

Editorial & Opinion

Ballot measures pose threats here

Two Nov. 2 ballot measures that could adversely affect the Sandy-Hoodland area require local voter attention.

Measure 3 to severely limit property tax could hamper local government agencies, especially schools that receive two-thirds of their public education funding from state property taxes.

Area schools, notably Sandy High, have had enough difficulty raising public funds just to stay open.

The measure also would shift the burden of public education from business and commercial property tax to personal income taxpayers.

Other small-town services would be hurt especially hard by the 1.5 percent tax limit, rollback to 1979 assessments and 2 percent annual increase ceiling.

The municipality of Sandy probably would be forced to cut police protection and heap extra functions on smaller departments, tough if the department has only one person.

The city has a small tax base as it is, and other major revenue from building permits here has dropped drastically with the building slump.

Local fire districts might have to severely restrict fire protection to live within new smaller budgets.

In fact, Measure 3 is so restrictive it would require two-thirds vote of both state houses and the public to boost property tax rates. Why hamstringing future generations by the myopia of today's financial panic?

A property tax limitation twice has been rejected by Oregonians in recent years. Let's be as responsible now by voting "No" on drastic Measure 3 and working sensibly to reduce government

spending.

Another Nov. 2 question that could harm Sandy area residents is Measure 6 to abolish the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

While kicking ineffective state bureaucrats out of our backyards might sound good at first, the consequences run deeper.

The LCDC reviewers, as guardians of state land-use planning goals, are all that prevent strip development of this area, notably Carmel Estates shopping center at Boring, long opposed by Sandy.

Left to local county land-use planning, the center at the Boring Highway 26 interchange with drainage and sewage service problems would have popped up long ago. That would mean a business drain on Sandy, probably left holding the bag for sewer service.

Statewide critics of LCDC generally concur that Commission members are ineffective, costing long delays and compliance expenses. Often, too, members seem insensitive to local community land-use desires.

Logically, the easiest way to make the program work as directed to oversee local government Comprehensive Plan compliance is to improve the process—not scuttle the program. Maybe the easiest way to accomplish this is to review Commission membership, as the governor has started to do.

Let's not throw out a model land-use planning approach that has preserved Oregon's natural resources and quality of life in positive way3 that can and do attract industry to this state and protect state farmland as top industry here now during the slump.

Raise an angry voice against LCDC practices, but vote a sane "No" on Measure 6. (VB)



Fire plan, school tax, killed pets eyed

Fire meet key

Hoodland Fire District Board of Directors will meet 7:30 p.m., Oct. 12. One topic for the evening will be a policy that would prevent a board member from serving as part-time employee (volunteer) or fully paid employee of the fire district.

If a present volunteer were elected to the board, he or she would have to resign from the volunteer or paid position to serve on the board.

In our opinion, this policy seriously would limit some of the fire district's resources. One valuable resource the fire district could lose is the district's fire investigator, who currently serves on the board. Another valuable resource is a paramedic, who also presently serves as a board member.

The Hoodland fire department has four paramedics. One of the four is a board member. At this time the Hoodland Fire District doesn't offer advanced life support on a 24-hour basis. The four paramedics are available at certain times, depending on whether they happen to be in the fire district to respond.

Should one of the four paramedics choose to be an elected board member and not a volunteer, we would lose his service to the fire district as a paramedic. Not only would we be throwing away hundreds of tax dollars used for his training, but the paramedic service would be cut by 25 percent.

In addition, we feel that having a firefighter on the board will give the district greater insight about fire district matters, as opposed to a member with minimal fire department background.

We urge the public in Hoodland to take part and voice their opinions at the Oct. 12 board meeting at the Hoodland fire station in Zigzag. It's your service, your taxes.

Daniel Brown, Brightwood
Richard Curtis, Welches
Durwood Douglas, III, Rhododendron

Sales tax best

As the junior board member of the Sandy Union High School Board of Directors, I feel an obligation to support a group of young swimmers at our high school. These young men and women have demonstrated to me their intense desire to compete in the Mt. Hood League. Along with their intense desire they have organized a revenue drive solely on their own to raise the necessary funds to have a

team. If successful, these funds would be turned over to the board of directors of the school district for dispersment to the support of the swimming program.

It is my responsibility along with the other board members to administer the funds you as taxpayers appropriate to the school district. Passing of the A Ballot Measure has allowed us to keep the high school operating throughout the present year. I will do everything I possibly can to continue the high quality of education we are giving the students.

Many of the programs that were offered on the B Ballot had to be eliminated.

