

Editorial & Opinion

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1983

Time to negotiate LID 4

City manager Tom Reber's new plan to negotiate a settlement over debated Heritage Square parking lot LID assessments demonstrates the kind of diplomacy required to settle the matter.

The long-fought court battle over spiraling assessments has put the city back to square one and holding the bag for improvements, which the city cannot afford to absorb.

The city's threat to withhold business licenses in the LID area until assessments are paid doesn't create for a favorable business climate among merchants or the town as a whole.

Neither are sale of the city parking lot as surplus property or payment of the LID through paid parking viable solutions.

The city commercial core, after all, still needs free off-street park-

ing. The only question now is who will pay, and relative newcomer Reber shows great fairness in confessing there will be no winners in any assessment settlement.

But meeting with individual property owners there puts Reber in the driver's seat to resolve the problem and get the city moving again without friction and overhanging debt.

Perhaps now the involved property owners can match his overture with group attendance at a neutral forum arranged by the chamber of commerce.

The time is right with a new Heritage Square building owner, Portland investor Mike Rumpakis, who seeks to fill the gaps of a major hardware store and variety store that folded there. (VB)

Neighbors' music benefit worthy

A benefit for financial care of the family of local burn victim Jim Dasher 8:15 p.m. Saturday in the Sandy High Common Building warrants community support.

It's a simple repayment for Dasher's early effort to help resolve a local grade school teachers' strike, before a freak accident Jan. 7 burned 80 percent of his body.

The former air traffic controller now will be laid up as long as two years in the hospital, which puts great financial burden on his family.

The Sandy High benefit produc-

tion, a repeat of the sold-out Alton Collins Retreat Center "Gershwin, Porter and Friends Musical Review" brings many Sandy Community Players cast members together again.

The benefit musical will be video-taped, so that Jim Dasher from his hospital bed can see how many neighbors back home are pulling for him.

A \$5 advance ticket available through the SUHS principals office is a good way to show you care, too. Call 668-8011 for reservations or follow the crowd. (VB)

Representative's report:

Vets with homes need aid

by BOB SHIPRACK
State Representative, Dist. 23.

There has been a great deal of controversy concerning the recent increases in veterans' home mortgage payments. Due to a misunderstanding between the attorney general and Department of Veterans Affairs some people had increases of as much as \$500 per month.

This rule has been rescinded and new payment coupons will be sent out. All accounts will be adjusted to credit the tax overpayment.

House Bill 2373, which would allow some people on unemployment compensation to attend vocational re-training classes, was voted out of committee and is going to the House floor.

Many of the constituent problems I have heard center around unemployment and welfare benefits, because of the high rate of joblessness in our district.

Another bill will allow state Aid to Dependent Children in cases where there are two-parent families. In these economic times many husbands have had to leave home in order for their family to collect these benefits. This law would change that rule.

One job a legislator has is to introduce bills at the request of groups or individuals within his district. Often these will correct



specific flaws in the law. Examples of these that I have introduced relate to notification of land-use change by any government body, streamlining requirements for sale of city-owned land and providing access to land the state may have rendered useless by condemnation.

The bill deadline is Feb. 7, so immediately after that we should know what new legislation we may face.

If you have any concerns or questions, I can be reached by writing: Representative Bob Shiprack, Room H292, State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310. My office phone number is 378-8784, or the toll-free number is 800-452-7813.

Ask your senator:

Woodlot owners' tax high

by STEVE STARKOVICH
State Senator, Dist. 14

In this report I hope to clarify an issue that is of great concern to the many small woodlot owners in the area. It relates to the recent state Supreme Court decision regarding the Western Oregon Severance Tax.

Briefly, the problem began in 1977, when the Department of Revenue's assessment of western Oregon timber land subject to severance tax nearly doubled. Many owners appealed. The legislature, in order to avoid payments of large refunds should the owners win, took the following action:

1. placed the 1976 value on the 1977 tax roll;
2. consolidated the issue into a class-action suit that would affect all timberland owners;
3. left the determination of 1977 market value to the courts and set future values to 1977 values plus a growth factor.

