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Area residents showed up at last night's Municipal Council meeting to voice their opposition to a March council decision not to buy land at Sunset Park. From left to right are John B. Frantz, associate professor of history; retired council member James

McClure; Dylan Lindsey, State College; Madison Brewer, who brought a petition carrying 425 names in favor of buying additional land; and Patricia Farrell, State College.

Council to reconsider Sunset Park land acquisition

By KAREN KONSKI
Collegian Staff Writer

Because of strong citizen support, the State College Municipal Council's decision not to consider buying additional land at Sunset Park must be reconsidered within two months by the council.

Although Council President Joseph Wakeley Jr. and council members Fred Honsberger, John Dombroski and Gary Wiser spoke against reconsidering the decision, council member Daniel Chaffee announced that according to the municipality's home rule charter, if at least 2 percent of State College's voting population brings in a petition, a decision must be reconsidered within two months.

Many citizens spoke at the council's meeting last night, including Madison Brewer, 320 E. Hartswick Ave., who presented the council with a petition signed by 425 residents in favor of reconsideration.

According to Chaffee, 2 percent of the voting population is equal to 88 people.

The council voted against acquiring almost 14 additional acres adjacent to Sunset Park, located at the northwest

corner of the municipality in Ferguson Township at its March meeting, even though about half of the purchase price would have been funded by a federal grant.

Wakeley said he opposed the purchase of the land because he said he has seen the municipal budget increase \$1 million in two years and has seen the council buy much property that is not needed.

Acquisition of this land is not a priority issue, he said. Because no one has utilization plans for the park, he said, he does not think the land should be purchased.

Dombroski cited inadequate use of the existing park by residents including children and poor quality of the land as reasons why he is opposed to buying the land.

If an accident occurred at the park and the municipality owned the land, he said, the municipality would be responsible.

Chaffee, however spoke in favor of acquiring the land.

"We have an opportunity to have federal help," Chaffee said, "and we have the turn-out of citizens, and we haven't had that before, and I think that's important."

Among the citizens who spoke in favor of the council buying the land was Dylan Lindsey, 8, of 829 W. Thomas

Ave., who said if he could vote he would choose to buy the land because he enjoys playing there.

Retired council member James McClure, 331 E. Hamilton Ave., said he thinks the council should reconsider its decision to protect the land from development that could hinder the water shed located directly above the park.

Patricia Farrell, 320 E. Beaver Ave. also said she favors the acquisition because the municipality should not allow the opportunity to buy valuable parkland slip away.

"We mostly use University land to play," she said. "It's about time we got some town land to play on."

Honsberger said, "If it were such a prime piece of land, why haven't we seen any plans for it?"

Former State College Planning Commission member Arthur Anderson said he thinks with all the council's talk about planning, the commission should have been involved in the decision.

"The planning commission seems to be the one body not involved," Anderson said.

On-going costs of development and maintenance were also among Honsberger's reasons for opposing the

acquisition, he said.

In applying for the grant, the municipality cited \$5,000 from the State College budget to cover these costs.

John Frantz, 1327 Pennfield Road, said he thought some of the council members' objections to buying the land because it is part of Ferguson Township, and not the municipality, was invalid.

He said the park attracts people from many neighborhoods and many people come to the borough for other beneficial activities.

"The constituency will respect you more if you reverse yourselves," Frantz said.

In other business, the council voted to ask for bids for the repavement of Locust Lane and Foster Avenue.

The council had discussed repairing the streets with funds from the community development block grant, but last night decided to use revenue sharing funds instead.

Block Grant Director Henry Lawlor said asking for bids on the streets would preclude using the block grant funds according to federal rules.

Mount St. Helens sees action again

By BOB BAUM
Associated Press Writer

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Mount St. Helens belched steam and shivered in the grip of the strongest underground tremors in almost two years yesterday after erupting twice during the night, sending clouds of ash and steam four miles into the sky, scientists said.

Another eruption "is certainly likely, very likely. The mountain is definitely churning underneath," said A.B. Adams of the University of Washington geophysics center in Seattle. "We are in a complete state of uncertainty."

Instruments trained on the southwestern Washington volcano recorded steam bursts at the rate of almost one per minute, while seismographs nearly nine miles away detected a rhythmic underground movement that can signify the coursing of molten lava inside the mountain.

The underground tremors were the largest since the summer of 1980, scientists said.

Three helicopters took off at daybreak yesterday carrying scientists from the U.S. Geological

Survey, but bad weather and a thick blanket of steam kept them from viewing the crater.

However, it appeared that the overnight eruptions — which sprinkled ash up to 120 miles away — damaged a section of the north side of the volcano's lava dome, said Kathy Cashman, a USGS geologist who flew over the volcano in a plane early yesterday.

Blocks of hardened lava almost 15 feet in diameter may have fallen off the dome during the eruptions, rolling more than a half-mile away, Cashman said.

A flow of mud stretched about a mile down the rampart leading to the north side of the crater, where ash fell thickly.

No evacuations were ordered and there were no reports of injuries, property damage or flooding. But the National Weather Service continued its flood watch for rivers near the volcano.

The weather service said Packwood, about 40 miles northeast of the mountain, got a light dusting of ash in the overnight blasts, and there were also reports of scattered light ash in the Wenatchee area, about 120 miles northeast of the volcano.

