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Sandy district seeks tax levy

School year to begin with reduced library services

School will start this year in the Sandy Elementary District with a reduced library program, but voters will have a chance to reinstate the two positions for librarians in the Sept. 15 election.

Mail-in ballots should arrive Saturday or Monday for area residents, who will have the opportunity to approve or reject a \$175,000 levy.

Approval of the tax measure would add 57 cents per \$1,000 to the current operating levy of \$7.90 per \$1,000 assessed value.

Under the new safety-net law, school districts may automatically levy the same amount they levied the previous year.

If voters approve the \$175,000 levy, the district will add that amount to its financial base. However, the district would not be allowed the 6 percent annual growth that a district with a tax base is allowed.

In the past, children at Sandy, Firwood and Kelso grade schools received instruction in use of the library, but that program will be reduced if the levy fails.

Superintendent Lee Chapman said the district would have one librarian for the three grade schools, instead of one at each school, if the levy fails.

If the levy passes, those two positions will be reinstated. In addition, aides who have been assigned to the library — to do some of the work previously performed by librarians — would be reassigned to the classroom.

Failure of the levy also would put the district behind on its planned replacement of textbooks. The district will spend about \$45,000 pur-

chasing textbooks this year, but Chapman said they would need to spend another \$45,000 to stay on schedule.

Chapman acknowledged that \$90,000 for textbooks sounds like a large amount, but said when one takes into account the number of students, 1,464, times the number of classes offered, \$90,000 is not out of line.

English language textbooks average \$15 apiece, he said.

The Sandy Aquatic Center also will be closed on Sundays unless the levy passes. Chapman said the pool receives the least use on Sundays.

The district has made a number of cuts in order to stay within the safety net amount. It has cut its contingency fund by \$28,000 and its sabbatical leave fund by \$24,000, and has put off a \$20,000 roofing project and a \$6,000 paving repair project. Funding for these programs will not be reinstated even if the \$175,000 levy is approved by voters.

"Deferring textbook replacement and repairs could eventually cause problems," Chapman said.

The financial reductions will not cause an increase in the student-teacher ratio, and no district employees lost a job.

"The board did not choose to make reductions in transportation," Chapman said. "I think that is in view of what the community wanted. We will look at ways for more efficient ways to transport students."

Voters will have until Sept. 15 to return their ballots to the Clackamas County Elections Division.

County clerk sees new trend in return of mail-in ballots

Within the first three working days after mail-in ballots are sent out, the Clackamas County Elections Division will get back 50 percent of the total returns.

John Kauffman, county clerk, said he thinks the initial return on mail-in elections will always be great. But a new trend could develop where there is a second wave of returns.

The "poll book" has always been open to voters on election day, but with the new mail-in election system, political activists can take advantage of the public's right to look at the poll book.

With computers and the extended length of time mail-in balloting provides, opponents or proponents of certain issues could look at the poll book — a computer printout in this case — and seek to influence those who had not yet voted.

"I would say it's possible to have an entirely different second campaign," Kauffman said. "Campaigns may get more sophisticated."

The peak time for campaigning probably will continue to be just before ballots are received by the public, Kauffman added.

