



Trillium tales

ONE OF the most popular and delightful of all of Oregon's wildflowers is the trillium, which can currently be found in almost any stretch of the woods. For Sandy resident and Post correspondent Miles Aubin tells a little about this beautiful plant in a special feature on page 2, section 2.

Sandy Elementary teachers, board at bargaining impasse

Contract talks between the Sandy Elementary Teachers Association and the elementary district's board have been declared to be at an impasse. The talks appear headed for mediation or even factfinding if progress is not made during their next two meetings.

Teacher spokesman Mike Jarrett said Tuesday that his group has requested the services of a state mediator to resolve the problems of permissive or mandatory bargaining issues.

The negotiations bogged down after the teachers claimed that issues such as faculty evaluation, working conditions and the school calendar were required bargaining points.

The board, on the other hand, has held that these issues are optional in the talks.

District Superintendent Clark Lund said that aside from the disputed issues the two sides had resolved several issues and were within a "gnat's eyebrow" of agreement on others.

But the problems with the permissive versus mandatory bargaining question has slowed the discussion to the point that money has scarcely been discussed.

"We haven't even gotten to salaries and fringe benefits yet," said Lund. "We seem to be spending all of our time debating whether something is permissive or mandatory."

"I think it's good we're getting in a

mediator so we can settle these issues," Lund continued.

Jarrett said that the teachers hoped to get in two more rounds of bargaining before the mediator, provided by the Oregon Employment Relations Board, steps in.

But Jarrett added that "we just feel that we're going to need some help in mediation or factfinding in getting those areas cleared up that we're at an impasse on."

Jarrett denied a suggestion by Lund that the teachers may have planned to go into mediation or factfinding almost since the talks began.

"We hope to get this settled at the table," said Jarrett.

Proposal would expand Mt. Hood Meadows ski area

A proposed plan for Mt. Hood Meadows would allow additional facilities providing about twice the present skiing opportunities at the resort.

Dale Robertson, supervisor for the Mt. Hood National Forest, said this week that under the proposed plan, Mt. Hood Meadows will remain a day use area, eventually serving about 8,000

skiing at one time.

The Final Environmental Statement for the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area Master Plan has been set to the Environmental Protection Agency. Robertson said the final decision will be made no earlier than 30 days after the final statement is received by the EPA.

The statement analyzes alternatives and describes the proposal which was formulated from a combination of

alternatives presented in the draft statement. Robertson said the proposal reflects comments made on the draft by individuals, organizations and agencies. Several public hearings were held on the draft statement.

Copies of the proposals are available at the Sandy Public Library, Mt. Hood Forest Supervisor's Office in Gresham or at the Zigzag Ranger District Office.

Two run for SUHS board seat

The Sandy Union High School board could have its first member not directly associated with a particular grade school feeder district after next week when incumbent Ralph ("Pete") Griffin is challenged by Sandy resident James Dorning.

Under a new law passed last year by the state legislature, high school districts are no longer zoned for board elections on the basis of their feeder districts.

So Griffin, who has represented the Welches area for almost a year and a half, is being challenged by non-Welches area resident Dorning.

Incumbent Griffin told The Post that

he believed his experience on the board was a plus for him.

"I think it takes a while to know where you are (on the board) and how to take a voice on the issues," Griffin said.

Griffin added that he could foresee no big issues facing the board for the upcoming year. "They're doing pretty well," he said in an assessment of the board's recent performance.

Griffin has one youngster, Jeff, currently at Sandy High.

Challenger James Dorning has no youngsters in the high school (his oldest daughter is just in the first grade), but he feels his interests are still at stake.

"This way, I can try and guarantee a

good school for my children," he said of his reasons for running.

"I thought I was a bit out of line," he said of the fact he's seeking a board post even though he doesn't have a youngster in the high school. "But it surprised me to find that only two other board members (Griffin and Ginny Brewster) have children in high school."

Dorning said that he saw the district's budget, transportation and the expansion of the school's capacity through the construction of a separate middle school as the most important concerns the school board is likely to deal with this year.

High school levy goes before voters

The Sandy Union High School District will seek approval next Tuesday on a \$1,419,254 levy for the 1978-79 school year.

The levy constitutes a major share of the \$2,702,182 budget approved by the board in January. The dollar amount not in the levy will come from state funds and the district's \$248,930 tax base inside the 6 percent limitation.

