At Least 29 Die as Fire Sweeps Dance Hall

Regional Edition
MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
56th Year Price 10 Cents
14 Pages MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1961 No. 35

Manned Space Shot Delayed 48 Hours

Decision Made As Cloudy Sky Fails To Clear

Alan Shepard Jr. To Be Astronaut

Cape Canaveral, Fla. – (UPI) – United States today postponed its first attempt to put a man in space for at least 48 hours rather than hazard astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr.'s life by launching him into a cloudy sky.

The decision to scrub the shot, originally scheduled for 6 a.m. (PST), came shortly after Shepard, 37, received his final physical examinations and had toiled into his zippered silvery spacesuit.

Minimum Rules

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration had laid down minimum weather rules for both the cape and the recovery area down range in the Atlantic for safety reasons.

When it became evident that a persistent overcast would not clear up by 10 a.m. (PST), the deadline for a shot today, officials canceled the launching until Thursday.

Thursday Forecast Good

Weather men said the outlook for Thursday was good. Shepard, a Navy commander from East Derry, N.H., went back to crew quarters in NASA's big Mercury hangar to wait out the next two days.

Squally weather which set in Monday drenched the cape from time to time early today, frequently interrupting the final 390-minute countdown.

Still Number One

Shepard, a calm, philosophical fellow with a crewcut and confident outlook, was still the No. 1 astronaut for the next attempt Thursday.

His "backup," ready to go if anything should happen to disqualify Shepard, is Marine Lt. Col. John H. Glenn Jr., 39, combat and speed flier from New Concord, Ohio.

"It's All Right To Seat Them. They're Not Americans"

Accident Victim Slightly Improved

Mrs. Myrtle Lee Tyson, 38, of 324 Marie st., who was injured in a downtown Medford auto accident Monday, was said to be "slightly improved" at Rogue Valley hospital this morning.

Hospital attendants said Mrs. Tyson is suffering from possible head injuries and bruises.

Mrs. Tyson was the operator of a car which collided with an unloaded logging truck at the intersection of Main st. and Riverside ave. about 5:45 a.m. yesterday. The woman was pinned in the wreckage of her car, and had to be freed by firemen and city police.

Violation Date in Cab Case Is March 5

The date of an alleged violation of the city code by Carl Kellenberger, owner of the Yellow Cab company, is March 5, and not May 5 as reported in yesterday's paper.

The city of Medford charges that on March 5, a limousine owned by Kellenberger was hired out at rates below those that are filed with the city. The city contends that rates at all times must conform with the rate schedule filed with the city.

Kellenberger is scheduled to be arraigned on the charge May 15 in municipal court. Conviction could carry a maximum penalty of a $100 fine and 50 days in jail.

Butte Falls Voters Turn Down Budget; Others Approved

An "average" turnout of voters yesterday passed the rural school board levy, and local school district levies in all districts except Butte Falls.

The rural levy passed, 2,204 yes to 907 no votes.

The vote on the rural levy by districts was: Butte Falls, 63 no, 41 yes; Rogue River, 92 yes, 32 no; Evans Valley, 78 yes, 45 no; Prospect, 39 yes, 19 no; Eagle Point, 167 yes, 80 no; Phoenix 583 yes, 268 no; Ashland, 202 years, 36 no; Medford, 635 yes, 257 no; Central Point, 327 yes, 99 no; Applegate, 92 yes, 32 no. Pinehurst, 14 yes, 1 no.

The vote on the local district budgets and the amount over 6 per cent, was:

Butte Falls: 64 no, 41 yes, $108,153.70.

Evans Valley: 82 yes, 40 no; $70,300.

Eagle Point: 183 yes, 71 no, $369,320.42.

Phoenix: 593 yes, 267 no, $378,459.38.

Central Point: 358 yes, 78 no, $565,184.85.

Applegate: 29 yes, 4 no; $34,318.30.

Pinehurst: 14 yes, 1 no, $14,102.14.

Sam Harbison was elected as a rural board member at large. He was the only candidate for the post.

Glenn W. Smith was reelected as a rural board member from Zone 2 with 830 votes, and Bill A. Sampson was elected rural board member from Zone 5, Ashland and Pinehurst, with 235 votes.

The vote on local school board candidates was:

Phoenix: Melvin Lattie, 671, and Dr. Donald M. McGeary, 758. (Two elected.)

Ashland: Carroll W. Smith, 212.

