

Voter registrations 'lost' in mail

A voter registration foul-up on Mt. Hood resembles your classic case of government's right hand not watching what the left was doing.

The county's planning department gave many mountain residences new street names and numbers as improvement on lot numbers and duplicate road names. However, the county's elections office wasn't fully aware of the implications. They found many voter memorandum cards, routinely mailed to update resident precinct assignments, undeliverable as addressed by old mail lists.

County Elections instructed the Postal Service not to forward the voter registration check-up cards. In question are some 2,100 addresses in Brightwood, Welches, Rhododendron and Govt. Camp. There renters not notified of street address changes, mere mailing address change or postal box and star route confusion may have befuddled the Elections Office.

If a county voter received the memorandum card with precinct information, then he's set to vote without question. Those who didn't receive the card in the mailing foul-up still may take action to vote.

New voter information cards can be filled out at normal registration sites, including Hoodland fire station and Sandy Public Library. Misplaced voters in Estacada and Boring can register again at Estacada City

Hall, the school or Boring fire station. Another approach would be to write the elections board to verify residence for polling.

The county is aware of the problem and will take precaution at the poll to avoid losing any voters through confusion, Clackamas County Elections Supervisor John Kauffman said.

Questioned voters the county feels simply got lost in the shuffle may find their name on a list for verification at their same polling place the day of election. At that time, election deputies can assist voters in verifying their resident qualification by filling out new voter precinct cards. However Kauffman said he'd rather avoid any hassle at the poll by having misplaced voters fill out new cards before March 30.

Altogether some 18,000 voter registrations out of 142,000 checked by mail loom in question. For Mt. Hood this primary election poses major political changes including new federal Congressional District 5, new state Senate District 14 and new House District 23.

One candidate who figures he may have lost in the Mt. Hood registration foul-up is Welches Republican John Thompson, who figures his home turf to be logical support base in his bid for new Senate seat.

However, misplaced voters on Mt. Hood will not receive their voters' pamphlet or any other elections information from County Elections' outdated mailing list.



New war, schools, levies draw focus

A major reason Oregon's economy is in such bad shape is the expensive Reagan and Denny Smith military buildup, causing massive federal deficits and higher interest rates.

We must work for an immediate freeze on the further development of nuclear weapons, savings from which could cut the federal deficit or fund vital domestic needs. The United States needs new policies of global cooperation to protect our economy and planet.

With new revelations of Reagan's secret war against the government of Nicaragua, my concern over the possibility of another Vietnam in Central America has reached a new level. The Reagan and Smith policy of confrontation and military solutions eventually may lead to spilling of American boys' blood in yet another foreign land, just as Wayne Morse predicted would happen in Vietnam.

The Reagan certification of an improved human rights situation by El Salvador's military junta immediately was contradicted by both the United Nations and Amnesty International. Yet our country still is sending millions of dollars in high-technology military hardware to an undemocratic military junta clearly responsible for deaths of four American Catholic nuns, as well as thousands of their own countrymen.

We must fight back to save America from another tragic situation. On March 26 the Democratic National Committee will consider my proposal to join the call for peaceful negotiations leading to democratic elections in El Salvador and an honest appraisal of the real human rights situation.

Dave McTeague
Democratic National
Committee
Salem

Cuts crafty?

The Oregon School Board Association at a recent meeting decided to release probationary teachers as a tactic in their effort to win budget approval in local school districts. This tactic, that has been accepted by the Sandy Union High School Board, is yet another method of manipulating the community into swallowing a proposed budget.

The budget is not being put up for voter approval on its own merits, but instead is being promoted on

the backs of the released teachers.

Apparently the school board believes the budget will not fly except into its own face; therefore, the non-renewals.

In fact, the release of these teachers is not necessary at this time. If a local school district doesn't get a levy approved, it has no obligation to any teacher, classified personnel or management in terms of a job. This is spelled out in state law. It also is stated within the contracted agreement between the school district and the certified staff.

If the school board indeed believes in the budget

He exemplifies what an athletic coach should be. He does a very low-key, competent job at both teaching techniques of skiing and stressing healthy attitudes about winning, losing and improving oneself.

He has gained the respect of all coaches in the state with his presidency in the Inter-Scholastic Ski Racing Association.

He is a credit to our high school.

Suzanne Marter
Welches

Open tryout

This letter talks about a major concern at Sandy

Water coming

The Alder Creek Water Districts have survived another major hurdle with the approval by the Metropolitan Service Boundary Commission to form five separate and distinct water districts under the 264 special service district.

Thousands of hours contributed by a great many people have brought us to this point where we now can see our way clear to solve our own problems and make the five systems individually responsible to their own people without having a grandiose plan shoved down our throats.

for approval. The election will be conducted within the city from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 30.

Again this year, a budget has been prepared and approved by a budget committee and stays within the ballot A statewide limitation. This means a tight operational levy with no frills. Expenditures have been kept at a bare minimum to provide only continuation of current level of services in most cases.

