

Deflated grade school levy buoyant

With needed programs and improvements jeopardized by association, Sandy Elementary School Board has dropped a controversial kindergarten proposal from its "B" ballot levy.

That's a shame, but perhaps the safest way to salvage the rest of the school programs tucked in the supplemental budget.

The move cuts some \$148,000 from the levy. School officials were figuring kindergarten costs at \$100,835 for eight half-day units in all neighborhood grade schools plus \$47,478 in associated transportation costs.

The drastic surgery gives new odds for survival to other needs in the once-defeated "B" ballot.

Actually, District 46 grade school budgeters aren't calling the "B" levy programs "needs," since all dollars needed to keep the elementary program operating — basic operating expenses — were approved earlier in an "A" levy.

Some of the "B" measures are pretty badly needed, however.

The district's program for talented and gifted students (50 of them!) covers in jeopardy, with only a \$32,161 price tag threatening shutdown. That's a bargain for what society stands to gain by fostering their superior abilities.

Similarly, co-curricular athletics

and activities could die, with \$33,672 lacking.

Then there's the town's successful community school in jeopardy, with possible loss of \$14,300 local matching money asked in "B" ballot.

Like the aquatics center in bad need of a \$6,000 outside paint job, our community school serves the entire community — not just the school kids who attend classes in the busy trailer or swim in the pool.

Outdoor school — a great learning adventure outside the classroom for sixth graders — could die for want of only \$11,658, as could counseling for grades one through six for want of \$21,490.

School buses and a grounds maintenance tractor priced \$65,500 are needed, too.

These are small amounts for key grade school programs. It would be penny-wise but pound-foolish for voters to defeat what remains of the "B" ballot May 19.

With death of the kindergarten proposal, the remaining "B" ballot only would cost school district patrons \$197,716 (\$184,781 in hard costs plus a standard built-in 7 percent for uncollected taxes).

That's a small price to pay for these high-yield programs examined one-by-one. (VB)

Welches School debt due all?

We are a group of concerned citizens who have been watching the unravelling of events concerning the school's construction problems since November 1980.

We also would like to go on public record in requesting the following information from the board:
(1) A list (and breakdown) of all extra costs associated

Dawn Morrison
Blythe L. Creek
Patty Lennan
Jean Stein
Carolyn Smith
Kathy Willis

Sandy Community Action Center gets most of its food from Tri-County Food Bank. The latter is a non-profit organization that finds surplus and out-dated food at no or little cost and assembles it for its members.

The members pay 6 cents a pound plus expense of transporting from a Natinal Guard warehouse.

From 700 to almost 900 people come to the Center each month for help of some kind. No charge is made to clients. They may make some contribution if they are able and some do.

Costs of the Center for rent, utilities, telephone and trash removal come from Clackamas Co. Community Action Agency (CCAA). Contributions from patrons and clients are used mainly to purchase bulk foods and provide emergency gasoline to get clients to such places as the Food Stamp office at Marylhurst.

A deep concern now for future operation of the Center is the effects of cuts made in federal funding of Community Services Administration, from which our county receives funds to operate its four service centers.

Of the four, Sandy is likely to have the best survival prospects, because it has operated for 10 years with volunteer help. Jancie Bunch, local volunteer coordinator reports 26 volunteers who labored during March.

W. Pete Sulzbach
Chairman

ed a handgun. Presidents Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley were slain. Candidate Robert Kennedy was killed. Governor George Wallace is crippled. In Sept., 1975, alone, President Ford's life was threatened twice by assassins wielding handguns. Now President Reagan has been shot.

Must we bury another president before the Congress acts to pass an effective national handgun control law? Together we can make the Congress act now to control handguns. Join with us today.

N.T. "Pete" Shields
Chairman
Handgun Control, Inc.
810 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Plans hurt farms

During the past two years, many of us farmers in Malheur County have brought to light scores of problems in Oregon's land-use planning detrimental to agriculturists.

Because a farmer is not allowed to sell one to five or 10 acres of land, we have documented cases of individuals that could not hold their operations together during the years of low agricultural prices. Some were forced to sell their farms below normal land values.

A sad and tragic event now taking place in Sonoma County, Calif., will undoubtedly help prove our point. Because of inflation, high interest rates and low apple prices, the entire apple growing areas are being faced with total extinction.

California's land-use control is similar to Oregon's with minimum lot sales from 20 acres to 640 acres. Farmland in rural residential zones set-up by land planners in the Sonoma County area is selling for as much as \$50,000 per acre, but the apple growers are being prevented from selling one, two, or three acres that would help them hold on for a year or two, until their agricultural prices stabilize.

