

Sandy Post

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Two Sides To Every Coin

The State of Oregon is paying out perhaps \$1.5 million this year in property tax relief to non-residents.

Someone living in Seattle or Syracuse or Sausalito is equally eligible with a native-born Oregonian.

"How come?" you might ask. "Why should our tax money be used to support out-of-state residents?"

It's a very good question. The answer, unfortunately, isn't that simple.

Basically, a person became eligible for the Home Owners' and Renters' Property Tax Relief Fund if he or she was an Oregon resident on Dec. 31, 1976. Forms requesting the rebate could be filed any time between Jan. 1 and April 15, 1977.

Once on the list of qualified recipients, a person would receive two checks, one in April, the other in November. Even if he or she had long since moved from the State of Oregon.

What could have been done to correct the apparent legislative oversight?

Everyone could have been required to file a second time (in mid-year) or some sort of a pro-rata distribution might have been prepared. Either would have taken a great amount of time and paperwork. The legislature, which adjourned July 4, didn't correct the oversight. It apparently felt the amount of money which would go out of state wouldn't equal the ad-

ministrative problems accompanying any sort of remedy.

We wonder; \$1.5 million is a lot of money. Money which could well have been used here in Oregon.

On the other hand, something like \$75 million is involved in the total program and \$1.5 million is a pretty small percentage. Of the 80,000 to 100,000 persons who move from Oregon annually, not a great number qualify and file for property tax relief.

However, the same sort of rebates to out-staters will occur again next year and the next unless the legislature decides to take corrective action.

Finally, there is the matter of equity. A person may leave Oregon on Jan. 2 but under present statutes would be eligible for a whole year's relief. But another person may move in on Jan. 2 and receive no relief, assuming Dec. 31 remains the qualifying date.

There are trade-offs both ways. Money going out of state vs. administrative costs. Short-term recipients vs. long term.

There are indeed two sides to every argument, but this is one the legislature definitely should look into next session. We hate to see that much tax money vanishing out of state.

Shooting Down the Big Powers

We certainly don't know what is happening in the Middle East, nor what will come of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's efforts at peace.

But we think the fact that both super powers—the U.S. and the Soviet Union—seem to have been sidetracked, at least temporarily, in their efforts to arrange a settlement, is a healthy development.

Always before, any sort of Mid-East rapprochement has been dictated largely by Moscow and Washington.

Not so this time. President Sadat has taken the initiative. We think it is much better for the smaller countries to work out their own solutions than to have them imposed from above by the super powers.

Lasting peace in the Middle East can only come when the Israelis and the Arabs work things out between one another. It cannot be mandated from on high by either the U.S. or the U.S.S.R.

Time To Visit The Post Office

For all those procrastinators out there, another page just fell off the calendar and we're heading down the home stretch to Christmas and the holiday season.

There is still plenty of time to shop—as of publication date there will be 20 days left.

But for anyone mailing gifts to far-away and even not so far-away places, the time is at hand. There is no more time to waste.

The post office tells us that packages to Alaska and Hawaii should go out immediately. Those to foreign countries are already over-

due.

No deadline has been set for sending to locations in the continental United States but if past results can be trusted, you better get going. To be certain that packages reach their destination by the holidays, they should be bundled and mailed this week.

Mailing early is hard for some but the lesson learned is long remembered. It only takes one year when that toy truck for your 6-year-old nephew arrives four days late to become a believer. (BW)

Timetable Pressure Is Dangerous

"I'm late, I'm late for a very important date," was the favorite saying of the White Rabbit in Alice in Wonderland. Tri-Met drivers are saying they know how he felt.

Drivers are complaining about unreasonable schedules that don't allow them enough time to make their runs, forcing them to speed and drive under pressure. Fairview residents, among others, say that buses have passed by their town as drivers whiz by their potential passengers in order

to make up time.

Both Tri-Met officials and drivers say at one time schedules could be met, but increased ridership means more time is needed to complete a run.

Mass transit has many benefits and should be encouraged, but the drivers should not be put unnecessarily into pressure situations. The lives of their passengers and others outweigh any benefits gained from tight scheduling. (TF)



You see, it is legal to collect the cost of future construction from the rate-payers—in advance!