Without an adequate tax base, the city now generates revenues of only \$14,142.15 and must go to the voters each year to gain approval of funding to operate for each new fiscal year.

This election will be the third year under the new state law controlling property taxes and elections. The new law provides for the state to pay up to 30 percent of the property taxes for operating purposes. However, the state has set the limit in which they will participate as last year's levy—plus inflation and growth.

This proposed city budget total is up only 2.1 percent from the current year's appropriated budget. The general fund is up a little more than 6.7 percent from the appropriated budget last year and is approximately the same amount as last year's revised budget.

This compares very favorably when comparing this to the overall 19 percent increase to city services created by growth and inflation. While inflation in our area this year was reduced to approximately 8 percent, our growth rate increased almost 11 percent.

The combination of these two items has made it difficult to maintain all of the existing services.

With approval of this proposed operating levy, the city would be able to maintain existing operations in the police department. In these trying times, a 24-hour coverage for the city is most necessary. Also, in public works which functions in a variety of maintenance for the city, including water, sewer and streets.

I would urge the local electorate to get out and vote on Tuesday, March 30, in support of their local city operational levy, as well as the county's special three-year serial levy supporting services to our senior citizens.

Ruth M. Loundree
Sandy mayor

Personally speaking:

Thumbing Bluff Rd. wild

I've hitchhiked up and down North Bluff Road a lot during the past three years.

It's the kind of situation you find yourself in when your car works less well than Reaganomics.

Its wheel bearings lost their bearings. Its brake shoe lost its sole. Its fuel pump has so many problems that precious bodily fluids don't get pumped to parts of the body where they can do some good—like make the sucker run.

So, I hitchhike from time to time.

I'd like to say I have a Sissy Hankshaw thumb. She's the heroine of a Tom Robbins' novel, "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues," and she's got a banana-sized beauty.

She plucks rides from Ferraris three lanes over—like fishermen after trout at their favorite hole—by waving her fruity appendage in the driver's general direction before she reels them in.

Such is not my luck.

In the past three years, I hitchhiked North Bluff Road at least 120 times. I got seven rides that I can remember.

However, I must admit, my earlier hitchhiking experience had been limited.

Previously, my car ran. When it didn't, I ran. Laziness wasn't yet my modus operandi.

Oh, there was the time J.C. and I hitched a ride from Linnton to downtown Portland along the St. Helens Highway.

It helped that he remembered he had a pair of crutches in his closet. He climbed back up the flight of stairs we called our street about an hour after we put our thumbs out, gathered the crutches up and rejoined me at the curb.

The first passing motorist was sympathetic, stopped and proffered us a ride. Caveat emptor.

Another time, my car accidentally kissed a curb and bent its axles. I was forced to use my thumb for a week to find a way to school.

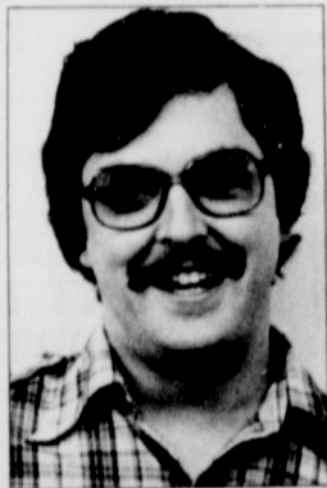
It didn't matter. I was in the midst of a hot streak on the St. Helens Highway.

Indeed, the first car stopped, even without the crutches. The driver went out of his way to take me over the St. John's Bridge above the Willamette River.

It might have been a more pleasurable experience for him had we made it, but I told investigators his version of the accident.

I was just thankful for the ride.

After that hitchhiking experience I didn't put out my thumb again until I mov-



by DAN DILLON

ed to Sandy and, for the most part, my efforts here have been futile.

That is, they were futile until recently.

Earlier this month I took a week off to sort some things out and try to discover the bottom of my kitchen sink where some of the dishes had been stacked since last year—early last year.

Because my car was in the shop for the first few days of vacation, it meant a few trips up and down the road.

It's gotten to the point now that I usually don't even stick out my thumb. I'm resigned to the fact that it's easier to walk and look energetic than it is to grovel at the side of the road, trying to lure a ride.

I was making my way along Bluff one morning when a car pulled up behind me and honked excitedly. I gingerly stepped further off the shoulder of the road, expecting it to roar past. I muttered a few choice, uh, phrases.

The car, however, pulled up short and its driver and passenger peered out into the rain at me, saying something about something.

I was a bit annoyed because they'd honked at me when I was clearly off the road minding my own business and it was raining the way it only rains when you're a half mile from home without a coat.

They asked me if I wanted a ride.

I was overwhelmed. I couldn't believe it. After all those times I tried to hitch a ride, this couple actually stopped unsolicited. I was nearly ecstatic, but I had to decline.

There were less than 200 yards left in my two-mile run. I decided to tough it out.

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