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Logging plan hits opposition

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

Rhododendron residents and owners of summer homes voiced opposition Saturday to a plan to log 144 acres in the 1,600-acre Enola Hill forest service planning area.

Residents who attended a meeting sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service said they were concerned about the visual effects of the logging and the impact that the logging will have on water quality.

Jack Baker of Rhododendron, who is a board member of the Rhododendron Summer Home Association, said he wanted assurances from the forest service that the logging would not hurt water quality in the Henry

Creek watershed, which is within the Enola Hill planning area.

Members of the summer home association get their water from Henry Creek. They say if logging results in additional turbidity, it would force them to install an expensive filtration system.

Steve Mellor, forest service hydrologist, said the logging operations would not damage the quality of water because the forest service would not allow logging on steep, unstable land. He also said an adequate buffer would be left along stream banks.

Mellor said the method of logging used would not cause the erosion problems people envision. Logs would be suspended on one end when moved

rather than being dragged across the ground.

But residents and property owners at the meeting were not reassured.

"I'm no expert," said Jim Dewey of Portland, "but I know there are other points of view (besides Mellor's)."

An "interdisciplinary team," composed of specialists in a number of areas, presented five options at the three-hour meeting. The options ranged from not cutting any timber to harvesting 6.4 million board feet.

The interdisciplinary team's preferred alternative called for cutting 144 acres from nine sites. Of that amount, 76 acres would be clear-cut and 61 acres would be selectively thinned.

Jack Gerstkemper, assistant timber staff officer for the Mount Hood National Forest, said the preferred alternative would provide employment for 40 people for a year.

The forest service's interdisciplinary team has recommended taking out 4.8 million board feet.

The forest service would receive \$162,000 from the sale of the timber, and Clackamas County would receive \$541,200 in timber receipts.

One resident, Kathy Gormen, said she wondered how important those 40 jobs would be 20 years from now. Gormen said the value of the stand to the tourism industry might exceed the amount the forest service would receive for logging it.

Kathleen Walker, interdisciplinary

team leader, said water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational uses, visual impact and other factors were taken into consideration during a study of the proposed logging sale.

Four streams are within the Enola Hill planning area — Henry Creek, Lady Creek, Devils Creek and the Zigzag River. A spring that is the headwaters of Meadow Creek is also within the area.

Through selective thinning, which would leave 25 to 30 mature trees per acre, the visual effects of the logging should be minimal from Highway 26, Walker said.

Dick Shaffer, forest landscape architect, said the logging areas were

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Zoning eyed for downtown

Proposal draws praise, criticism

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

A proposed ordinance that would amend the Sandy Municipal Code to allow some "industrial" uses in downtown Sandy was both praised and criticized at a City Council hearing Monday.

Jerry Lawson, real estate broker for Lutz Snyder Co., described the zoning ordinance as "one of the most innovative things to come out of City Hall in some time."

But Dale Nicholls, associate broker for Marcus Realty, told the council, "The more I hear about it, the more apprehensive I become. I think you are on the verge of adopting something that could be extremely detrimental."

In the past few years, the City Council has been looking for ways to solve the problem of vacancies in Sandy's core, said Mayor Deane Wesselink. He said this ordinance was a way to "loosen the strings" and allow downtown properties to be fully used.

The City Council did not take action on the ordinance Monday night. Wesselink said he felt the council needed more time to consider it.

While the term "industrial" conjures up images of smokestack industries, some assembly can be done in quiet, clean and non-polluting environments, Topaz Faulkner, interim planner for the city, said recently.

The ordinance would allow the assembly and manufacture of small articles of merchandise or food products in cases where assembly or manufacture could be conducted within an enclosed building.

It would also allow development, research or testing laboratories or offices.

And the proposed change would allow warehousing or distribution facilities.

Nicholls said the City Council, with one stroke of the pen, could "destroy the opportunity for an attractive downtown," a goal some local residents have worked to attain for years.

Nicholls said a clothing store, which would attract parents with young children, and a warehousing district with large trucks would not be compatible.

Councilor Brad Picking pointed out that trucks already come to downtown Sandy to deliver groceries.

