

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Negotiate Heritage Square

Earl's Gun Shack of Sandy is fleeing Heritage Square and its threat of business shutdown for lack of offstreet parking over LID 4 failure.

Let's hope the panic stops here and that the seven property owners adjacent to the 63-space parking lot come to terms with the city to negotiate a local improvement district. That would allow the city to recover losses for work already done and allow businesses to retain their licenses with legal offstreet parking.

Actually all adjacent businesses in the city core parking lot may get their business licenses renewed now and continue negotiating through their landlords in good faith for a settlement.

The city holds the bag for \$97,000 borrowed money for lot construction and by state law must clear the debt from the books by July 1. To do this, Sandy has put the 33,000-square-foot lot on the block to sell and will open bids 10 a.m. May 22.

Until May, however, businesses may continue to operate with valid business licenses. However if the municipal lot is sold then, many adjacent businesses may be in violation of city code that requires them all to have adequate offstreet parking.

Earl Spink said he's moving his gun shop to Gresham across from Fred Meyer April 1, because he's afraid of losing his license with inadequate offstreet parking soon. He also explains, however, that he found cheaper rent down the road.

Indeed, many Heritage Square area shops have moved or plan moves for reasons other than the LID scare of revoked licenses. Mt. Hood Hospice upstairs from Earl's Gun Shack found more room and lower rent at 17270 S.E. Bluff in the former site of Sandy Printing. They'll move in April. Also, Montgomery Ward catalog store has moved into the Gordon Stone Building on the next block, but only to secure better space and visibility.

City Manager Tom Reber said more than half the involved property owners of the five-year-old LID project have agreed to negotiate a settlement. That would bail out the businesses and bail out the city who really doesn't want to sell the parking lot from under them. It also would prevent Sandy's commercial core from becoming a vacant eyesore.

Now's the time for a few hard-headed property owners to pull up a chair to the bargaining table. Please come to the party. (VB)

School candidates should speak

Turbulent Bull Run School District March 29 faces a key board election that would have benefited from a candidates' open forum.

In fact, most board hopefuls and Bull Run Community Club members appear in favor of such an exchange for its informational value to voters and the district as a whole. After all, a school in transition needs to air the best ideas from all corners of the room. Also, such a discussion might have given voters some help in making good choices at the polls.

Unfortunately, one or two of the candidates reportedly shied from the public exposure, and the community get-together is off.

We think that's unfortunate. Bull Run needs to establish close rapport with its district after the recent flap that resulted in recall of board members Ron Jantz and James Bollerman. Resignation of other board member Sherrie Marlow left a board with some directors fairly new in the saddle.

Facing off March 29 are candidates Gloria Yankauskas and Kathy Quiett for a one-year term, while Marty Stewart opposes Vicky Little for a four-year term. Incumbent Pauline Buhler runs

unopposed for a two-year term.

"Rather than have a meeting with friction, we decided the Community Club wouldn't be behind it," booster club president Elaine Hartney said of her lost dreams for a forum sponsored by the club.

"Most of them were for it," Hartney said of her straw sampling of candidates about a forum, "but some didn't want to see it. We have hot politics going on, but I don't think it's that. Some of them, I think, didn't feel good about getting up and speaking in front of a group."

"The Community Club is working hard this year to mend the school and make it run more consistently. I just thought we had to stay neutral and not involve the club in politics."

Community Club's interest in establish better district rapport is praiseworthy. The question that remains is whether candidates who backed down from such an open meeting understand their commitment to the electorate. All that was needed was for candidates to stand up and say a few words about their school views and aims. A good community forum doesn't have to be a tense debate. (VB)

Salem scene:

State business climate OK

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Despite extensive efforts that are improving Oregon's business climate, a national study claims it has worsened.

"It's almost like a jab in our eye with the proverbial sharp stick," said Ivan Congleton, president of Salem-based Associated Oregon Industries, referring to the 1982 General Manufacturing Business Climate Study.

