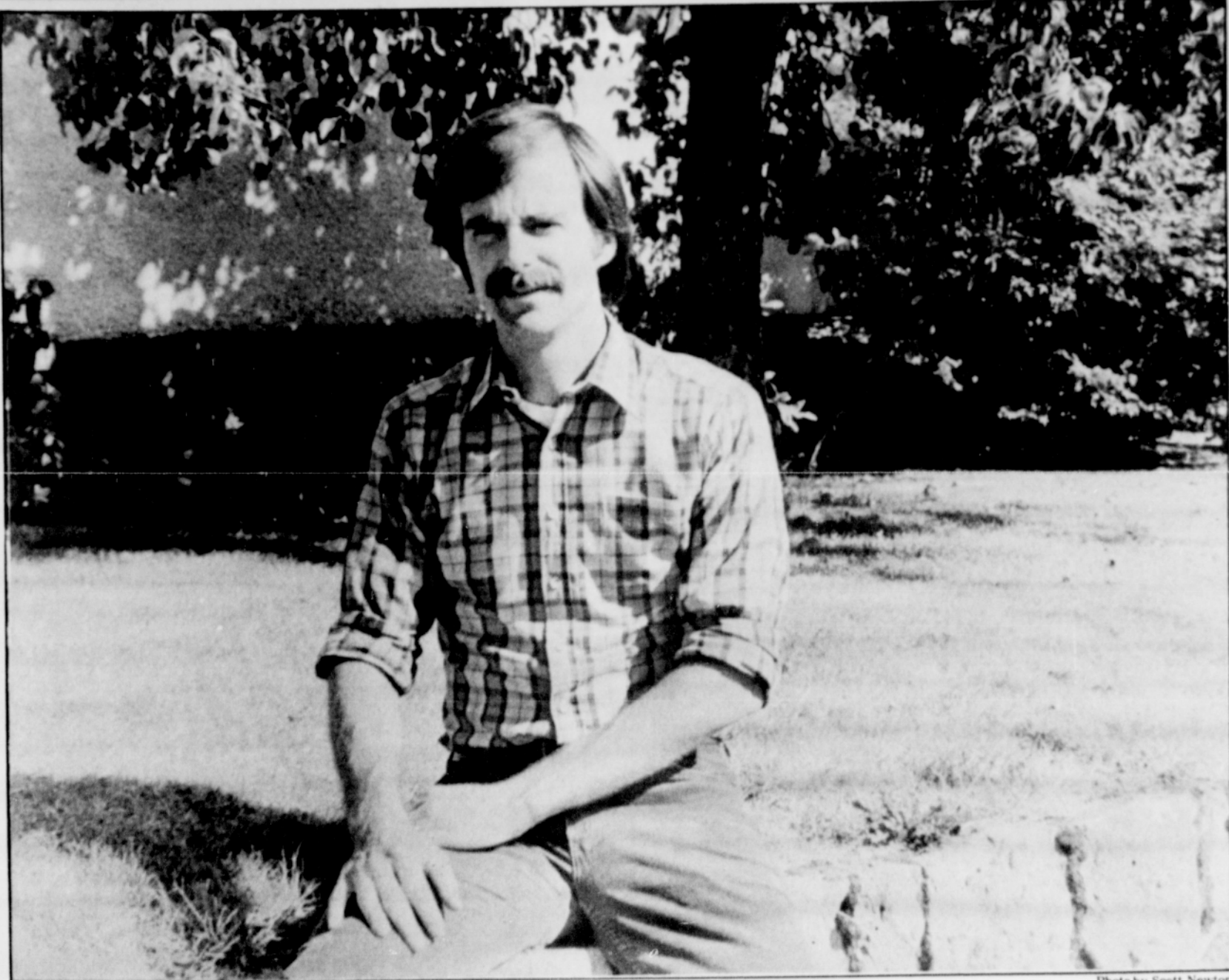




Brian Wheeler's love of the outdoors led him to open the Northwest School of Survival.