Picking added the ordinance contains safeguards. All industrial businesses seeking to locate in the

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Photo by Scott Newton

Dropping in for breakfast

Sky divers and bi-planes were among the features of the 30th annual Fly-in Breakfast Sunday. The Kiwanis Club of Sandy served 850 breakfasts, stirring up 100 pounds of pancake mix and frying 150 dozen eggs. Ned Dyal, Kiwanis Club president, said the classic cars, a new addition, added to the show. The airplane rides

were not offered this year because of the expense of liability insurance, he said. In the top photograph, a sky diver's easy landing is applauded by a good-sized crowd. At right: A bi-plane, flown by a member of an antique aircraft club from Vancouver, Wash., performs a flyby.

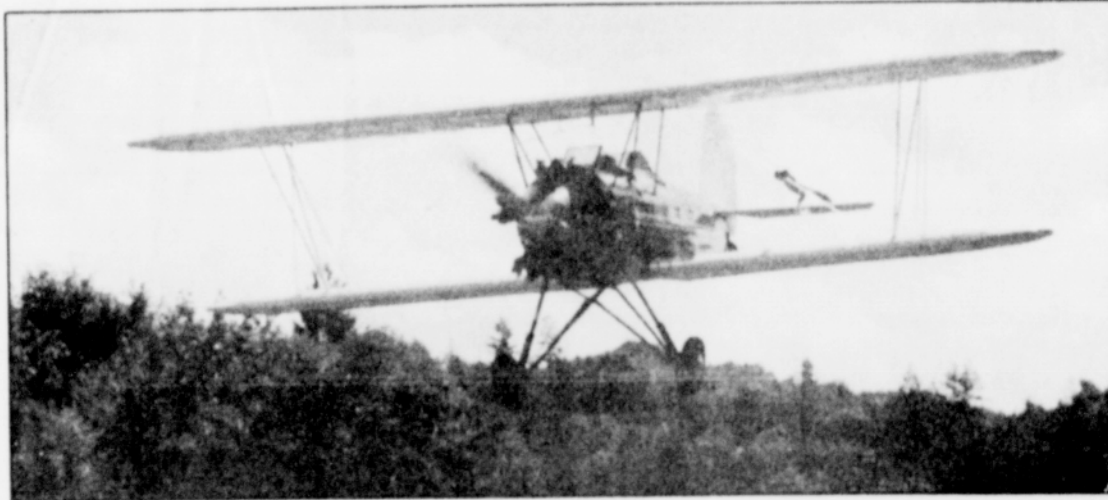


Photo by Larry Taraba

Man dies following car accident in Sandy

A 19-year-old Sandy man died and three others were injured during a two-vehicle accident that occurred July 17 on Highway 26 near Kate Schmitz Avenue on the west end of town.

Larry Lee Buchanan, who worked for Lewis Packing in Sandy, was pronounced dead at the scene by rescue workers, according to the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office.

Buchanan was riding in a 1976 Honda driven by Mark Clifford Shank, also 19, of Boring.

According to the police report, Shank was eastbound, making a left turn north onto Kate Schmitz Avenue, when his vehicle collided with a 1974 GMC pickup driven by Steven Edward Elan, 40, of Sandy.

Elan's pickup was westbound.

Elan was not injured and there were no passengers with him.

Shank and Clayton A. Stoner, 18, of Sandy, were taken to Mount Hood Medical Center where they were listed in good condition, according to the police report.

A fourth passenger in Shank's car, Paul Daniel Cain, 18, of Sandy, was taken by Life Flight helicopter to Portland Adventist Medical Center, where he was listed in serious condition.

A spokeswoman at Portland Adventist said Tuesday his condition had been upgraded to fair.

An investigation into the cause of the accident is continuing.

Disobeying sign proves expensive

Disobeying the sign on Bluff Road that announces the street is closed has proved expensive for some local residents.

The Sandy police have issued from 75 to 100 tickets for disobeying a traffic control device, according to Chief Fred Punzel.

The cost of each ticket is \$57.

