

Sandy Post

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Whatever You Do, Vote

Here is a not particularly healthy fact about the state of affairs in our little corner of the world: 77 percent of the eligible voters in the Sandy Union High School District DID NOT exercise their right to cast a ballot in the April 4 tax levy election.

Of the estimated 7,700 persons 18 and older in the high school district, only 998 bothered to express an opinion on a matter which determines the economic life of the school for the coming year. The tax levy was turned down by 64 votes.

What makes the statistic particularly noteworthy is the fact that educators today—and the ones in Sandy don't seem to be exempt—are on the hot seat with parents who sometimes believe they are not doing their job as well as they should.

And yet, only one voter in 77 took the time to make a statement one way or another about the question of funding the high school.

It has been said that a low turnout at the polls is a healthy sign in that an aroused public means radical change is on the way. If that's the case, then we're probably in for some extraordinarily smooth times in the foreseeable future. Too smooth.

What the low turnout is more indicative of is that American tradition called apathy.

Voters in next Tuesday's primary will have another opportunity to decide on funding for the high school but this time on a new tax base.

The old base, established not too many years after the turn of the century, allows for a total taxable

base of \$248,000 in local funding. The school board has approved a 1978-79 budget requiring over six times that amount to operate the school.

The ballot measure, if passed, would increase the tax base to just under \$2 million for the next three years, thus eliminating the need to seek voter approval on an additional tax levy above the old tax base.

The 1978-79 budget represents a 23.7 percent increase in what is needed in local tax dollars over last year's total levy. If the new tax base passes, last year's rate of \$6 per \$1,000 will increase to \$6.52 as estimated by the high school superintendent's office.

But outside of last year's tax rate, \$6.52 is the lowest the rate has been in the district in five years.

The cost of education seems to be more susceptible to the teeth of inflation than almost any other service. What with teacher salaries (and fringes), transportation, books, and building and maintenance costs leading the way, the cost to the taxpayer gets higher and higher.

But we feel the Sandy High School Board has done its best to keep costs as low as possible in the inflation battle. We also feel the board, all of whose members serve without pay, should be allowed to establish, within reason, a sound operating budget for the continuation of a program of excellence at the high school.

The new tax base ceiling allows for this. We urge its passage.

More important, we urge you to vote. (J.K.)

Support Hoodland, Welches

We've said it before and we'll say it again: Put us down in favor of the Hoodland Fire District's new tax base. The district needs to update its equipment to minimal standards.

Changes in The Post

The Sandy Post gets a refreshing new look next week.

After careful review and study, we have decided to change the typestyle in which the newspaper is printed for easier reading and neater appearance.

The format change to lighter easier-read type in headlines should increase speed in going through the paper and reduce eye strain, since there will be no more extra bold headlines to detract from photos and other key elements competing for attention on each page.

The Post carefully chose a new

Welches School District budget. The Welches budget is realistic, in our opinion, and does not include added or unnecessary programs. The added increase over last year's budget is due to salary raises, inflation and the purchase of a new bus. (SAL)

Garamond typestyle which also will appear in italics when headlines warrant this attention. This particular typestyle is a favorite of typographers because of its readability. It consistently wins awards for papers who use it.

This format change is just one of several planned to upgrade your community newspaper. We will keep you abreast of changes as they near inauguration. Please remember, too, that The Post encourages reader response and listens carefully to whatever you have to say concerning your local newspaper. (VB)

Home Prices Sky-Rocketing

For those of us who have lived in the same home for a number of years, it's difficult to comprehend what is happening to resale values.

Figures compiled by Real Estate Trends, a semiannual report of building and realty activity, indicate that the value of used homes in the metropolitan area rose 26 percent during the past 12 months. New home prices went up 14.7 percent.

The same sort of increases are being reported nationwide, not just locally. The average price for a new house here was \$58,500 compared to \$82,700 in Los Angeles, \$81,600 in Washington, D.C., etc. Used homes averaged \$81,500 in Honolulu, \$50,330 here.

Figures like these make a little more understandable—even if not

any more palatable—the sharp increases in assessed values recently ordered by the Multnomah County assessor's office. Our home went up 30 percent in assessed value, not far from the 26 percent average reported by Real Estate Trends.

The rapidly increasing values may look good on a balance sheet but they really don't help the average home-owner. If you sell your present home for an inflated price, you just have to pay that much more for a new home. And if you hang onto your present dwelling, you're hit with higher taxes because of the increased appraised value.

There's no way you can beat inflation.

SUHS support

To the Editor:

We wish to go on record in support of the Sandy Union High School tax base which will be on the ballot May 23.

Our tax base at Sandy High was established in 1916. Though it has been increasing at the rate of 6 percent, inflation and enrollment growth have substantially affected the district's monetary needs. During the last six years, inflation has increased the consumer price index by 57.5 percent or an average of 9.58 percent per year. The average daily attendance of Sandy High School has increased 212 students in the same period.

This amounts to a 25 percent increase in enrollment, or an average annual enrollment increase of 4.14 percent.

The percentage of tax base increase per year has simply not kept pace with other factors.

