



# The Sandy Post

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## District budget hit by revenue shortfall

by DAN DILLON

It's a good news—bad news situation for budgeters in the Sandy Elementary District.

The good news is that the overall proposed budget increase is the smallest in more than seven years.

The bad news is that, because of revenue shortfalls, the total levy requirement jumped dramatically.

District patrons will have an opportunity to voice their opinions about the proposed 1982-83 Sandy Elementary District budget tonight at 7:30 p.m. in a public hearing in the library at Cedar Ridge School.

Sandy's situation is not unique. School districts statewide are faced with the same problem and it could get worse if the state Legislature makes further cuts in basic school support in the wake of the newly-found \$100 million deficit at the state level.

In a recent survey of 50 school districts statewide, overall budgets rose from 0 to 15 percent with an average of 6.1 percent. However, the levy requirements ranged from 0 to an 87 percent increase at Astoria, with an average of 27 percent.

In Sandy, the total requirement is up 9.1 percent, about on course with inflation, said Superintendent Clark Lund. The levy requirement, on the other hand, is up 30 percent.

It will mark a new trend in the district's tax rate too.

"Historically, we've had a dropping rate," Lund said, "but this is the year it's going to swing back."

Without final property evaluation completed by the County Assessor, Lund is hesitant to make a guess as to the tax rate, but he expects it will be more than the \$8.21 per \$1,000 assessed valuation it was last year.

### REVENUE SHARING DOWN

"Outside revenue is not available," Lund said simply. "While you have a decline in revenue, you're having an increase in program costs because of

inflation."

Those counter-forces have conspired to make it difficult for budgeters.

Last year, the Sandy Elementary District received \$1.7 million in basic school support from the state. Lund said the district could have expected upwards of \$1.9 million this year, if the state were not having budgeting problems.

Already, \$16.3 million has been cut from the program statewide and some observers believe that total may rise as legislators wrestle with the newly-found deficit announced Monday.

If that happens, the choice is simple, according to Lund.

"The only option would be to curtail program," he said. "If they cut back more than the \$16.3 million, it could really hurt us here."

Already, the district's budget committee has cut \$279,000 from the original budget proposal, leaving just one new program in the district—a modified athletics program for students at Cedar Ridge School.

### TAXES REQUIRED UP

As it stands now, the total budget is \$5.45 million, up from \$4.99 million a year ago.

To balance the budget, the district will have to ask taxpayers for \$2.26 million. Last year, the district needed only \$1.59 million.

Under new state law, there will be no Ballot A and Ballot B as such. However, if the district's levy is approved by voters March 30, \$1.8 million will be eligible for state reimbursement. That reimbursement totals 30 percent. The remaining \$460,000 would be totally financed by local taxpayers.

Lund sees two options for taxpayers in the district.

"If they like the program and like what we're doing they have to accept the burden of responsibility, because there's a shift," he said. "If they can't endorse it, then there will have to be rollbacks."

