

# The Sandy Post

Vol. 77 No. 42

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, October 22, 1987

(USPS 481-180)

Single Copy 25¢



Photo by Scott Newton

Jack Goheen was angry about vandalism at Firhill Cemetery, but officials aren't sure what corrective actions can be taken.

## Cemetery vandalism prompts anger

Many people knew Edna Goheen as the spy woman who used to take long walks around Sandy.

When she died earlier this month, the family buried her next to her husband at the Firhill Cemetery, on the west end of Sandy on Highway 26.

Shortly after the burial, her son Jack visited the grave and was upset to find his father's tombstone had been toppled by vandals. It had stood, undisturbed, since 1926.

Another tombstone in the cemetery also has been toppled, and the glass faces of several gravestones have been shattered.

Goheen is angry about the vandalism, but officials aren't sure what action should be taken.

Police Chief Fred Punzel said the area could be posted as a no trespassing area, and police could give citations to people who walk through the cemetery.

A road through the cemetery is a convenient shortcut from the businesses on the west end of Sandy to the high school.

But Punzel cautions that if police start issuing citations for trespassing, people who are cited could get angry and retaliate.

Ken Hallgren, a board member of the Sandy Cemetery Association, said members of the association have been reluctant to fence in the area because they believe the cemetery should be accessible.

The Firhill Cemetery and the nearby Scandinavian Cemetery are managed by non-profit boards.

Punzel and Hallgren said vandalism has been a problem in cemeteries throughout the metropolitan area.

"Even larger cemeteries with security people have been experiencing vandalism," Hallgren said.

"I have a lot of sympathy for Mr. Goheen," said Punzel, who can recall patrolling the cemetery and seeing people out making their peace at all hours of the night.

"Maybe," Punzel said, "there are no sacred places left."

## Groups help maintain pioneer cemetery

When Brenda LeDoux, a member of a church youth group, first went with the group to the Cherryville Cemetery, the cemetery was so overgrown they never found it.

But after she asked her friend, Margo Dempster, for directions, LeDoux was able to take members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Young Women's Group to the cemetery, where they spent a June afternoon cutting brush and cleaning.

In August, Boy Scouts from Troop 248 spent three days cleaning up the cemetery. They did the work to help Rodney Schilperoord fulfill a requirement for his Eagle Scout award.

When Michele Watts, adult leader of the Young Women's Group, saw the work the scouts had done, she was impressed.

Watts had hoped the Young Women's Group, Mormon church-sponsored Scout Troop 712 and other community organizations could work to maintain the cemetery.

Watts, who hopes to organize more work parties in the future, said Troop 248 has made great strides in that direction.

She thinks the cemetery is worth maintaining. Graves date back to the late 1800s.

According to "Sandy Pioneers, Early Settlers and Barlow Road Days," one grave dates

to 1886.

Adolf Hertrich of Sandy, who has owned the property for about 15 years, said the Barlow Road passes on the north side of the cemetery.

According to "Sandy Pioneers," the Cherryville Cemetery is one of Oregon's oldest. "It lies neglected and forlorn amidst an aging grove of gnarled maple, hemlock and fir," according to the book, which was published in 1973.

Though Hertrich owns the property on which the cemetery is located, he said he doesn't mind if community groups go in and maintain the cemetery.

## Fire destroys mobile home

A fire early Sunday morning destroyed a mobile home at 11220 S.E. Bull Run Road.

Damage was estimated at \$20,000 for the mobile home and at \$15,000 for contents.

Sandy firefighters arrived at the scene at about 3 a.m., said Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher. The mobile home was fully involved when firefighters arrived.

No one was hurt. Ignacio Cardenas, his wife Karen and their three children were out of town at the time the fire occurred.

Gallagher said the cause is under investigation, but he added that it appeared to have been an electrical fire that started in the wall separating the kitchen from the living room.

In a separate incident, firefighters on Monday put out some burning arborvitae plants that "went like Roman candles," said Gary Connelly, fire chief.

The eight-foot-tall hedge of about a dozen plants, dry from the sun and wind, may have been ignited by a cigarette.

The plants were at Lee Gunderson's home at 14805 Edelweiss Drive. A service man working outside had thrown a cigarette butt near where the fire started, Connelly said.

## Students score above average on national tests

Except for a few subject areas, students within the Sandy Elementary District have scored above the national averages in recent years on California Achievement Tests.

The tests, given nationwide, measure vocabulary and language mechanics, math concepts and application, and other academic skills.

On Thursday, the Sandy Elementary District board heard an hour-long presentation on test results and what they mean to parents and to educators.

The district was criticized in August by the Affordable Education Association for a drop in test scores last year.

But, after the presentation and an explanation of the snafu that occurred the 1985-86 year, board and audience members seemed to have a better understanding of where Sandy students stand academically.

John King, a member of the audience, said the presentation was "impressive," but suggested the district mail test results to parents each year.

King, a member of the Affordable Education Association, said he had a hard time getting last year's test results from the district.

The 1985-86 scores were adjusted for the presentation Thursday, and except for some problems with spelling and mathematics, Sandy students have scored above average on the CAT in recent years. Student scores dating back to 1983 were given.

In the 1985-86 school year — the year school closed in Sandy because of a levy failure — the test was scored incorrectly by the publisher of

the test.

Sandy students were compared with students who had not completed as much school work at the time the test was given. Therefore, Sandy students scored high.

The next year, however, it appeared scores dropped when in fact they were comparable to past years.

