

Editorial & Opinion

Stronger turnout needed

Stronger turnout at the polls June 28 should prove the charm for once-rejected budgets for the city of Sandy, Welches School and Sandy Elementary School District. At least we hope so.

All three programs are solid with austere budgets, and all deserve voter approval.

Unfortunately, recent election experience hereabouts has proved it's hard even to get voters to cast their ballots.

Only about a third of all local voters exercised their right and responsibility to vote in the city election May 17. In a democracy, failure to take part in elections is a scary thing. In other lands, citizens who've disregarded their democratic involvement in government have become second-class citizens by default.

In Sandy and Hoodland when voters again gather June 28, the question again is money. How much are local citizens willing to pay for first-class city services without frills, and how much are they willing to pay for a quality education program for children's formative years?

That's the question being asked voters. Each voter, of course, is welcome to his or her opinion. That would be based on ability to pay and attitude about how wisely our local government bodies have proposed spending that money. No vote—like no reply—is simply no answer at all to the question.

The city of Sandy's \$411,637 tax levy narrowly was defeated by a margin of seven votes in May. But total votes cast amounted to only

485. Sandy Elementary's \$1.98-million levy lost by a margin of only 9 percent in May.

Welches School's \$189,186 levy in May lost by only 23 votes out of 463 votes cast.

Before we all turn thumbs down on our schools and city, perhaps we all should consider what's being asked.

The city of Sandy has budgeted for only a 2 percent increase, and even that increase is deceiving by a little trick the state has played on Sandy. (Revenues are down slightly more than expenditures, and the state doesn't allow for increased based on inflation rate and increase in population here.) Tax rate would be an estimated \$6.88 per \$1,000 valuation, up a nickel from the current city budget.

Sandy Elementary is asking only \$28,000 more than voters approved for a budget last year. Actually, the budget request this year would represent a decrease to patrons, except for last-minute added cost of burner conversions for savings at Sandy Elementary and Cedar Ridge plus state cutbacks.

Welches School, nipped by May voters, anticipates total tax rate for next year to be approximately 26 cents per \$1,000 less than the current year.

These local levy requests all deserve a stronger turnout at the polls June 28. If you're not registered to vote and should be, now's the time to get into the act. It's still your country. (VB)

Senator's report:

Reform land-use planning

by STEVE STARKOVICH
State Senator, Dist. 14

Land-use planning was once again front-page news recently. The reason was that an apparent "deal" had been proposed by the City of Rajneeshpuram to "trade" the City of Antelope for an exemption for Rajneeshpuram from land-use planning goals and guidelines. Like all other supporters of good land-use planning, I am very concerned that such a proposal would ever be made. I assure you that, as imperfect as our planning process is, blatant "deals" and "trades" do not, and hopefully never will, control that process.

Oregon's land-use planning laws have been the subject of a great deal of controversy since their inception in 1973. Even so, each time Oregon voters are faced with a proposal to repeal LCDC, they defeat it by wider and wider margins. We are coming to understand that it is wiser for us to plan for the orderly development of our state than to leave it to chance and later attempt to reverse an objectionable situation that is already in place.

This is not to say that our land-use planning system doesn't need a lot of refinement. Although there is general agreement that the statewide goals and guidelines are sound, the process is badly in need of revision. One of the most important tasks before this session of the legislature, next to solving the revenue question, is to overhaul our land-use planning procedures to make them more efficient and workable. I am optimistic that we are making significant progress toward accomplishing that task.

Criticisms of our land-use planning process have fallen into five major categories: (1) the application procedures have been unnecessarily long and cumbersome; (2) no mechanism exists to enforce deadlines for submission and acknowledgement of plans by local governments; (3) cities and counties that have cooperated by submitting plans and by working to implement them are often denied acknowledgement of compliance because one or two areas are lagging behind; (4) the appeals process has been unduly long and open-ended, sometimes tying up the courts for years, and (5) inadequate consideration has been given to economic development values.

The primary vehicle for land use reform this session is HB 2295. This bill has already passed the House and is now being heard by the Senate Energy, Environment and Forestry Committee. Highlights of its provisions for addressing each of the problems listed above follow:

- (a) Local government permit procedures are streamlined.
- (b) Consolidated processes for all local permit and zone changes must be provided by local governments whenever possible.
- (c) A time limit of 120 days for local governments to take final action on a completed permit application is imposed.
- A deadline of Jan. 1, 1984 is set for sub-

mission of all comprehensive plans by local governments. A deadline of July 1, 1984, is set for acknowledgement of all local plans. Failure to meet these deadlines could result in withholding of state-shared revenues.

3. LCDC may acknowledge a plan as being in "substantial compliance" if "on the whole, the purposes of the goals have been met." In addition, until July 1, 1984, LCDC may grant "partial acknowledgement" to a plan if a geographic portion of it is in substantial compliance while work continues on the remaining non-complying portion.

4. (a) The Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) is eliminated.

(b) The Land Development Review Panel (LDRP), an administrative panel appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, is established to review all land-use decisions.

(c) LCDC no longer reviews either goal-related issues or post-acknowledgement plan amendments.

(d) The entire LDRP appeal must be completed within 119 days.

(e) Further appeal is to County Appeals, where final decisions must be no later than 147 days after the LDRP decisions.

5. New language is added to the statutes to assure that Goal 9, addressing economic development, is given consideration equal to that given to other goals. Local laws are to include an analysis of local economic strengths and weaknesses, development policy and public facilities.

