

Levy defeat would cost, not save

A fourth and final defeat of Sandy High's fund-raising efforts at the polls Tuesday spells a multiplication of problems for the entire community.

An earlier tax-base increase attempt and two subsequent serial levy tries were sent back to the blackboard with failing marks at the polls. It matters not whether school budgeters have failed to read what voters were telling them or whether negative voters simply failed the school.

Budget defeat at this stage of the school year would cost the community lost jobs with school staff cast into unemployment and a costly scramble by high school parents to find alternative schooling.

The bottom line says the school must close Sept. 30 with levy failure Tuesday. That's when the district would run out of operating funds.

To their credit, school officials have whittled \$232,000 from the budget with cuts in swimming, water polo, career center, graphics and six staff positions.

That still leaves district patrons with a \$2.069 million A ballot request for basic operations and a \$404,040 supplemental B ballot request. The total budget request represents a 35-cent increase per \$1,000 assessment or \$17.50 more this year for the owner of a \$50,000 home.

No state or federal funds are available to bail the school out, either, should the levy fail again here. Next chance to hold an emergency budget election wouldn't come until Oct. 19.

Those two weeks in coma would burden the school with \$5,000 daily maintenance fees just to keep the sleeping school alive, until more life-restoring funds enter the system. Closure is costly, and so

is start-up. Another district election also would cost local taxpayers.

Suddenly Sandy's in the spotlight, but the heat feels more like a grilling hot light. How Sandy citizens work their way out of this tight spot—despite financial woes of the depressed area—will tell a lot about the character of this town, its pride and what respect it warrants from the outside world.

Jobless neighbors and personal poverty play a part in plans of some voters to vote against the school budget Tuesday, of course. They're voting their pocket book.

