day, as most in the Sandy area do, parents and students should most definitely attend.

She said most children are not accustomed to large groups of children and parents should take the opportunity to show them what the experience is like.

Pre-school classes, play groups, and Sunday school area also good orientation methods.

"Older brothers and sisters playing school with the younger ones can be very helpful," said Lamb.

Educational programs, such as 'Sesame Street' and 'Electric Company', are also good ideas.

Lamb said parents who think it will be emotionally difficult to send their children to school for the first time should plan other activities periodically for the first few weeks of school.

Stress is not the only reaction to that first day of school, said Lamb.

"For some parents, it's just a feeling of relief."

For a look at back-to-school dates and places, a run-down of school board meetings and school supplies, see the special "Back to School" supplement inside The Post.

Sandy High schedules 'make-up' levy

by VON BRASCHLER

Sandy High School Board set a Sept. 20 "make-up" levy election Monday for the budget voters earlier "flunked."

Falling marks at the polls this time, however, could mean closure of the school Sept. 30.

At least closure is the recommendation of Superintendent Roberta

Hutton, based on a cash-flow analysis from deputy clerk Angus Anderson's projection of possible A levy failure. Despite impending doom, the board Monday set the A levy and supplemental B levy without budget reduction.

Hutton offered to whittle the B budget by \$100,000 with equal bites in instruction and support, afforded by promised savings in a proposed consolidated busing plan and non-replacement of one departing teacher.

The board unanimously, however, voted not to cut the budget further, noting possible state shortfall in basic school support and possible collapse in efforts to save busing costs through consolidation with Sandy Elementary and Bull Run School districts.

"Good," Hutton replied to board insistence on asking voters again for the full \$2.025 million A levy and \$604,421 B levy (\$4.89 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.)

"I'm glad to hear that," Hutton told the supportive board. "That's

the maximum (\$100,000) I thought we could cut."

"I could see \$25,000 there, but not \$50,000 in instruction, knowing salaries as I do," board chairman Bob Boring said of Hutton's offer to cut.

"I'd have to agree," board member Dan MacDonald said. "If we did, we'd be cutting programs."

"I don't think we can cut any further and still see the same kind of quality education we have in Sandy," board member Jeanne Doty agreed.

Hutton said that with the state shortfall in basic school support already known, Sandy High would require a substantial B levy to operate the school.

Board member Terry Lenchitsky voiced concern over further state shortfall in basic school support as reason for not cutting the budget.

The board agreed to draft a supplemental budget to return any savings to district patrons, should the busing consolidation jell. That pooling of Sandy High, Bull Run and Sandy Elementary buses would save the

high school vehicle replacement costs this year.

The high school board therefore agreed to fund further implementation costs of the joint transportation study — as high as \$10,000 or low as \$1,000 for SUHS — with target start-up the day after Labor Day.

The SUHS board also elected Cathy Coleman and Kay Morrison as new budget committee members.

In other business, the board approved new health and foreign language books for a seven-year replacement cycle.

The board also authorized Anderson \$4,796.80 to buy an IBM micro-computer and spend \$1,500 to \$2,000 in software. The money comes from funds from the insurance settlement of the old administrative building fire last December.

A remote terminal link with a n.w. sophisticated county ESD computerization at Marylhurst will allow the school's business department to do in one day what sometimes takes a week, according to Anderson.

Index

SECTION I

Editorial, Opinion..... 2
Keeping Posted..... 3
Obituaries..... 4
Senior Center News..... 5
Sports, Recreation..... 9-10

SECTION II

Classified Ads..... Inside Tab
TV Revue..... Inside Tab

SECTION III

Back-to-School..... Inside Tab