The study, produced by Alexander Grant & Co. of Chicago ranks Oregon's manufacturing business climate worst on the west coast and 43rd among the 48 contiguous states.

"We believe findings of this particular study are seriously flawed," Congleton said, "not only from Oregon's standpoint, but as far as rankings for other states are concerned."

The AOI leader said release of the study also was disappointing from his organization's point of view, because the Oregon affiliate of the Conference of State Manufacturers Associations commissioned Alexander Grant.

AOI's major complaint, he said, was release of the study utilizing inappropriate data, indicating Oregon's average rates for Workers' Compensation Insurance coverage.

Alexander Grant used "assigned risk rates" for Oregon, based on data furnished by the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI), rates paid only by the poorest risk employers and actually

charged to only 784 of the state's more than 68,000 employers (1.15 percent) during the last two years.

NCCI acknowledged a more valid rate figure would be about half the published assigned risk and cautioned Alexander Grant against such comparison.

"We understand that rates published for other states were either pure premium or voluntary market rates," Congleton said. "It's like Alexander Grant was comparing apples and oranges—and watermelons!"

According to the study, Oregon ranks 48th in the workers' comp insurance rate category, one of 22 factors used to compare conditions in the affected states.

Congleton figures use of the proper rates by Alexander Grant would have improved this state's ranking in that particular category significantly and favorably influence its overall standing, as well.

"Oregon's business climate is improving," he concluded. "We all know that and can only hope the rest of the country gets the right message."

The Alexander Grant study reports Oregon 38th highest in state and local taxes and 31st for percentage of change in that tax burden over the last three years.

It ranks this state 12th best for state and local spending versus revenue growth but 46th in state and local debt per capita.

Oregon ranks 28th in welfare expenditures, 32nd in unemployment benefits and second only to Wyoming for net worth of its Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund.



SUHS board 'hiding' firing

Don't hide

In reply to the editorial comments regarding a public hearing for Dr. Jack Peters, it is a matter of public record that the school board has not given Dr. Peters any reason for his firing in writing.

As reported by Mr. Griffin, former board chairman of Sandy Union High School District, the previous evaluation in Nov. 1982 was satisfactory and all of the board's goals were met.

The school board already fired Dr. Peters on Jan. 24. Therefore, for the board to indicate that it is Dr. Peters responsibility to request a hearing is ridiculous. To hide behind the open meeting law is not appropriate for the school board. The only avenue for solution to this problem is to recall the board before they do further damage to our high school.

Ruth Tucker
Sandy

Tower needed?

Congratulations to the Hoodland Fire Department! The construction of a three-story drill tower in a one-story community is really a stroke of genius.

If they are interested in rappelling, there is a great big mountain just up the hill where they can practice all they want. This is still not downtown Portland.

Gary Domke
Brightwood

Nix sales tax

The sales tax again is being presented as a solution to paying the costs of state government. Defeated four times between 1933 and 1969, proponents of the sales tax hope to have the Legislature place it on the ballot again, while holding out the enticing bait of reduction in property taxes if we accept the sales tax.

There are many good reasons to write or phone Clackamas County legislators and tell them not to do a copout by referring the sales tax, but to stick with their job of deriving the income for vital state services. Here are some of them:

First and foremost is the fact that a sales tax is regressive. It takes a higher share of income from those who have less than those who have more. It is not a fair tax. Referring the sales tax to

the ballot has a democratic air about it, but that will allow the corporate wealthy to hire slick public relations firms and spend a big bundle to convince us that a sales tax is good for us while at the same time reducing property taxes.

One might ask why the State of Washington is having more problems in financing government than Oregon and it has a sales tax. The hidden factor to know about is that rental and other commercial property represents more

Nix state CCC

It is a sad state of affairs when legislators elected to represent us, ignore all the issues and spend their time on trivialities.

Oregonians have repeatedly voted down a sales tax (five times in my memory). They have opposed additional gas tax four times. The property tax limitation was narrowly defeated.

