

Editorial & Opinion

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1982

Ready city to allow it to grow

Sandy City Council should pay heed to recommendations of a local Economic Development Commission, when the study group unloads its two-year findings Tuesday.

That would take courage before cost-conscious taxpayers, of course, since the boosters advocate spending a little to get a lot for Sandy's planned economic growth.

To provide the city with local jobs and a diversified tax base, the Council might need to sell bonds for capital improvements to accommodate new industry. The Commission doesn't agree, but the Council even might need to offer incentives to compete for new industry.

It could be worthwhile, since Sandy possesses good land, location and other attributes valuable

in the marketplace. With a little sales effort and enough water and sewer capacity, Sandy could attract light, non-pollutant industry to town.

The Council also might be surprised to hear recommendations from its own Economic Development Commission on improvements to assist downtown shopping. The boosters apparently feel the city's seven-year-old Downtown Plan for a pedestrian mall and new offstreet parking should be revived. The Commission bemoans lack of a major "trip attractor" in the form of a shopping center or motel complex to lure shoppers downtown. Indeed, municipal attention is needed here.

The whole town would be richer. Only it might cost a little to lure the golden goose our way.

Disaster here prompts concern

Neighbors concerned about disaster relief in Sandy are pitching in from all directions with city coordination to make sure Sandyites don't shiver foodless in the cold.

Response to Community Services Director Sandra Potter-Marquardt's call for volunteers already warms the spirit. More volunteers—particularly those who could learn something about mass food service—are needed, however.

Sound futuristic? Well, recall winters when the power went out and the number of residents who were snowbound, cold and hungry for days. Senior citizens especially need a helping hand.

Sandy is organizing hands to help—hopefully 50-60 key workers—in a bold emergency services plan. Day-long, half-day and weekend classes will be taught by the Red Cross at the Sandy Community Center in March. Volunteers may sign up by calling 668-5569 for the free

classes. Response has been good, but more volunteers may be needed.

Trained key persons in times of local emergency here, according to Potter-Marquardt, should include facility managers, persons to canvas for needy, food servers, case workers and drivers who can get around in bad road conditions.

Additional persons are needed for backup roles.

Nobody will get a dime for all this work, and it requires a lot of time. Clackamas County Emergency Services and the Red Cross will help, but it's left to charitable churches, clubs and private homes to open their doors and pantries.

Good neighbors, nonetheless, have stepped forward to volunteer, and the director reports Sandy's emergency plan already looks bright.

That pioneer spirit of neighbors helping neighbors still lives in warm, little Sandy.



Letters to the editor:

'Don't hit farmers to hurt Soviets'

The president's trade sanctions against Russia for its part in the establishment of martial law in Poland was, according to President Reagan, an attempt by the United States "to speak for those who have been silenced and to help those who have been rendered helpless."

Once again our grain has been used as a sanction against Russia's crackdown on freedom, and once again it has been more detrimental to our farmers than to Russia. Russia will continue to get our grain at prices less than our farmer's cost of production. Russia will continue to blatantly snuff out freedom, whenever it appears within its sphere of influence.

Under previously signed agreements, Russia still has U.S. permission—even encouragement—to buy up to 23 million tons of our grain during 1982. They will do so at below cost of production. Suspension of negotiations on further agreements only means Russia will become just another customer, like any other nation, on Sept. 30, 1982. That means they can buy grain at rock bottom prices, just like the other countries do.

The president's grain

sanctions aren't the first time grain sales have been used in such manner. When Russia invaded Afghanistan, President Carter imposed an embargo on grain sales to Russia. However, Russia simply went to the nations that originally had purchased our grain at giveaway prices. Foreign nations and international grain companies made whopping profits from reselling grain we should have sold at higher prices ourselves.

Wouldn't it make more sense to charge Russia more for our grain so our farmers could make a profit? Since Russia still can buy the grain anyway, wouldn't higher prices be a better sanction and make them spend their limited money supply on food, instead of more weapons and more oppression?

I have always felt it would be better. Better for our farmers. Better for our foreign policy. That's why I offered legislation last year to create an Export Grain Bank that would set prices for grain, which reflected our OPEC-like dominance of the international grain trade. It would be a fair price for our farmers. It would bring \$20 million more dollars for our grain

products. It would be a more effective way of combating Soviet aggression than sanctions that express indignation, but do little else.