Medford: Dr. David C. Boals, 503, Gerald (Jerry) Gastineau, 269, and LeRoy Smith, 126. (One elected.)

Central Point: Dr. Alvin Roberts, 303, and Charles (Leo) Ghelardi, 134. (One elected.)

Applegate: Lester Hill, 19, and Clay W. Brion Jr., 14. (One elected.)

Rogue River: Mrs. Betty Sandeen, 114, and Harry Andrews, 115. (Two elected.)

Butte Balls: Duane Burton, 97.

Evans Valley: Eugene L. Marrs, 86, and Ford Patterson, 68. (Two elected.)

Prospect: Clinton M. Blaine, 31, and John I. Davidson, 30.

Pinehurst: Ivo Bairey, 12.

Eagle Point: Elmer Harnish, 155, Frank Hopewell (write-in) 95.

New Building To House Firm Starts

Crater Lake Motors, Medford Ford dealer, today started construction of a new service and parts department building across Main st. from the existing building.

Company President Hugh Coleman said the total investment in building and property will be an estimated $200,000. The new building is scheduled to be ready for occupancy by July 1 of this year.

The company's existing building on the southeast corner of Main and Fir sts. will be vacated when the new structure is completed, although the firm will retain the parking lot at the rear of the building. Coleman said he does not know to what use the old building will be put.

The new building will extend south of the firm's English Ford display room and service building which fronts on Sixth and Fir sts. It will be erected largely on property between the used car lot and the railroad tracks.

When the new building is completed, Crater Lake Motors will use the show rooms and offices that now exist in the English Ford building. The used car lot will be retained.

The design of the new building will be similar in appearance to that of the English Ford building.

M. O. Bessonette is the contractor on the project.

Salem Senator In Serious Condition

Portland – (UPI) – State Sen. Robert White, 44, Salem remained in serious condition today at the University of Oregon Medical School hospital. A spokesman said there was little change in his condition since he entered the hospital late last week for treatment of cancer.

Bids Called on Highway Projects

Bids will be opened in the state highway commission offices in Salem May 23 for three Jackson county projects, including the Evans creek bridge.

Plans for the county bridge project call for a 182-foot reinforced concrete span across Evans creek approximately 17 miles upstream from the town of Rogue River.

Bids will also be opened for paving 2.81 miles of the Ruch-Little Applegate river section of Highway 238. It is a federal aid project.

The third project is for grading and paving .16 mile of Pine st. in Central Point. This is a state project.

Durno Says Pear Decline Serious in Rogue Valley

Washington—(UPI)—Rep. Edwin Durno (R-Ore.) told the House Appropriations Committee Monday that the pear decline problem was "extremely serious" in Oregon's Rogue River Valley.

Durno said the disease was spreading to other areas and that the 1960 crop was 65 per cent of the five-year average.

He spoke in support of a request by congressmen from the three West Coast states for an additional $180,000 for a research program to study the pear decline disease.

F. E. Price, dean of agriculture at Oregon State University, said the crop loss had become so severe that it was causing a "serious condition of payrolls" among fruit packers and processors.

(See Story On Page 9A)

Former Local Woman Slain in Vancouver, Wash.

Hulda Trautman's Body Discovered

Vancouver, Wash.—(UPI)—A 21-year-old youth early today led authorities to the body of a woman church census taker who had been slain and left near a trail some 300 feet off a county road.

The youth, Donald Pribbernow, Vancouver, was held on suspicion of murder.

The victim was identified as Mrs. Hulda Trautman, about 50, Portland. Coroner Paul Mylan said she apparently died of stab wounds. An autopsy was scheduled.

The body was found shortly after 3 a.m. today, about 12 miles east of here and 7 miles north of Camas.

Police said Pribbernow had given a statement earlier indicating a slaying of a woman who had come to the home Monday afternoon on church business.

The youth's mother had called police after returning home and finding blood in the house. She feared her son had been injured. The youth was taken into custody when he returned home.

Glasses, Cards Found

A woman's glasses and church pledge cards were found in the home. Mrs. Trautman's car was found nearby.

Authorities said the youth led authorities to the body early today.

Mrs. Trautman was a widow, employed as a district parish worker by the Portland headquarters of the Northwest District Council of the Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Hulda Trautman, who was murdered in Vancouver, Wash., Monday, formerly lived in Medford and was the widow of Theodore Trautman, who died several years ago. Her mother, Mrs. Mathilda Gemaehlich, resides at 1046 Lozier Lane and her father was the late Rev. John Gemaehlich.

