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Fire dispatch switch means minor changes

by DAN DILLON

Local volunteer firefighters are traveling the outer reaches of the Sandy Fire District today handing out new emergency telephone numbers in preparation for a switch in dispatching services Friday.

The local fire district is transferring from the Clackamas County Emergency Communication System (C-COM) to services provided by Clackamas Fire District No. 1 at Station 400.

The decision to change dispatchers came about six months ago. The primary reason was to put the local

fire district in with surrounding districts to facilitate mutual aid calls between districts.

"They have been dispatching Boring and Estacada for a year now and so in effect, they've been dispatching us into those areas on mutual aid calls," said Sandy Fire Chief Bob Rathke, "so we know the radios work."

With C-COM, the Sandy district had continuing radio problems and Rathke hopes that problem is eliminated with the switch.

C-COM transmitted its messages to a dish near Boring by telephone lines. Station 400 transmits messages by its

own microwave system to the same Boring site, before alerting area firefighters.

Under the new dispatching arrangement, Sandy residents with a 668- telephone prefix will continue to dial 9-1-1 for fire and medical emergencies, but there will be a slight change.

Before, a person talked directly to the dispatcher. Now, a telephone answerer will transfer the call to the proper dispatcher, a delay of four or five seconds, according to Rathke.

"The thing that people shouldn't get concerned about is that nobody's on the line. There's just a short

period when the transfer is on," he said.

That situation is temporary until Clackamas County irons out its plan to make 911 a countywide system.

Rathke said that delay should not hamper response times because of 911's advantages. The phone number is more likely to be remembered than a seven-digit number, callers don't need to know what district they live in and they don't need to know which service they need.

"All those things contribute to shortening the time it takes to handle an emergency call," Rathke said.

Residents of the Sandy Fire

District with telephone prefixes other than 668- will get new emergency numbers.

Residents with 663- and 695- prefixes will call 663-4121; residents with 637- prefixes will call 659-5444 for emergency help. In all cases that should be a local call, the fire chief said. Under the old arrangement, some district patrons had to call long distance for emergency help.

Rathke said the trend among fire districts is toward consolidation of dispatch centers. In 1972, 21 Clackamas County Fire Districts were dispatched from about 15 different operations. Today, six

dispatch centers handle the 21 districts.

Along with Sandy, eight other fire districts are dispatched by Station 400, an advantage according to Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher.

"The troops are looking forward to being in a total fire dispatch where someone understands what a fireman's problems are," he said.

Rathke is also excited about Station 400's ongoing training program where dispatchers handle simulated disasters on a regular basis.

Without such practice, dispatchers don't have room to keep sharp, he said.

City gets nod, but schools nixed again

City of Sandy officials breathed easier Wednesday morning in the wake of voter approval of a \$411,637.89 levy request in Tuesday's special election.

At area school districts, however, voters weren't as generous as both Sandy Elementary and Welches school districts' levy requests failed. "I'm just very happy," said City Manager Tom Reber. "I think the point got across to the voters that we'd really cut back and had a conservative budget."

He admitted he did some planning during anxious moments Tuesday and said that had the levy request failed, just two days before the end of the fiscal year, the city would have operated until about Aug. 1 before drastic slashes in city services occurred.

At Sandy Elementary District, voters rejected a levy for operating expenses of local schools. It was the same request voters vetoed in May.

The district's request, up just \$28,000 from last year, would have generated \$1,980,914 for operations.

Welches School District also saw voters reject the same operating levy for the second time. Voters there nixed a \$189,186 special operating levy.

Countywide, voters overwhelmingly said no to a \$10 employee tax that would have generated money for the county's economic development.

By a 3-1 margin voters tossed out the idea of the three-year plan to raise half a million dollars earmarked for attracting new firms, expanding businesses and developing tourism in the area.

Unofficial returns for local elections, without absentee ballots:

City of Sandy Operating Levy

✓ Yes 207
No 175

Sandy Elementary Schools Operating Levy

✓ Yes 433
No 510

Welches School Operating Levy

✓ Yes 142
No 195

Measure 3-1

Employee Tax for Development

✓ Yes 5,585
No 15,142

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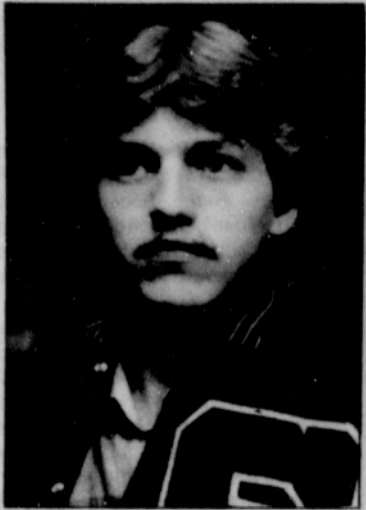
Mountain Festival Inside Tab

WEATHER

Extended Forecast: Chance of showers Friday through Sunday. Highs, 70s; Lows, 50s.

Young photographer's work gets calendar nod

A photograph by Emery Sutton, 18, of Sandy will be featured on the Clackamas County Bank's 1984 calendar.



Emery Sutton

Along with having his photograph up in the homes and businesses of 2,000 people for a year, Sutton also received a more tangible prize, a \$200 Series EE savings bond.

The photograph of a barn was taken on a sunny afternoon on Firwood Road.

"I'd traveled the road and knew where the barn was. I thought it'd look good," Sutton said.

Robert Karsten, Sandy Union High School photography instructor, told Sutton about the contest.

Sutton said he's been taking pictures for about six years. In high school he took photography as a sophomore, and worked as a teacher's assistant to Karsten his junior and senior years.

As a senior he was a photographer for Mt. Echoes, the high school newspaper.

