

It may be Boring, but it runs well

by Tony Kneidek
staff reporter

BORING—Imagine this. A school district in Oregon that is able to live within its tax base.

A school district in Oregon where negotiations on teacher contracts are handled internally, with no

professionals quibbling about the small print.

Or how about a school district in Oregon where patrons in 1976 granted a new tax base of \$498,302. And a year later, district voters approved a \$697,500 bond issue for construction and renovation at one of the schools.

Impossible, you say.

But the Boring School District may be one of the most fortunate in the state when it comes to money matters and getting along with district residents.

"Not having the financial hassles eliminates a lot of external and external problems," Superintendent

Dave Gillespie said in an interview in his office.

"We're the only school district in Oregon that operates within its tax base."

But not having "financial hassles" is indicative of a rapport between the school and the community that is, at best, unusual in Oregon.

"We've had a history of good school experiences that go back to Mr. Naas (Norval Naas, superintendent prior to Gillespie)," Gillespie said. "The school became the focal point of the community. Not surprising."

Boring is situated in north central Clackamas County and is surrounded by communities that have suffered the pains of rapid residential growth and burgeoning school enrollments.

Thus far, the growth has not sprung on Boring and enrollment has remained stable during the past three years. Because of this, the district currently has a 20.5 student-per-classroom average.

"There's a lot of difference in correcting 20 sets of papers or correcting 33 sets," Gillespie said.

Contract settlements have not presented any great problems in the district. "This goes back to the fact that we have a very good board and a group of teachers who are really dedicated to children."

"Our salary schedule is very competitive with those

around the state," the superintendent said. "A contract is a tool by which we operate and I hope we never get into a situation where we have to do hard core negotiations."

"We're in the business for the kids and that's what we realize."

Gillespie said communications is one of the keys in the success of the Boring School District. "We work hard internally as a staff to respond to parents' interests, to work with outside agencies and to maintain a good line of communications."

But how long can the good life last? Can Boring continue to maintain a no-growth posture in face of the exodus from urban areas?

Middle School Principal Jerry Prickett said he gets about a call a day from persons who are considering moving into the area and want to know if they are within the school district's boundaries.

In addition, state and county officials currently are studying a report on sewer conditions in the Boring area, and formation of a sewer district may be in the future.

"If the sewer system comes into Boring and growth is rampant it will have a real effect on us," Gillespie said. "The complexion of the community will change."

But Boring already is

changing, and a 50,000-square foot shopping center will be constructed this summer, making the community more appealing to some persons.

"Our growth has been stable for three years and we feel it will stay the same for another three years," Gillespie said. "But with the shopping center going in, it all could change."

Gillespie said there are areas where the school district is working to overcome shortcomings. "We feel now that we're almost to the point where we can offer kids as much as any other district."

"But we're not as strong as we'd like to be in career education." The superintendent said the school is developing drafting and career awareness programs to beef up the career education for students.

In addition, the district recently completed its education goals and curriculum for grades one through eight. The curriculum guide was two years in the making.

"We're working now to determine how well we're meeting the goals," Gillespie said. "We'll work all next year in the area of assessment. Tests will be geared to measure how well we're doing."

However, Gillespie said the district will devise its own tests based on the curriculum guide and in conjunction with the county

Intermediate Education District.

Gillespie said the district previously had used tests to determine student progress that were not developed locally. "It seems silly to have our own program and then measure it by an outside tool that doesn't measure what we teach."

Gillespie said the staff and teachers at the school blend

some of the traditional elements of teaching with other innovative programs.

"We try to give a lot of one-on-one instruction," he said. "That's where it's at."

But the district is not interested in straying too far from the basic elements of education. "We operate pretty much like we did 10 years ago. We're basic in our approach."

Mail delivery topic of city council

The Sandy City Council Monday night will discuss a proposal to support downtown delivery of mail by the Sandy Post Office.

Sandy City Manager Paul Helton said the council may also decide to ask the U.S. Postal Service to provide funding for a new post office for the city.

"We're hoping we can help them get that," Helton said.