It is estimated, by district officials, that the proposed tax base would allow the district to maintain an effective educational program within the tax base for the 1978-79, the 1979-80 and the 1980-81 school years.

This three year period would give the district valuable stability in planning the best educational program for our young people. We urge a YES vote on May 23.

Yours sincerely,
The staff of Sandy Union High School

Fire tax base

To the Editor:

On Tuesday May 23, the Hoodland Rural Fire Protection District No. 74, will ask the voters to approve a \$150,000 operating levy for the coming year. Not an increase, but rather a \$150,000 total operating budget.

To put it bluntly, we are in desperate need:

1. Our rescue vehicle was taken off the road in March as it was unsafe to drive. A local citizen has lent the department the use of his personal vehicle until July 1.
2. We have volunteers wearing outdated equipment, worn out equipment and equipment that does not fit.
3. Recently, a volunteer was injured entering the Hoodland Women's Club during a fire, because we did not have enough air tanks.
4. Almost all vehicles are in need of repair, but we do not have the tools nor funds to make the repairs.
5. The area is in need of mapping, so we can find a home when we are called for assistance.
6. There are presently 34 volunteers. Several other well trained applicants have applied, but we have no equipment for them.

Several years ago many area residents had their fire insurance premiums reduced by some 60 percent. Right now that reduction is on a borderline status and without needed repairs, plus additional equipment, it could be lost.

Our district covers 50 square miles and the population is increasing steadily. So far this year, the number of alarms has increased 65 percent over the same time period last year.

We have one of the most dedicated fire chiefs in the state giving us the training we need. He has given us the skill, efficiency, enthusiasm and dedication of the best fire departments, but it is not enough.

We need the proper tools and equipment, and we need your help and support. With your vote we can provide the quality of emergency medical assistance and protection against loss of personal property that you deserve.

Vote yes for Hoodland Fire Department No. 74.

Sincerely,
Tim Sackett
Secretary-Treasurer
Hoodland Volunteer
Fire Department

Ashworth

To the Editor:

I, Emily Ashworth, candidate for governor, appeal to Democrats: Bring life to Oregon's roots! Our traditions of agriculture, forestry and public-hydro power can provide jobs, retain local control and clean our environment.

letters to the editor

Bold steps can rekindle positive pioneer spirit. Let's create Public Utility Districts to replace Portland General Electric and Pacific Power and Light. Results: Lower outrageous rates and keep decision making at home.

What has incumbent Straub done?

1. Straub moved to sell out public preference for Columbia River electricity with DRPA. This FGE and PP&L bonanza was declared unconstitutional, voters rejected the constitutional changes only months ago and Straub still pushes turkey DRPA.

2. Straub moved to sell-out public timber by altering even-flow concepts. Multi-national timber empires ingratiated Straub with large contributions. State policies can produce lumber, sustain yield, utilize waste and create jobs clearing brush (instead of dangerous herbicides).

3. Straub moved to sell-out family farms, helping agribusiness and land speculators with California style developments. I support protecting small farms as the Oregon Grange recommends.

4. Straub ran from public scrutiny and removed the governor's authority over nuclear reactor siting. This kept him responsible to the people. Now he hides behind a commission. We must decommission PGE's Trojan Atomic Reactor. The federal government broke their promise to handle radioactive wastes.

Alternatives of conservation and solar keep Oregon dollars and jobs at home!

Be part of the greatest political upset in Oregon. Give me your vote!

Emily Ashworth
Candidate for
Governor (Democrat)

No. 6

It seems to me there are 12 reasons to Vote "No" on Ballot Measure 6:

- 1—It is designated to take over and eventually eliminate suburban community governments.
- 2—It is designed to create another layer of government.
- 3—It is designed to increase suburban property taxes by another one-third to one-half.
- 4—It is designed to create new taxes to build more Portland monuments.
- 5—It will force a Portland-oriented, super government on suburban communities and rural areas.
- 6—It will destroy suburban rights, suburban voices and suburban roles in government.
- 7—It will create a super government that requires super taxes to solve Portland problems.
- 8—It will further erode the meaning of local, participative government.
- 9—It will create a state within a state, essentially, with its own legislature and its own governor.
- 10—It will create a colossus of bureaucratic mini-departments that will not answer to local voters but be beholden only to the political higher-ups.
- 11—It is a major land grab, a tax grab, a human-resources grab—all to serve and gratify the political and economic ambitions of a selfish few.
- 12—Instead of clarification, it would further confuse man's roles with government.

Cordially,
Rod Geier
310 E. Dartmouth Street
Gladstone, Ore. 97027

Duncan

To the Editor:

As former members of the State Board of Education, we would like to acknowledge publicly our support for Verne Duncan for re-election as state superintendent of public instruction.

Duncan supports the goals of the State Board of Education including the minimum standards for Oregon schools, the new graduation requirements, strengthening of career education, and the increasing of state school support to 50 percent. Verne also is a strong advocate for local control of schools, as is the state board.

We support Duncan's efforts to leave as much as

possible to the local district in making the competency program work.