A son, Donald, lives in Portland and another son, Paul, is a student in Seward, Neb. A brother, John Gemaehlich, and a sister, Mrs. Agnes Rupp, live in Medford and several other relatives reside in the area.

Emigrant May Be Site of Display

Ashland may hold its annual Fourth of July fireworks display at Emigrant lake, it was indicated at last night's meeting of the Jackson county parks and recreation commission.

Approval is needed from forestry and county officials. City-County Parks and Recreation Director Robert Haworth was asked to study the possibilities, and report to the commission.

Representatives of the Ashland Junior Chamber of Commerce requested permission to hold the display at the lake. However, they learned that another Ashland service club had also asked to hold such a display. The two organizations may join their efforts.

A recreation commission member pointed out that the new concessionaire at the Emigrant area would also have to be considered.

The commission held a closed session on concession bids presented. The commission's recommendations were to be presented to the county court for approval today, and announcement of the successful bidder made by the county court tomorrow.

Demos To Consider Assessor Nominees

A special meeting of all Democratic precinct committeemen and committeewomen has been called for 8 o'clock tonight to consider recommending nominees for the position of county assessor, recently vacated by the death of Ray Schumacher.

The meeting will be held at the Labor Temple, 24½ South Grape st.

Democratic Central Committee Chairman Harper Edwards said the precinct workers will vote on two or more qualified Democrats to fill the county assessor position. These names will be submitted to the county court, at their request, to assist them in appointing someone to fill Schumacher's unexpired term.

DST PASSAGE DELAYED

Salem—(UPI)—A motion to get the daylight saving time option bill up for final passage failed in the Senate today.

Danger of Dam Breaking Past; Lowering Water Continues

250-Foot Section Settles; Causes Concern in Area

Danger that an 80-foot high privately owned earth - fill dam on Lake creek would break apparently had past this morning.

But work continued today to lower the water level further, according to Maj. Gen. Joseph Hicks, director of Jackson county Civil Defense, and David Hendrix, Jackson county watermaster.

Lake creek area residents became concerned late Sunday and yesterday when a 250-foot section of the 800-foot long dam started settling and slumping toward the downstream side.

Hendrix said the dam was settling about two inches an hour at times Monday, and the lake was being drained through an outlet tube and spillway about the same rate the dam was settling.

Crevasses In Dam

There were crevasses in the downstream side of the dam, but no water was seeping through them, Hendrix said. If water had started through the crevasses, he said, it could have meant complete failure of the structure.

Late yesterday, however, another spillway was cut in one side of the earth-fill structure to let the water drain off. Hendrix estimated this morning there may be about 650 acre feet of water remaining in the 874-acre-foot capacity lake. More water will be drained off.

Residents living downstream from dam were warned to vacate their homes last night as a precautionary measure, according to General Hicks. Whether residents actually did vacate he was not sure, but indicated that many of the homes had lights burning in them until late last night.

Cause Not Known

Hendrix said cause of the slumping will not be known until after the state engineer's office makes its study of the dam and dam site. Fred Gustafson, Salem, assistant state engineer and specialist in dam construction, arrived late yesterday, and was on the scene last night and today.

Gustafson told General Hicks he believed the dam would hold, but that more water would be released to insure its holding.

The dam is owned by Robert von der Hellen, Eagle Point.

Civil defense radio units were at the dam site and at Lake Creek much of the night, and the Jackson county Red Cross chapter offered workers at site sandwiches and coffee. The county civil defense unit also furnished portable floodlights last night.

Into Lake Creek

Water from the dam runs into Lake creek then into Little Butte creek. If the dam had not held, it could have had an affect along Little Butte creek into Eagle Point, Hendrix said.

Hendrix said the dam has some rock on its facing. It has an "impervious" clay core. He said the structure was originally designed for a lower height, but was redesigned for additional storage.

Von der Hellen was granted a permit by the state engineer's office to build the dam in 1956.

Laos Situation Not 'Written Off'

Washington – (UPI) – Democratic congressional leaders said at the White House today that President Kennedy has not "written off" Laos.

After a conference with Kennedy, they expressed confidence that the President would come up with the right decision for coping with the Southeast Asia crisis.

They met with Kennedy at a breakfast session as the United States considered asking the United Nations observers be sent to Laos. It also considered asking SEATO military action.