Other items on the city council agenda include an appeal of a Sandy Planning Commission decision which denied developer William Trimble a conditional use permit for two duplexes.

Helton said the commission denied the request, citing a density in excess of the one allowed by the city's comprehensive plan.

The council will also hear a report on a sewer local

improvement district for the Tickle Creek area and discuss progress on the acquisition of right-of-ways for South Bluff Road improvements.

Helton will report on the availability of funding for a proposed senior citizen taxi service. The suggestion to have such a service was made by Councilman Bruce Cook.

In other business, the council will discuss a proposal on a parkways project which would include replanting, watering, maintenance and a sprinkling system on Proctor Street, near city hall and in the downtown parking district.

The 7:30 p.m. meeting will be held at the Sandy City Hall.

Museum supporters begin campaign

Supporters of a proposed Clackamas County Historical Museum gathered Tuesday to celebrate the start of a campaign for

passage of a May 23 bond election.

Voters will be asked to approve an \$800,000 levy to build the facility on a site

overlooking the Willamette River between U.S. Highway 99E and Tumwater Street in Oregon City.

The one-time levy,

originally set at \$975,000, was reduced by nearly 18 percent after a "refinement" of the original estimate by the architect.

Joe Lienert, a director of the Clackamas County Historical Museum Campaign Committee, said the architect had played it safe in the original cost estimate.

He told The Post that the levy would cost property owners about 21 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation—or \$8.40 for a \$40,000 home.

The county would own the museum, but maintenance fees would be provided by donations.

U.S. Rep. Al Ullman, D-Ore., was among approximately 150 persons attending the Tuesday gathering at the West Linn Inn attended by approximately 150 persons.

Ullman is honorary chairman of the campaign, with Oregon Treasurer Clay Myers and State Sen. Dick Groener, D-Milwaukie, serving as co-chairmen.

Ullman noted the numerous contributions of Clackamas County to the development of the Oregon Territory after settlers arrived along the Oregon Trail.

"Preserving the rich heritage of Clackamas County will be of immense value not only today, but for all future generations," he said.

New tax base proposed for Hoodland

Hoodland Fire District's budget committee this week approved an expanded \$150,000 tax base, intended to upgrade equipment and district planning toward "minimal" standards.

The measure now goes before voters May 23.

The increase from a \$65,000 tax base to the recommended \$150,000 base is expected to afford a new district rescue vehicle, seed a reserve fund for a new

substation in Rhododendron and purchase some \$11,000 in miscellaneous equipment badly needed by the volunteers, according to Chief Don Armintrout.

The fire district's board of directors unanimously approved the recommended tax increase on Monday.

Recommendation to approve the increased tax base was made in February by Hoodland Fire District Board of Directors.

Top priority with the new money would be a rescue vehicle to replace the make-shift borrowed Chevrolet Suburban donated by board member Al Moore.

The Suburban, not designed for emergency situations, replaced an old Oldsmobile rig which the volunteers abandoned as unsafe.

The proposed Rhododendron substation is intended to protect summer homes in the area.

From page one

MHCC sets tax base

the time we get to that point, there aren't any questions left."

She explained that some board members ask their questions during staff budget meetings. "And everyone gets minutes of all the meetings," said Connall.

Board member Eulia Mishima said she has thoroughly read all minutes of this year's staff budget meetings. She added that she attended every meeting last year. "The minutes are very ac-

curate," she said.

Nicholson said the board is "reasonably" informed about the budget "as much as any board. I feel our board people have a pretty good grasp of the larger issues." He added that too many boards get "bogged down in small line items" and don't take the individual time to familiarize themselves with more important budget items.

Nicholson said the staff budget

process that some members attend outside of board meetings "is a year-round process. By the time they're in the legal budget process, their questions have pretty much been answered."

"I don't think the board should go through the charade where each member has written a list of questions and one administrator is assigned with the answers."

Director named

John W. Titus has been named development director for Rippling River resort in Welches.

Titus will be responsible for coordinating the development and sales efforts of Bucher Realty in collaboration with American Guaranty Life Insurance Company.

Rippling River is a 168 acre 300,000,000 resort and con-

dominium resort development near Mt. Hood.