For Starkovich

With a Senate District stretching from Sandy in the north to nearly Oakridge in the south, it's going to take someone with energy, dedication and concern to represent that district. Steve Starkovich certainly has these qualities.

The new Senate District 14, nicknamed the "helicopter district," has been racked with high unemployment. Steve recognizes the concerns of the timber industry, farming and tourism. Steve is also very much aware of the needs of small business and retired persons.

The citizens of the west

These additional taxes are only a stop-gap. They run out next July. Then what are they going to suggest?

Anyone with common sense knows that when your income drops, you had better lower your spending. Everyone knows this, except perhaps the Oregon legislators.

Jean Roberts
Mehama

Packwood wrong

Oregon's Senator Bob Packwood recently led a successful filibuster on capitol hill and kept Senator Helm's abortion restriction legislation from being heard and voted on in

Packwood would treat Solidarity in Poland, if he happened to be on the side of the military junta? His behavior leads me to believe things wouldn't be much different then they are.

Is this the kind of "representation" Oregon needs in Washington? I think not.

William L. Carmichael
Sisters

Guard animals

This is to all livestock owners everywhere. We all know the age-old problem there is with dogs and other domestic animals getting where they do not belong. Most have a weapon on hand to control these instances of intrusions upon our domain.

Being a farm owner and owning various animals too numerous to mention, I have some things that everyone knows but I feel should be reminded. The thing that is most important to me when it comes to dogs and cats and other domestic pets is that they are someone's pets. The fact that they are not where they are supposed to be is not always the animal's fault. The so-called strays is what I want to talk about or the shooting of these so-called strays to be exact.

I have some friends who raise greyhounds and malamuts, all registered stock worth a lot of money. They have put a pretty penny into pens and such to keep their dogs in and other dogs out.

Well, they went out for the afternoon and came home to find one of their dogs and a pup missing. A hole had been dug, so they began to look for their dogs. In the process they heard three shots. That being a common sound around these parts, no one paid much attention to them. To make a long story short, the dog was shot.

Needless to say, we have some very upset people all the around, and I would just like to throw out a few suggestions to maybe prevent this from happening again.

I, myself, would rather deal with the owner of a live dog or what have you, than a dead one. But do not get me wrong. There are some people who should not own dogs, and therefore the dog must pay.

What I dislike is dogs shot by people who do not have the slightest idea what they are doing and can hardly load a gun, much less fire it. If you own a gun, then you darn well had better know how to use it.

The best form of protection is prevention and that goes for all animal owners. Nothing can get hurt, if nothing can get at it.

Karen Russell
Sandy

Letters to the editor

Personally speaking:

Seconds, future nip SUHS

I think it's been an interesting football season for the SUHS Pioneers.

It's true they're two minutes and 59 seconds, or five points, from a 4-1 season. But despite their 2-3 record, all the games but one were decided in the fourth quarter.

But one has to wonder what the future holds for football at Sandy. Mike Kostba, SUHS athletic director, reports that "in this area, at least," Sandy is unique in that it now has no feeder system for football.

Of the five schools that contribute students to the SUHS district, only Cedar Ridge and Welches have the numbers needed for a football program. Cedar Ridge contributed 191 freshmen this year, and Welches contributed 42. Twelve freshmen had attended Bull Run, another 38 attended Boring (though some Boring students attend Sam Barlow High School) and another 25 attended Cottrell. You've got to figure half of these students are girls.

About the lack of a feeder program and how it might affect the future of SUHS football, Kostba said, "I don't think it bodes well. There are always those kids who will be interested in football, but the interest doesn't last long if you get drilled."

He added that football is like any other program. "If we have the numbers to justify it, we'll have it as long as we can fund it," he said.

Lynn Harris, who's in his third season as freshman coach, was hoping to have 22 or 23 at practice this week. That's just enough kids to scrimmage.

The freshmen have lost 20-0 to Parkrose, 49-6 to Barlow and 27-14 to Gardner Junior High of Oregon City.

Harris started the season with "10 kids who knew how to put on the pads." He added that he isn't "totally serious" when he says that, but it does get the point across.

He said he had about five youngsters from Welches who had played football, and a few transfer students. Others played ball as seventh graders at Cedar Ridge, but missing a year at the developmental stage is "critical, disastrous," he said.

A small turnout and players with little or no experience are factors Harris must deal with. In addition, this is the smallest class he's had in three years.

While last year's experienced freshman class ran out of nine different formations, this year's class has run out of two, the second just recently added.

In other words, they've been working on fundamentals.

Harris, who coached on the varsity level



by SCOTT NEWTON

for 16 years before taking on the freshman team, said he's seen tremendous improvement between the first and third games. He added, "They're good people."

