



The Sandy Post

Vol. 72 No. 34

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1982

(USPS 481-180)

Single Copy 25¢

SUHS board delineates items to 'B' ballot

by SCOTT NEWTON

The SUHS Board of Directors meeting began somberly Tuesday night as a contingency closure resolution was read.

The board passed the resolution, which states the school will close if the Sept. 21 operating levy fails, 4-0. Board Member Pete Griffin was not in attendance. He was ill.

Twelve probationary teachers then received good news, as the board voted 4-0 to rehire them.

There were originally 19 "non-renewed" teachers, but two were rehired earlier, three took other jobs and two completed one-year contracts.

The board voted 4-0 to enter negotiations with the employees of the district to, as Board Member Terry Lenchitsky put it, "maintain the same wages" paid during the 1981-82 year.

Joan Hay, deputy clerk, estimated last week a savings of about \$180,000 if classified personnel, teachers and administrators accepted a pay freeze.

That \$180,000 was not delineated in the "B" ballot. If a freeze were

negotiated, district taxpayers would simply pay less.

Although the move by the board could generate public support, it could also upset the always-delicate negotiating process.

Amid its decisions, board members were criticized for not listening to input from the public. The board members took turns, or so it seemed, reminding the people in the crowd of over 85 that they had an opportunity to provide input during the drawn-out budget hearings, and also at last week's board meeting.

The meeting Tuesday night was clearly a working session. Said Board Member Bob Boring after one patron accused the board of turning people off, this is "a meeting in the open, not an open meeting."

After deciding to reopen negotiations with employees of the district, the board moved on to the delineation of items for the "B" ballot.

After two 4-0 votes, and two and a half hours after the meeting had begun, the \$404,040 "B" ballot was set. The "A" ballot is \$2,069,093.

Water polo, a fall sport offered to both boys and girls, was the most immediate casualty.

The board agreed to put \$32,440 that is paid to the Sandy Elementary District for use of the swimming pool on the "B" ballot. With the outcome of the Sept. 21 vote in question, water polo was cut. Apparently, the swimming program will also go if the "B" ballot fails.

The swimming pool has also been

used by physical education classes, although this will end if the "B" ballot goes down.

The athletic department was directed to take a \$41,222 cut, with Mike Kostrba, athletic director, John McMahan, principal, and Jack Peters, superintendent, to decide where to make the cuts. The other

fall sports will continue in some manner this season.

Other delineations will also affect athletics, with the total cut in sports being about \$50,000, according to Kostrba.

Club advisors will not be paid (a total of \$15,360) if the "B" ballot fails. Other delineations include the

library book fund, \$7,500; contingency fund, \$40,000; food service transfer, \$15,000; capital outlay, \$134,446; supplies, \$18,262; insurance, \$5,000; periodicals, \$800; instructional improvement, \$9,573; tuition reimbursement, \$7,844; staff travel, \$9,003; two teaching positions and one classified position, \$67,590.

Car driven off cliff near Trillium Lake

A car carrying four children and their grandparents plunged off a cliff above Trillium Lake Sunday, trapping them for over a half an hour before they were rescued.

The mishap occurred about 6 p.m. on Road S-22, better known as Sheerburn Road, which is the only access for vehicles driving to Kinsel and Veda Lakes.

About a mile and a half southwest of Trillium Lake the driver reportedly attempted to go around some small alders that were growing in the middle of the unimproved road, which is maintained by the U.S. Forest Service.

The driver, 55-year-old Ely Elwood Wilder of 12260 S.W. 72nd in Tigard, attempted to go around the trees on the road's narrow shoulder, and drove off a cliff. The vehicle rolled four times before coming to a halt an

estimated 100 feet off the road.

A passer-by, Eric Nelson, drove to the Summit Texaco Service Station in Government Camp and summoned assistance.

Firefighters from the Hoodland Rural Fire Department reached the scene shortly after 6:30 p.m. and prepared a special rescue for the trapped occupants.

Fire Chief Don Armintrout said rescue personnel rappelled down to the vehicle and then freed the occupants from the early-model Chevrolet Impala.

The two adults and four children were then hoisted up to the top of the cliff via a pulley system.

Emma L. Wilder, 57, was transported to Gresham Community Hospital by Alpine Ambulance and admitted for injuries. She was reportedly hospitalized for fractured ribs and a fractured right arm. On Tuesday morning she was listed in satisfactory condition.

The other five passengers in the vehicle were also taken to Gresham Community Hospital, where they were treated for minor injuries and later released.



Shannon Baker, left, shows sister Courtney a Radio Shack computer used at Firwood School. Shannon was in Kari Jo Rohr's fifth grade class last year, and participated in a sports-computer camp at MHCC this summer. Courtney,

6, will be a first grader at Firwood this fall. A story about Rohr's commitment to computer education, as well as information on new teachers and other back-to-school news, is all part of a special insert in The Post this week.