Only southbound traffic has been allowed on the road, but City Manager Tom Reber said he has heard of some near-misses because people were traveling in both directions.

"I didn't think we should wait for an accident before we enforced the traffic regulations," Reber said.

A 1982 traffic count showed 3,000 vehicles on the road daily. All those people will soon be able to travel both ways, with no stopping for flaggers.

Jim Turin, president of Jim Turin and Sons Inc., which is the contractor for the project, said the work should be completed by July 29.

"Hopefully, everyone can say hurrah after Wednesday of next week," Turin said.

Sandy Elementary District faces cuts if levy is rejected

Staff positions would be eliminated and library services would be reduced if the Sandy Elementary School District fails to gain approval of a \$175,000 operating levy in September.

District Superintendent Lee Chapman last week outlined the austerity measures the district would take in the 1987-88 school year if voters do not approve the levy.

Chapman told the school board Thursday that, if the levy is not approved, the district will live within the safety-net measure approved statewide by voters in May. The safety net would allow the district to levy the same amount as it levied last year.

But the district needs \$267,000 more than last year to offer the same program, Chapman said. Of that amount, \$185,000 is due to across-the-board increases in salaries and benefits.

Another \$100,000 would be used to restore an unappropriated cash balance for the district.

Other increases in the proposed budget would include money for capital outlay projects, textbooks and additional money for the contingency fund.

If the district's levy is defeated and the safety net is implemented, the district would eliminate three staff positions, Chapman said. No teachers, however, would lose their jobs because the district would be able to arrange its staff around three positions that are vacant now.

If voters approve the levy in

September, the district would fill those positions. But the district will begin the school year with a reduced program since the levy election comes after the start of school.

During the 1986-87 school year, the district had librarians at each of its four schools. Under the safety net, the district could have one person handle the job with increased time for aides, or possibly two people would undertake those responsibilities. Two librarians would be assigned to classroom positions, Chapman said.

If the levy fails, the library instruction program would not be as extensive as in the past. In the past, all students had received instruction from librarians in the use of the library. Chapman said some of that instruction would be picked up by classroom teachers.

The district also would eliminate its account for sabbatical leave for teachers as no teachers have applied to take advantage of the program in 1987-88. Savings would be \$24,000.

But Chapman pointed out that sabbatical leaves are allowed as a condition of the district's contract with teachers and would have to be reinstated next year. Under the contract, the district is obligated to pay one-half the salary of a teacher who takes time off for advanced study. Teachers who apply must have worked in the district five years, and only one teacher per year may take advantage of the program.

The district also would eliminate

\$22,000 it had planned to spend fixing a roof, \$10,000 for other capital improvement projects and \$11,600 for textbooks.

The district will save \$8,000 by closing the Sandy Aquatic Center on Sundays, the day on which it receives the least use.

The contingency fund, which is for emergency expenses, will be reduced by \$28,000. About \$100,000 would remain in the fund.

Chapman said the \$175,000 levy would offer a "no growth, no change" program.

If approved, the levy would add 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The present tax rate per \$1,000 is \$7.90.

"At this time, I think it's a reasonable request," he said.

Last year, the board levied \$100,000 less than voters approved as a show of good faith. Revenues were higher than expected and the board returned the money to taxpayers on the recommendation of then-Superintendent Rex Hunsaker.

If the district had kept the \$100,000 in last year's budget, it could have again levied that amount.

Chapman said operating on the safety net will be made easier than expected due to increased revenues of about \$100,000 from basic school support.

"For us, the first year (under the safety net) isn't too bad," Chapman said. "But the second, third and fourth years could be really devastating."

Festival group offers reward after theft of brass plaque

The Sandy Mountain Festival committee is offering a \$100 reward for the arrest and conviction of the person or people involved in taking the brass plaque from a rock near the Front Stage in Meing Park.

Darrell Dempster said someone had taken a crowbar or other device and pried the plaque loose. It was

glued and bolted into place, but the bolt was broken.

The plaque was dedicated in honor of Dale Nicholls, who organized the music at the Dale Nicholls Front Stage Theater for several years during the Mountain Festival.

People with information should call the Sandy police at 668-5566.