

Library levy rates support

Clackamas County's library levy should be passed March 29 as a bargain for Sandy area residents.

The city library in Sandy, you see, would receive 78 percent of funding from the reduced three-year county serial levy. That figure's based on the fact 78 percent of all Sandy library users—now 4,600 strong—visit from out of town. So a vote for the county levy lessens tax burden locally to support the library and properly shoulders burden of support on all users.

Without the \$69,000 asked locally in county funding, Sandy's city library would struggle along next year with only \$14,000 in local funding. That could mean reduction to two or three days operation or even closure. For mountain residents, county library levy failure also could spell demise of

bookmobile visits.

Reduced library services now would be untimely, since more residents than ever are visiting to check out "how-to" books, resume guides and job search aids in this tight economy. The program is cost-effective.

Actually, the \$1.35 million asked county-wide represents a \$240,000 reduction from the amount approved by voters in 1980. Efficient management and economy from the county library network's new automated circulation system is paying off. The system also gives library users quick access to books countywide in the 38 public, school and special library members of the network consortium.

Most of the levy funds annually will go back to the city libraries. Levy funds also run a Damascus branch library. (VB)

Time fading on offstreet parking

The countdown to bid opening May 2 when the city of Sandy hopes to sell its embattled Heritage Square Parking Lot leaves many biting at the bit over blame.

In truth, there is no single scapegoat for apparent failure by seven involved property owners and the city to agree upon assessment levels in the five-year LID court squabble.

Even now, more than half of the property owners appear willing to negotiate assessments after city lost in court and had LID sent back to square one. In fact, one owner appears willing to pay assessments back to day one in good faith.

Obviously, no one wants the involved Heritage Square area

businesses to lose their required offstreet parking and hence their business licenses, which they stand to lose in May with sale of the municipal parking lot. After all, the parking lot was designed specifically to fit their offstreet parking needs, and there are few alternatives if the city gets tough with enforcement of city code.

Unfortunately, the city must get its debt of borrowed money to cover parking lot expenses off the books. By state law, the city can't operate in red ink.

So there remains precious little time to negotiate. Also, there's precious little time for a cooperative pooling of business funds in the city core to purchase the lot back from the city, should anyone consider that an alternative. (VB)

Housing aid due young

by BOB SHIPRACK
State Representative, Dist. 23

Many people have noted that their Homeowners and Renter Refund forms were not included with their state tax forms. They were held up because of uncertainties about the future funding of HAARP.

HB 2884 which passed last week, orders the Department of Revenue to send the forms out April 1 through April 10. This program is for those households with incomes of \$17,500 or less. There is a commitment at the Legislature to continue this property tax relief plan.

HB 2322 is designed to raise the income level necessary for people to purchase a home through a program administered by the State Housing Division. People with incomes of \$30,000 and less are now eligible, but this will last only until Nov. 1. This program was created for people who did not earn enough to qualify for a loan from a private lender and who made too much to receive low-income housing assistance.

The primary beneficiaries of this legislation are young, first-time home buyers, and I would urge anyone interested to contact a realtor for details.

The vote-by-mail bill was sent back to committee last week for some amendments. It would allow vote by mail elections other than the primary and general.

New capital is available

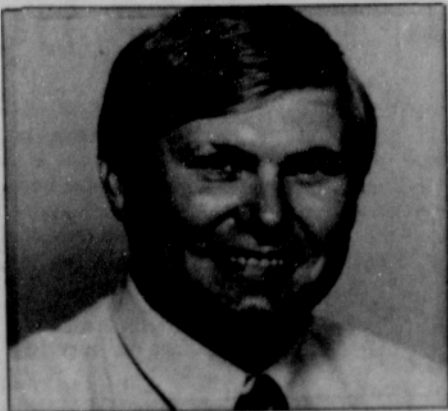
by STEVE STARKOVICH
State Senator, Dist. 14

One bill that will begin the task of helping local communities attract new business and industry in SB 220, which now is before the Trade and Economic Development Committee, on which I sit.