Photo by Scott Newton

County drops arson charge against man

Charges against a former Government Camp resident, who was believed to have been responsible for an arson fire that totally destroyed a motor vehicle, have been dismissed.

According to Judy Johnson, Clackamas County deputy district attorney, the accused was to stand trial on July 21. However, prior to the proceedings, further investigation of the incident resulted in the dismissal of the charges.

Ronald John Piccolo, 24, now of Portland, was indicted Feb. 18 by a Clackamas County grand jury in connection with a fire that burned a 1976 Fiat during the early morning hours at the Summit Rest Area in Government Camp.

Flammable liquids were determined to be the cause.

He was charged with criminal mischief in the first degree, and theft in the first degree, after the contents, allegedly stolen from the vehicle, were discovered in his possession, according to Johnson.

Piccolo, in a telephone interview a few days after he turned himself in to authorities and was released from jail, said the state's witnesses, who were to testify against him, were in fact participants in the crime.

"After further investigation, it appeared that prosecution of Piccolo was not warranted," said Johnson.

Samaritan helps local group

With all one reads about crimes, murders and wars, Marie Webb is pleased to know there are still some good Samaritans left in the world.

A group of blind people from the Oral Hull Foundation were on their way to Salem to the State School for the Blind last weekend, looking forward to two days of reunions with old friends and an opportunity to renew old ties. They had started out early in

the morning, and after picking up passengers in Portland, had 18 on the bus.

Once on the freeway events took a turn for the worse as the bus "started acting up," and the traffic whizzed by as they chugged along.

Finally the bus driver pulled over to look under the hood in an effort to find the "gremlin" that was causing the trouble.

A bus driver pulled up behind them

and asked if he could help. He had taken a group of Coast Guardsmen to Washington and was on the return trip, and said he could take the group on to Salem.

"We couldn't believe that we could be so fortunate," said Webb. "It all seemed to us that something like this wouldn't happen again in a hundred years. We thanked God for this good Samaritan of the highway and knew He had been watching over us."

undisclosed amount of money to set the fire so Yonan could collect from his insurance company.

In spite of the first damage estimate of \$35,000, Johnson said Yonan filed "a proof of loss" statement with the American States Insurance Company in excess of \$84,000 as a result of the damage to his home and contents.

At the conclusion of Yonan's trial, Johnson said the claims adjuster for the company, Edward Paulson of Tigard, was still investigating the circumstances surrounding the fire. The claim is still pending.

The fire struck Yonan's residence at 11:14 p.m. on Jan. 28, but a quick response by the Hoodland Rural Fire Department averted more extensive damage to the structure.

Johnson said a former neighbor of Yonan testified that Yonan bragged he was going to have his house set on fire the following evening so he could collect insurance money. Yonan reportedly told the neighbor the approximate time the fire would be set.

The following night the neighbor observed a fire in the rear of the house and called the Hoodland Fire Department.

Johnson said the state prosecuted the case under the theory Yonan "aided and abetted" in the fire, having paid to have it set.

Yonan was not at home the night of the fire and produced several witnesses at the trial who testified he was in Portland.

At the trial Yonan testified that he had nothing to do with the fire, said Johnson.

Separate investigations by both the fire department and the Oregon State Crime Lab revealed the blaze was started with flammable liquids.

Yonan was indicted on March 25 after evidence secured in the joint investigation was presented to a Clackamas County grand jury.

Sentencing for Yonan has not yet been scheduled, pending the conclusion of a pre-sentence investigation. He faces a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine, or both.

Jury finds Sandy man guilty of arson

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

A 35-year-old Sandy woodcarver and artist has been found guilty of first degree arson in connection with an "arson-for-hire" fire at his residence on Jan. 28.

David Yonan of 20435 Hummingbird Lane, near Alder Creek, was found guilty by a Clackamas County

jury in circuit court on Aug. 16 after three hours of deliberations.

Judy Johnson, Clackamas County deputy district attorney, said the jury found Yonan guilty of first degree arson for his role in a fire that caused an estimated \$35,000 worth of damage to his residence.

Yonan reportedly hired a yet-to-be identified accomplice, according to Johnson, who was allegedly paid an

Pumpers should cut run times by 25 percent

by DAN DILLON

With two new \$103,000 pumper trucks on line at rural substations, Sandy Fire District Chief Bob Rathke figures the district will cut running times in the Dover and Roslyn Lake areas by nearly 25 percent.

The new diesel trucks have better acceleration and will be better suited for the ups and downs of the country roads, he said. "I think that's where it's really going to show."

The change from gasoline-powered to diesel is "key," Rathke said.

