



# The Sandy Post

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## Local bank approved for merger

Independent Bank of Sandy, continuing on the road to recovery from financial problems reported by a nationally-syndicated columnist, will be part of a new bank after Jan. 1

The United Bank of Oregon, formed by the merger of three Oregon community banks, will operate branches at the Sandy site, and the sites of Metropolitan Bank of Milwaukie and Willamette Falls State Bank in Oregon City

The merger announcement follows a positive vote of all involved shareholders which took place Sept. 28, approval of the merger by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Oct. 12, and final approval of the boards of directors of all three banks Nov. 17.

Headquarters for the new bank will be in Milwaukie at the current offices of the Metropolitan Bank.

Under the merger agreement, Executive Vice President Jim Flaherty will serve as vice president and manager of the Sandy branch of The United Bank of Oregon.

James Chester, president of the new bank, was hired in January to run the merged banks.

"The successful completion of this merger represents many months of hard work," Chester said. "It would never have come to fruition without the determination of our directors."

"The fact that new capital in excess of the \$1 million, required as a condition of FDIC approval of the merger, was raised is a tremendous demonstration of the confidence of the shareholders and directors in the three banks and their respective communities."

All three banks were founded in 1979. The board of directors for The United Bank of Oregon will be made up of representatives from each of the three merged banks. Chairman of the Board for the Sandy bank is John Rowell.

The Sandy bank and Metropolitan Bank were named in a recent nationally-syndicated business column as financially strapped institutions. That is water under the bridge now, however, according to Frank Reynolds, president of Minute Maid Distributors of Oregon and Metropolitan Bank board chairman.

"Our problem is not a problem uncommon in the banking industry today and not totally unique, in light of Oregon's current economic condition," he said recently.

"What we feel is unique is that we have been able to strengthen three troubled banks, maintaining as our top priority, the protection of our depositors."

"We were willing to make a strong commitment and a substantial dollar investment to keep faith with our customers. We have great confidence in them, in our communities, and in the new management in place to shepherd what we believe is a very promising new bank."

The Sandy branch will open Jan. 3 with the same staff and services it has had as Independent Bank of Sandy, Flaherty said.

## Man escapes injury when van overturns

A Boring man escaped injury late Monday evening when the 1972 Dodge van he was driving went out of control and rolled over just north of Sandy, according to Clackamas County sheriff's deputies.

Wade Presley, 61, was traveling north at 10:40 p.m. when his van struck a fence and flipped over near 14085 SE Bluff Road.

Sandy firefighters, first on the scene, pried open the back door of the vehicle to release Presley who was not hurt in the crash.

He was the only person in the van at the time of the accident.

Presley was taken to Sandy Police Department where he was issued a citation for driving under the influence of intoxicants and released.

Early Monday, personnel at Warner Amex Cable, 39870 Pleasant St., told Sandy police that someone had taken equipment valued at \$1,500.

According to police investigation, someone kicked open the back door of the firm and took an FM Motorola base station valued at \$1,200, and a 15-volt power supply valued at \$300. Investigation is continuing.



Old Man Winter seems to have bent this once-fluffy roadside plume into the shape of a question mark on East Brightwood Loop Road. Photo by Von Braschler

## Landowners say 'no' to parking lot bills

by DAN DILLON

The property owners adjacent to Heritage Square parking lot told the city of Sandy Monday they don't want to pay for the project.

Without a means to pay for the 63-space lot in the heart of downtown, the Sandy City Council took steps to declare the area surplus city property and begin investigating ways to realize the \$141,449.49 still to be collected for the lot.

After all adjacent property owners told the city they do not want to participate in the project, City Attorney Jack Hammond told the council, "You don't have any choice but to abandon the Local Improvement District as it's now proposed."

The council did that unanimously and instructed City Manager Tom Reber to study possible alternatives for the lot that has been a point of contention for the past five years.

### ALTERNATIVE USES

Reber will examine two options: ●Should the city sell the lot as a single parcel? That could allow the city to recoup some money it has already poured into the parking lot and would reduce the city's maintenance responsibilities.

At the same time, however, city officials fear it could not meet legal and cost ramifications.

●Should the city retain the lot for public parking with user fees? That would require either the public or adjacent businesses to pay for customer use of the project.

Reber estimates that it would cost approximately \$381 per parking space per year to pay for the project over a 10-year period at 11 percent annual interest.

"No matter which way we go," said Mayor Ruth Loundree, "there's going to be opposition." Possible opponents, she numbered, include taxpayers, the people who originally asked for the parking lot and the people who use the lot for parking.

"The staff is prepared to develop, in some detail, one or more of the alternatives... and report back to the council," Reber said. "Considering that we will be starting on budget work late in December, and in order to do adequate research on the

possibilities for the parcel, we could be ready to report back to the council about mid-February."

The city manager, however, does not affect the remonstrance to have an affect on the budgeting process.

"No," he said, "that's not something that we're counting on for this year." However, he cautioned, if the proceedings to dispose of it drags on, the city will have to do something for fiscal 1983-84's budget.

