

# The Sandy Post

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## Hot weather hits, even on the slopes

High temperatures in the area have been sending people in droves to the shores of lakes and rivers. Some are traveling as far as Timberline Lodge to beat the heat.

"In addition to skiers, we have a lot of people who just come up to play in the snow," said John O'Neill, general manager at Timberline.

But skiers still will find enough snow on the Palmer snowfield to ski all the way down to the lodge.

On Palmer, the snow depth was 50 to 60 feet, which is about normal, said George Rossman, who supervises summer skiing.

Temperatures can be in the 80s on the slopes.

"We're really busy, and it's going wonderfully," Rossman said.

In Sandy, the mercury reached 96 Tuesday, and was well on its way to another hot day on Wednesday. The Sandy Fire District keeps track of the highs and lows.

The danger of fire is not too high — at least for now. Chuck Hanson, assistant fire chief, said there is still some green in the grass and trees, so lawn fires have not been a problem.

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## City raises sewer fees

The Sandy City Council approved the final reading of an ordinance that will raise the cost of new sewer connection fees.

The ordinance also will give the City Council an opportunity to approve or disapprove of new businesses that would use a large amount of water and thus use up the remaining capacity at the city's sewage treatment plant.

The city only has enough capacity at its sewage treatment plant for another 300 to 400 hookups. The council wants to review new commercial and industrial businesses to consider the volume of sewage they will create and what kind of jobs they will provide for area residents.

The amount of sewage a business generates is estimated by the amount of water it consumes. City councilors have said they do not want a new

business that would use a great deal of water but not provide employment, or only limited employment or low-paying jobs.

The cost to improve the sewage treatment plant is expensive, and the council hopes to extend its life into the mid-1990s.

The new hookup fees are based on ERUs, or equivalent residential units, meaning the amount of sewage generated by the average residential unit.

Any businesses that use 10 or more ERUs must get City Council approval to build in Sandy.

An 80-seat restaurant would use 10 ERUs. Car washes use one ERU for each 250 gallons of water used, and laundries use one ERU for each two washers.

Some industrial users also could use a large

number of ERUs, depending on the product.

New residential construction will not be reviewed by the City Council. However, the cost of sewer hookups will increase from \$800 to \$1,000. A new business will pay \$1,000 for each ERU instead of the \$800 hookup charge.

In the past, an 80-seat restaurant would have paid \$800 for a sewer hookup. Now that same business will pay \$1,000.

Some money from the increased hookup fees will go into a fund that will help the city pay for expansion of the plant.

A task force that looked at capital building projects last summer and fall recommended extending the treatment plant's life until the mid-1990s.



Biologists view improvements along Still Creek. Structures such as rocks and logs provide resting areas for fish.

## Program restores creek as habitat

by SCOTT NEWTON  
Staff writer

Fish biologists from Oregon and Washington visited Still Creek Friday to see the improvements that won the Mount Hood National Forest a national award.

Jeff Eubel, a biologist from the Zigzag Ranger District, was glad to show them around. The award provides a happy ending to five years' worth of work.

And Still Creek is a good example of how far habitat management has progressed in 20 years.

Following a 1964 flood, summer home owners and other residents convinced state and federal officials to clean out — or sterilize — the upper Sandy River, Still Creek and other waterways.

Heavy equipment was used to remove boulders, logs and woody debris. But instead of stabilizing the river banks, the opposite oc-

curred.

"It basically looked like a freeway in here," Uebel said to the biologists as he stood on a bridge overlooking Still Creek.

For five years Eubel and other U.S. Forest Service employees have tried to imitate what occurs in nature.

They put hardwood logs in the river to create spawning pools. They dropped boulders in at strategic locations to create desired water patterns.

And they excavated 100-foot-long side channels, most of which are fed by ground water. They filled the side pools with woody debris to provide a covering for the fish.

The forest service built 40 of the pools along Still Creek, and another 20 along the Sandy River.

Still Creek, which is 11 miles long, is fed by the Palmer

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Biologist Jeff Eubel tells about Still Creek habitat improvements.

## Pioneer picnic slated for Sunday

Brother and sister to be crowned king and queen at annual affair

The Sandy Pioneer and Historical Association's annual Pioneer Picnic will be Sunday, July 24, at Nelson Pioneer Park.

People will begin to gather at noon for a picnic lunch. The program will start at 2 p.m.

Edward "Bub" Nelson and his sister, Dorothy Shrum, will be king and queen. Nelson is a farmer and Shrum is a retired teacher.

The brother and sister are of "log cabin pioneer stock." Their grandfather, Nils — later changed to Nels — emigrated from Sweden and homesteaded in the late 1870s on 160 acres at the site of the present Nelson Pioneer Park.

The donation land grant for the Nelson homestead is dated April 10, 1882, and is signed by President Chester A. Arthur.

