

SUBSCRIPTION RATES	
In Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, per year	\$5.00
Servicemen, any address	\$5.00
In Oregon, outside Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, per year	\$6.00
In Northwest and Pacific Coast States outside Oregon per year	\$7.00
Outside Northwest and Pacific Coast states, per year	\$9.00

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Electing Officials Makes Sense

The proposed governmental reorganization plan for the Portland Metropolitan area (conceived by the Tri-County Local Government Commission) still has a long way to go.

But a lot of people are pleased with its emphasis on elected officials.

Briefly, it proposes modification of the Metropolitan Service District to provide for a 15-member elected board. Board members would come from single-member, apportioned districts. Hopefully, rural areas would be represented equitably with urban.

If approved by the voters, the proposal would eliminate CRAG (the Columbia Region Assn. of Governments) and its duties would be

assumed by the elected officials serving MSD.

Moreover, the same authority could—and hopefully, would—soon be extended to Tri-Met, the Port of Portland and the Boundary commission... all appointive groups today.

We haven't read all the fine print of the Tri-County plan but we enthusiastically support the replacement of appointive officials by elective. We've railed long and often about the taxing powers of appointed officials and the Tri-County proposal appeals to us.

No one has a rein on appointed officials but elected officials are much more responsible, and responsive, to the voters.

Help for College Bound Students

Noting the growing number of college-bound students who really aren't prepared for college work, the State System of Higher Education has announced a positive step.

The State System plans to publish a booklet for students, parents and counsellors, advising what courses should be taken.

It seems to us that counsellors should have been doing this job all along but judging from the poor preparation of recent graduates, they obviously haven't.

The new booklet will tell students what courses to take, presumably indicating how to separate Mickey Mouse courses from those which will help in college.

Several years ago, we were delighted when one of our college-bound youngsters signed up for a course in physics. But it turned out to be nothing more than a course in photography; not much meat there.

An Antidote to Property Taxes

Ever-soaring property taxes are becoming more and more unpopular everywhere, not just in Oregon.

Several California cities have, as a result, come up with an interesting antidote... "fire protection" charges.

These are levied not on assessed valuation but on the square footage of each parcel of real estate. All city lots, including those now tax exempt, must pay for the protection they receive. This includes not only land owned by local, state and federal agencies, but also schools. These properties must be protected against fire, yet they now pay nothing for that

protection. Furthermore, "fire protection" charges as levied in California avoid the bias of property taxes against improvements. If you improve your property here in Oregon, you pay more taxes. But with fire charges levied on footage, improvements aren't penalized in the California cities.

In many cities, fire protection is the second biggest expenditure, behind only police service. A tax imposed for fire protection, especially if it covers now-exempt properties, would lessen the load from the property tax.

It's an interesting experiment.

U.S. Bank gains branch

United States National Bank of Oregon has received approval from the Comptroller of the Currency to establish a branch in Wemme.

The firm's new branch will be located at the corner of U.S. Highway 26 and Welches Road in Hoodland Park Plaza. The only bank in the Hoodland area now is the Hoodland Branch of the Clackamas County Bank.

Opening date for the new branch is scheduled for the spring of 1977 after

improvements have been completed on the current site, said Robert J. Brunmeier, vice-president and northwest regional manager for the statewide bank.

"The new Wemme branch will allow us to better serve our current customers who are now having to travel to our nearest branch in east Gresham," Brunmeier said.

"The new facility will enable us to provide a competitive bank alternative to residents and merchants in Wemme and surrounding communities," he added.

Happy New Year's Song On The Mountain



"Let it snow, Let it snow, LET IT SNOW!"

letters to the editor

Wrong emphasis

To the Editor:
Mt. Hood Community College is on my list.

When the board votes to have consumption of alcoholic beverages at a tax supported educational institution, it's time to quit supporting that institution.

The college was started to educate students in the art of making a living, not to teach them to drink alcohol.

Don Parr
123 Maple Blvd
Troutdale, Or.

Water dept.

Dear Editor:
I had to laugh at a recent

article about the water from Bull Run. You people in the Gresham and Portland area do have the best water in the world as far as I'm concerned.

I lived in Gresham from 1955 to 1973. Then my husband and I moved to Kotzebue, Alaska. The water here is so bad that visitors commonly get what we call—the "Kotzebue Krud" (diarrhea) for 7-14 days before their systems adjust to it.

Our water is held in a large storage tank and when the water line is low, it comes out a thick, brown color. An alert is put on the radio that suggests we don't drink it.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not griping about our Kotzebue water—we had to wait two years before the city hooked us up. Before that—in winter—we melted snow, chipped ice—and in summer—packed water from the one local hotel. For sewer facilities?? We used what is called a "Honey Bucket." But now we have a genuine flush toilet.

So please tell Ms. Capelle she never had it so good. Oh—by the way—our water costs \$30 a month.

Deborah Kirk
P.O. Box 165
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

High school seeks bids

The Sandy Union High School district is advertising for sealed bids for a new administration building to be located on Bluff Road.

The project will include a two story building with offices, boardroom, storage, darkroom and reception area. The building will contain approximately 3,424

square feet of enclosed space.

A trailer is presently serving as the administration office for the high school district.

Bids will be accepted until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 25.

Architects for the structure are from the Portland firm of Bloodworth, Peterson, Ellis and Eslick.

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Hopes for center lessen

unemployment situation, he added.

The City of Sandy had employed the services of WEGROUP, a Portland based architectural firm, to detail the proposed community center's program uses, design and estimated costs.

The designs for the center called for a two story structure with banquet facilities

for up to 400 people and a general multi-purpose room for 300-350 people. A pioneer museum on the lower level of the building is also included in the plans. Final plans for the structure have not been made.

