

Voters turn down tax levy proposals

3rd defeat for SUHS

The third funding levy for Sandy Union High School was shot down again by voters Tuesday.

The levy, which would have established a serial rate of \$5.76 per \$1,000 of assessed property, was defeated 816-553.

Voters also rejected levies for Mt. Hood Community College (see story page 4) and the Cottrell School District. The Bull Run School District levy passed.

The defeat of the levy leaves the district nearly \$1.5 million short of its budget for the 1978-79 school year, according to Superintendent Jack Peters. An emergency meeting has been called by the school board to determine what steps must be taken to submit a budget to the voters for the Aug. 8 election.

The meeting will be held Thursday at 8:30 p.m. at the high school.

"The school board has to decide what, if anything, to do about the Aug. 8 election," Peters said. "I believe the budget is sound, economical and good for the kids in the district."

"There's so few people going to the polls, it's hard to decide if the budget is the problem or not," Peters continued. "Not a single person has criticized the

budget at the hearings we've held."

There are few alternatives left for the school board, Peters said. Voters have already rejected a three-year serial rate levy, a new tax base and a levy in excess of the 6 percent limitation.

"They (the board) may go for a one year shot on the tax rate," Peters said. "The only other alternative is to reduce the program."

Such a reduction could have serious side effects, he added. The high school could be in danger of losing some of its federal subsidization if "we don't maintain our local effort."

The levy to fund the Cottrell School District was narrowly defeated 74-72. District Superintendent Jean Lundy called for a meeting of the school board and the budget board Wednesday night to discuss plans for a new election.

"Only three more voters would have done it," Lundy sighed. "Our budget was for nothing more than we needed to maintain an adequate program."

The levy for the Bull Run School District passed 52-29. The budget had reflected only inflationary increases "necessary to maintain current educational standards," according to school officials.

Area election totals

	Yes	No
City of Sandy	93	187
Sandy Union High School	553	816
Mt. Hood Community College	7,603	10,565
(Clackamas County)	805	1,263
(Multnomah County)	6,724	9,258
(Hood River County)	74	44
Bull Run School District	52	29
Cottrell School District	72	74

COUNTY

Canby High School District	726	799
Canby Elementary	612	661
Damascus High	239	176
Dickey Prairie	44	90
Mulino School bond measure	103	167
Estacada School District	387	670
No. 91 District (Molalla)		
Operating levy	133	83
Serial Levy	118	86
West Linn School District	789	514
Schubel School District	52	40
Redland School District	210	309

City levy loses 2-1

Sandy voters turned down the three-year serial rate levy proposed for the 1978-79 fiscal year by a resounding 2-1 margin in Tuesday's election.

In a high voter turnout, the measure to establish a three-year rate of \$4.02 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation above the six percent limitation was rejected by a margin of 187-93.

Rejection of the rate levy leaves the city with no operating funds as it heads into the new fiscal year on July 1. City council will discuss a new approach to funding the local portion of the \$2 million budget at its July 10 meeting.

"We can't pay any bills or salaries without appropriating the funds," said City Manager Paul Helton. "And you can't appropriate until you pass a budget."

The local portion of proposed budget comes to \$137,000. Of that total, \$11,142 can be raised under the six percent tax base limitation.

The remaining \$126,198, which represents 17.1 percent of the operating expenses for the proposed budget, would be raised through the serial rate levy.

In addition to the operating funds for the budget, city tax payers will also be required to pay \$2.13 per \$1,000 for the first year payments on bonds for the newly constructed water treatment

facility and the recently purchased Senior Center.

Helton is unsure whether voters were turned off by the proposal to set a three-year rate or whether it reflects a broader pattern of disapproval of higher taxes in general.

Voters approved levies above the six percent limitation in the previous two years. However, bond payoff did not enter the picture in either of those years.