—and since the customers have to pay for it sometime, why not now, before it accumulates a lot of interest?



Besides the stockholders are entitled to a decent return on their investment because—er, that is, because—

—because, well, it's very difficult to explain in simple, layman's language!

Letters to the editor

Inhospitable

To the Editor:

We thought Timberline Lodge was supposed to be a nice place to visit. Sure the lodge is beautiful, pretty view and fairly warm but when we really needed help the lodge attendants were as cold as the snow.

For example: On Saturday, Nov. 19, another couple and ourselves went to visit the lodge. We stayed listening to the music for about an hour and a half.

When we decided to leave, around midnight, we found that our headlights had shorted out. We tried to fix them but gusting winds and a four-degree temperature made it impossible. We went back into the lodge, to see if we could rent a room, but they said they were full. So we asked if we could stay by the fireplace. "No," the desk clerk said, "you have to stay in your vehicle." With a 4 degree temperature staying in a jeep would be mighty cold, besides our friends are expecting a baby in January, and it's only obvious to anyone!

We thought we would call the state police for help but the lodge attendants told us they wouldn't do anything but make us leave it in the parking lot. We thought about renting a garage but at \$30 per hour we decided not to. So what choice did we have but to try to drive home with a pocket flashlight?

Well, after creeping down to highway 26, which is six miles, following a semi-truck we finally made it home.

It was awfully dark and very hazardous, and icy all the way home.

We are writing this not for ourselves but for the concern of others, that might find themselves in trouble and will have no one to turn to for help.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Feldhacker
55101 E. Kirkwood
Sandy

Space committee

To the Editor:

In September the Clackamas County Commissioners appointed a 15 member citizens' committee comprised of county residents who live in different geographical areas and represent a diverse number of occupations and groups which utilize county services and facilities.

The purpose of the committee is to serve in an advisory capacity to the commissioners on matters related to space and facilities planning concentrating on methods of financing modification of existing facilities or the construction of new facilities and examining site location alternatives.

The committee has held three meetings at which members have examined background information, discussed short-range space plans, reviewed an architectural report on court

related facilities and toured various county departments.

For the duration of our study we will be working with a professional space planning consultant to be hired by the county who will serve as a technical resource for our committee and the commissioners on developing a long range plan.

The commissioners accepted our recommendation to hold public hearings during the latter part of our study before the final recommendations are given in order to receive public input. The hearings will be held in different locations throughout the county to receive testimony from county residents.

The committee has adopted the concept of investigate, compose and deliver while making its study. In following this process the committee will make no recommendations on site locations until we have thoroughly investigated the facts and can make a sound judgement based on these facts and the testimony of county citizens. Only at that point will we deliver a formal recommendation to the commissioners.

We welcome your attendance at our regular meetings and the subsequent public hearings, all of which will be advertised in local papers.

Phil Balsiger, Chairman
Citizens' Advisory Committee on
Space and Facilities Planning

Apple praised

To the Editor:

I would like to commend the excellent direction and many hours of attention and hard work given to the Sandy High School Drama Department by David Apple.

Of the many teachers and directors I have worked under, Mr. Apple is one of the most educated and well adjusted. His ability with students is outstanding, and his level of patience and understanding is the highest among many of his colleagues.

Without his hard work and instruction "Music Man" would have been a failure, and because of it the show was a great success.

Speaking for the drama department, we thank Mr. Apple for giving so much to us and for staying at Sandy as long as he has. The drama department surely would have suffered without his presence.

Lois Ebler
Student
Sandy Union High School

Team hassles

To the Editor:

I am very concerned about an incident in which four seniors were recently kicked off the Sandy High varsity basketball team. Jeff Konnel and Jay Hartke as well as the rest of the team were to run for five

minutes with their hands straight up in the air, after practice. Well the rough got going and the two dropped their hands.

Coach Dennis Warren saw this and told them to "hit the shower." Later he came in and told them they were off the team. Another, Dan Dickinson, was kicked off, also; for the simple reason that he could help the team in no way. Coach Warren was quoted in saying, "The closest we could get you to the team is waterboy!"