The presentation was given by Marilyn Willardson, curriculum director for the Clackamas Education Service District, and Ralph Branson, director of support services for Sandy.

The most recent results were from tests taken in the spring of 1987.

Sandy students scored at or above the national average on all tests at all grade levels, except in first-grade reading, eighth-grade math and all levels of spelling with the exception of the fifth grade.

Willardson said spelling scores were low all over Clackamas County. "There are a lot of districts, not just Sandy, looking at that," he said.

The low scores in spelling could be attributed to how the tests are given.

In the classroom, students write down the spelling of a word that is pronounced for them. On the CAT, however, students must find the correctly spelled word as it fits into a sentence.

The difference in the way subject matter is taught and the way it is presented on tests can make a difference in the test results, Willardson said.

He said first-grade reading results may be low because the district does not offer kindergarten. But students seem to catch up in later years, according to test results.



Photo by Scott Newton

Ralph Branson goes through a stack of test scores.

"From that I would say the reading program at Sandy is working very well," Willardson said.

Last year's eighth-grade class scored below average in mathematics.

High scores were achieved in fifth-

## Sandy transit options costly

It would cost the city of Sandy between \$34,000 and \$65,000 a year to provide mass transit service if the city severs its ties with Tri-Met.

In a report to the City Council Monday, City Manager Tom Reber said that it is expensive for Tri-Met to provide service to Sandy and it also would be expensive for Sandy to provide a similar service.

If the city offered limited bus service within the city of Sandy, and matched Tri-Met's nine runs per day, the cost would be about \$65,000 per year.

To offer minimal service, such as four runs to Gresham per day, the cost would be about \$34,000.

Reber said a payroll tax could be used to finance local service. He said the tax might be two-tenths of 1 percent of a business's gross payroll instead of the sixth-tenths of 1 percent currently being paid to Tri-Met.

That business tax is the main reason that Sandy leaders are considering pulling out of the Tri-Met district. They say that Sandy pays more to Tri-Met in taxes than it receives in service.

Withdrawal from the Tri-Met district was made possible by a bill approved by the Legislature this year.

In looking at the alternatives, Reber did not seem anxious for the city of Sandy to get into the mass

transit business. "When you get right down to it, I don't think it's very cost effective for us to do it," Reber said.

But a city mass transit system could be less expensive than Tri-Met's.

Reber said it costs Tri-Met \$3,500 or more a year for each person who takes advantage of the mass transit service to Sandy. The estimate is based on the cost of Tri-Met service and the number of riders.

Sandy businesses are paying from \$75,000 to \$100,000 per year to Tri-Met through the payroll tax. If 39 people arrive or leave town each day, the cost is from \$3,500 to \$5,000 per person per year, according to "very rough estimates," Reber said.

Dick Feeney, executive director of government affairs, also spoke to the council Monday. He said Tri-Met realizes that communities such as Sandy, Estacada, Damascus and Boring are paying more for mass transit service than they are getting in return.

The city has until Aug. 30, 1988, to submit a petition for withdrawal to the Tri-Met board. The petition would have to be signed by 15 percent of the residents in the area seeking to withdraw from Tri-Met.

A public hearing on the issue will be held Nov. 16. The City Council is interested in hearing from people who use the service.

## Signal experiment drawing attention

As climbers begin to use signal devices on Mount Hood next spring, they will have the attention of mountaineering groups around the world.

Craig Petrie, co-chairman of the Mountain Signal Memorial Fund, told the Sandy Chamber of Commerce Tuesday that climbing groups worldwide are watching the experiment being conducted on the south slope of Mount Hood.

"Success here could have an impact on wilderness safety everywhere," he said. "We've received calls from throughout the United States and the world. This is not being done anywhere else."

Petrie also told the chamber that the Mountain Signal Memorial Fund, a non-profit corporation, has gone through a long process to bring signal devices to the mountain. But the efforts should bring increased safety to climbers and recognition to Mount Hood as the first place where the devices were used.

The Mountain Signal Memorial Fund was created in 1986 following the tragedy that claimed the lives of nine climbers from Oregon Episcopal School.

The fund will be used to purchase as many as 100 transmitting units, at a cost of about \$300 apiece. The units will be loaned to climbers on Mount Hood. The memorial fund group plans to make them available at sporting goods stores that cater to mountain climbers.

The transmitters, about the size of a half-dollar and weighing about four ounces, would be carried by climbing groups. If one of the groups was reported missing, rescue teams would use a "finding unit" to locate the group.

The transmitters, which must be turned on in the case of an emergency, have a range of at least 25 miles, Petrie said. They are made by an Arizona company for use in tracking wildlife.

Climbers will not be required to carry the devices, but Petrie expects that all professional guides will carry them.

Although the transmitters seem to be a common sense way to find lost hikers, Petrie said the search method has not been used for a variety of

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## Sandy scores below state SAT averages

Sandy High School students scored above the national average in the verbal portion of the Scholastic Aptitude Test but below the Oregon average.

In the math section of the SAT, Sandy students scored below both the national and Oregon averages.

In 1987, Oregon had the second highest average in the nation.

Hart said a reorganization of the mathematics department about three years ago helped bring about a 14-point increase in the math scores from 1986.

Any junior or senior at Sandy High School may take the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

### National Average

Verbal.....430  
Math.....476

### Oregon Average

Verbal.....444  
Math.....484

### Sandy Average

Verbal.....437  
Math.....472

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