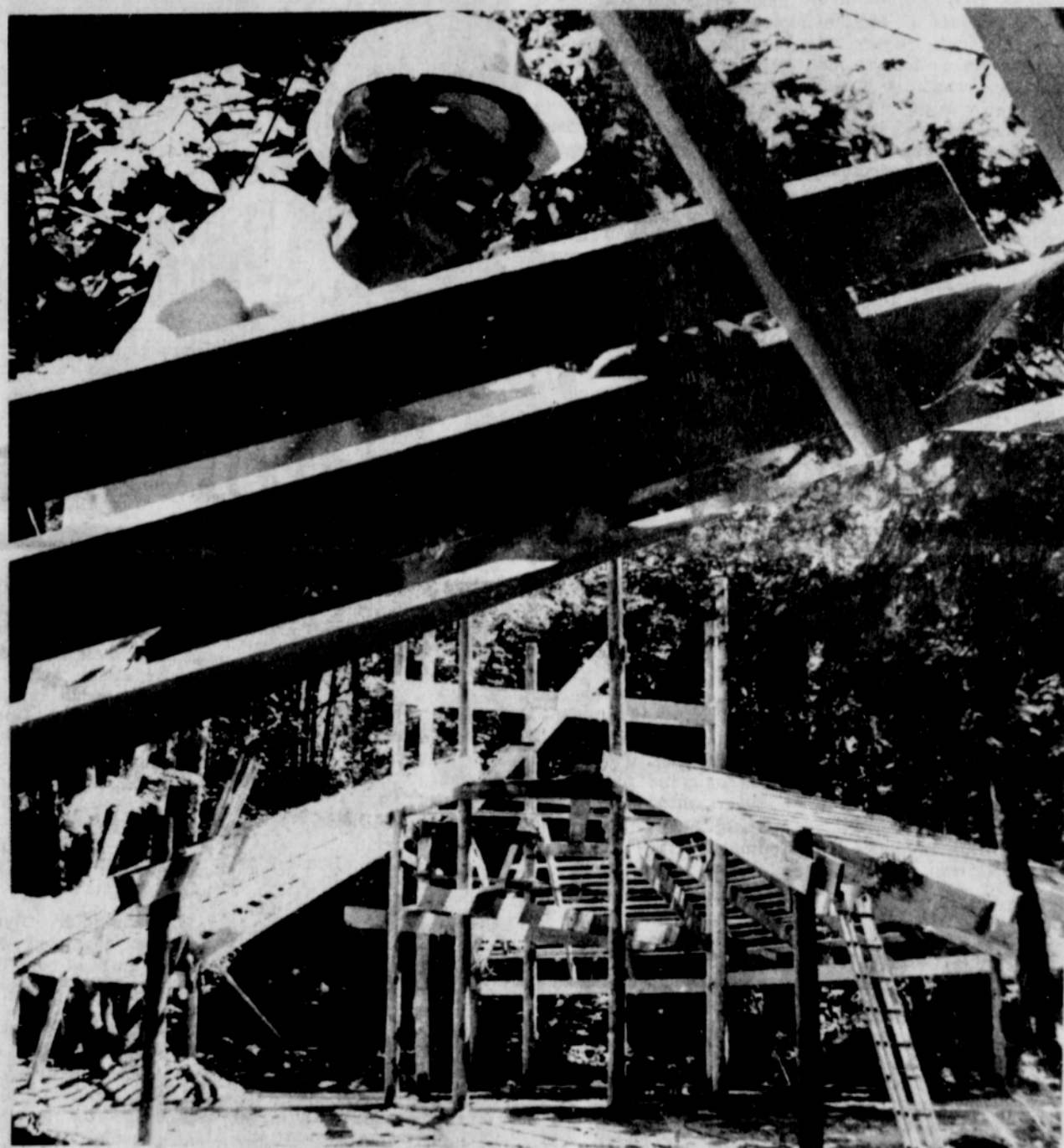
"We can't tell what the rejection means," he said Wednesday. "I think council members will probably want to get some input from the voters before they decide on a course of action."

Helton and members of the city staff plan to put together a questionnaire on the budget and tax rate levy and send it out to the 280 persons who voted in the election.

"It looks like that's the only way to get a valid response back from the voters," Helton said. "We can't seem to get them to come to a public meeting."

Should council decide to stay within the six percent limitation and not present another package to the voters, it will mean a drop in services in some areas, Helton said.

"Any time you take off 17 percent of the operating expenses of your budget, obviously something will suffer."



WORK ON the Spike Emerson Shelter in Meinig Memorial Park is moving along this week. The shelter is due to be completed in time for a special dedication

ceremony July 8. Pictured in top photo is carpenter Louie Conn working on the shelter's circular roof. (Curt Koop photo).



Suit filed to challenge MSD

Two Clackamas County residents filed a class action suit last Thursday to prevent the county from joining the controversial tri-county Metropolitan Service District (MSD).

Marvin Reilly of West Linn and Donald Getner of Mulino filed the suit in Clackamas County Circuit Court. They are contending that the rights of county citizens have been infringed in that county voters rejected the MSD proposal in the May 23 primary.

The ballot measure carried in the Multnomah and Washington Counties. Unless the Clackamas suit is successful, the MSD will take over the duties of the Columbia Region Association of Governments within an expanded role Jan. 1.

Only the urban portions of Clackamas were included in the MSD boundary. Sandy will be outside the line.