In 1981 the Legislature created the County Revolving Loan Fund, so state and federal monies could be used by local governments and new industries to expand Oregon's economic base. The first special session of the Legislature in 1983 allocated \$500,000 to the fund, and the Department of Economic Development later acquired an additional \$2 million from the Federal Small Business Administration. Several problems developed, however, in the practical application of the loan program, and as a result, no loans have yet been made from the County Revolving Loan Fund.

Senate Bill 220 is an attempt to correct the problems in the Loan Fund's regulations in order to get the Fun's money circulating in Oregon's economy. Some of the changes that will take place are as follows:

(1) Originally, the fund only allowed counties to receive and use the funds. SB 220 allows private individuals and municipalities to apply for loan funds to



The experiments of Oregon have shown much greater voter participation. There is no evidence that this has led to more ballot levy defeats. It will be coming back for a vote shortly.

I want every timberland owner who has specially assessed forest land (not small woodlot) to be aware that they may owe increased property taxes for the last five years. The Oregon Supreme Court has ruled that assessed value increases requested by the Department of Revenue in 1977 are partially valid.

The Legislature will be looking at several bills to forgive the interest or first \$1,000 of tax due, or both.

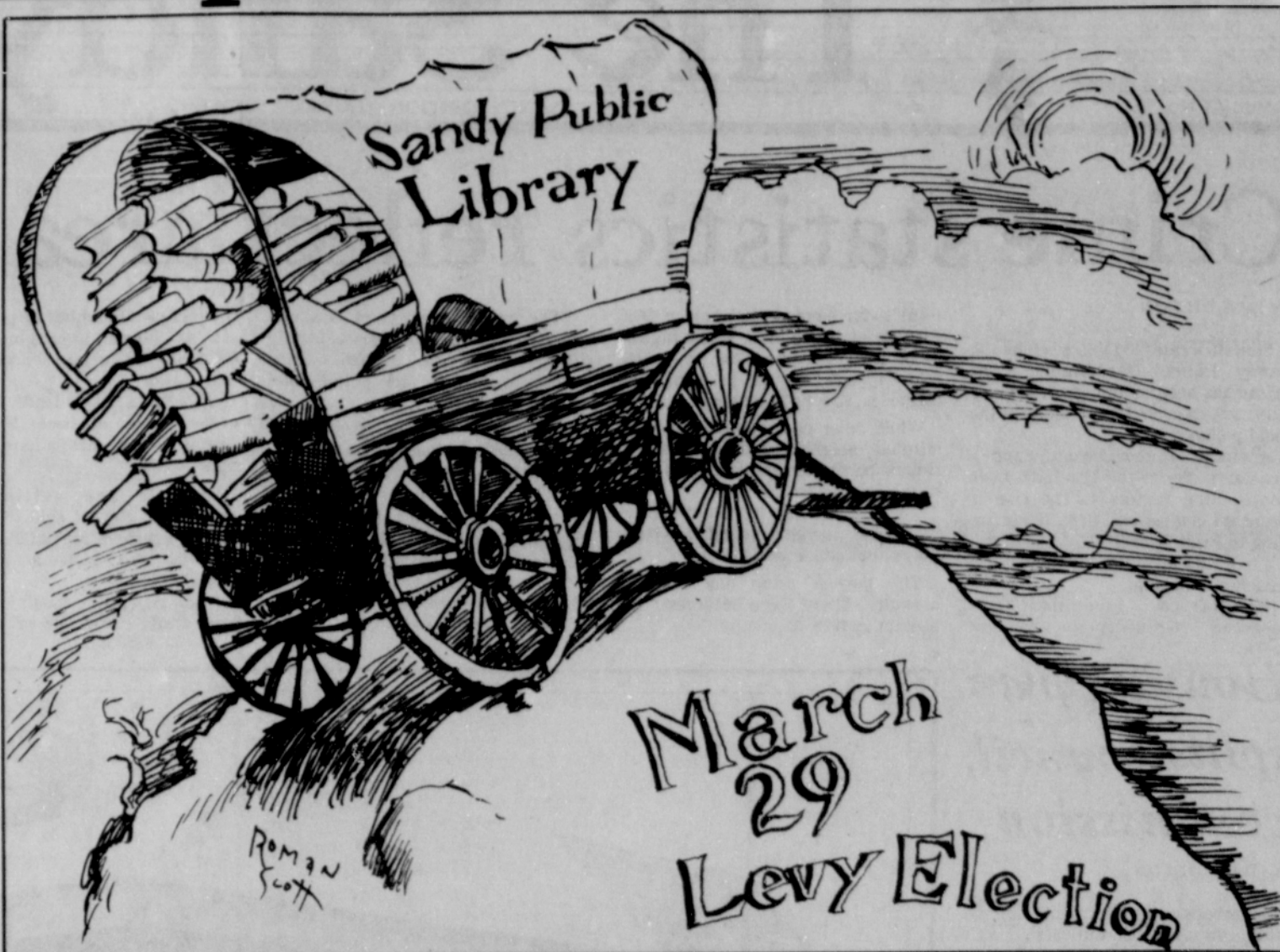
Please contact me at 378-8784.