### OWNERS' OBJECTIONS

James Jennings, attorney representing Bolster and Scales Co., sent the council a letter stating his clients "suggest it would be inappropriate to consider any alternatives restricting access to the parking facility when most property owners built with the promise that such a facility would be available."

The Bolster and Scales Co. owns the building housing professional offices at the southwest corner of the parking lot.

Willia Herzog and Bette Armstrong, owners of TJ's Fireside Dining, told the council that their original assessment was estimated at \$2,000. The latest assessment, based on the new engineer's report, is \$11,494.80.

Carroll and Phyllis Rader said the lot has provided them no benefit. Prior to its construction, they said, they had sufficient parking.

King Chiu Lau, owner of the Double Dragon Restaurant, claimed the lot had not benefited his business and that assessments were not determined fairly.

In his letter of remonstrance, he told the council that his portion of the parking lot is filled with cars of employees of adjacent businesses and patrons of businesses that are not being assessed for the project.

Local ordinance says that if the owners representing more than two-thirds of the property remonstrate against the project, then the LID is abandoned for at least three months and the city may go ahead and deal with it as an ordinary parcel of city property, rather than as a proposed LID.

Monday night, the remonstrance against the property was unanimous.

## SUHS clarifies end-of-year schedule

by SCOTT NEWTON

Sandy Union High School seniors will graduate May 25, maintaining the "traditional" end-of-the-year schedule. At least in part.

A half dozen seniors attended the board of directors meeting Monday night, where the issue was addressed.

Senior Kathie George said class members "weren't really happy" when they learned about proposed changes in the "traditional" graduation schedule. If they had been told at the end of last year they might have been more receptive to the idea, she said.

"We weren't really expecting it (a change)," she said.

She said teachers are used to the traditional schedule, and that a

change also could interfere with the vacation plans of some families.

Five proposals were given to the board by principal John McMahan. One had graduation May 27, and another had baccalaureate and graduation May 29, a Saturday.

Disadvantages to those proposals were that they would interfere with Memorial Day weekend and the state track meet.

Proposal number three had baccalaureate and graduation June 4, with senior finals to be held May 31, and June 1 and 2. This proposal would have kept seniors in school the longest amount of time and also would have created a conflict with the state track meet.

Proposal number four set graduation for June 1, with senior finals May 25 and 26.

When asked why the board was considering changing the date of graduation Wayne Johnson, board chairman, said "for continuity in the school program."

The seniors apparently preferred proposal number five, which had the earliest dates for senior finals, May 19 and 20. Though the board agreed unanimously on May 25 for graduation, the dates for finals haven't been determined.

Also discussed was whether students three credit hours short of graduation requirements should be allowed to "walk" with their class at graduation, or if a new one credit hour minimum should be adopted.

McMahan explained it is more reasonable to expect a student to make up one credit hour.

A topic of considerable discussion

was whether the senior awards assembly should be held at night, when more parents could attend, or during a school assembly, where it's assumed underclassmen are influenced watching their peers receive these honors.

Board Member Bob Boring apparently agreed with George about changing the date of graduation this late in the school year. He said the board discussed the issue in June. "That's when the change should have been made," he said.

A compromise suggested by patron Dan MacDonald was adopted concerning the awards assembly. An afternoon assembly will be held for all students, with a reception to honor the seniors to be held in the evening for parents and others.

The board will consider the re-

quirements for walking with one's class (when short credit hours) at its January meeting.

In other business, the board was made aware that revenues are down for the district. Joan Hay, deputy clerk, estimated that Clackamas County will be short \$200,000 on the collection of taxes. Money from investments is expected to be down \$25,000, and basic school support may be down \$55,000.

Hay said, "We are watching expenditures, but we want the board to know of the shortfalls."

Superintendent Jack Peters said, "We are going to live with whatever revenues we collect."

Johnson said he would like to know where the \$275,000 would come from. "That's what we're looking at," he said. "We want everyone to know."

## Sandy home damaged by midmorning blaze

A midmorning fire Monday gutted the home of a Sandy couple on SE Colorado Road, causing extensive damage in the living room and kitchen area.

Sandy and Boring firefighters were called to the home of Diane and Larry Zimmerman, 33440 SE Colorado Road, at 9:57 a.m. in answer to a report of smoke coming from a

home. Mrs. Zimmerman was returning home from an errand when she discovered the fire.

When firefighters arrived at the scene they discovered the living room in the back of the house was burning.

"We got it soon enough," said Fire Chief Bob Rathke. "The guys made a good attack and there was no problem with extinguishing it."

Cause of the fire is still under investigation, he said. "We're pretty sure it was an accidental fire, we just have to pin it down."

Sandy Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher estimated the loss to the building and contents at \$15,000. The Zimmermans had no insurance.

Tuesday afternoon, friends and relatives of the family were at the house working to get it in shape so the Zimmermans could move back in.

Seventeen Sandy firefighters were on the scene for two hours Monday morning extinguishing the fire and mopping up.



Sandy firefighter Steve Mackey vents the roof above the living room to allow smoke to escape from the attic Monday at a house fire on SE Colorado Road. Photo by Dan Dillon

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