The legislation would have allowed the Secretary of Agriculture to set a minimum price for export commodities like wheat, corn and soybeans. It would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to collect the difference between free market domestic price and minimum export price. This money then would be stored in the Export Grain Bank and returned to farmers pro-rata, based on their yearly production.

Why should we spend billions of dollars to defend ourselves against Russia and then turn around and sell them grain at giveaway prices? It's a monumental food stamp program for Soviet aggression. If fact, if American farmers exported all Russia's import needs for wheat during this marketing year, that subsidy would pay for every man in its Afghanistan invasion force! Or enough for the Soviets to buy more than 1,500 new tanks.

U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver
4th District

Aid helped

The Sandy Parent Teacher Club would like to take this opportunity to thank the local merchants of Sandy for their contributions to our chili carnival. Our carnival was a success, thanks to all the parents, teachers and community effort.

Mary Marshall
P.T.C. president

Marlins succeed

In a recent article about the Blue Marlin Aquatic Club, the name of one of our sponsors inadvertently was omitted. The Blue Marlin would like to thank Griff's Longburger and all of the other local merchants who generously supported our recent swim meet. A special note of thanks, also, should go to Scott Newton for his excellent news coverage and special interest in our group of swimmers.

The Blue Marlin Aquatic Club is a non-profit community group of parents and youngsters open to anyone interested in swimming and swim competition at all levels. Due to the community support we received, we were able to host a very successful

swim meet in which almost 100 youngsters participated, from ages five to fifteen.

Thank you, Sandy merchants and Sandy Post, for your support and interest.

Peggie Hodges
Officials chairman

Resident proud

Many thanks to the Sandy Rescue Unit and Alpine Ambulance for their expediency and professionalism concerning our daughter's accident February 7.

Their concern during the call and expertise at the scene of the accident assured us our daughter was in the best of care.

Through the knowledge of their profession, understanding they showed to our daughter and to us and the concern for her condition after we brought her home, we are even more proud to be citizens of such wonderful and thoughtful people of Sandy.

David, Sandi and
Shana Strader

LETTERS POLICY
The Post asks that all letters to the editor be typed, double-spaced and signed. Deadline is noon, Tuesday.

Salem scene:

State ranks bottom fourth

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Oregon's poor business climate is hardly news to vast numbers of unemployed workers, struggling employers and lawmakers who are vainly trying to match state spending with dwindling revenue in Salem.

Some, however, consider results of a recent national Alexander Grant business climate study a handy blueprint for long-range improvement of the state's economy.

The study measures general manufacturing business climate in each of the 48 contiguous states and compares states on basis of scores achieved in 22 categories. It is conducted by a Chicago-based national accounting firm at the behest of the Conference of State Manufacturers Associations (COSMA).

AOI Pres. Ivan Congleton said the current study finds Oregon in 36th place—a ranking similar to results achieved in previous years since 1975.

A study conducted by the Fantus Corporation that year found Oregon in 40th place. Alexander Grant studies in 1979 and 1980 ranked this state 39th and 35th, respectively.

"Although the Grant firm cautions against comparing results of the various studies because different criterion have been used in each," Congleton said, "it is significant that Oregon remains in the bottom fourth of all states, regardless of the yardsticks used to measure our business climate."

"This is not to imply that other factors are not important when it comes to expanding or relocating an existing manufacturing facility or establishing a new industry," Congleton said. "But it does provide an important initial step for manufacturers in determining site selection."

The business association executive believes study results should be an important tool for those involved in Gov. Vic Atiyeh's efforts to promote economic recovery. In a number of instances, legislative action would go far toward improving the state's business climate.

Florida, Texas and Colorado are the top three states in the newest study. While Oregon ranks 36th, only Washington (37th) received a lower score among adjacent states. California scored 26th, Idaho 14th



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

and Nevada 13th. Oregon's standing in each of the 22 measurements follows:

State and local taxes per \$1,000 of personal income: 29th.

State and local government expenditure growth over three years, versus state and local government general revenue growth over three years: 27th.

State and local government debt per capita: 45th.

State and local government public welfare expenditures per capita: 31st.

Average unemployment compensation benefits paid per covered worker per year: 30th.

Net worth of state unemployment compensation trust fund per covered worker: 5th.

Maximum weekly payment for temporary total disability under workers' compensation insurance: 40th.

Average workers' compensation insurance rate per \$100 of payroll of selected manufacturing occupations: 47th.