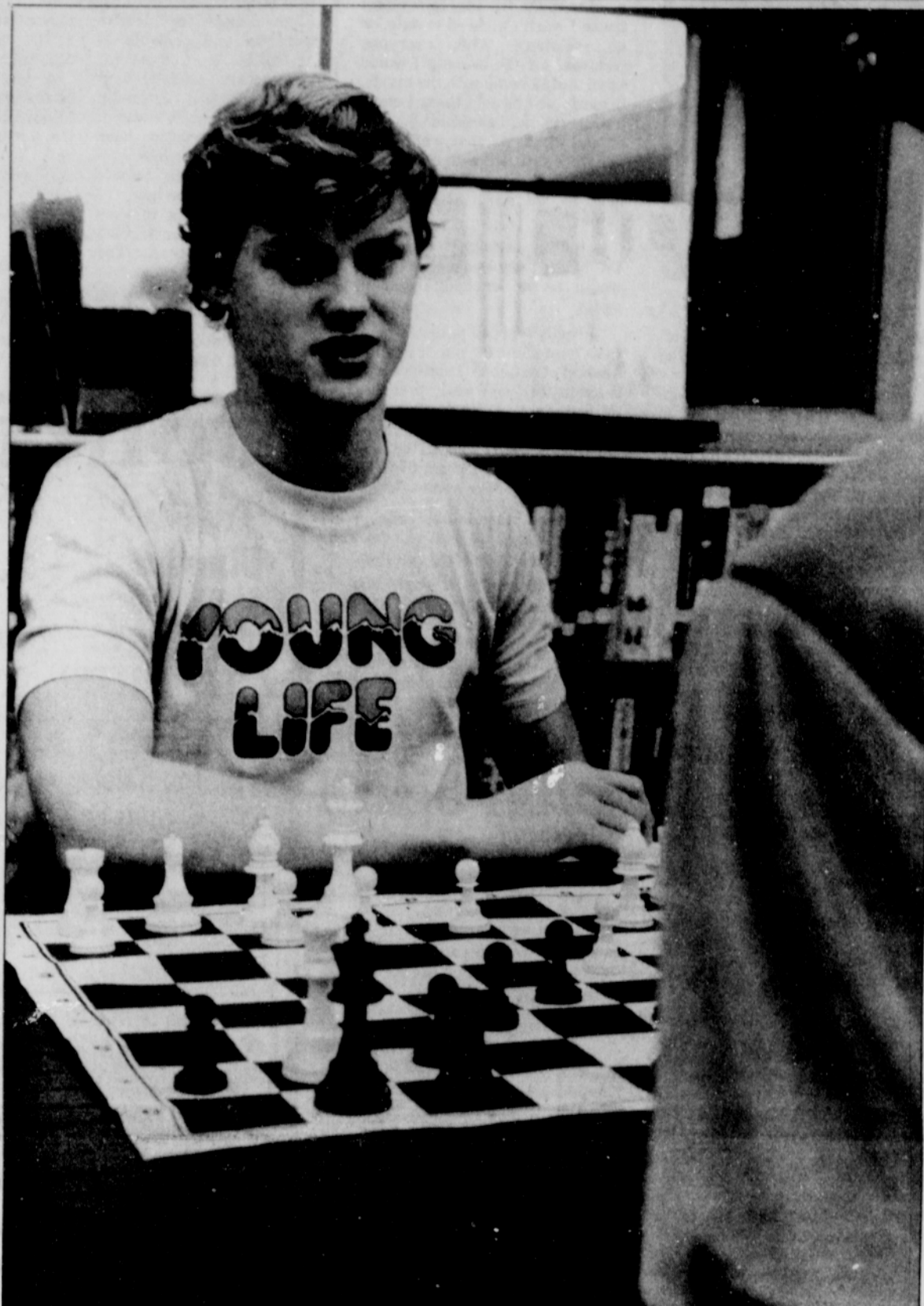


Photo by Scott Newton

Junior Pete Watkins of Sandy High School smiles as he says, "Checkmate," in a match during Saturday's Timber Valley League chess tournament. Watkins, second board for the Pioneers, was the only competitor to win all three matches. Coach Roger Ford said Watkins "squashed" his opposition in winning the second board title.

## Local bank victim of 1st robbery

A bank officer acted on impulse last Thursday afternoon and thwarted the first bank robbery in the 71-year history of Clackamas County Bank's Sandy branch.

Ed Storey, 32, assistant vice president of the bank, tackled and held the robber on the grounds of Sandy Elementary School across the street from the bank. He was assisted by Bobbi Swan, 39, senior vice president of the bank.

She helped Storey hold the robber until Sandy police arrived.

According to police reports, a man approached a teller in the bank shortly after 3 p.m. and demanded money. He then fled out the back door of the bank and Storey pursued him.

Sandy police arrested Cameron Drew Schleiss, 25, address unknown, and charged him with first-degree robbery. He was taken to Clackamas County Jail.