Wouldn't you think that this is an indication that Oregonians don't want any more taxes? Wouldn't this

gave an aura of mystery to faint rustlings among the deep shadows where the undergrowth was dense.

While guided by the feeble glow of his lantern, the boy moved with stealth along the forest trail. The year was 1924.

With time this journey up Alder Creek canyon became a Shangri-la. After dark it was an adventure. And at high noon only faint patches of light filtered through a dense canopy of fir boughs and fell upon a path littered with dry needles dropped with the

Oregonian's share of the federal red-ink budget deficit for next year.

The federal budget proposed for next year is \$848 billion. Included in that figure is an estimated \$190 billion in deficit spending. (That estimate may be conservative. Others go up to \$208 billion. By any standard, it is an enormous seas of red ink, breaking all records.) By comparison, the Oregon State General Fund Budget will be no more than \$1.6 billion next year, even if times improve and new revenue is voted. To avoid a state deficit the amount may be even less.

The 1980 census counted approximately 2.6 million people in Oregon. They represent just more than one percent of the nation's 226 million people. Thus, every Oregon citizen has a \$890 share of the estimated national deficit for next year. But Oregon will collect no more than an average of \$635 from each of its residents for state general fund spending for the same year.

All state government runs on only half of that \$1.6 billion general fund. The other half will go to help local schools, cities and counties and in other forms of property tax offset or reduction.

Thank goodness Oregon State Government is still determined to operate in the black and with a balanced budget.

Edward N. Fadeley
President of Oregon Senate

'Thank you'

I would like to thank all the friends of Archie Woodard for their thoughtfulness and support during this very hard time.

He was very well liked by all who knew him and his untimely death is grieved by many.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to Ken Hallgren of the Sandy Funeral Home. Without his sincere concern and help we couldn't have made it through this.

Nancy Nutter
Sandy

Letters to the editor

value and more tax income that does the total of family owned residences. Tax funds not collected from commercial property will have to be made up by others than landlords, banks, corporation and other business interest who own the commercial property and who are pushing the enactment of the sales tax.

If the legislators do not make a decision on finding revenue for state services and refer the sales tax to the ballot, it will place the citizen voter in an either or position. Only one solution is offered. Should the sales tax be voted down as in past years, then the Legislature will have to come back into special session and start their studies all over again.

Jean Roberts
Mehama

Resistance veiled

I appreciated reading the letter from Jackie Yates in the Sandy Post of March 10, in which it appears that her testimony before the CPO group Feb. 21 primarily was for the purpose of delaying any water service, rather than a true desire to determine whether or not there was a better alternative to the Salmon Valley Water System.

I first moved to the mountain in 1928, and never have I seen the present atmosphere in which a few people seem to have the attitude that "We are here, let's keep more from coming in," and using any ploy to accomplish that purpose.

Raymond L. (Roy) Goff
Welches

Paradise lost

The hunter's moon was pale above the horizon where a forest trail lead on to the summit of Wildcat Mountain. A swinging lantern cast weaving shadows against the dark foliage of towering firs and

lofty branches.

As the years went by, the loggers moved in. And as the boy grew to manhood, part of the forest rapidly vanished. An ugly scar erased much of the forest trail that once lead to the wilderness beyond. Even signs posted by the Forest Service disappeared. All this the boy accepted as chance and change; and as the years slipped by, he went on to visit the canyon he loved.

An old man of 72 years lately struggled to make a nostalgic journey up Alder Creek canyon.

Though plainly marked at the highway as E. Alder Creek Road, crude signs were tacked to slim alders, "Private road: Keep out." The route was a forest trail for 60 years—that the old man could remember, and for more than 40 years an open road. An easement at Oregon City opens this road to the public, but Clackamas County officials cannot locate the document, nor are they quite sure where E. Alder Creek Road is located.

Will the loggers eventually close all wilderness trails to the public?

Keith Soesbe
Portland

Feds, observe

It sounds like a "Ripley's Believe It Or Not," but Oregon's state general fund budget is less per person in Oregon than is each

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