District Superintendent Jack Peters said that the levy will increase property taxes about 7 percent; from \$6 per \$1000 assessed valuation to about \$6.42.

For the owner of a \$50,000 home this translates to an annual tax increase of about \$27 said Peters.

The budget as a whole represents an increase of about 10.7 percent over the current year's budget. Peters said that the budget represents what the district "needs to have" to maintain its current standard of education.

The budget includes \$49,500 for the purchase of a new school bus, \$7,400 for a milling machine and lathe for the machine shop and \$3,700 for the con-

version of the school's track to metric measurements.

The budget also allows for the expansion of the school's handicapped and vocational programs and the addition of a music teacher if next year's enrollment indicates a need for one.

Not included are funds for a career center and an expanded health sciences program.

"It's a fiscally conservative budget," Peters said. "But I believe (that with it) we will continue the excellent program that is at Sandy now."



Vol. 68

Single Copy 15c

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1978

No. 13

MHCC seeks tax base in May 23 election

by Patty Farrell
staff reporter

Mt. Hood Community College District officials estimate a \$5.1 million tax base will be submitted to voters May 23.

The district board Wednesday voted to try for a new base but will not set the exact figure until April 12.

President Steve Nicholson and business manager Bob Scott said the amount they recommend to the board will probably equal the current tax base plus the \$2.5 million requested in an unsuccessful levy election March 14.

A \$5.1 million base should prevent the need to return to voters with a budget levy "for three or four years," according to Scott. He said a \$300,000 budget reserve included in the March request plus the 6 percent limitation should cover projected inflation.

"We want to be as accurate as possible" to prevent returning with an operating levy, Nicholson stressed.

The board did vote to submit a levy to voters on June 27 if the tax base fails in May.

District residents told board members to try for a tax base.

"With a base, the district won't have to live hand-to-mouth," said Tom Dennehy, a candidate for the college board. "If it fails here, go for a one-year levy June 27 and another tax base in November and as often as possible after that."

He added "it will be four, probably six years before you'd have to return to the voters."

Clayton Hannon, another board candidate and chairman of the Centennial School District board, urged members to set a realistic tax base proposal. "Be honest with the patrons and face the heat now," he said. "If you try to appease them with a minimum amount of money, you'll just have to go back next year. I don't think you can allow your credibility to slip."

Local businessman Allen Pranke told the board he intends to spearhead a matching fund drive for the college among area merchants "provided the budget is passed (by the voters)." He also recommended that a temporary advisory committee of businessmen become permanent.

Dennehy criticized the board for its budget process. "I have not heard any hard questions in your sessions as a budget committee. Less than 20 minutes total (spent in budget meetings) is not much time for a \$30 million budget."

The candidate felt "too much discussion goes on over the coffee table and not in public hearing."

Board chairwoman Joanne Connall later said the budget process that takes place at board meetings is a "formality required by law. I understand from a spectator's view that we don't challenge the administration. But by

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Highway due for overlay

Smooth riding is ahead for motorists traveling a nine mile stretch of U.S. Highway 26 between Sandy and Alder Creek.

The Oregon State Highway Division plans to overlay that section of highway this summer and has already started some preliminary work and engineering on the project, according to Harry Woodward, district engineer for the division.

"Over the past years, we've patched it out," Woodward commented about previous work on the 9.3 mile stretch which is plagued by numerous potholes.

"It's become quite distorted and it results that the surface does not have as good drainage as the new surface will have."

Woodward said the total cost of the project will be approximately \$1.4 million. Babler Brothers Contractors are the primary contractors for the job.

Woodward said the project will include adjustment of the present guardrail in some places and "probably some additional guardrail."

He said additional striping would be done and that a left turn lane would be added near Jade Tree Restaurant and

Vic's Auto Parts about one mile east of Sandy before Shorty's Corner.

That section of road has been the scene of numerous accidents. "When someone stops to make a left turn they're taking an inside lane and can get rear ended," Woodward said.

Woodward added that the division also hopes to gain funding for an overlay in the Government Camp area for an approximately six mile stretch of Highway 26 "basically from Ski Bowl to Snow Bunny Lodge."

"There's a chance it will be done," he told The Post.



The Post explores a different type of river trip.
See page 1, section 2.