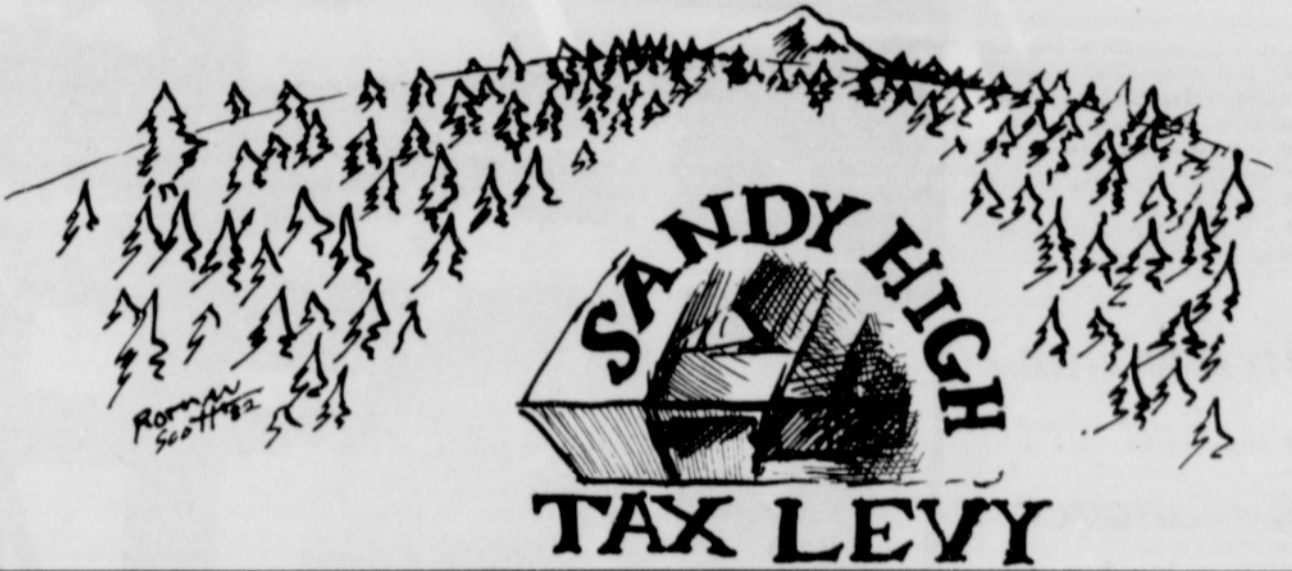
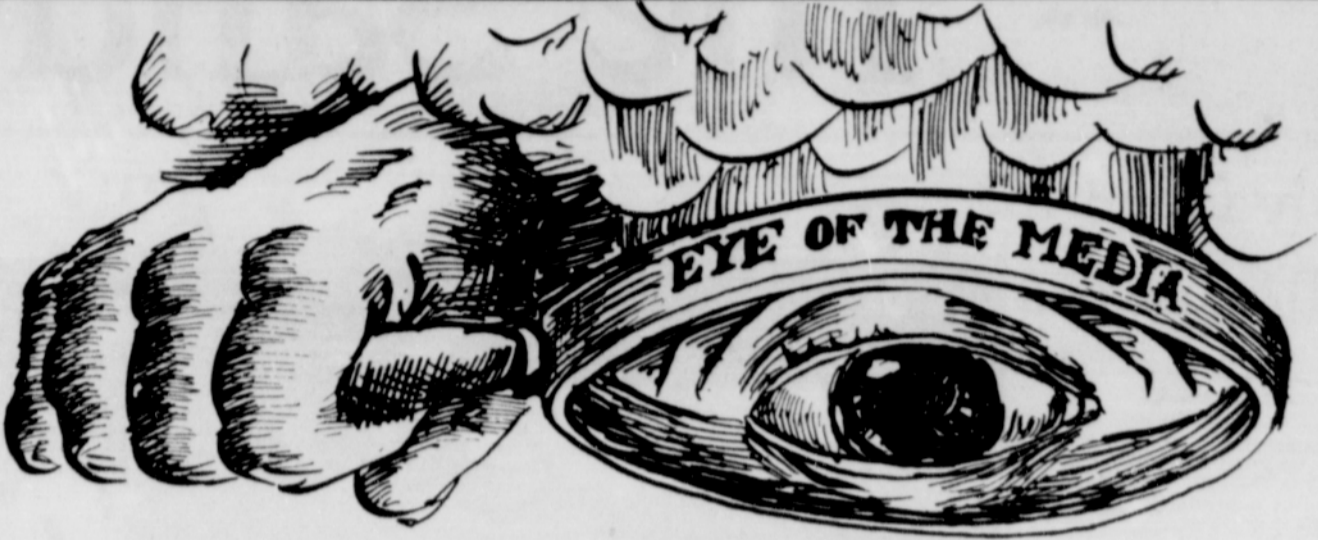
We think, however, that Sandy's seen enough persons lose their jobs. Putting the entire staff of Sandy High School out on the street won't do much to improve the general economy of this community.

Sending public school children parents scurrying to buy their teenagers' way into private schools would put added economic burden on much of the community.

Frustrated taxpayers who think the district asks too much to operate the school or don't like the way money is spent should choose a more appropriate and less critical time to shout their disapproval. Frustrated taxpayers now have the full attention of trembling school planners, who can't wait to hear from them next school board meeting. Then the public discussion discussion can commence, as it should.

Only now, please don't hold our children hostage and cordon off their schoolrooms like some sort of battleground. That's all so counter-productive.

A "Yes" vote is urged Tuesday in Sandy High's budget levy election. (VB)



School budget flap fans fiery debate

Welches supports

On Sept. 21 the Sandy UH-2 levy again will be offered. Should the levy fail, school will close and the parents of grades 9-12 students individually will assume total responsibility for their children's education. There will be no public funds to pay tuition or transportation, should they decide to send their child to another district.

Additionally, I have heard a rumor that a "no" vote on the Sandy High levy and the school's subsequent closure would result in a high school at Welches. Not true! Welches is organized as an elementary district and would continue to operate as a K-8 school. Welches parents would face the same problems with a high school closure.

Vote 'Yes'

If you don't like school board decisions, talk to the school board. If you don't like budget committee decisions, talk to the budget committee. If you don't like your property taxes, talk to your government officials.

But for our children's sake, don't take away their education!

Shirley Roth
Boring

Cut costs

Our current problem with the school budget is getting blown out of proportion with the idle threats of closing down the school just after it starts and saying the students are being robbed of their school and athletic activities.