The park was donated to the Sandy Pioneer and Historical Association by Be Nelson, an uncle of the 1988

king and queen.

The five children of Nels and Hannah Johanson Nelson were born in a log cabin on the homestead just west of Sandy. They were twin brothers Ned and Be, George, Milton and Anna.

Ned married Victoria Alt, who is from a Sandy pioneer family of German descent. Dorothy, 80, is the eldest survivor of their union. Bub Nelson is 78.

After lunch at the picnic, a family history will be read and a coronation ceremony will be held.

The organization formerly was called the Sandy Pioneer Society, but the name was changed to the Sandy Pioneer and Historical Association so that people who were not of pioneer stock would feel welcome.

Mel Haneberg, president of the association, said anyone who is interested in the history of the area is invited to attend.

## Water company given rate hike

Skyview Acres Water Co., which has 38 customers and serves homes on and near Virginia Court north of Sandy, has been granted a rate increase by the state Public Utility Commission.

The rate increase went into effect July 1, so customers will not see the increase until they receive their two-month billing in September.

Majority stockholders in the company are Oran and Virginia Denhart. The Denharts said they had been operating the company at a loss. They sought an increase to pay for increased labor costs, and also to pay for a liability insurance policy.

The PUC ruled that Skyview Acres should be allowed to increase its annual operating revenues from \$8,749 to \$12,712. After deducting operating expenses of \$11,855, Skyview Acres will earn a net annual income of \$857.

The increase will compensate the Skyview Water Co. \$1,200 for increased labor costs, \$470 for liability in-

urance, \$780 in plant operating expenses for a system to monitor an emergency warning system, and for other expenses.

Customers will pay a \$15.20 base rate, plus \$1.38 for each 100 cubic feet of water used. Oran Denhart said customers use from 200 to 2,000 cubic feet of water per month.

Even customers who use a minimum of water will see a slight increase in their water bills, he said.

Customers of the Cottrell water service had expressed apprehension in December 1987 when Skyview Acres applied for a 300 percent increase. The increase granted by the PUC is 45.3 percent.

The water system, built by the Denhart family in 1976, serves customers along a two-mile line that runs along Virginia Court, Bluff Road and Hudson Road.

The company buys the water from the city of Portland. It comes from the Bull Run watershed.

## INSIDE



## Sports:

Pitcher Eric Ansen of the Sandy IV midget National team throws a fastball against Welches in the district playoff tournament in Rockwood Tuesday. Several local youth league teams are playing in playoff games. See Sports, Page 7.

## Mountain Festival leaders can point to a history of progress

by SCOTT NEWTON  
Staff writer

It has been 15 years since a handful of artists walked down to Trapper's Trek and Barlow Bend in Meinig Park with shovels and rakes to clear an area for booths.

The Mountain Festival has seen its budget increase from \$432 the first year to the present \$22,000 annual budget.

But some things have remained constant since 1974.

The city of Sandy public works crew contributed to park improvements from the start. The weather has been nice every year. And free musical entertainment and a family atmosphere were established at the very beginning.

A count taken in 1987 determined

that 44,000 people visit the two-day festival each year. But the size of the crowd is as much a part of festival lore as the weather.

Estimates of crowd counts, and the method for obtaining that count, have been a topic of conversation for years.

What is known for certain is that the pathways of Meinig Park are filled each year as people make the rounds from the Front Stage to the Birdcage Theater, visiting the 150 artists' booths or the 18 food booths.

A year by year history of the Mountain Festival follows:

1974

John Armstrong, manager of the Oregon Trail Savings and Loan and a member of the Sandy Chamber of Commerce, was asked by the chamber to come up with an idea for

an annual community gathering or festival.

Armstrong, who now lives in Spokane, stopped in at the Blushing Zebra craft shop and brainstormed with owners Lynn Ellis and Ann Fenwick.

Fenwick said Ellis also had been kicking around the idea of starting up some kind of festival. She was a person with lots of innovative ideas, Fenwick said.

Ellis, who had lived in Sandy since 1962, was surprised when Armstrong told her about Meinig Park. Ellis and Fenwick immediately put up the "Gone Fishing" sign and went with Armstrong to take a look.

They liked the park, the site of early pioneer picnics, from the start.

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## Governor sets visit to Sandy

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt is scheduled to attend a town hall meeting in Sandy on Aug. 2.

The meeting, to be held in the high school commons from 7 to 9 p.m., is being organized by state Rep. Bob Shiprack, D-Beavercreek. No specific topic is on the agenda. Goldschmidt and Shiprack are expected to address the crowd and then comments will be taken on issues people in the audience wish to discuss.

Shiprack has held similar town hall meetings in Estacada and Canby, but Goldschmidt did not attend those meetings.