Reagan urges Falkland peace

President keeps low profile on Argentinian, British dispute

By W. DALE NELSON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan urged Great Britain and Argentina yesterday to settle their dispute over the remote Falkland Islands without bloodshed, saying "I just don't think it's an issue" that justifies a military confrontation.

Reagan, speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, said the United States was in a "very difficult situation" because it was friendly with both nations.

He refused to say what his administration would do if the two go to war.

"Both sides have threatened the use of force, as is evidenced with Argentina's military landing there," Reagan said. "I just don't think it's an issue that should come to that point."

Britain sent a large fleet steaming toward the South Atlantic islands yesterday.

Meanwhile, Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez told the Organization of American States at a meeting in Washington that his government is considering invoking the Interamerican Reciprocal Assistance Treaty of 1947. It calls for the signatories to respond to an attack on any American state as though it were an attack on themselves. Both the United States and Argentina signed.

A State Department official had said earlier, however, that it was "premature" to declare whether the United States would feel obligated to support Argentina under the pact.

Costa Mendez referred to the treaty as "an

instrument within this system which is very delicate and which should be used with great prudence, but which is and has been a fundamental element of the system."

"This question is under study on the part of my government," he said, adding that Argentina would consult with other governments in the Western Hemisphere before taking action.

Costa Mendez also said Argentina had always been willing to negotiate but the British had "refused to even discuss the topic."

"There has just been a resurgence in our hemisphere, in all its crudeness and in its most classic form, of the old colonial theme which we thought had been properly superceded," he told the delegates.

Christopher Crabbie, first secretary of the British Embassy in Washington, who attended the OAS session, said, "We are always willing to negotiate."

"We are very anxious to reach a negotiated settlement although the British government has made it quite clear that we cannot accept this illegal occupation of British territory," Crabbie said.

Beyond that, he added, "I doubt that it would be wise at this time to speculate on the statements of the Argentine foreign minister."

Asked whether the United States was attempting to mediate the crisis, Crabbie said, "I would not like to comment on the U.S. position. That is something which the United States is better placed to talk on."

Reagan said the United States stands "ready to do anything we can to help them in what we hope for, and would like to help in doing . . . a peaceful

resolution of this with no forceful action or no bloodshed."

He said the United States continues to support the U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a withdrawal of Argentine forces from the Falklands.

State Department spokesman Dean Fischer, meanwhile, said the United States is obligated by a 1962 agreement to make available to Britain the U.S. airfield on the Ascension Island, a possible stopover point for the southbound flotilla.

But Fischer said that does not mean the United States has committed itself to the British side. Ascension is a British-owned island in the Atlantic, midway between South America and Africa, on which the United States maintains an airbase.

"Our view on this is that Ascension Island is a British possession," Fischer said. "The United Kingdom has the legal right to land military aircraft there."

Fischer added, however, that "such use of the airfield does not in anyway constitute U.S. involvement in the United Kingdom-Argentine dispute."

Fischer said he did not know whether the 1962 agreement provides the British with refueling rights for its warships and aircraft.

Reagan said he had received a message from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher "with regard to the appointment of a new foreign minister" following the resignation of Lord Carrington.

Fischer said Secretary Alexander M. Haig Jr. had sent Carrington "a personal message."

Please see related stories, Page 8.



Photo by Greg Bulluck

Broken home

Alpha firemen hose this older house to keep down dust, while a bulldozer moves in to remove the second floor.

Hijack attempt ends with all home safely

By MIKE McQUEEN
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI (AP) — A Delta Air Lines jet forced to Havana with 103 people aboard returned safely to Miami yesterday, after three hijackers who doused the plane and a stewardess with gasoline were taken into custody by Cuban authorities.

Passengers said the hijackers — a middle-aged man and two young men who called the older man "father" — spoke Spanish and threatened to set the plane on fire. One of them told a passenger he did not like the United States, the FBI said.

"The hijackers were last seen being led away by Cuban immigration officers," FBI spokesman Welton Merry said.

None of the seven crew members or 93 other passengers was injured, Merry said. The Chicago-to-Miami Flight 591 was in Havana nearly three hours.

It was the third hijacking of a U.S. plane to Havana in nine months.

The plane left Chicago at 10 p.m. EST Sunday and was hijacked at 12:15

a.m. over La Belle, Fla., 22 minutes before it was due to land in Miami, Delta spokesman Jim Ewing said. It landed at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana at 1:09 a.m. and returned to Miami at 3:55 a.m.

"One of the men poured gasoline at the front and the rear of the plane and in the lavatories and threatened to blow up the aircraft," FBI Special Agent Jim Freeman said.

"One stewardess, unidentified, asked him to stop. And he poured gasoline over her — he soaked her clothes," he said.

Linda Infantino, 18, of Chicago, said after the plane returned to Miami, "They poured it everywhere; I was petrified."

Passenger James Phillips of Miami said he heard the two younger men call the older man "father."

"The only identification we have is the names on the passenger roster," Merry said. "They listed themselves as Pedro Chavez, Vicente Gonzales and Carlos Rodriguez. One of them — we don't know which one — was about 50 years of age and the others about 20."

inside

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weather

Snow tapering off to snowshowers today and becoming windy. Total storm accumulations of 2 to 4 inches likely, some blowing snow during the afternoon. Nearly steady temperatures. Partly cloudy, windy and cold tonight with a few snowshowers, low near 18. Variable cloudiness and breezy tomorrow, high around 33.

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