We realize that the minimum standards and graduation requirements are undergoing a review at this time and agree with Verne that the competency program should be improved upon—not abandoned.

In our years of service on the State Board of Education we have had the opportunity to visit the Departments of Education in many states and we know first hand that the staff Duncan has put together at the Oregon Department of Education is one of the finest in the nation.

Duncan has developed a good working relationship with his staff and with the State Board. We believe this is the way to get things accomplished in Oregon education.

We sincerely believe that Oregon education will be best served by re-electing Duncan to a second term as state superintendent of public instruction.

Eugene H. Fisher,
former chairman
board of education

Eleanor Beard,
former chairman
board of education

Frank M. Warren,
former member
board of education

Jumping rhymes

To the Editor:

I have a rather unusual hobby of collecting jump rope rhymes. They are, as far as I know, the only form of lore that is actually created by children and transmitted from child to child, possibly without adult assistance.

It is my hope to collect jump rope rhymes from all parts of America and perhaps eventually publish them.

In this spirit, I invite your subscribers to send me any rhymes that they may know. Information about the rhymes themselves (where they were first heard, how old they are, etc.) would be welcomed, although not essential.

I shall be eagerly awaiting your replies.

Nancy L. Sharp
3614 Dalen Place
Bakersfield, Calif.
93309

Water systems

To the Editor:

The Oregon Association of Water Utilities urges you to vote yes on ballot measure 4. It would help water districts and cities maintain, improve or repair the water systems through which you receive your drinking water.

The program is modeled after the successful Veteran's Home Loan Program. The state would sell bonds and loan the money to the public water provider with an interest rate high enough to cover the state's cost in issuing the

bonds.

The interest paid by the water district or city is frequently lower than the cost if they were to issue their own bonds.

The result is significant savings to taxpayers while, at the same time, improving the facilities through which we get our drinking water. Please vote yes on measure 4.

Sincerely,
Craig Henry
Executive Director
OAWU
P.O. Box 135
Salem 97308

History

To the Editor:

As you may have already heard or read in the paper, we have recently acquired the old St. Johns log Catholic Church, and moved it to a permanent site.

We are now applying to the National Historical Society for status in the National Registry, and it is in this regard that we need your help.

The society wants to know how the area residents feel about preserving local history and particularly St. Johns Church. We hope you feel, as we do, that we need to preserve the work of the master craftsmen of the past, to give future generations a pride in their ancestry.

Please help us to make a strong statement to the nation that the history of the Mt. Hood area is just as important and deserving of recognition as the histories of Philadelphia, Boston, and San Francisco.

We have already lost so many of our local landmarks to fire, decay, "remodeling" and neglect. You can help us save this, one of the last remaining original examples of our own native log architecture, simply by writing a letter, to let them know you care.

It should be written to the attention of the Oregon Historical Society, and returned to us at the address printed below. The letters will be submitted to the historical society with the application for registry status.

If you know of anyone else who would be interested in helping us save this lovely old building, please ask them to write also. We need all the assistance we can get to gain the approval of the society.

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact us at 667-0184. Thank you for your attention and your help. We will be hoping to hear from you very soon.

Michael Gudge
Linda Dunn
2017 NE 19th
Gresham, Oregon 97030

Burns

To the Editor:

I recently attended a candidates fair at which Robert Burns, candidate for

district court judge, made a statement that he has received the endorsement and support from most, if not all, of the peace officers organizations within Clackamas County.

It is also my understanding that Burns has spent his entire legal career as a prosecutor for the district attorney's office.

Since 85 percent of the district court docket involves criminal trials I do not know if it would be wise to elect a man to the bench who may be obligated in any way to the police or to elect a man whose experience is so limited.

Our constitution provides for trial by a fair and impartial tribunal and that in a criminal case you are presumed to be innocent until guilt is proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

Would Burns with his background be able to enforce the constitution as written?

Is it proper for any candidate for a judgeship to accept support from any police organization?

Sincerely
Edgar D. Fuller
10507 SE 37th
Milwaukie, Ore. 97222

No museum

To the Editor:

Why is the Clackamas County Historical Society asking us for a museum to be paid for by taxes, when only a year ago they were asking for donations for a \$300,000 museum? What ever happened to the \$30 or \$40 thousand dollars they already collected?

Before they were going to build an 8,000 square foot museum and now we are asked to build them a 13,000 square foot building.

What a rotten place to put a museum—right above the ugly old paper mills. The historical society must have four or five thousand square feet of space already, much of it poorly used.

Some of their exhibits have not been changed in 10 years. Let's not waste tax dollars for a museum in Oregon City.

Earl Manning
16000 S. Depot Lane
Park Place

For Skoko

To the Editor:

Clackamas County will, this year, receive \$5½ million from the Oregon-California timber harvest. The "Watch Dog" of these O&C lands is Commissioner Stan Skoko.

Silently, but effectively, he has protected Clackamas County's interests. Commissioner Skoko's continued vigilance and retention on the Board is important to all of us in Clackamas County and the entire state.

Sincerely,
J.T. Hazen
18043 SW Stafford Road
Lake Oswego, Ore 97034