According to news releases and personal reports we are receiving, many growers there are already pulling their orchards, and some have already filed bankruptcy notices, because other apple growers will not be able to buy at any price. Other crops are not feasible on non-irrigated land, and they are not able to sell a few acres to enable them to hold their farming operations together.

The professed purpose of land-use planning is to help preserve farmland, but the inflexible rules sometimes work in reverse as in the aforementioned case where thousands of acres of farmland are being lost, hundreds of farmers are being put out of business and thousands of people connected to the industry are seriously affected.

Neil Venturacci
Ontario, Or.



MARGULIES
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Rene' Wence
Karolyn Yates
Bonnie Lookabill
Bonnie F. Baird
Sally Flury

Local aid strong

The volunteers who operate Sandy Community

At that time our primary concerns were the safety of the new school and safety of our children.

We want to compliment the board for all the steps they have taken to find solutions to the construction problems and for actively attempting to determine who is at fault.

We would also like to thank the superintendent, Ken Blackburn, for all of the time he has invested to insure only the best for the community.

Furthermore, by placing such a competent person in the position of Clerk of the Works, Fred Carlson, makes us feel that our finished school will be a structure that we will all "be able to live with."

However, by the board taking these proper steps to rectify these construction problems, there have been extra costs that could fall back on the pocketbook of taxpayers of this district.

These costs include such things as hiring of an independent engineer, hiring of Fred Carlson to oversee the remainder of the school's construction, attorney fees, additional soil tests and God-only-knows what other "potential" costs.

We would like to go on public record to say that none of these necessary, but "extra" costs attributed to the improper construction should fall back on the innocent taxpayer.

with construction problems, and
(2) An assurance that we will be kept apprised of these costs, as they increase each month.

We are not anti-school board and obviously not anti-school. We just want these costs paid by whomever the board feels is responsible.

Letters to the editor

We have come here tonight to speak our peace because of the coming school levy. At such a critical time when we are facing the possible loss of our kindergarten, our librarian and our music teacher, we want the assurance from the board that our tax dollars will be spent wisely.

If we do not get this assurance from the board, then there is the possibility that the voters will take their aggressions out on the coming levy.

If the "B" levy fails, then both ourselves and our children will be the victims. (The Welches School Board voted that night to instruct their attorney, John Osborne, to seek a solution to this problem, up to and including arbitration.)
Tedmond D. Wright
Molly G. Smith

Action Center wish to offer warm thanks to the people of the Sandy area for the help they give in operation of the Center.

In March these patrons of the Center contributed \$2,479 worth of clothing, furniture, food and all manner of household items. Values are computed at lawn-sale scale.

Thirty-five emergency food boxes were prepared for that many families during March, in addition to help given clients in getting food stamp eligibility interviews and insuring that the client could get to Marylhurst Food Stamp Office.

Other referrals were made to such sources of help as the Well Child clinics, operated by the county health department, and the employment service, operated by the State of Oregon.

Legislator's report:

Referendum need stalls annual sessions

by KEN JERNSTEDT
State Senator, Dist. 28

The proposal of annual sessions of the legislature is back with us again this year, as it has been each session for the last decade.

There is a difference this time, however, since the annual session scheme has drawn the support of leaders of the majority party in both the senate and house.

Whether they have the muscle to push through the plan is still questionable.

For those of us strongly opposed to the idea — including Governor Atiyeh — it is a consolation that the constitution must be changed to provide for annual sessions. Only a vote of the people can change the constitution, which presently calls for a regular session convened in January of odd-numbered years.
It gives the governor power to call



a special session in emergencies. Two years ago, it was changed to also permit a majority of the members of the legislature to call themselves into special session.
The push for annual sessions this time is being based on the state's budget difficulties. Annual session

proponents claim it has become impossible to budget accurately for a two-year period.

They use the most recent budget-cutting special session of last August as proof that the budget job cannot be done properly by a session every other year.

I can't quite buy this. What the most recent special session proved was that it is possible for the legislature, when properly motivated, to act with dispatch. The August special session in only five days cut more than \$200 million from existing budgets, because of a drop in state income tax revenue estimates.

Our budgeting process is no different than it has ever been. The only change seems to be in the attitude of the legislative leadership. Rather than embracing a can-do attitude and then doing the job, all we hear is complaints about how impossible it

is to do the job.
We need to look back only 10 years to find out how important to attitude of the leadership is in times of budget difficulties. In 1971 lawmakers were facing the worst money problem in years, but legislators rolled up their sleeves and went to work, challenged to do what many observers said couldn't be done.

They succeeded. After the session, The Oregon Journal editorialized that "its outstanding record is all the more remarkable when one remembers the severe fiscal pinch that faced the Assembly last January and which worsened as the session progressed."

Legislators serving in the current session would be well advised to study the example set by the 1971 session — and then follow it without any further delay.