It took five years for the matter to reach the state Supreme Court. The court's decision set values roughly halfway between the values used during those five years and the initial ones set by the Department of Revenue. This meant that timberland owners were left with a tax debt totaling \$24 million, including interest. This tax debt has been a tremendous blow to small woodlot owners, many of whom were not even aware that they owed the taxes.

In all fairness, I feel our timber



growers—both large and small—deserve relief from these tax increases. To that end I am supporting Senate Bill 51, which will forgive the interest portion of these tax bills. In addition, I will be co-sponsoring a bill that will forgive the first \$1,000 of the principal portion of these bills, in an effort to help small woodlot owners and prevent the possible ruin in these difficult times of growers who contribute so much to the economy of our region.

I welcome your calls and letters concerning this, or any other subject of concern to residents of our district. I can be reached by calling toll-free 1-800-452-7813, or by writing me c/o The Oregon State Senate, State Capitol, Room S216, Salem, OR 97310.



Letters to the editor:

Peters firing angers readers

Board wrong

It is gratifying to see the community and former board members come forward in support of Jack Peters, superintendent of Sandy Union High School. The position and responsibilities of superintendent of any school district is difficult at best; and with our economy and property tax burden, it must be nearly unbearable at times.

The irresponsible action taken by the school board is extremely difficult to understand. The public, faculty and students deserve a better explanation than the one given to date. This is probably the first time a person in any position has been fired with the termination date set five months later. One can only feel the action was taken in haste without due consideration of the budget impact or the damage to a man's reputation.

I have had the opportunity to serve 14 years as a board member, working with three different superintendents and found them all to be very qualified with each having a very positive influence on our educational program. Dr. Peters, without exception, fulfilled the policies adopted by the board during the three years I was associated with him.

Boardsmanship is not something you learn in a

short period of time. I was privileged to serve with people like Melvin Haneberg, Ken Fredrickson, Milt Fox, Kathleen Eldridge, Harold Kitchen and many others. Undoubtedly, this is not the first decision made that was not in the best interest of the district; but let us hope this board will have the courage to do as the Sandy Post suggested, editorially, and reconsider this issue.

Earl S. Meier
Boring

Admit error

The purpose of this letter to the Sandy Post is to express my complete bewilderment regarding the abrupt contract termination of Superintendent John Peters by the Sandy Union High School Board of Education.

If the board members have knowledge of any actions by the superintendent which indicate that he carries out his professional responsibilities in an untimely or irresponsible manner, then I believe we, the attendance area patrons, deserve to know what they are. I realize that board members need to manifest an attitude of discretion, but I also believe that when they make a critical decision without indicating any

background materials which leads to that decision, it leaves the people they represent bewildered and confused as to what their real purpose is.

Before moving to the Sandy area several years ago, we surveyed the community and placed as a high priority in our choice of location the value people placed upon their schools. I visited with wide numbers of adults and young persons with whom I have been or am personally or professionally acquainted. I determined that, as a general rule, these is a positive attitude toward education in the community and an especially strong feeling regarding the credibility of the superintendent. During the past two weeks I have talked to many of the same people and find that they are still positive in their evaluations of the superintendent's performance and are as bewildered as I am over the action taken by the board on Monday evening, Jan. 24.

Speaking as a person who has been involved in educating young people for the past forty-three years, I know that a school reflects the dedication and performance of its leaders. Surely, Jack Peters has been dedicated, professional and innovative during the years he has served as the

superintendent. I am personally aware that he is sensitive to the needs of people, he listens and he shows tremendous empathy toward and understanding of young people. He is an educator who carries out his duties in a responsible manner and plans toward the future in a creative and appropriate way.

Why does the Sandy Union High School Board of Education feel the climate in the District has changed, and why do we need to make a "change?"

Jeanne T. Doty
Sandy

Firing wrong

We feel the dismissal of Dr. Peters, superintendent of Sandy Union High School for the reasons given in a recent Sandy Post reflects poorly on the board of directors. We feel that the statement released by the board, "It is time for a change in direction," is not worth a ballpark figure of \$100,000 to the district taxpayers.