The trucks will be more reliable than the two 20-year-old pumpers they replace and the new fuel system allows for larger pumps, 250 gallons more water on board and more speed.

Last Friday, factory representative Dick Bjelland of Boise and Sandy Fire District mechanic Art Blaisdell put the two 1982 Fords through their final tests before the district officially accepted delivery.

They tested the pump's abilities on the two rigs at the drafting pit at the Boring Fire Station.

According to Assistant Chief Gary Connelly, tests on the capacity of the pump at 150 pounds

pressure, 200 pounds pressure and 250 pounds were administered.

The two new rigs passed with flying colors, exceeding specifications.

Earlier, the two new trucks had passed the road test.

It will be two weeks before the new rigs are officially in service as

time to outfit them and get enough drivers certified is needed.

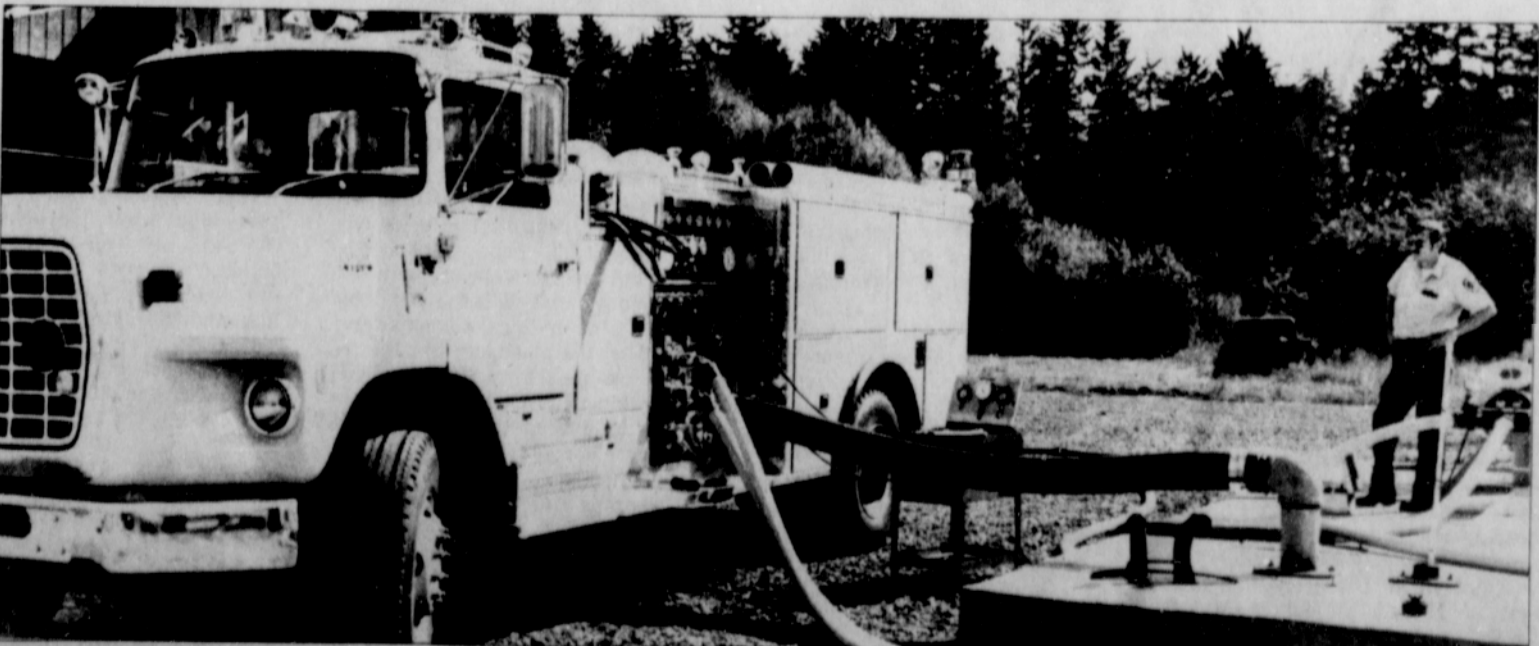
The 20-year-old pumper from Dover will be used as a reserve which is a credit with the rating bureau, Connelly said. That way, if there is a breakdown, the substations will have a substitute

available.

The 1940 Chevrolet Howard-Cooper, which the muster team uses, will be officially retired, although it still pumps to its factory specifications. The volunteer firefighters keep that truck for historical reasons, Connelly said. Although the cost may seem ex-

orbitant, Rathke anticipates they could last up to 30 years.

"I foresee a minimum of 20 years," he said. After that the engines will be overhauled and they should be good for another decade unless there are major changes in fire apparatus.



Art Blaisdell, Sandy Fire District mechanic, runs a new pumper through tests, which is done before the district officially accepts delivery.

Photo by Dan Dillon

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