Clark Lund, superintendent of the Sandy Elementary District, feels he has unfairly been labeled anti-football.

But outside of concern expressed by high school coaches, there has been no pressure applied by parents or patrons for reinstatement of a football team.

Lund feels the public made the decision two years ago by voting down the district's "B" ballot. Last year the budget committee allocated about \$16,000 for a "limited" sports program.

He feels more students are being better served for fewer dollars with the present program, which includes coed soccer in the fall.

Equipment replacement is "very costly," Lund said. Equipment, coaches' salaries and travel for football would probably cost from \$5,000 to \$5,500, according to Lund, or about a third of the total sports program.

Lund said they would probably have to travel beyond the Barlow Trail League to find games.

Lund, who by the way has been at every SUHS football game this season, said that a football program at Cedar Ridge is not a dead issue.

It has, and will be, considered on a year-to-year basis, he said.

In the meantime, Lynn Harris has his work cut out for him.

due to the failure of its passage. It is with regret that any or all of these items were selected for the B Ballot, but under the state election laws the budget must be broken into two segments if not successful by September. I hope we can avoid a similar situation by having a large public support in the preparation of the upcoming budget. Public notification will be published in the Sandy Post as to times and places.

As a final comment concerning the funding of our public schools, I feel compelled to contact our legislature in Salem and express the taxpayers' concern for taking the burden of public education off the local property taxpayers and funding education with an alternative source such as a state sales tax where all people share in this obligation.

Terry Lenchitsky
Boring

Ban trash burn

According to Rick Gustafson, Executive Officer of Metropolitan Service District, "Dumping fees will be 50 percent higher than the figures used in promoting the Oregon City garbage-burning plant." (Oregonian, Sept. 18, 1982)

You, the reader of this letter probably have already reached the conclusion that the hauler of garbage will be paying for this increase, and he will. But, who pays the hauler? You do. If you now are paying \$6 per month for garbage service, by necessity your bill (according to Gustafson) will go \$9 per month or \$18 every two months.

You have no choice but to vote "Yes" to prohibit the garbage burning plant.

Pat Transue
Gladstone City Council

slopes of the Cascades have never before had the opportunity to elect their own state senator. Reapportionment has given them this important responsibility.

I believe they could do no better than to elect Steve Starkovich to represent them in the Oregon State Senate.

Dell Isham
Senate Majority Leader

Davis supported

It is time to elect some business men or women to our legislature. Government is a business and should be run as such. Is it good business to instigate new programs, when you don't know if the money will be available? Is it good business to budget more than you know will be coming in? Is it good business to spend your surplus and then raise taxes to continue "as usual?"

The State of Oregon has been guilty of these things, hence the deficit. (Voters, please don't misunderstand. Oregon is not in debt. When they talk of deficit, it means they don't have as much to spend as they planned.)

At a recent candidate's fair, candidates were asked what they would do for money to run Oregon government. Answers varied from sales tax to socking the rich. Only one candidate, Joe Davis, (who claims to be an amateur politician, but a good business man) said reduce the programs. We didn't have them four years ago, until we had a surplus. We did without them then, we can do without them now.

Vote for Joe Davis. Special sessions were called to balance the budget. Our legislators knew that many people were out of work. Their remedy—sock them with more taxes, so government can continue "as usual."

the Senate.

The piece of legislation in question was viewed by many as a sane and rational attempt to curb what has become an epidemic of death in our society. The Helm's legislation was designed to limit federal funding of abortions and to expedite a Supreme Court review of abortion legislation.

Indications were that there just might have been enough votes to see its passage. Concerned groups from across America had worked long and hard to have their day on the Senate floor.

But alas, our own Senator Packwood decided the constitutional process was not valid at this time, since its outcome might be counter to his personal views. Hence, the filibuster led by him. "Our" Senator decided that he not only wanted his ideas to rule, but he decided to deny the right of his opposition to even be heard. In my view, his actions were un-American, unethical and a prostitution of the constitutional intention of the democratic process.

Senator Packwood forgot that he is "our representative" . . . and that means all of us, even those who are on the other side of this particular issue. I think Senator Packwood has a right to be heard. Too bad he doesn't feel the same about me and thousands of Oregonians like me.

Some who read this no doubt agree with Senator Packwood's position on this particular issue. But what about the next time? Will you want a chance for your views to be heard when you disagree with the senator?

When "our" Senator Packwood decided to play dictator, he decided that his view was THE view. No debate. No vote. No compromise. It was his way or no way.

I wonder how Senator