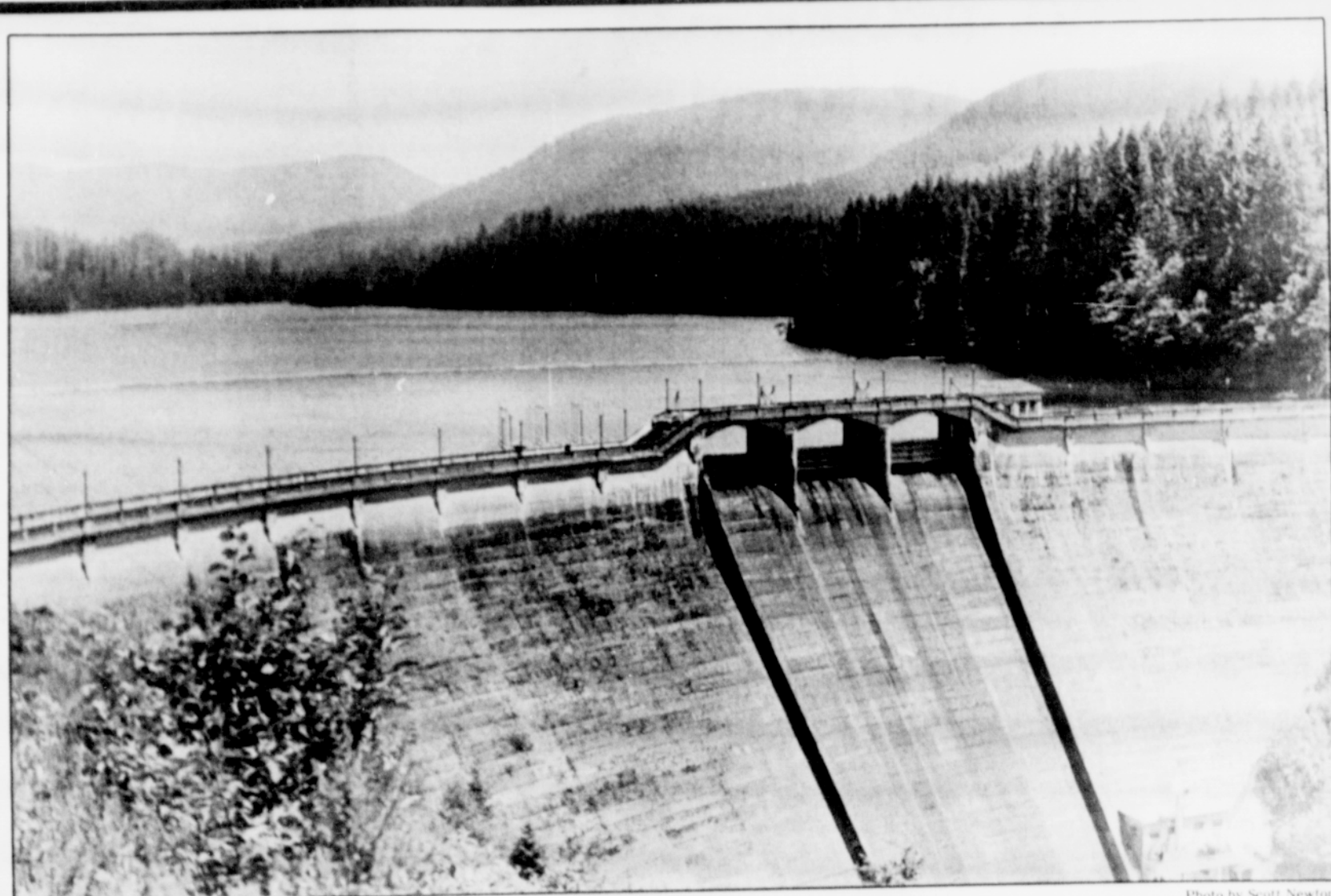


Photo by Scott Newton

One of two reservoirs in the Bull Run Watershed that provides water to the Portland metropolitan area.

Quality water

Wyden seeks independent agency to test water

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

U.S. Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., has asked the U.S. Forest Service to contract with an independent agency to test water in the Bull Run Watershed.

Wyden said the public perceives that the forest service, which has proposed allowing removal of some blown-down timber from the watershed, is more interested in timber harvesting within the Bull Run preserve than it is in protecting water quality.

The Bull Run Watershed provides the drinking water for 700,000 people in the Portland metropolitan area.

Wyden thinks that the forest service, by conducting its own tests, is leaving itself open to criticism about management of the 95,000-acre preserve, said Merrie Buel, field representative for Wyden.

In a letter to F. Dale Robertson, chief of the forest service, Wyden wrote: "At the present time, there is strong public concern that timber harvesting, not water-quality control, is the top priority of govern-

ment agencies responsible for Bull Run management."

Buel said Wyden is not dissatisfied with the job the forest service is doing but wants an independent business or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to do the testing instead of the forest service.

The forest service appropriates money for monitoring the quality of water in the watershed, and that money could be spent contracting with another entity rather than having forest service personnel do the work, Buel said.

