

Editorial & Opinion



Incentive needed for woodlot yield

Several factions are working on state legislation to provide better incentive for small private woodlot owners to manage their substantial forestry reserves for timber yield.

Small private woodlots, after all, amount to 3.5 million acres in Oregon, and the state forester has said he'd like these underproductive reserves to contribute 14 percent of the state's sagging harvest volume. He picks that goal, because studies indicate there could be that great of a shortage in timber supply by the year 2000.

Unfortunately, recent taxation and fundless incentive legislation has helped discourage most small owners from managing their woodlots for yield.

Jim Carbone of AOI's Oregon Forest Industries Council calls forest property tax a disincentive to tree growing and calls for state reassessment of a severance tax of 6.5 percent of timber value charged upon harvest. Indeed, why harvest?

Taxes on forest land actually have increased 22 percent since 1977, according to his AOI forestry report.

State Senator Charles Hanlon last session tried vainly against economic ill winds to introduce an improved woodland management act. A gutless 1979 version offers owners only 10 percent of a requested 50 percent tax credit, and few takers have bothered to collect the 5 percent upon planting and other 5 percent upon inspection two years later.

The state Department of Forestry, therefore, expects next session to reintroduce a bill for 50 percent tax credits payable as soon as safely planted and inspected and include woodlots up to 2,000 acres in the incentive program.

Senator Hanlon, meanwhile, plans to introduce a horse of a different color, knowing costly state tax credits might not draw many salutes from legislators this January.

He hopes for a slight increase in tax currently charged wood products purchasers for fire protection and research to fund a new revolving loan fund. To qualify, small woodlot owners would have to contract with the state Department of Forestry to embark on an aggressive management program. Presently, only 20 percent of the state's small private woodlots are managed at all.

Hanlon's new plan, he told The Post, would stimulate management of untapped private forest lands through zero-interest, long-term loans.

He said he doesn't expect AOI who represents the wood products industry to like his plan for increased consumer tax, but reasons log purchasers have most to gain from increased forest harvest here.

The potential is large, especially in Clackamas County where 133,502 acres rest in private, non-industrial hands of some 1,813 owners—most of whom own less than 100 acres.

With a projected steady decline in state harvest, new business from woodlots takes on growing importance in a timber-based state economy turned sour.

Best yet, fresh new money from woodlot harvest primarily would remain in the state where resident owners would cycle it throughout their communities.

Present tax disincentives, on the other hand, make Oregon the costliest state in the country for the forest property owner who would harvest his reserves.

Consequently, AOI calls for the Legislature to lower forest land values and lower the severance tax they term a disincentive to harvest.

Some sort of incentive program for small private woodlot owners should emerge from the 1983 Legislature to bolster Oregon's slumping timber economy, and we look for funding that doesn't burden the state's general fund to be most promising. (VB)

Letter to the editor:

Readers comment on school's levy

Parents, unite

At a school board meeting I stated my husband had taken a 10 percent cut in pay. Actually, along with it he had to lose a day of work each week. So he really is losing 30 percent. He voted for this cut in order to have a job guarantee just until Sept. 30.

It has been said that teachers at Sandy are in the lower 25 percent in income for their profession in this state, while the administrators are in the upper 25 percent. Can this be true? If so, it seems that a substantial cut should be made in administration salary.

There are lots of improvements I, as a parent, can suggest. But I wonder if I will be heard. Sports and other special programs keep our youth in Sandy. We probably could save much by voting them out, as a larger percentage of kids would drop out. However, if you look at facts, you end up paying taxes then to support them on welfare or in jail.

I would like to see more parents allowed to be more involved with their school programs. We shouldn't let ourselves become so in-

timidated by school personnel and rules that apply to this kid and not that one. But the way to do this is not to vote education out. Rather, form a strong group of parents for changes.

Many parents are afraid to speak up. Let's stand beside our kids and support the good teachers and speak up against the bad. We can make a difference, but only if we unite.

Caren Topliff
Sandy

Don't fire

I must express my disagreement with the terminology "a savings of \$76,592 realized when three full and one part-time teachers resigned" and again "twelve non-tenured teachers may not be hired... a savings of \$352,065."

These are not savings, but rather sacrifices of basic education. Classroom size that a teacher can adequately handle enabling him to meet the needs of individuals in the class is primary to our whole education system. I would go along with reducing pay (including administration) or freezing pay to keep an adequate staff, but would

never use the euphemism "savings" to label cutting needed teachers.

Joyce Marcy
former SUHS teacher
Sandy

Money wasted?

I am a financially observant college student. (Poor, if you wish.) I have observed something that has irked me. That's right, a waste of money. Tax money.

About a month ago, the county decided it was our turn to have the lines repainted on our road. (Bull Run Road) That was very nice of them. They did a good job, considering they don't get much practice.

Just this week a road crew spent a few days oiling and graveling the remains of Bull Run Road.

Again, this was much needed.

Now, I thought they did a pretty good job painting the lines. A country "higher-up" must not have thought the same way.

Still, I don't think it was necessary to cover them up.

Approximately half the lines are gone (in the area where the road work was done).

Ge, I wonder who paid for this "waste."

Matthew J. Simonis

Letter unsigned

My faith in the Sandy Post has diminished. I had always believed you printed all letters received.

Two weeks ago, I sent in a letter expressing my concerns over the Hoodland

Fire Department which you chose not to run. (*) Perhaps the issues and questions I raised were too 'hot' to print. Perhaps you were afraid of repercussion. No good newspaper backs away from the truth.

If you have no intention of printing my letter in a forth-coming issue and have not round filed it, I would like to have it returned to me at the above address.

E.W. Caldwell
Lacey, Wash.