An Oregon real estate broker for 20 years, Titus has been involved in all phases of commercial, rental and recreational property.

Prior to joining Bucher Gallery of Homes, Titus served as a consultant and in-house broker for several prominent condominium development corporations.

Get Your Car Ready for Spring!

... with a fresh, new coat of paint. And we'll take out those dents, too!!



FREE ESTIMATES

Bring your car to Clyde Cansler

Sandy Auto Body

38850 Pioneer Blvd., Sandy 668-4175

Your Home Energy Puzzle

If you're puzzled by the cost of water heating we have a solution

Save as much as \$10 a month or more. Heat your household water with gas, rather than electricity, and conserve energy. You can install a new natural gas water heater for as little as \$94. That's our solution. If you're building a new home you can specify you want a money and energy saving gas water heater. But even in an older home, your monthly savings on water heating will soon save you the cost of converting to gas. For details call The Gas Company. A customer consultant is ready to help you. Remember, for heating or water heating, and conservation, it's Natural Gas... the piece that fits.

NORTHWEST NATURAL
the gas company

Albany 926-4253, Astoria 325-1632, Eugene 342-3661, Lincoln City 994-2111, Salem 585-6611, The Dalles 298-2229, Vancouver 693-2511, Portland 226-4211

Classified Business, Professional Directory

For Your Card In This DIRECTORY — Phone 668-5548

THIS SPACE FOR RENT
668-5548

REMODELING
C&L Remodeling Specialists
Residential-Commercial-Remodeling-Additions-Kitchens-Baths
Les Edgren - Clark Hall "Licensed Bonded"
Sandy 668-7491

FURNACES
CROWN FURNACE
Furnace - Air Conditioning
Heating & Refrigeration Service
Phone 668-5454 or 622-4575
39090 Pioneer Blvd., PO Box 593, Sandy, Ore.

MACHINERY
BERGH MACHINERY CO.
See Us for New Jacuzzi
Pumps and Repairs on all Makes of Pumps
Loop Hwy. & Boring Road, Gresham
Telephone: 663-4353

PUMP & SUPPLY
Fairbanks - Morse - Red Jacket
SALES AND SERVICE
D & A PUMP & SUPPLY
666-2683 668-4902

AUTO PARTS
ACTION
Auto & Truck Parts Co.
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
39130 Proctor Blvd. 668-5509
(Next to Sandy Cycle) Sandy, Ore.

TRUCK LINES
Moving
General Freight
668-4148

TAX CONSULTANT
ALLMAIN TAX SERVICE
Cedar Plaza Bldg. Suite No. 9
Bookkeeping & Income Taxes
Pickup & Delivery
668-8224

AUTO REPAIRS
SANDY AUTO BODY INC.
38850 Pioneer Blvd. Telephone
Sandy, Oregon 97055 668-4175

LOCKSMITH
SANDY LOCKSMITH
Combinations changed
Master keying
42162 S.E. Locksmith Lane
Sandy, Ore. 97055 668-4750

OPTOMETRIST
DR. ROBERT D. SCHOUTEN
OPTOMETRIST
Office Hours 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Daily
Closed Thursday and Sunday
39100 Proctor Blvd. 668-4313
Across from Trail Plaza Sandy

PLUMBING
BENSHOOF
Plumbing & Heating
Sales, Service, Installation
Sandy 668-4993

SAND and GRAVEL
ROCK CREEK SAND AND GRAVEL
Crushed Rock, Fill and Top Soil
658-3138

CONCRETE READY MIX
MT. HOOD READY MIX
Ready Mix Concrete - Crushed
Rock - Sand and Gravel
Phone 668-6515
Plant located at Firwood Junction

LAND SURVEYOR
MARX & CHASE
Registered Land Surveyor
Registered Land Surveyor, Surveying, Mapping,
Subdivisions. Office located at
225 E. Burnside Ext. Gresham

TELEVISION SERVICE
Inland TV & Radio Service
Guaranteed Service On All Makes
668-7363
CEDAR PLAZA No. 1 LOWER LEVEL
Carry-In Service