After Storey tackled the suspect, an undisclosed amount of cash broke free and was blown about in the wind near the Sandy Swim Center. It was recovered by bank employees.

This marked the first time the Sandy branch has been robbed in the bank's history.

Bank president Fred Proctor, however, recalled two earlier burglary attempts foiled by his banker father when Fred was only 6 or 8 years old.

The Sandy bank was then located on Main Street (now Pioneer Boulevard) near the present site of Heritage Square.

"The second time," recalled Proctor, "I followed dad over. The alarm had gone off at home."

"They bored a hole through the wall. They got away, but they darn near got shot."

Like bank executives Swan and Storey, who tackled the robbery suspect here last week, Fred's dad took no nonsense, either.

"Dad always had a shotgun and a .45 in his desk," Proctor recalled. "But that was back when men like Dillinger roamed the country in their old cars."

Proctor said this is the first time in his 32 years of banking that a robber ever made off with any loot.

## City happy with plans for growth, business

by DAN DILLON

City officials are happy these days with the way things have turned out lately.

At Tuesday evening's City Council meeting hardly a discouraging word could be heard as the success of the city's comprehensive plan was relayed, a new Economic Development Commission report was presented and news that the sewer treatment plant expansion is progressing was told.

The biggest news for the city's future was the acknowledgement of the comprehensive plan by the state Land Conservation and Development Commission. That gives the city a roadmap for the next 20 years as it deals with expansion and land-use issues.

(See related story elsewhere on this page.)

Attracting new businesses to keep a sound economic base is the goal of the Economic Development Commission.

### DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Tuesday, George Morgan, chairman of the committee, presented the 74-page study to the council with hopes that it will be a useful tool in developing the city's industrial and commercial base.

He also asked that the city consider annexation of potential industrial

lands so that larger parcels might be available for potential developers.

In the report, the commission urged continued development of a diversified light industrial base, continued development of the city's retail goods and services to parallel other growth and implementation of a program whereby the city would take an active role in promoting economic development.

The report also suggested that the commission continue to function as an advisor to the council and called for creation of a comprehensive economic development plan within the next two years.

Continued development of the light industrial base would require expansion of the Sandy Sewage Treatment Plant, according to the report, "if this most basic strategy is to be achieved."

### PLANT WORK PROGRESSING

City Manager Roger Jordan told the council that almost all the work has been accomplished on the sewage treatment plant study, with the exception of an inflow and infiltration study which has been slowed by winter weather.

That study is crucial for the life of the plant. According to a study prepared last year, the treatment plant could handle an additional 500 connections if the problem of excess water leaking into the system could be alleviated, along with modifications to the plant and purchase of a sludge truck.

"It appears at this time that we have a pretty severe inflow and infiltration problem," Jordan said, "but that's a pretty broad statement."

A meter has been placed at the plant to measure the volume of excess water that enters the plant during rainy weather.

Jordan cautioned that the system "doesn't lend itself to an easy solution at this time," but said that it appears the plant handles even less volume during dry weather than had been previously estimated.

So, after the inflow and infiltration problem is resolved, the city will be all right for some time.

In other action, the city council: —Learned that a 24-hour religious programming station will replace the movie channel on the Warner Cable system in the near future.

## Sandy plan acknowledged by state

by DAN DILLON

After three years of planning, writing and revising, the city of Sandy's comprehensive plan has been acknowledged by the state Land Conservation and Development Commission.

The decision, made Feb. 5, means the city's 20-year long-range plan conforms to statewide land-use goals and makes it the guideline by which future land-use decisions will be made.

"It's a milestone for Sandy because Sandy has really grown a lot," said Linda McPherson, LCDC field representative in Portland. "It's no longer the sleepy, little town on the road to

Mt. Hood and Sandy is really receiving a lot of urbanization pressures.

"The commission acknowledged in its decision that the plan will be a good plan for Sandy's future," she said.