(EDIT. NOTE: It is our policy to attempt to publish all signed letters. Your earlier letter, however, was not signed and all attempts to reach you for a signature failed, since you listed no return address or phone. We welcome any signed letter from you on this subject.)

The Post gratefully acknowledges essays and written opinions from readers to appear on this page—separate from the unbiased news reports on other pages of this newspaper. Your opinions generally will be printed as letters to the editor, while ours generally will appear as editorials. Occasionally, we are able to print guest editorials. We attempt to print all signed letters of good taste, legible form and reasonable length. Our deadline is noon on Tuesdays.

Personally speaking

Two for three ain't bad....Ask Yaz

The first time I saw him, he was a skinny 27-year-old kicking at the leftfield grass in Anaheim Stadium.

The memory comes back 15 years later like crystal.

It was the start of the longest-running case of hero worship in my life. It's like crystal, because all these years later—to the day, or at least to within a week of to-the-day—he did again what he did that summer evening during the surprising 1967 American League season of the Boston Red Sox.

Last Monday night in Seattle, Carl Yastrzemski struck out.

With school bells peeling students back to the classroom, subconsciously every August I still run through the first theme paper of the year: "What I Did on My Summer Vacation."

This year I recalled some anniversaries that somehow all fell due during the summer of 1982.

The crystal anniversary celebrated a trip to Southern California. Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm fade, however, at the memory of watching Yaz shift from foot to foot, simultaneously blowing on his fingertips as he waited for a fly ball to materialize, and knocking dirt from his cleats before he failed to get a hit in four appearances at



by DAN DILLON

the plate.

"By and large it is the sport that a foreigner is least likely to take to. You have to accept the lore of the bubble-gum card, and believe that if the answer to the Mays-Snyder-Mantle question is found, then the universe will be a simpler and more ordered place," wrote David Halberstam. I tend to agree and the pull is still there.

It pulled me to Seattle to watch Yaz strike out and revisit the

china anniversary of summer vacations.

The Seattle World's Fair was a vision of the future—telephones that let answerers see their callers, monorails and simulated space trips.

It's the symbol of that international gathering, though, that stays in my mind.

After standing in line for two hours, our family rocketed to the top of the Space Needle. Somehow, I got separated from them when we arrived at the top. Dazed and confused (even then), I looked helplessly around. Not seeing a familiar face, I cried.

Later, my father told me he was just out of sight and watched the whole episode. During my moment of terror, he was enjoying the show. Funny guy, my dad. I didn't bother to go up this trip.

At the International Fountain in the center of the grounds, mumuus and sarongs have been replaced now by whatever that New Wave uniform is that seemingly every Seattle female under 40 is trying to wear. And everyone seems shorter now. The bustle is hushed to a whisper, where the bustle sounded good.

A high school class in Montana held its "tin" year reunion this

summer.

I made the crystal and china anniversaries. Two out of three isn't bad. Just ask Yaz.

I'm not much good at reunions. I missed my five-year college reunion. If we ever had a kindergarten reunion, I missed that one, too.

I lost touch with my high school class. It wasn't altogether intentional. We just drifted apart, it and I. Now it would be too easy to notice its change after 10 years.

Sure, I noticed Yaz's gray hairs and the step he's lost going to first. I missed the mumuus and sarongs by the International Fountain.

But those memories are less fragile. They've had longer to calcify than the memories of hanging out with a bunch of tinhorns before we all took the big step.

Those memories were more easily earned. A quick trip doesn't do justice to 12 years of school camaraderie.

I always figured if I was ever in the Olympics and won an event, I'd want to choose what kind of medal I got. I've never been too keen on gold.

Maybe, the best reunions are silver.

Mail voting test may give answers

Experimental voting by mail in an upcoming Gresham High School levy should provide interesting comparison for county elections officers who also tally Sandy High District ballots Sept. 21.

The overlap of Gresham High patrons across county lines provides the first chance for Clackamas County Elections Supervisor John Kauffman, tentative vote-by-mail advocate, to test its effectiveness here.

Earlier testing in Linn County proved successful. Kauffman figures mail voting here may prove slightly more costly, but show better participation. Indeed, it may prove a god-send to school districts that have trouble getting their best supporters out to the polls to pass levies.

While Sandy High District voters will vote conventionally at their normal precincts and even

may register the day of the election, Gresham High's voters this election are strapped by postal time requirements with an Aug. 23 cut-off for registration. Those registered voters in Gresham High's District who miss their due ballots in the mail come this Saturday should call their county election office.

Kauffman hopes to learn something significant about costs and voter level in this first Clackamas County taste of mail voting. He figures comparison between Sandy High's levy voting and Gresham High's mail ballot should provide a fair test.

Clackamas County's Gresham High patrons who don't receive their mail ballots by this Saturday are urged to call Kauffman's office at 655-8551 to make sure their vote counts in the test, as well as the levy. The pay-off could be large in both cases. (VB)

Sandy football a rallying force

Sandy High's Pioneers should prove a source of community pride and focus this fall, as they entertain us with new Mt. Hood League football tilts.

Their contests should prove much more interesting, as they tackle nearby rivals from Gresham, Barlow, Parkrose and Reynolds.

It should be more fun for Sandy folks to root their boys past kids down the road in the Gresham-east Portland area, and the quality of ball should pick up with the better opponents, too.

Since even "away" games will

require only a simple drive down the highway, we look for better attendance at Pioneer football games, too.

Games start earlier this year, too, at a more reasonable 7:30 p.m., with some games scheduled in the nicer Mt. Hood College stadium.

Pioneer spirit? The new league alignment rekindles an old rivalry with Parkrose, first Sandy opponent Friday. Then there's an opportunity for Sandy boys to vindicate their loss to Reynolds last year in the state playoff.

Go get 'em, Sandy! (VB)