Salem scene:

Employers state scapegoats?

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

One of the more controversial issues facing Oregon lawmakers in Salem this session involves so-called plant closure legislation.

Two bills — one from each chamber — already have been introduced, and others are expected. One, House Bill 2550, would require one year's advance notification, if a company employing 50 or more workers intends to shut down. Prime among its provisions is 85 percent one-year income maintenance, following shutdown for affected workers.

The other measure — Senate Bill 830 — involves companies employing 100 or more workers, requires six-month closure notice and absolves the firm from the income maintenance provision, if it complies with the notice provision.

Both bills also contain sanctions against firms laying off 20 percent or more of their workforce for three months or longer.

Introduced at the behest of organized labor, these bills are similar to a measure introduced during the 1979 session that received only scant consideration before dying in committee. Circumstances creating more interest this year involve the shaky housing industry nationwide and Oregon's dependence upon that activity to support its biggest supplier of jobs, the forest products industry.

In other words, more business are closing or trimming production.

The resulting controversy has all the elements of a classic confrontation between those who favor more government control of the private sector and those believing government should restrict its activities to caring for those who cannot care for themselves and meddle less in an economy that can cure itself.

Rising in the midst of this turmoil are those who are suggesting a goose and gander or tit-for-tat response to labor's bills. HB 2550 is called the Employment Stabilization Act. This body of detractors is suggesting consideration of a Workers' Responsibility Act.

The move is an expression of exasperation at the plant closure penalty concept and is offered largely in jest, but does have a sobering tendency to move the proverbial shoe from one foot to the other.

Such a Workers' Responsibility Act, for instance, would require workers to give employers a one-year notice before quitting their jobs. It might also require a six-month pre-notification, if an employee were to temporarily be absent from work or specific reasons; such as a strike, for instance. This bill might go as far as prohibiting organized work stoppages.

There might be prohibitions against taking a day or more off, tardiness or leaving work before the end of normal working hours.

This provision would have to contain exemptions. For instance, contracting a communicable disease would be a valid reason for staying home in bed. Jury duty and serving time in jail might also be good excuses for not showing up. Likewise, domestic difficulties, hospitalization, drunkenness and death could be excused absences.

A flat tire would be an acceptable excuse for tardiness. Same would apply to faulty alarm clocks. Both would have to be limited to a specific number of frequencies during a specified period of time, such as once a year for each.

Of course, the Bureau of Labor and Industries would be armed with authority to investigate and validate such excuses.



Legislative Report from the State Capital EXCLUSIVE to Oregon's Weekly Newspapers from Associated Oregon Industries.

Leaving work before conclusion of prescribed working hours might have a large number of exemptions in keeping with the spirit of the current assembly's other deliberations. One might be permitted to leave early if the worker was sick, tired — or sick and tired.

By the same token, workers might be excused early because of sexual harassment. Lack of sexual harassment might be an equitable alternative.

The possibilities for exemptions to each section of the new law would have to be extensive to cover the many facets of today's socio-economic societal structure.

But the nitty gritty of the Workers' Responsibility Act would deal with the hour-of-work for hour-of-pay concept. That might prove the measure's undoing. One can almost conjure a vision of never-ending hearings during which opposing witnesses testify endlessly citing myriads of assumed fringe benefits threatened by this philosophy.

At the same time, provisions requiring certain productivity standards would be similarly jeopardized by current practices, virtually ingrained in much of today's workforce.

But the clincher, the prime provision of this whimsical (or not-so-whimsical) piece of legislation, would be a requirement specifying each worker must contribute a certain amount of hourly wages and salaries to a statewide Workers' Responsibility Fund.

The state treasurer would accept such money (provided through an automatic check-off system), invest it with firms willing to expand into economically lagging areas and maintain the fund at a level prescribed by actual practice in order to reimburse employers for violations by workers.

The actual reimbursement process would be administered by a new "Department of Unrevenue", subject to ratification by the governor and ultimate review by the Supreme Court, allowing for intercession upon written request by two-thirds of all currently serving State Senators younger than age 25 and older than 65. Final appellate authority would rest with a "By Golly Board of Appeals."

The latter would consist of 15 members — seven each appointed by Senate and House and one by the governor, according to appropriate geographic, racial, sexual, age, environmental and educational distinctions.

In order to assure strict impartiality in all decisions rendered by the BGBA no member could ever have been gainfully employed, manage or have proprietary interest in a successful or unsuccessful private sector business.

Proponents of such legislation realize fully the difficulty of achieving passage of their measure untarnished by friendly amendments this session.

They would like to see it passed in some form — anything to establish the concept now. They're willing to come back in subsequent sessions and do their best to strengthen it in the future.