HB 2295 is still in committee, but the chances of its passage look good. With these long-awaited reforms, the land-use planning process in this state should begin to function much more smoothly. I am confident that Oregon's forward-looking commitment to land-use planning will continue to support its reputation as one of the most progressive and "liveable" states in the union. I think that such a reputation will, in the long run, pay off economically as new businesses that care about the quality of life of their employees choose to locate in our state.



The Berry Picking Experiment.



Letters to the editor:

County chamber opposes business tax

Nix new tax

Economic development is nothing new to the North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce. For years volunteers have worked hard to place roads, sewers, parks, hospitals, shopping centers and a number of other businesses and services into our area.

The Chamber realizes that continued efforts in economic development are essential for the area's economic well-being. It is our feeling, however, that these efforts must be placed in the right direction to help Clackamas County and especially the state of Oregon improve its business image.

The Clackamas County Economic Development Commission's efforts to raise \$1.5 million by taxing current business would not improve our business image. It worsens it! It is wrong to say, as the Commission says, that economic development and

all that goes with it (increased jobs, increased spending and increased tax revenues) will occur, if we add another tax to existing businesses. It simply will not work!

More taxes are not what Clackamas County businesses need. A problem in Oregon, which could be rightly perceived throughout the United States, is that Oregon is already a high-tax state in which to do business. Any tax increase will do the opposite of what we want. New business will not come into the county knowing that another tax is placed on it.

It is our feeling that colorful brochures, national advertising and government influx of money is not the way to improve the business climate in Clackamas County. What is needed is a unified effort by all to convince our legislators and other elected leaders, that with the high cost of doing business in Oregon changes

have to be made at once to encourage—not discourage—business. A realistic approach to economic development insures Oregonians a better tomorrow.

The North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce urges the citizens of Clackamas County to vote NO on the business development fee (Ballot Measure No. 3-1 Tuesday, June 28.

Dick Smelser, President
North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce

Photo scorned

There is a time to play, be happy and enjoy the fact we are alive to do so.

There is a time to mourn those who have left us, those we miss and those who are not fortunate enough to be here with us enjoying life.

Your front-page picture and article Thursday, June 2 was strongly criticized by those who attended our Memorial Day service where we honored our dead with sadness. To combine another picture of children

playing and celebrating life was in poor taste and gave the effect that playtime was also part of our memorial.

I have been asked to please write a letter to the editor and issue the VFW 4273 Auxiliary complaint. I, as a widow of a veteran, would personally like to issue my own complaint. If it seems that we are over-reacting, please consider our feelings and also the possibility that your article was presented in poor taste.

Estelle Baughman
Sandy

The Post gratefully acknowledges essays and written opinions from readers to appear on this page—separate from the unbiased news reports on other pages of this newspaper. Your opinions generally will be printed as letters to the editor, while ours generally will appear as editorials. Occasionally, we are able to print guest editorials. We attempt to print all signed letters of good taste, legible form and reasonable length. Our deadline is noon on Tuesdays.

Yesteryear in Sandy:

Volunteers made difference



by VON BRASCHLER

the department that year were set at \$33,000.

Sandy Elementary Schools completed its new upper grade wing, since renamed Cedar Ridge School, to handle district overcrowding and house vocational classrooms.

The 1973 gas shortage crippled Sandy Truck Lines and Timberline Trailers, a manufacturer of recreational vehicles that since has folded in Sandy.

Sandy High teacher Dennis Crow, now assistant principal, was honored as one of the nation's top secondary school educators.

Meanwhile, Sandy High stu-

dent Greg Grockett was burned up the tracks around the state enroute to third-place finish in state competition in the 880-yard run.

Paving on Proctor Boulevard in Sandy finally was completed in June of 1973, with a race against time to avoid a strike over use of non-union workers.

June, 1963

A large crowd celebrated the dedication of Oral Hull park for the blind. Some 800 hotdogs were consumed and heavy equipment brought by Duane Knapp proved popular with the blind, as did airplane rides by Richard Wesselink and Otto Motej.

Hoodland Chamber president Al Greenwalt cited a housing "boom," when that group led a drive to mark every local road leading off Highway 26.

Until that time, the only address many Hoodland residents had to list in the phone directory was the name of their town.

"We are in the midst of a boom here right now!" Greenwalt said at the Chamber's meeting at Bowman's. "I can count 15 to 25 new homes going up within a mile of this spot and most of them are permanent homes, built by businessmen who would rather live here and commute than live in the city."

Meinig Park, which now houses the Mountain Festival and its 50,000 visitors each July, was purchased by Sandy City Council in 1963 from the Meinig family for \$7,000.

Councilman John Mills words

the motion to buy, with understanding the land be used for a city park and land for a city hall.

June, 1953

Some 300 persons gathered in the Sandy Grade School cafeteria for what was billed as the first annual farmer-merchant banquet in Sandy. Farmers were guests of the business people.

Program officials included Ivan Barker, Bob Medley, Ken Fredrickson, Al Larson and Cecil Chase.

George Hale entertained on his accordion. Other musicians were David Schneewind, Gary Gadowood and Doyle and VaLoy Deck.

Bill Kramer of Welches won a Mt. Hood Lions Club seven-week trout derby with a 21-inch rainbow. Proceeds from the derby were donated for purchase of a resurinator for the mountain area.

Sandy Volunteer Fire Department finished 350 manhours of work in rebuilding a 1,400-gallon tanker truck. Chief Lyle Seaman noted appreciation of donated garage facilities at Bowman-Hoffman Pontiac for the rebuilding and facilities donated by Richardson Chevrolet for the painting.

Sandy city budget committee sliced \$8,914 from previous year spending to present an austere \$45,167 budget. The amount necessary to balance the budget for 1953-54 was \$2,652—an amount within the state's 6-percent limitation law and not requiring a special election.