build new industrial facilities.
(2) The repayment period for loans was extended from 10 years to 25 years.
(3) The requirement that only the project "in and of itself" can be used for collateral has been deleted, and other sources of collateral for backing the loan are allowed.

These changes, along with a few others, will allow the fund to begin operation upon passage of SB 220.

Please call me toll-free at 1-800-452-7813, Ext. 8897.



Letters to the editor:

Parking, election stir readers

I must challenge the conclusion of your March 17 editorial discussing the municipal parking lot problem. It is, in our opinion, erroneous to blame unilaterally the property owners or any other party for the lack of financial resolution. Currently, those property owners, the city government and the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce are working hard to obtain a compromise solution.

The Chamber feels confident that the problem will be solved soon, and it will protect the best interests of the property owners, the city government and the community of Sandy. Sandy now is, and will continue to be, a positive environment for our lives as community members and as business people.

Arnold C. Poutala,
president
Sandy Chamber of Commerce

Board race

Next Tuesday the voters of the Bull Run School District will be deciding on two positions for the school board.

Two of the people who are running for these positions already have proven

themselves as extremely concerned citizens. Both Cathy Quiett and Vicki Little have been active in school activities for several years. They are aware of the needs of our school, community and the children the school serves.

Cathy has three boys in Bull Run School and has been involved in community services in one way or another for the last seven years. She has served as classroom helper, on the budget committee, worked with the Community Club and been active in other school-related programs. She is in frequent attendance at school board meetings and has exhibited a sincere and concerned interest in the issues being discussed. Cathy has the interests and needs of our children foremost in her decision to run for school board.

Vicki Little has two children who attend Bull Run and has been very involved in the school for the last four years. She has spent many hours in volunteer work including chairman of Title I program, classroom aide, organizing tours and field trips and involvement with Community Club and cub scouts. Vicki also served

on the building committee and is well known for her honesty in investigating all the facts concerning the issues in which she involves herself. She has been in regular attendance at both school board and budget committee meetings in order to fully acquaint herself with her responsibility in the position she seeks.

Neither Vicki nor Cathy has a full-time job and both are able to devote the time and energy needed to actively fulfill a commitment to the school board and the community. They have proven this by their regular and consistent involvement with our school, its children and the community in which they live. It is my urgent hope that voters in the district will keep these facts in mind when going to the polls Tuesday.

Peggie Hodge
Sandy

Support asked

I am a candidate for Bull Run School Board for the following reasons:

I have three boys who attend Bull Run School, and I feel a need for improvement in the education they and all Bull Run students receive.

I have served on the budget committee three years. I attend school board meetings and budget meetings. Also, I have been active in school functions, helping teachers, field trips, room mother and various other projects.

I am not employed full-time, therefore I could devote time to school board functions. In these times of economic distress there is a real need to conserve expenditures of tax money, while still providing quality education of our children. In the interest of the community including those retired and unemployed, as a board member I intend to pursue this goal.