Annual average hourly manufacturing wage: 44th.

Percentage change over three years in annual average hourly manufacturing wage: 21st.

Non-agricultural labor union membership per 100 non-agricultural workers: 33rd.

Percentage change over two years in non-agricultural labor union membership per 100 non-agricultural workers: 12th.

Vocational education enrollment as a percentage of population: 7th.

Average percent of estimated non-agricultural working time lost due to work stoppages over two years: 32nd.

Fuel and electric energy cost per million BTUs for manufacturers: 17th.

State expenditures on environmental control as a percentage of total state expenditures: 36th.

Personally speaking:

Dancing hen gets mountain burial

Have you ever asked yourself what you would do, if your dancing chicken died?

The death of a dancer was what I faced Jan. 14, just a few hours after my profile of this beauty—a black banty hen—first was revealed to the world. Dancer, that once ordinary winged bird who attempted to change her profession from egg-layer to Broadway dancer, passed on.

To be honest, it was reality that finally struck me hard. Here it was, nearly midnight. It was around 25 degrees outside. More than two feet of snow covered the ground. I couldn't find my shovel, and I was going to have one heck of a time burying this dancing chicken that might have brought me fame and fortune.

I decided that an Indian-style burial was fitting for my late dancing chicken.

With hundreds of different native American burials to choose from, I finally decided on one Clackamas Indians might have employed. Their territory once ranged from where the mouth of the Clackamas joins the Willamette to as far east as the summit of Mt. Hood, north to the Columbia and south to what is now called High Rocks.

Prior to the arrival of the Hudson's Bay Company to these wilderness lands west of the Cascades, slave burials were common as drying huckleberries or spearing fish on horseback.

The warriors of the Clackamas



by MICHAEL P. JONES

would raid other tribes in the territory. These included the Molallias, Multnomahs, Calapooias and Klamaths. The warriors would take prisoners for slaves. When their master died, those slaves would accompany him to the Happy Hunting Ground.

I abandoned that idea for another form of burial once employed by the tribe after the arrival of fur trappers. I was either going to bury Dancer in a canoe up a tree or tie her to a cross mounted high.

The canoe burial seemed crazy. First of all, I didn't have a

cedar canoe or any other canoe for that matter. Even if I did, I didn't fancy the idea of chopping a hole in the bottom. This was a common practice back then because of pilfering pioneers who believed only their own graves deserved respect.

I decided to bury the chicken Nez Pierce and Cayuse-style. She'd be buried on a crude ten-foot high wooden platform, supported by two poles. Here she would be placed with all her worldly possessions, until she took the notion to make like a "skywalker" and journey to the hereafter.

Having no desire to construct the burial perch in the snow, I settled on a four-foot metal barrel. Since she had no possessions, I laid her to rest on a bed of hay with not much more than some egg-mash and crushed oyster shells.

But as we stood there, no longer did this burial seem proper. Perched in the top of a tall Douglas fir were three ravens eyeing the stiff chicken. Having seen what they do to "road kills," I made a hasty retreat with the chicken's body back to my home to contemplate my next move.

I took a walk to the small animal graveyard that highlighted a small clearing near a grove of trees. Visible were only the top three inches of slab-wood crosses that adorned the resting place of a conglomerate of chickens, ducks and my nearly

life-long companion, Sheatawn Tonto Chicano Jones (or just plain "black cat").

More than 48 hours now had passed since the chicken had died. She had laid in "state" on my back porch for all those who wanted to come and pay their last respects. The mourners included raccoons, squirrels, a wild house cat, grossbeaks, swallows and even a bobcat.

Determined, I cleared the two feet of snow away next to the grave of my cat and attacked the frozen ground. Fifteen minutes later, I was lowering Dancer into her grave. I covered her over with a pile of frozen dirt and two large buckets of stones. Taking two iced-over pieces of slab-wood, I fashioned a cross and shoved it down through the pile of rocks.

However, not knowing what was proper to recite at the graveside ceremony at a pauper's funeral, I decided to read the farewell poem on a 1892 funeral plaque that contained names of my ancestors inscribed.

"We loved them, yes, we loved them. But angels loved them more, and they have silently called them to yonder shining shore."

The golden gates were opened, a gentle voice said "Come," and with farewells unspoken, they calmly entered home.

My dancing chicken finally was laid to rest. The last official ordeal between the living and the dead finally was over.