INSPECT DAM — A group of spectators view the Robert von der Hellen dam and lake two miles from Lake Creek. Yesterday the earth fill dam was settling in the middle at the rate of about two inches an hour. Civil defense, local residents and Jackson County Watermaster D. C. Hendrix were concerned that the dam would break.

Health, Education, Welfare Budgets Cleared in House Vote

Salem – (UPI) – Health, education and welfare budgets totaling $203 million and proposing record-high spending in this field passed the House today and went to the Senate.

They call for $106 million from state general tax funds and the rest from federal aid, grants, fees and other sources.

Together they make up nearly one-third of what the state will spend in the next two years. The big item still to come in this field is basic school support, which will call for more than $100 million in per-child contributions to schools.

The budgets passed today provide for support of colleges and universities, operation of health and education departments, welfare and general assistance.

The final figures are close to those proposed by Gov. Mark Hatfield.

The $101 million welfare budget, calling for $40.8 million in state funds, recognizes an $11 million federal-state medicare program for the elderly.

The $91 million higher education budget calls for $61 million in state funds. This figure was reached after the Ways and Means committee trimmed about $1 million in areas of faculty positions, travel, research, and general extension courses.

There was little floor discussion on the budgets. Their passage marks the near completion of a big portion of Ways and Means work on spending policies for the next biennium.

News Briefs

San Francisco —(UPI)— The U.S. government today dropped remaining charges in the Powell-Schuman treason-sedition case of the Korean war.

The defendants are John W. Powell, 41, his wife, Sylvia, 40, and Julian Schuman, 40, all of San Francisco.

Havana —(UPI)— Premier Fidel Castro today forbade foreign priests hostile to his revolution to practice their religion in Cuba and said his "socialist" regime will take over all of the country's private schools.

Washington —(UPI)— Secretary of State Dean Rusk's testimony on the Cuban crisis appeared today to have quieted congressional complaints about lack of foreign policy consultation with the administration.

Washington —(UPI)—Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall denied "categorically" today that he had asked a friend to solicit the oil and gas industry to buy $100-a-plate tickets to a Democratic fund-raising dinner honoring President Kennedy.

Unemployment Down By 533,000 in April

Washington – (UPI) – Unemployment fell by 533,000 in April to 4,962,000, the Labor Department reported today.

Officials said this was about the seasonal decline for this time of year.

WOULD BE EVIDENCE

Salem—(UPI) – A driver's refusal to take a chemical test for drunkenness would be admissable as evidence in a court trail under a bill which has passed the House.

Committee Enters Final Phases of Budget Meetings

The Jackson county budget committee entered what it hoped would be its last day of budget sessions today, and tentatively approved the budgets for public libraries and the county historical fund.

All budgets considered so far have received only tentative approval, since the committee will have to fit the county's projected expenditures to its total estimated receipts for the new fiscal year. The miscellaneous county fund was the last major budget awaiting consideration today.

The budget committee set an overall tentative library allocation of $65,686.04. This breaks down to the county's share of $59,217.92 for the Medford public library, $6,057.24 for Ashland public library, and $410.88 for Rogue River's public library. The committee increased all three items by 28 per cent over the current year's allocation.

The budget total of $32,519 for the Jackson county historical fund was tentatively approved as presented. The $32,519 represents an increase of $6,089. Most of the increase is due to the new item of $3,600 proposed for rehabilitation of the historic Beekman bank in Jacksonville.

Yesterday, the general road fund was approved at a revised total of $1,806,372.25. This compares to $1,772,650 for the current year. Some of the salaries, including the county engineer's, were pared.

The planning commission budget of $20,570 was also tentatively passed. The revised total represents an increase of $4,344.

Jackson county weed control budget of $33,005.11 was considered, but no action taken.

Durno Asks Quota On Plywood Import

Congressman Edwin R. Durno, in a recent speech before Congress, called for a revision of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act to impose a quota on plywood imports into the United States.

According to word received here, Durno pointed out that 58 per cent of the total hardwood plywood used in the U.S. comes from Japan, and declared that such competition is, "seriously affecting the economy of the west and particularly of the Fourth District of Oregon."

Dr. Durno reportedly asked Robert G. Davis, general manager of the Southern Oregon Plywood company, Grants Pass, and state Republican party chairman, to request that all persons involved in the plywood problem communicate with him in order that their views might be expressed. Durno also said he would be contacting fourth district labor leaders to gain their backing of his position.