Thank you for allowing me to express myself in this school board position. I would appreciate your support.

Cathy Quiett
Sandy

Carnival tops

The Firwood School Western Hoedown Carnival held March 4 was a smashing success. Many thanks are due to people too numerous to mention individually—the staff, students, parents and businesses of Sandy.

Sandy businesses once again proved their community spirit by contributing prizes for bingo and food items. We acknowledged them individually in school newsletters and posters hung at the carnival. A special thanks for supporting us in this time of economic difficulty and busy time of year, when many people are asking for donations. We appreciate you.

I wish also to thank the PTC board. They each chaired a committee for the carnival, and without them there wouldn't have been a carnival. Firwood has been very fortunate the past several years to have had an active board whose main concern has been serving their students and families.

If you missed the fun this year, be sure to attend next year. All profits will be used to purchase an item that directly will benefit the students will be presented at a school assembly.

Having worked several years on this activity, I honestly can say that Sandy people are the greatest. Thanks, everyone.

Jan Evans, president
Firwood PTC

Personally speaking:

Tell a mountain man by his water

Among long-time mountain residents, the mountain is generally divided into three distinct areas.

Beginning at Alder Creek and proceeding east, these areas are fishing boots, logging boots and ski boots. A fourth group is also debated as to actually existing, this being an area where residents wear no footwear and exhibit strange behavior. Residents of this fourth area have been known to debate its existence among themselves.

One singular characteristic seems to unify all residents of the mountain, no matter which area they inhabit. This is the ability to instantly turn one's asking for a glass of water into the opportunity for a two-hour argument.

The per-capita rate of aquaphilists (those who study the characteristics of the water) living east of Alder Creek is said to be one of every three persons, discounting those aquaphilists under the age of 12.

The mountain person's peculiar fascination with water probably predates the time that beaver sickness was designated the state of Oregon's official illness.

For purposes of clarity we will define a "mountain person." A mountain person is anyone who



by HANK EMRICH

lives within an area where the mountain is visible on an over-cast day and must always maintain a supply of litmus paper and test tubes in their dish cupboard.

Rather than the four seasons that "flatlanders" are accustomed to, mountain people simplified the year into two seasons having to do with their fascination with water. The seasons previously known as spring and summer are now called "Rain," and the seasons previously known as fall and winter are now called "Snow."

The extent to which mountain-

people go to involve water in every aspect of their lives is no more evident than in the names of the very streets on which they live.

One three-quarter mile stretch of highway boasts such clever examples of the famed mountain-person creativity and originality as Sandy River Road, Sandy River Lane and Sandy River Drive.

Although these names deftly employ mention of water by using the word "river," the river is not actually visible from any of these avenues. You may view the river from East Sandy River Road, East Sandy River Lane or East Sandy River Drive.

Most residents of rural Oregon sooner or later find themselves surrounded by neighbors and the areas in which these people live usually come to be known as "subdivisions."

On the mountain, however, these areas have come to be known as "water districts." Of the 12 water districts on the mountain (please do not consider this number to be entirely accurate, it has been known to change daily), three feature ranch style homes, five feature chalets, one is strictly mobile homes, and three feature undeveloped property. Plans are

currently underway for "Drizzly Drifter Estates," a water district comprised solely of houseboats.

The mountain is not unaffected by the recession although the water-related economy's chief occupation, attorney, seems to show no adverse reaction. There is fierce competition for other water-related jobs such as dishwasher, busboy and water company manager.

Every effort is being made to attract new water-based industry to the mountain. The chamber of commerce recently announced that a Japanese company was investigating the possibility of establishing an automated car wash on Marmot Road.

It is also rumored that an ice cube manufacturing facility near Government Camp was being considered. The project was placed on the back burner, however, and dissolved due to lack of support.

Civic leaders have not gone unrecognized because of their efforts to reap benefits for the area from this singular fascination of the residents. In fact, civic leaders have shown that the area has a sense of cohesion not rivalled east of Antelope. Twelve of these leaders were recently honored with a partial-expense paid trip to Death Valley.