Dr. Peters is a reasonable individual, who has upgraded the educational processes during his five and a half years with our district. We haven't always agreed with all of his policies ourselves. However, we have realized

that on the whole he has been a credit to the community. We have had students attending the high school for all but one year of his term. We have one freshman attending now and have seen five other children graduate since Dr. Peters came to the district.

The only change we can determine as necessary for our high school concerns the lack of economic responsibility on the part of the board of directors. Perhaps they feel they can afford to pay \$40,000 to \$50,000 to pay for the balance left on Dr. Peters' contract, plus hire his replacement who would expect a similar salary.

The district had a difficult time passing a budget for this year and are facing another election this spring. How are they going to explain away their lack of responsibility to the voters, many of whom are unemployed at this time?

Everyone is entitled to make a mistake once in a while. We all do. Perhaps the board should rethink its position, work out their differences with Dr. Peters and make their change in 18 months when his contract expires. It does take a big man to admit to error. We wonder if there are any sitting on the board at this time?

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Berck
Sandy

Yesteryear in Sandy:

"Dandy in Sandy" was their song

How the Sandy area has changed in the past 10, 20 and 30 years! Here are some of the hot news items from this week in history from decades past:

FEBRUARY, 1973:

Sandy Grade School held tough to its dress code that restricted length of hair and set good grooming standards.

Sandy kicked off its centennial and Barlow Road Days observance with Sandy's official song, "It's dandy in Sandy," composed by residents George Bruns and Dick Sellers. State Secretary of State Clay Myers dedicated a plaque at city hall, noting importance of Barlow Road and founding of the post office. A special envelope and stamp were issued by the local post office to mark the centennial celebration. Sandy mayor Melvin Haneberg read the proclamation. Sandy High superintendent Joe DeMarsh was master of ceremonies. Other guests included state senator Ken Jernstedt and state representatives Paul Walden and Jack Sumner.



by VON BRASCHLER

Ground beef, by the way, sold for 73 cents per pound and chuck steak for 79 cents.

FEBRUARY, 1963:

Sandy mayor Mike Paluck backed a plan to buy 48 acres at what is now Meinig Park for recreation and construction of a new city hall from Walt Ault for \$35,000. The council also mulled lack of fire protection in areas of

town as a top community priority.

The Sandy area was proposed as a postgraduate site by Dr. Walter Noehren in an address to Sandy Chamber of Commerce and letter to Gov. Mark Hatfield. He pointed out the upper Sandy River Valley was undeveloped and unspoiled in respect to industry and educational development, and the Hood Loop highway soon would give throughway connection to Portland, eastern Oregon and ready access to the rest of the state. "We send you this statement," he wrote the governor, "with no particular desire to promote the town of Sandy, since we like Sandy pretty much just as it is, and we are not looking for bigness."

Sandy High hoopsters won their thirteenth straight game on a tip-in by Carl Sandstrom at the buzzer to take the Wilco Legue title over archrival Molalla.

Oh, yes. New cars were selling locally for \$2,269. Chuck Roast was advertised for 43 cents per pound.

FEBRUARY, 1953:

Sandy Grade School District called for a \$77,094 levy, with total expenditures budgeted at \$217,098. Meanwhile, Sandy High's band in concert featured Betty Haven's clarinet solo and Beverly and Stephen Colt in a duet titled "Cricket and the Bull Frog."

Mt. Hood Pow-Wowers petitioned the state highway commission for immediate improvement of the portion of U.S. Highway 26 east of Sandy to the Mount Hood National Forest at Zigzag. They argued that the old mountain highway had seen many traffic problems with log trucks, increased passenger traffic and old curves and bridges that had plagued the mountain pass for 25 years.

And, oh, yes. New half-ton pickups were selling here for \$1,721 full price. Sandy's Economy Meat Market offered pork sausage for 39 cents per pound. Grotkett Jewelry featured three-diamond engagement rings for \$99.50.

(Compiled from files of the Sandy Post.)