Photo by Scott Newton

Survival training

Hunter's safety, other classes develop wilderness skills

Brian Wheeler, founder and instructor of the Northwest School of Survival, said the Sandy area is a "prime classroom" for the teaching of outdoor survival skills. Wheeler started the school four years ago, and he has definite goals about what he wants to accomplish. There are 200,000 hunters in Oregon and 10,000 people who climb Mount Hood each year. Some of these people will be among the 300 outdoor enthusiasts who must be found each year by search parties. "You can be sure that 100 percent (of those 300) never thought it could happen to them," Wheeler said. Wheeler believes more public education would reduce the number of people lost in the wilderness each year, he said. He is offering a special group rate this fall to students who take a hunter's safety class. But Wheeler said he believes hunters are not the only group that could benefit from studying outdoor survival skills. Backpackers, cross country skiers, rafters and others are among the people who could find themselves in trouble in the

wilderness. With a little preparation and a knowledge of what to do, those people have a good chance of surviving. Wheeler offers a variety of courses throughout the year. For example, this winter he will give a course on a new method for building a snow cave. The new method is faster than others previously employed, he said, with a person able to build a good cave in an hour's time. In his class this fall for young hunters, Wheeler will cover five areas essential for surviving in the wilderness. They are: 1. Emergency shelter construction; 2. Fire starting in adverse weather conditions; 3. Water procurement and purification; 4. Wild edibles; and 5. Map and compass techniques for back-country travel. These areas cover the essential needs of shelter, fire, water and food, plus navigation. He also teaches people how rescue teams work. The knowledge that a search team will eventually be called out, and of the techniques

they will employ, can give a person lost in the woods confidence that he or she eventually will be found, Wheeler said. Wheeler believes in taking the class work outside whenever possible, he said. His one-day clinics and overnights are conducted primarily within a 20-mile radius of Mount Hood. "Ninety percent of our training is in the field, hands-on," Wheeler said. "There is no substitute for it." His more advanced students have the opportunity to learn such skills as wilderness cooking, night navigation and more about finding and preparing edible plants. Wheeler has lived in the Northwest for eight years, spending a good deal of time camping and bow hunting the past five or six years. He said he has always enjoyed the outdoors. Wheeler has businesses and volunteer search and rescue teams among his clients. One search and rescue team in southwest Washington must meet certifica-

tion standards set by the state. He has also taught off and on for Mt. Hood Community College since 1984. The hunter's safety course will be offered Sept. 14 through 17. The class, taught by Kelly Adovnik, Sandy police officer, will include firearms safety, ethics and training in survival. To enroll in the hunter's safety class, call 668-3493. Cost is \$15 per person, and Wheeler asked that each student be accompanied by one of his or her parents. A minimum registration of 20 people will be needed before the course will be offered. To register, call 668-8264. People interested in other offerings by the Northwest School of Survival should also call this number for more information. Several classes for beginners and advanced outdoorsmen are planned. Costs range from \$40 to \$45 per person per day.

Enola Hill

Continued from Page 1A.

sored by the forest service, and a third, held in August, was sponsored by a group called Friends of Enola Hill. The forest service extended its deadline for public comment in order to take testimony — in the form of letters and tapes of the meeting — from Friends of Enola Hill. Members of the Rhododendron Summer Home Association were especially critical of the forest service's proposal, saying they are concerned that logging will affect water quality in the Henry Creek watershed. Members of the association receive water from an unfiltered system on Henry Creek. The preferred alternative originally called for cutting 144 acres from nine sites. Of that amount, 76 acres would be clear-cut and 61 acres selectively thinned. However, Lamb told people attending one meeting that she had not made a final decision on what her recommendation would be to Mohla. The environmental assessment and comments from the public will be available for public review when Mohla makes his decision in November, McBrien said.

Bull Run

Continued from Page 1.

of Clackamas, Multnomah and other counties, according to an environmental impact statement. Kennedy said the forest service already has received a considerable amount of comment on its alternatives for dealing with the blowdown. She said the forest supervisor for the Mount Hood National Forest, David Mohla, would make a decision sometime this fall on how much blown-down timber, if any, to remove from the watershed.

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