In the first place, Sandy High will never go down in history for its basket weavers or water polo players. A school has to be run like a business, and when times are tough—as in any business—there always are some unnecessary functions that can and must be cut. When times get better, you can reestablish those cuts a little at a time.

Nobody guarantees the taxpayer wages in this recession, so how can the school expect to take the money that is not available to give?

The school should start operating on what budget it has, while making all the cuts it can. As the school year goes on, if they run out of money, we could then vote on enough money to finish the school year.

Maybe the economy will have shown enough improvement that we could then vote on the next year's budget also.

Things will show an improvement, and then we can reestablish our old habits. We all need to work together, however, so we all can survive this winter, not just the chosen few who can afford the higher taxes.

Let's vote "No" on the Sandy High school levy.

Jay D. Yeager
Sandy

Don't cut 'tree'

Voting "No" on school budgets is something like taking an ax to an apple tree that has been bearing good fruit through all its years.

Education has made our advanced civilization possible. Our people are our most valuable resource. To fail to find and develop their talents would be a form of self-destruction for our society.

Pornography, crime and

Teresa Lamer
Heidi Lamer
Bonita Connelly
Shawn Burns
Becky Rodrigues
Lisa Izer

Trim salaries

Teachers at Welches School need to realize a few pertinent facts about the district where they teach. The rest of the nation may be in a recession, but in the Hoodland area we are trying to survive a depression.

Letters to the editor

Closure forecast

Sandy Union High School District does not have sufficient funds to operate the school beyond Sept. 30.

There are no provisions for funding by the county, state or federal governments. There is no "reserve" fund in the school district to enable us to operate the high school beyond Sept. 30.

Tuesday, Sept. 21, you will be able to vote on a tax levy that asks for \$2,069,093 (Ballot A). In addition, under the laws of the State of Oregon, you will be able to vote on another tax levy for \$404,040 (Ballot B). These levies will enable us to continue operating the high school for the 1982-83 school year.

The Sandy Union High School District recognizes its responsibility to special education students in providing a free appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. Funds to provide this service are obtained from local property tax levies on an annual basis.

Sept. 21, voters of the school district will decide whether to fund educational services district-wide. Should the levy fail, the district will run out of operating resources and by law must close the school Sept. 30. On Sept. 29, all educational services for learning disabled, educable mentally retarded, emotionally handicapped, speech and other health impaired students.

District special education services will be terminated under the premise that all students accessing any educational programs must be treated equally.

Passage or defeat next Tuesday will determine whether the school will remain open or closed. The school board asks you to carefully consider the facts. We also encourage you to vote next Tuesday.

Wayne R. Johnson
SUHS board chairman

weakening of the family bringing us plenty of grief. To turn our backs on education surely would double our troubles.

I am one of those who want our schools to turn out young people strong in basic skills, solid on our national ideals and ready to take on the duties of citizenship. Voting down the school budget defeats those aims. We need to give our high school a vote of confidence on Sept. 21 and our young people the same opportunity we received.

W. Pete Sulzbach
Sandy

Athletes cheer

We as concerned students and past graduates want to voice our opinion of the passing of the Sandy Union High School A and B ballots.

We know that sports have helped many students throughout their lives. It is an important factor for many reasons. One involves lessons learned through participation in team sports. Also, many scholarships have helped kids make it through higher education. Also important is the feeling and knowledge of what it's like to win or lose or just participating in something you believe in. But cutting all of one sport is an injustice to those who have been participating in this sport all through high school and even before.

Another reason we want to see both ballots passed is because the money that would have been needed for the water sports that are on the B ballot may need to be made up by the grade school, so the taxpayers may have to pay sooner or later.

Also, if neither the A nor B ballot, it will cost the taxpayers \$1 million to close the school which is more than it would cost to keep it open.

We urge you to support both the A and B ballots.

As a part-time grocery clerk (whose husband now works in Idaho after no work for nine months), I see more people than ever having to use food stamps, welfare or unemployment checks—desperately trying to hold their families together with one or more parents out of work and no end in sight.

Unemployment up here—if tallied independent of the rest of Clackamas County—would be higher, I believe, than those Oregon counties termed "disaster areas" by state and federal economists. Many of us have had cars repossessed, homes foreclosed and credit ruined because of no work.