The Bull Run preserve is within the jurisdiction of the Columbia Gorge Ranger District. The forest service, the Portland Water Bureau and the U.S. Geological Survey all have a hand in monitoring the quality of water in Bull Run.

The Portland City Council recently established a set of standards for the water to meet and a system for monitoring water quality to assure that those standards are being met.

Barbara Kennedy, public affairs specialist in the Columbia Gorge Ranger District, said the forest service and the Portland Water Bureau wrked together to establish

the water standards and monitoring system.

Bruce McCammon, hydrologist for the Columbia Gorge Ranger District, said the method of comparing water to the historic standard in Bull Run is "state of the art."

Each year, the forest service and the Portland Water Bureau examine 25,000 factors that determine water quality.

The water quality in the Bull Run Watershed requires close monitoring because it is an unfiltered system. Water is taken from the lower one of two reservoirs on the Bull Run River and is screened and chlorinated before being sent to Portland.

Kennedy said that even if an outside entity was brought in to monitor water quality, it would follow the procedures set forth in the City Council's new policy.

Joseph Miller, a retired physician who is a member of the Bull Run Coalition, a watchdog group for the watershed, said he is opposed to an outside entity monitoring Bull Run water.

"It's not a good idea," Miller

said. "The forest service would still be calling the shots."

The Bull Run Coalition can at least question the forest service because it is a public agency, he said. If a private business monitored the watershed, the public would not be able to monitor its work as easily.

Miller also had questions about the EPA's ability to monitor the water. "How well do you think the take care of toxic dumps?" he asked.

Miller said the water standards set by the Portland City Council are not stringent enough because they are based on a period of time when logging was occurring in the watershed.

The Bull Run Coalition believes that the watershed is not being adequately protected, he said.

Kennedy said all aspects of water testing are open to public scrutiny, but acknowledged that the forest service has had a hard time gaining the public's confidence.

"I think there is a real lack of trust," Kennedy said. "People view it as the fox guarding the chicken house."

'Teacher' readies prevention program

Course could help youngsters avoid problems with drug, alcohol abuse

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

Students at Bull Run School will participate in a new drug and alcohol abuse prevention program this year, and the teacher of the class said the goals of the program fit in with those of the school.

The program, Lions/Quest Skills for Adolescence, stresses the importance of young people feeling good about themselves in addition to providing information on drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

"That ties in to our school philosophy of building self-concept and taking responsibility," said Superintendent Jerry McGuire, who will teach the course.

In addition to studying reading, writing and arithmetic, McGuire said he believes it also is important to help students develop skills for critical thinking, thinking that may help them when they are faced with the opportunity to experiment with drugs and alcohol.

Besides to facing dangerous choices about drug use, youngsters today face all kinds of difficult decisions their parents did not have to make, McGuire said.

Learning not to make judgments on face value, developing competence in self-assessment and learning to communicate with

friends and family members are all skills that can be developed, McGuire said.

"The basic academic skills are important, but so are social and coping skills," he said.

McGuire will teach the class to students in the fifth through the eighth grades. Students in kindergarten through the fourth grade will participate in a program called Positive Action.

The Lions/Quest program, which the Lions Club International promises to promote worldwide, involves both parents and members of the community, aspects that helped sell McGuire on the program.