How degrading can you get?

The three seniors were last year held to the J.V. level. Why? To progress for this year's team! Three years of hard work to be on this year's varsity team! Down the drain. And I can vouch as well as anyone that Konnel and Hartke, were the two best on the team and Dickinson better than most on the bench.

Who were they taken over by? Three sophomores, who could be learning more dominance and gaining more confidence at the J.V. level.

Yet still there is another, Rick Lamm, who cannot play this year because he injured his leg last year and doesn't have the experience you might find in three semi-talented sophomores.

I went to Sandy for four years, and this is not the first incident. In some incidents it took court action or public community action to justify the wrong doings by the Athletic Dept.

It has ticked me off as well as others in the community that these actions by the athletic department are taking place just because of personal conflict. In many cases kids have lost the chance for college scholarships as well as the chance to go to college.

Something should be done! Writing to the school does nothing. It takes public support, and the only way to get it is by revealing the facts to the public.

Sincerely,
Mark Antis
Sandy Alumni "77"

Rhododendron
P.S. Please print. Action could take place if done so.

AAUW to meet

Gresham branch of the American Association of University Women will hold their annual luncheon and auction Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Turfside Restaurant, 2155 NE Division St., Gresham.

Members are asked to bring at least one item for the auction which will follow the luncheon at noon.

Adjustment hour will be 11:30 a.m. Reservations must be mailed to Shirley Nelson by Dec. 4.

For more information, phone Marie Squires, 663-3127.

County comments

Rate increases raise eyebrows

by Bill Sanderson

An Oregon State Public Utilities' program is seeing to it that Portland General Electric can finance certain future construction with electrical rate increases. That program has raised more eyebrows and clamped more hands over the dwindling contents of more pocketbooks than any other.

There are many reasons for the quick, painful, but useless gestures.

In the first place, neither the concept nor the law is well understood by a majority of those who are stuck with the results.

There is little wonder that a flood of protests, including a rash of letters-to-the-editor, have marked the public's belated awareness of what may appear to be a rate "windfall."

Basically, the law does not specifically direct the public utilities commissioner to establish electrical rates that will permit the accumulation of future construction costs. It does, however, give the commissioner certain options and parameters within which to find reasonable operating procedures.

You and I may have as hard a time understanding some of the results of those operations as Public Utility Commissioner Charles Davis has in explaining why they are necessary.

The designation of Clackamas County as an "urban" county for the purpose of qualifying for a greater share of federal funds will make no changes in the even flow of events in Fox Run Prairie, Skunk Hollow or Badger Bottoms.

Bottoms.

There the few "citizens" will continue to go about the business of making a living, storing up their winter's food, sharing the summer sun and the winter rains with each other and with all of the rest of the world in blissful ignorance of the great change brought about by HUD's regulations and Hildner's determination to take advantage of them.

With somewhere around four-fifths of the county's area qualifying for such designations—(by Webster's Dictionary) as rural, agricultural, timber and forest lands, and national, state and county forest reserves—I confess that I share the views of those sturdy citizens of Fox Run Prairie, Skunk Hollow and Badger Bottoms.

The opportunity to spend \$2.3 million dollars is a political plum of no mean proportions.

It may well be the stepping stone to bigger and better political jobs, but I suspect the yield in needed goods and services to those in the non-urban (by definition) part of the county will be of indifferent quality and "few-in-the-hill" like MacNamara's potato patch.

One can't help but wonder about a program that proposes to spend \$2.3 million dollars just because, by some unusual twist of the meaning of a word, the money becomes available.

Can it be possible that there will be more repercussions in Fox Run Prairie, Skunk Hollow and Badger Bottoms and the rest of the four-fifths of the county than we have been told?

Meat course slated

A practical course on slaughtering, cutting, curing and wrapping retail cuts of beef, pork and lamb will be taught by Clackamas Community College winter quarter.

Instructor Lynn Reagan says the class is open to anyone and will be an introductory course to meat cutting. The class will be limited to the first 12 persons who enroll after registration opens Dec. 14.

Persons interested in the class can call Reagan at 656-2631, extension 273.

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