Yet some teachers are demanding more money, while fortunate enough still to be working. They will may deserve more pay, but we cannot afford to pay it now. Other unions nationally have settled not only for wage freezes, but wage reductions.

At least until the economy turns around and we have a little hope, can't you teachers have a little understanding? We're frightened—so frightened that you can't threaten us anymore with what will happen if our kids don't have volleyball, football or band.

Some of them don't have enough for food.

If we're too poor to keep your wages up with the Joneses, maybe you'd be happier in town with the Joneses.

Vicki Kramer
Welches

Register now

I want to talk about the importance of getting out to vote. Every vote counts. By not voting, those who do vote make decisions for you.

Voter registration in Oregon is permanent, unless an elector shows no voter activity for a two-

year period or changes residence, name, party or other information on the voter registration card.

You may register before or on the day of voting at the library. You must present a "certificate of registration," if you register during the last 20 days before an election.

Registration by mail is the principal means for registration to vote in Oregon. Mail-in registration forms are available in courthouses, public schools, banks, savings and loan offices, Motor Vehicles Division offices and other public places with high access.

Any person who is a citizen of the United States, resident of the State of Oregon and 18 years old on election day may register to vote.

So if you're not registered to vote, why aren't you? And if you don't vote, why not?

Kimberley Nelson
Democratic precinct committee person,
Sandy

Aid needed

Sandy Community Action Center has been extra busy the last two months, as more people feel the pinch of the recession. In particular, there have been many requests for food.

I wish to speak for the volunteers who operate the Center in thanking all our sponsors who bring us clothing, furniture and various household items.

We also greatly appreciate the contributions of food by individuals, churches and other organizations. Cash contributions received are used to provide food, emergency lodging and occasional minimal dental or medical help.

More than 1,000 persons come to the Center for help of some sort each month. We do not charge them for clothing, furniture, food, etc.

We hope that more local churches and other organizations will be included to help the Center in its work with regular monthly contributions, no matter how small.

We offer warm thanks to all the individuals and organizations who are helping.

Jan Bunch
Volunteer coordinator

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

Area mail vote sample promising

If you normally vote in Hoodland precinct 381 or 382 at Wemme Lions Club but haven't received a notice of polling place change, county elections office wants to hear from you.

Getting a representative turnout Tuesday for Sandy High's levy election is especially important for county officials, as they contrast Sandy's conventional precinct turnout with mail voting in that corner of the county that belongs to Gresham High's district.

Clackamas County's test of voting by mail already scores high marks for better voter participation, with promise for more extensive county use.

Some 1,898 county voters mailed ballots as part of Gresham High School's district already returned their completed ballots by Monday.

That amounts to a whopping 46 percent subtotal, allowing for late votes to be counted and a tidy 3 percent undeliverable mail rate that shut out 120 "lost" voters.

Clackamas County elections supervisor John Kauffman said that undeliverable rate reflects "we have an awful clean file."

He's also pleased with comparison to Gresham High School's March 30 poor precinct turnout of 15 percent locally, when college board seats and a county senior levy also faced Clackamas County voters in the school's district. That amounted to only 601 Clackamas county voters.

The current 46 percent local

early returns, however, aren't as good as Multnomah's 60 percent prediction or earlier tests that scored approximately 75 percent participation by mail.

Kauffman will eye Sandy High's levy turnout Tuesday at conventional precinct polling places as a good test comparison to the mail voting of county voters in Gresham High's district. Since both districts vote on critical budget levies, the comparison would be more apples for apples than apples compared with oranges.

One key to Sandy High's precinct tallies will be switch in polling place for Hoodland Precincts 381 and 382 from Wemme Lions Club to Hoodland Fire Department.

The change in polling place is permanent, and Kauffman is eager to notify all concerned voters to the change by election day. Memorandum cards noting the change were mailed to these voters, but a certain number of qualified voters may not have received word.

Kauffman asks Hoodland voters of precincts 381 and 382 who didn't receive this memo card to contact his county elections office at 655-8551. If time runs out, these precinct voters still may register at the new fire hall polling place which will feature a deputy clerk on duty to do the honors.

The main goal, of course, is a representative high turnout for Sandy High's critical levy Tuesday. (VB)

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.