

Volunteers

Continued from Page 1.

free, either.

It costs about \$500 to equip a volunteer in specialized gear, and the fire district also provides life insurance and workers compensation insurance. Firefighters also receive a stipend for responding to calls.

The biggest investment, however, is in the training. In February, five volunteers attended 20 hours each of outside training to earn certification to teach. One volunteer recently completed a hazardous materials class. Saturday, a volunteer will take a class on the hazards of fighting a fire in an illegal drug laboratory.

The fire district picks up the tuition because it wants firefighters with a variety of experience and education.

The Sandy Fire District has five full-time paid firefighters and two secretaries; the rest of the force is volunteer. Eight of the volunteers, however, are employed by other fire bureaus.

Hanson said they have had both paid firefighters and people with absolutely no firefighting experience apply to serve on the 58-member volunteer force, which covers a 77-square-mile area. There are currently no women on the force, but women are welcome to apply.

Both Hanson and Chaffin said there is a special relationship between the paid staff members and the volunteers that is unique to Sandy.

"I can't quantify it," Hanson said, "but I know there's something special going on."

As an organization, the Sandy Volunteer Firefighter Association does more than fight fires and respond to medical emergencies. Each year it gives a \$500 scholarship to a



Chuck Chaffin, president of the Sandy Volunteer Firefighters Association, is in charge of the rescue rig.

Sandy High School senior, and it sponsors an Explorer Post and participates in musters, which are competitions featuring firefighting skills.

For those willing to commit the time, Chaffin said he thinks serving with the Sandy volunteers is the place to be.

"It's a well trained group that can do the job," Chaffin said. "The community stands behind you. That's where the satisfaction comes in."

Stereo reported stolen; vandals strike Center

On March 30, police took a report of a theft of bucket seats and a stereo from a Toyota four-wheel-drive pickup from Suburban Ford, 39831 S.E. Highway 26.

On March 30, Mathew Martin Haselwander, 30, of Sandy, was cited for assault in the fourth degree by the Sandy police.

On March 27, Monte W. Gab, 27, of Gresham, was cited for driving with

a suspended license.

On March 21, police took a report of a broken window at the Sandy Community Action Center, 38382 Pioneer Blvd.

On March 29, a 16-year-old juvenile was charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, driving without an operator's license and violating curfew.

Registration begins for preschool and kindergarten

The Sandy Cooperative Preschool and Kindergarten will hold registration for the 1987-88 school year on Wednesday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to noon at 27950 Haley Road, Boring.

The will be classes for 3- and 4-year-olds, and for kindergarteners.

The school will hold an open house at the school on Wednesday, April 8 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Interested parents should call Ruth Weber at 637-6523, Kim Caldwell at 663-4206 or Pam Brindley at 668-8449.

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Putting on an election

Clerk says vote by mail saves money, increases turnout

Managing the Clackamas County clerk's office during an election used to be an exercise in fire control.

"We were always scrambling to put out fires," said John Kauffman, county clerk. Tuesday the atmosphere was one of calm.

A less-stressful job for employees of the clerk's office is only one by-product of a mail-in election. This election will save Clackamas County taxpayers over \$5,000 from the March 1986 election, and the turnout will be higher.

Only 10 percent of the registered voters marked their ballots in March 1985. In the election Tuesday, voter turnout was about 48 percent. Out of 133,717 ballots mailed out, about 63,000 had been returned as of noon on March 31. People had the rest of the day to turn in ballots at the election office in Gladstone.

Kauffman sees that increased turnout as a measure of success for the mail-in ballot. "I think it ought to be a goal of any (governmental agency) to encourage participation in the democratic process," he said.

cess," he said.

Kauffman added that Oregon has been a leader in mail-in balloting, adding to the state's reputation for open government with its initiative referendum and liberal late-registration policy.

One way mail-in ballots save money is through the reduction of the work force on election day. In the past, 800 to 1,000 workers staffed over 200 precincts. To prepare for an election, the clerk would carefully select the people to be hired and then trained them. Kauffman admits there was no adequate way to supervise them all.

Vote by mail, on the other hand, has a number of built-in, internal checks, he said.

Technology has also played a part in saving money. Codes on the outside of envelopes are read by an optic scanner in a manner similar to what is done in grocery store checkout lines. Employees formerly had to manually go through lists of voters to verify who had voted.

Registration cards are now on microfilm and elections division

personnel can quickly verify voters' signatures.

An insertion machine helped prepare the mailing, and sorting mail by the route should help reduce the cost of postage in the future.

Those savings are passed on to taxpayers. In 1986, the Sandy Union High School District spent \$970 to elect its board members. Kauffman expects SUHS's bill for the current election to be about \$780.

The \$5,000 savings county-wide is also a conservative figure, Kauffman said, because the 1987 election was a much larger one than the election in March 1986.

The results are also known sooner with vote by mail. By Tuesday night at 8 p.m., at least 95 percent of the ballots were counted. In previous years, things were just getting started at 8. All ballots had been counted by 9 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Kauffman was elected county clerk in the fall of 1986. He has worked for 12 years in the clerk's office, the last nine years as supervisor of records and elec-



John Kauffman

tions.

He is on the legislative committee of the Oregon Association of County Clerks, and is hopeful that legislation being considered this session will make vote by mail a permanent part of the election process.

Seats

Continued from Page 1.

to help with that as much as I can," Doty said.

The results of other school board and fire district positions follow:

- In the Sandy Elementary District, Sharon Clarke received 900 votes to 858 for William Lenon.
- In the Welches School District, Jeri McMahan received 480 votes

to 379 for MaryAnn Burke.

- In the Boring School District, Dave Rodman received 298 votes to 251 for Donald Morrison and 188 for Steven Sobella.

- In the Cottrell School District, Joanne Betschart received 163 votes to 120 for David Fleming.

- In the Bull Run School District, David Kurowski received

ed 108 votes to 96 for Carolyn Romey.

- In the Boring Fire District, Jim Rounsefell received 1,280 votes to 972 for Zeldon Gernhart.

- In the Hoodland Fire District, John McArdle received 406 votes to 260 for Don Quint.

- In the Sandy Fire District, Mike Braet received 909 votes to 787 for Frank Happold.

All ballots have been counted, said a Clackamas County election official Wednesday morning. The "unofficial final" results do not include write-in votes, which were being tallied Wednesday.

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