Following filing of the suit, Judge Winston Bradshaw of the Clackamas County Circuit Court signed a temporary restraining order directing that Clackamas County not participate in

the formation of the MSD until a formal hearing July 10.

Bradshaw also signed an order to "show cause" why the county should participate in the new regional governmental agency.

Named in the suit are Gov. Rob Straub; Secretary of State Norma Paulus; the MSD and its director, Charles Kemper; the Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG) and its director, Denton Kent; the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners and County Treasurer Wayne LaFarge.

The commissioners and treasurer were named because of their role in

handling the county funds which would finance the MSD, according to Reilly. The action was unnecessary, however.

Judge Bradshaw ordered the state, regional and county officials be restrained from "transfer of funds by Clackamas officials to the District (MSD) or its predecessor agencies (CRAG and the present MSD)."

Bradshaw also ordered that officials be prohibited from "including any part of Clackamas County in the sub-districting by the Secretary of State."

The restrictions imposed by Judge Bradshaw are pending a hearing set for 10 a.m. July 10.

Planning Commission approves plan B

by JOHN DEAN
County reporter

Rural land owners in portions of Clackamas County will have an easier time subdividing their property into lots smaller than the present 20-acre minimum if the county planning commission has its way.

The commission went against the advice of its staff in a meeting last Wednesday by voting to recommend to the county commissioners the adoption of the more liberal land use rural map (Alternative B).

The planning commission went even one step further than the original Alternative B proposal by adding parcels of land totalling 2½ square miles to the original list of areas which could be reclassified as rural.

The county planning staff recommended two weeks ago that the commission adopt the more conservative of the two proposals, Alternative A, which listed fewer areas for rural classification.

(Rural designation of land parcels allows lots to be two, five or 10 acres leading to higher building density than

the present system.)

County commissioners will make final adoption of land-use plan amendments in early July. The amendments will go the Columbia Region Association of Governments and the LCDC for approval.

In approving map alternative B, the planning commission appeared to go along with the majority view as expressed at public hearings in Sandy, Estacada, Molalla and Canby.

Most of the owners of parcels the commission included in rural designation Wednesday had originally argued their cases in public hearings at Sandy, Estacada, Canby and Molalla.

The county's current land-use map, adopted in 1974, concentrates land uses in different parts of the county. In what is called a "broad-brush" pattern. The new map will redistribute the higher-density rural areas more realistically throughout the county.

Affected areas include Carver, Estacada, Redland, Viola, Sandy and Cottrell. All are areas that will lie outside of any urban growth boundary that might be drawn for the Portland

July 4th launches Sandy Mountain Days

There's going to be big band music. Fireworks will fill the sky. The aroma of home baked food will waft through the air and little kids will wonder why every day can't be like the Fourth of July.

And that's just the start of things.

The Sandy Mountain Days will get a big sendoff on Independence Day with a community picnic at Meinig Memorial Park. The festivities will run through the weekend when thousands of visitors will fill the city for the Sandy Mountain Festival.

"It's going to be a wing ding," said one Festival organizer. "This thing is getting better every year."

The first festival came to life five years ago. According to coordinators of the event, it was as much an effort to give Sandy a higher visibility in the Northwest as a local effort to turn Meinig Park into a community gathering place.

Since that time, the Festival has become a top summer arts and crafts attraction.

Following the picnic will be a musical revue at the Sandy High football field with sounds from the big band era. Dale Nichols will again coordinate the event and will keep the pace moving with sounds from his trombone.

A 10 p.m. fireworks display will cap off the evening's festivities.

A disco dance will also be held Tuesday night at 9 p.m. at the Odd Fellows Hall.

The activities will pick up Wednesday with an all-breeds pet show to be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Sandy Elementary playshed. That night a snowshoe baseball game will be played between two teams with makeshift snowshoes on their feet.

The game will be played at Upper Meinig Park behind city hall.

Bike races will be held Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Sandy Elementary school track.

The Mountain Days Parade will highlight the day's events. The parade will begin at 7 p.m. and go through town on Proctor Boulevard. Portland Channel 2 weatherman Jim Bosley will serve as parade grand marshal.

Sandy merchants will remain open until around 10 p.m. that night for a "Moonlight Sale."

Certain to be a highlight of the week will be the Third Annual Pet Rock Race on Friday. A series of special races will be held starting at 3 p.m. at the lot adjoining the Country Delicatessen. Winners of the special races will be eligible to enter the Downs World Championship Sweepstakes later that night.

To prepare for this year's expected stiff competition, the Sandy-Hoodland Jaycees are working on an electronic judging system.

A new feature in the Mountain Days festivities will be an arm wrestling fete July 7 at 7 p.m. at the Pioneer Square parking lot.



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