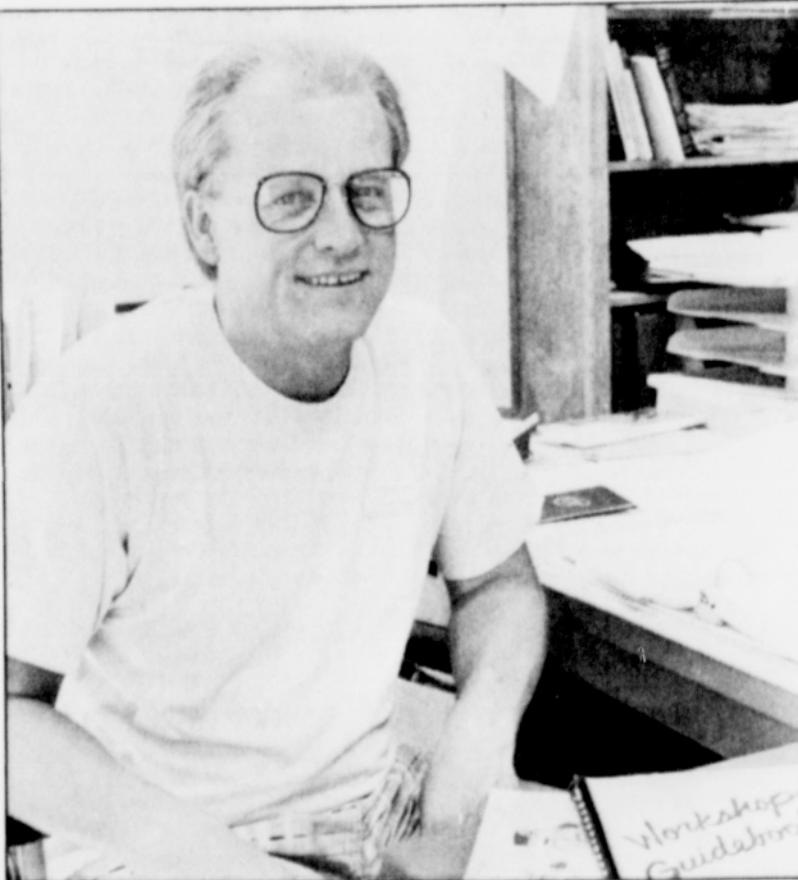
He attended a three-day session on teaching the program this summer.

The program comes with a book written specifically for parents. "How do you get the books home? I'm going to gift-wrap them."

McGuire's reasoning is that it would be hard for any parent to ignore a gift-wrapped package.

He added, however, that there is good parental involvement at the school, which has an enrollment of 117.

Parents will be invited into the classroom on several occasions. Topics of those classes will include:



Jerry McGuire will teach school's new drug education program.

children; 2. improving communication skills; 3. solving family conflicts with love and limits; and 4. talking with kids about drugs.

The Skills for Adolescence program also seeks parental help for some homework assignments, and

requires an outside community project.

The program disapproves of all drug, alcohol and tobacco use. "There is no responsible use,"

Turn to Drug education, Page 5.

Public can still comment on Bull Run timber plans

The Columbia Gorge Ranger District will accept public testimony until Sept. 2 on a proposal to remove blown-down timber from the Bull Run Watershed.

The Portland City Council recently voted against the U.S. Forest Service's recommendation to remove timber from 2,400 acres out of 6,000 affected by a 1983 storm.

Wini Hansen, assistant to Portland Commissioner Bob Koch, said the City Council asked the Portland Water Bureau and the forest service to work together to find an alternative proposal.

The City Council wants less timber removed than the forest service proposed so that the risk to water quality

could be minimized, Hansen said.

The council also asked that timber be removed from areas with a high "fuel content," which would be more susceptible to fire.

Barbara Kennedy, public affairs specialist for the Columbia Gorge Ranger District, said forest service personnel did not think their proposal would put water quality at risk. But she said the forest service is willing to work with the Water Bureau to find an acceptable alternative.

Taking timber from the 2,400 acres would have created 1,380 jobs during a four-year period and would have contributed \$5.2 million to the coffers

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Logging plan for Enola Hill under Forest Service review

U.S. Forest Service personnel currently are reviewing public comment and writing an environmental assessment on the Enola Hill planning area near Rhododendron.

A decision on whether or not to log in the 1,600-acre planning area will be made by David Mohla, forest supervisor for the Mount Hood National Forest.

He is not expected to make a decision until Nov. 1, according to Maureen McBrien, resource officer for the Zigzag Ranger District.

Mohla will base his decision on a recommendation from Donna Lamb,

Zigzag District ranger, and on the environmental assessment, McBrien said.

The forest service's original recommendation was to remove 144 acres of timber, or 4.8 million board feet. Clackamas County would receive \$541,200 in timber receipts from the proposed sale.

Rhododendron residents and summer home owners strongly opposed the plan in public meetings in July and August.

Two meetings in July were spon-

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