Bill Will Require Firearm Training

Salem—(UPI)—The Senate today passed a bill requiring that persons 17 years or younger must have firearm training certificates before they can get a hunting license. The bill went back to the House for concurrence in Senate amendments.

WEATHER

Forecast — Partly cloudy tonight and Wednesday. Chance of showers late Wednesday night or Thursday morning. Low tonight 35. High Wednesday 70.

TEMPERATURE

Highest Yesterday	64
Lowest this Morning	34

PRECIPITATION

To 5 p.m. Yesterday	.05
To 10 a.m. Today	.00

Our Skies Tonight

Sunset today	7:12 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	5:04 a.m.
Moonrise tonight	9:29 p.m.
Last Quarter	May 7
PROMINENT STAR	
Capella, low in northwest	9:47 p.m.
VISIBLE PLANETS	
Mars, in the west	9:41 p.m.
Saturn, rises	1:21 a.m.
Jupiter, rises	1:39 a.m.
Venus, low in east	4:11 a.m.

Young People Jump To Ground To Escape Horror

Many Leap With Clothing Ablaze

Bolton, England – (UPI) – Fire raced through a fourth-story social club Monday night turning a gay dance into a flaming horror. Teen-age girls and young men with clothes ablaze jumped through windows to their deaths.

Police said at least 29 persons died—8 of them young girls—and 4 others were seriously injured. Several firemen were hurt.

"The street looked like a battleground," said one of the shaken rescue workers, Lee Owens. "There were bodies all over the place."

Most of the victims were in their teens or early 20s.

Having Good Time

A few minutes before midnight they had been drinking and dancing to jazz music in the Top Storey club, a dance hall on the fourth floor of a building that houses a warehouse and shops.

Pedro Gonzales, 23, was found wandering dazedly down the street sobbing. When he had been calmed down he told the story.

"Everyone was having a good time," he said. "The pianist had just finished a tune when I heard him shout through the applause.

"I strolled over to the door, not knowing anything was happening, and I smelled smoke. In a few seconds, that room was hell.

"I shouted as loud as I could for everyone to get out. They were panicking and screaming. The flames suddenly leaped up the stairs at a terrific pace. I half fell, half ran through them and found myself outside.

Nothing But Flames

"There was nothing but flames above. Then the windows started breaking and people began to fall down toward me."

With the stairs blocked by flames, many of those trapped inside hurled themselves through the windows. It was an 80 foot plunge.

Edmund Lomax said he and others shouted up that the firemen were on their way with ladders "but they went on jumping. It was sickening hearing them hit the ground."

It took firemen three hours to get the blaze under control.

The blaze was believed to have started on the ground floor of the building but its cause was not determined immediately.

Hearing Held on Ashland's Budget

Ashland — The Ashland school board and school district budget committee approved a 1961-62 budget totaling $1,695,876.29 following a public hearing last night.

The budget includes $1,303,275 for the general fund; $150,797.54 in the construction fund; $186,678.75 in the bond interest and redemption fund, and $55,125 in the school lunch program fund.

No public objections were raised. May 26 was set as the date fo vote to exceed the 6 per cent budget limitation.

The budget exceeds the 6 per cent limitation by $1,004,453.25. Of this amount, $830,157.50 is for the general fund, and $174,295.75 for bond interest and redemption.

Bulletin

Washington—(UPI) —Howard B. Morgan, former Oregon public utility commissioner, nominated by President Kennedy to the Federal Power commission, testified today he hid two youthful arrests when he filled out government forms on four occasions.

Maximum Speed Law Measure Sent To House

Salem – (UPI) – The Senate today passed and sent to the House a bill that would give Oregon its first maximum speed law in history. The vote was 16-12.

SB25 would set a maximum speed limit of 65 miles per hour, although the maximum on freeways would be 70, the current "designated" speed.

Trucks would have a maximum speed of 50 miles per hour, school buses would move from 45 to 50, and regular buses from 55 to 60.

Sen. Anthony Yturri (R-Ontario) admitted that the bill would mean more arrests but said "we've got to face this." He said speed figured in about 41 per cent of the traffic deaths in Oregon last year.

Sen. Al Fiegel (D-Roseburg) called it a "policeman's bill," and several senators termed it a farce.

Oregon now operates under the "basic rule" meaning that a person must control his car in such a fashion to be reasonable under prevailing conditions. The guide is 55 miles per hour.