Sutton said he intends to pursue photography.



Photo by Emery Sutton

Emery Sutton was unable to duplicate this scene when he tried to take the same photograph on an overcast day.

He's currently looking for a job, and said he may attend Mt. Hood Community College in the future.

Approximately 30 people entered the contest, according to Bobbi Swan, executive vice president of

the bank. "Every year we get real good participation out of the kids," she said.

They started the photography program when "we got tired of looking at the same pictures that

everybody else was using."

To use a picture of a local scene by a local photographer "was meaningful for us," Swan said.

The 1981 winner of the bank's calendar contest was Paul

Roberts, who took a picture on South Bluff Road of the Sandy River valley and Mt. Hood.

Barbi Ray was the 1982 winner. She took a picture of a dilapidated barn on Marmot Road.

'Tough love' gives parents dose of self-respect

by DAN DILLON

Sometimes parents need reassurance that they are all right, particularly when dealing with the unexpected twists and turns raising a teen-ager can bring.

When methods that their parents used with them aren't adapting to today's children, parents need a place they can turn to and get some positive reinforcement or some new ideas about how to handle a situation at home.

Tough Love tries to be that alternative.

Started in the Sandy area about two months ago, the local group already draws participants from Oregon City, Gresham, Troutdale and Estacada to its Wednesday evening meetings on a regular basis.

"A lot of people think we advocate kicking the kid out of the house," said Anne Brewster, spokesperson for the local group. "That's not true. We always have an alternative for them."

"These are caring parents. They're just confused about how to deal with kids sometimes."

Begun by a Pennsylvania couple who had tried conventional routes

with their "out-of-bounds" children and found them inadequate, Tough Love is a "support group for parents, primarily," Brewster said.

The members meet once a week and assess problems and brainstorm ideas.

As a hypothetical example, they might advise the parents of a runaway child who don't know how to handle the situation that they and the child should spend some time apart for a cooling-off period when the child returns.

The help from fellow parents, Brewster said, "makes the parents

feel good about themselves.

"There are a lot of people out there that are hurting and they need some help."

The group is a "self-help program for parents troubled by teen-age behavior," according to the organization's literature. That trouble can stem from school, the law, or drugs and alcohol.

Tough Love is designed to deal with the stresses and strains of parenting and help parents develop new strength to give young people firm, selective, loving support, Brewster said.

The group also teaches its members how to use community resources such as church, public agencies, police, school and friends.

"It sounds wonderful," Brewster laughed. "It sounds like a panacea."

But, she added, that isn't entirely true.

"We've noticed no wonderful, glowing success stories," she said. "What we have seen is parents who feel better about their parenting."

The local group began their weekly meetings at 7:30 p.m. at The United Bank after seeing a discussion about the group on "Town Hall."

SUHS uncertain of future if next levy fails

by SCOTT NEWTON

The SUHS board of directors seemed to have a hard time deciding Monday night whether or not school would open in September if the school is unsuccessful at the polls in August.

Earlier in the meeting Board Member Terry Lenchitsky said, "If we don't pass it, we can't open school. That's a fact, not a threat."

The other three board members nodded in agreement.

But later in the meeting patron Cathy Coleman said that people in the district have been threatened so many times that they'd perceive a move not to open as a threat.

Patrons and board members seemed to agree that the budget needs to be presented in as positive a light as possible.

Angus Anderson, deputy clerk,

said it would be a few weeks before he'd be able to determine if they'd have the funds to open in September if the Aug. 9 try is unsuccessful.

Said Board Member Gary Cleland on the non-opening of school, "I don't think we know right now, at this minute."

Newly-hired superintendent Roberta Hutton said when the information is available, the public will be told.

"We don't have stupid patrons," Hutton said. "If we put the facts out for them, they'll figure it out for themselves."

The two-hour meeting was primarily a rehash of previous meetings. Twenty persons attended, with only six or seven of those not affiliated with the school (either as a board member or employee) or a member of the media.

Hutton and the board are determined that, over a period of time, patrons will come to support the district as what they consider a new era of openness begins.

"I'm just so positive about next year," said Bob Boring, acting chairman. He said it'll be a different school in two years.

Coleman said it will take two years for the patrons to develop confidence in the new administration.

The special meeting Monday night was called to give district residents an opportunity to discuss the budget before action was taken on it.

The total requirement is projected at \$4,452,132, which is \$48,000 more than last year.

Anderson said that although it's unfair to say there is any one thing causing that increase, \$50,000 for a bus and two vans and \$25,000 for a

roof on a gym are major items in the new budget.

Equipment and repairs are major expenses because the public hasn't approved a B ballot for two years, he said. "Right now we hurt badly because of it," Anderson said.

After utilities, salaries and benefits, insurance and transportation, only \$300,000 is left over for "discretionary" items, like supplies for teachers.

Then Anderson smiled and added, "and library books."

Said Librarian Jan Luelling, "They have been discretionary, haven't they?"

That the library took large cuts last year is common knowledge, and Luelling has told The Post in the past about students having a hard time finding current research materials on high technology subjects.

Lenchitsky said the average cost of educating a student would be \$3,871, which he said is below the state average. "I think that's a statistic that should be stressed."

The proposed budget would cost patrons \$4.89 per \$1000 in assessed valuation, versus \$4.53 this year.

It breaks down to an A ballot of \$2,025,318 and a B ballot of \$604,421. Basic school support dropped from \$1,201,000 to \$961,091, Anderson said.

It's "pandemonium" trying to put together a budget considering the different things we hear from Salem, said Hutton.

Last year the school received \$82,000 less in basic school support than they'd budgeted for. Anderson said the school "quit buying things" about the first of May.

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