If built, the structure would rest on city property adjacent to Meinig Memorial Park near the Sandy City Hall.

IED purchases bus for TMR students

The Clackamas Intermediate Education District Board authorized the purchase of a new bus during its regular meeting Dec. 20. The new bus will replace another vehicle used to transport students in the IED's program for trainable mentally retarded (TMR) students.

According to IED Business Manager, Glenn Hathaway, "The van-type bus we are replacing has gone over 150,000 miles. We don't have a reserve

bus so if one of the buses happened to break down, we would have to resort to a passenger car to get the children to school."

Hathaway added that the old bus would be maintained on reserve status for emergency use.

The new IED bus has seating for 15 students. Since some of the TMR children are multiple-handicapped, the vehicle also has a wheelchair lift and tie downs to keep wheelchairs

from rolling while the bus is on the road.

Paper, can drive set

The "Stumble Bums," a 4-H horse club, are sponsoring a can and paper drive.

Proceeds from the drive will go to support the club's horse show in Canby on Feb. 6.

For pick-up of papers and cans call 638-5965.

Keeping posted

Two clubs plan joint New Year's Eve party

THURSDAY, DEC. 30
Oregon Trail Coffee Hour begins at 9:30 a.m.

"The Challenge of Robin Hood" will be shown at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. at the Sandy Cinema, courtesy of the Sandy Area Merchants. There is no admission charge for the movie.

FRIDAY, DEC. 31
New Year's Eve.
The Sandy City Hall will be closed today because of the holiday.

Today's free feature at the Sandy Cinema will be "Tora Tora Tora!" The film will be shown at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m.

The Sandy Lions Club and the Sandy Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) will hold a New Year's party from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Sandy VFW Hall. Live music, refreshments and door prizes are planned. This is the second year for the dance. The public is invited to attend, with proceeds going to the two organizations.

SATURDAY, JAN. 1
No mail delivery because of the holiday.

MONDAY, JAN. 3
The Sandy City Council will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall.

TUESDAY, JAN. 4
The Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce will meet at the Double Dragon Restaurant at noon.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 5
A special meeting of the Mt. Hood Community College District Board of Education has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the college board room at 26000 SE Stark Street in Gresham. The regular monthly meeting of the board is set for Jan. 19.

A review of the community survey is on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

The Sandy Area Merchants will hold a 6:30 a.m. meeting at Griff's.

The Sandy Lions Club will meet at T.J.'s at 6 p.m. to discuss their eye glass project. Joyce Cramer, a public health nurse, will be the guest speaker.

A meeting of the Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) group will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Barbara Boswell, 21421 Firwood Rd.

Wilderness values will be explored

Bill Bakke, wildlife expert and conservation editor of Salmon-Trout-Steelheader magazine, will lead a two-day conference on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, Jan. 4 and 5, at 7 p.m. in the Reed College faculty office building lounge.

On Jan. 4, the conference will explore values of wilderness in terms of fish, wildlife, recreation, and spiritual and ecological concerns.

Participants include John Hammond, professor of philosophy at Portland State University and member of the Mt. Hood Study Group; Joe Walicki, Wilderness Society; Char Cockran, Oregon Environmental Council; and Judy Mansfield, landscape architect.

Demands upon wilderness

and the conflicts involved in its preservation will be discussed on Jan. 5, focusing on industrial uses of timber and grasslands, conservation and recreation interests, fish and wildlife management and the use of wilderness as an ecological preserve.

Participants include Harold Hartman, Industrial Forestry Association; David Corkran, Sierra Club; Jim Harper, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Joe Miller, Bull Run Interest Group; and Professor Hammond.

The two-day conference is part of the Independent Activities Period held Jan. 3-23 at Reed College. For further information on this and other programs, contact the Office of Information Services 771-1112, extension 296.

Area renewal awards offered by ESCO

Entry forms are now available for the eighth annual ESCO Corporation community awards competition which recognizes exterior refurbishing projects in the Portland metropolitan area.

Remodeling or refurbishing projects done on commercial or industrial buildings in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas or Clark counties during 1975 or 1976 are eligible.

Entries may be made by building owners, architects,

designers or private citizens. Entry forms can be obtained by writing ESCO Community Awards Contest PO Box 8484, Portland 97207. Deadline for all entries is Jan. 31, 1977.

ESCO Corporation's annual awards recognize and encourage private renewal efforts that make the metropolitan area more attractive, according to J.J. (Jeff) Davis, president of the Portland-based international steel capability firm.

Low bid made

Ken Hood and Construction is the apparent low bidder for work on the city's Local Improvement District (LID) 4.

The bid is for work on the development of off-street auto parking featuring an excavated, gravelled and surfaced area. Other work on the project will include drainage,

curbs, walks and underground utilities.

Other bids submitted to the council included a bid for \$53,087 by Vern Rathman and Sons and a bid for \$57,225.75 by VeLam Contractors Corp.

The Sandy City Council is scheduled to award the bid at their Monday night meeting.

Species tour set

New at the Washington Park Zoo is the first phase of the Threatened Species Tour, which includes 10 informational signs about zoo animals that are endangered or troubled species in the wild.

Although the Threatened Species Tour is designed primarily for school groups

grades four through eight, it is also of educational interest to adults and young children.

Any school group interested in this tour can contact the education department for information. Work sheets that accompany the tour are provided at no extra charge.



MEMBER F.D.I.C.

Clackamas County Bank

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Greetings for the New Year

We are open until 6:00 on Dec. 30th and closed Dec. 31st.

"Thanks For a Great Year"