"The effort was to develop a comprehensive plan with the best interests of the community in mind," said City Manager Roger Jordan. "We're happy it complies (with statewide guidelines)."

The plan organizes the relationships between people, land, resources and facilities and is designed to guide development of the community.

"The community can now initiate planning efforts it has been carrying on since the plan was

adopted by the City Council," Jordan said.

"When individual land-use actions are in compliance with the comprehensive plan, we should not have any challenges from the state—or we hope no challenges should occur," he said.

"It's a long-range plan and we will take a look at individual actions based on the long-range plan," Jordan said. "Now land uses will have to comply with the plan, rather than going to LCDC's goals to justify every action."

"Everyone now knows what will happen to their property and the abutting property."

The plan was submitted for LCDC approval in July 1980 after

it had been OK'd by the Sandy City Council. Initial LCDC review in May 1981 led to a continuance order, granted to make minor corrections.

Those deficiencies were corrected and the plan was re-filed in October 1981.

The work to make the corrections was "a very cooperative process," McPherson said. "The commission felt that Sandy really exemplified a spirit of cooperation."

With acknowledgement by LCDC, the plan will not remain static. A minor review of the plan is to occur in two years, according to Jordan, and a major review will take place every five years.

## Mt. Hood plan review starts tonight

A meeting tonight kicks off a series of citizen meetings to update Clackamas County's 1976 Mt. Hood Community Land Use Plan.

The first of five meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. tonight, Feb. 18, at the Hoodland Womens Club on Salmon River Road, east of Highway 26.

The meetings, which will run through May, result partially from the December 1981 state Land Conservation and Development Commission order that the County review the Mt. Hood area plan, and partially from the County's own provision that the plan be updated at five-year intervals, according to Ardis Stevenson, Environmental Services assistant director.

LCDC gave the County 150 days, or until May 30, to review land use designations for rural areas outside the Hoodland Services District and to protect identified wet lands in the 85,000-acre Mt. Hood corridor.

The plan update covers the area from Alder Creek and Cherryville on the west to the Clackamas County line east of Government Camp.

Tonight's meeting is to review resource maps and inventory data to be sure the County is using the most accurate and current information on existing land uses, locations of wet lands and natural resources and parcel sizes, Stevenson said.

"Citizens' help with the data is absolutely essential, because it's basic to locating wet lands that need protection and to justifying rural zoning for areas that are already committed to non-farm or non-forest uses," she said.

The Mt. Hood Community Plan was unchallenged from its 1976 adoption until late last spring.

Then, the citizens group, ECOS, objected to LCDC acknowledgement of the plan, contending that it violated statewide planning goals for protection of wet lands

and preservation of farm and forest lands.

In December, LCDC determined that land within the Hoodland Sewer District was indeed committed to non-farm or non-forest uses, but directed the County to reconsider rural zoning outside the District and to review ECOS' information on wet lands in the Mt. Hood corridor.

"The County sees the update of the Mt. Hood plan as an opportunity not only to respond to LCDC's direction, but to make the plan more useful for the people in the Mt. Hood corridor and the County," Stevenson said.

"The plan update will emphasize the issues on which LCDC requested additional work and will rely on many of the policies that are in the overall County plan and ordinances which have already been acknowledged by LCDC as meeting the statewide planning goals," she said.

Based on citizen verification of

the County's basic data, Environmental Services staff will develop a draft proposal. A summary of the draft will be mailed to property owners, community planning organizations and affected agencies about March 5.

At a March 18 meeting, citizens will be given the opportunity to discuss the Draft Plan Update, which will include a map showing proposed land use designations as well as proposed policies.

County staff says the purpose of the March meeting is to explain the draft and to hear citizen's suggestions for changes and improvements.

Following the March discussion, County staff will revise the "draft" into a "proposed" plan. That will be distributed in advance at a citizens information meeting in April and public hearings by the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners in May.

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