



The Sandy Post

Vol. 73 No. 40

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, OCT. 13, 1983

(USPS 481-180)

Single Copy 25¢

Gas tax proposal unanimously criticized

Service station owner Jim Bates doesn't mind putting in his two cents worth concerning a proposed gas tax for the city of Sandy.

A 2 cent tax (or 2 percent of retail sales), proposed by city manager Tom Reber last week, will be discussed at the Oct. 17 meeting of the city council.

Bates, who owns Sandy Mobil on the east end of town, expects the council to get an earful from gas station owners. Although two council members have already said they don't support the proposed new tax, Bates believes he knows what would happen if it were approved.

"There would be a petition out to get rid of those councilors if it passes," he said.

"I think they are crucifying the local trade."

Bates said his business is approximately 85 percent local and he doesn't see the ordinance as taking advantage of the tourist trade.

"The economy's not the greatest right now," Bates said. "If everybody was flourishing it'd be different."

The gas tax adds "insult to injury," he said.

The gas tax found little support among customers. "I work at Reynolds," said Richard Griggs, a customer at New's Union 76. "I pass a half a dozen stations on my way to work every day."

"You're going to run some of these (smaller) places out of business."

Owner Gerry New agrees. "When Arco lowered (its) prices my gas business went down 60 percent. The

way I have to price my gasoline, another two cents would kill the gasoline sales," New said.

New feels his business is among those that would be hurt most. "I have to pay a nickel more for my gasoline than they (Arco) can sell their's for."

"I have a hard enough time selling my gas. It's just my wife and I working here now and if the tax comes in I'll have to lay her off."

New feels gas stations are being singled out unfairly. "I know for a fact there's more profit in grocery stores. To me it's discriminatory."

Dave Rohde, who has worked at the Leather's Oil Company station for two years, believes an added 2 cents per gallon would hurt business. "It makes a difference if we're higher than Gresham," he said. "It really does. Everyone around here let's us know what the price of gas is in town (Gresham)."

He said with many people shopping in Gresham anyway, they'll just buy gas there as well if the price in Sandy goes up.

Jo Pauli of Brightwood, who commutes to her job at Calamity Jane's, doesn't have the option of filling up at Gresham. "I don't want no tax," she said while waiting to get gas at Leather's.

Steve Jackson, also of Brightwood, buys most of his gasoline in Sandy. "I usually fill up here because the gas is cheaper. I buy at the cheapest place I am close to," he said.

"I don't think I would be in favor of the tax but I'm not a resident, so I

wouldn't be getting any of the benefits."

Sandy's city manager, in information provided to the council at its Oct. 4 meeting, estimated the city could raise \$100,000 on sales of 5 million gallons of gasoline a year. Bates and New agreed that the 5 million gallon estimate was probably reasonable.

A proposed 2 percent of the total raised would go back to station owners to pay the cost of administering the tax.

Money raised would go toward maintenance and repair of Sandy's streets.

Multnomah County charges a 3 cent per gallon gasoline tax, and fuel license taxes have also been implemented in The Dalles and Tillamook, according to a memorandum Reber provided the city council.

Bill Granstrom, owner of Sandy Arco, said the comparison with

Multnomah County's tax is not a fair one. "The oil companies have made up the difference for those dealers because it covers such a wide area," he said. "They buy the gas cheaper than we do."

Granstrom also feels the tax would not draw the revenue projected by Reber. He said the tax would significantly cut back the volume of gas sold each year. "With a 2 cent tax

I would lose a thousand gallons a day to Gresham," he said. "I don't think they realize how competitive the business is."

He said his customers, 50 percent of whom he said are local, would suffer because he would have to raise prices to compensate for the tax.

"I think it's asinine to expect six people (service station owners) to pave the streets for all of Sandy," he said.



Gerry New



Dave Rohde



Jim Bates

Plans proceed for fund raiser

"Casino Night," a fund raiser for the Sandy Chamber of Commerce, will be held Oct. 29 at the Odd Fellows Hall.

Roger Atkins attended a similar fund raiser in Oregon City in April and said it was "real enjoyable."

Those attending must be 21 years old or older and a \$5 admission will provide a person with scrip, or "funny money."

With that Monopoly-like money one can play roulette, blackjack or roll dice, and Atkins said they'll also have a bingo game going for those who wish to enjoy the evening at a less rapid pace.

As the evening comes to a close there will be a blind auction. One will have no idea what they're bidding on until the bidding is over.

Beer, wine and soft drinks will be served, along with hors d'oeuvres. The Chamber has a special liquor control permit, which was issued by the city council earlier this month.

Atkins said although the event will not be a costume party, people are welcome to attend in costume.

Asked about the legality of the Casino Night, Dennis Miller, chief deputy district attorney, said "I assume they'll read the law and follow it."

He said under the Happy Canyon section of the Oregon state law, certain circumstances allow non-profit groups — charitable, fraternal or religious — to hold such events as fund raisers.

He declined comment on whether or not the Sandy Chamber of Commerce falls into that group, or whether the Casino Night activities, as described, could even be considered gambling.

Miller said they are a prosecution unit, and would not investigate unless a complaint is filed.

"Casino Night" will start at 7:30 p.m. and is to be over by midnight.

SCP returns to city for show

The opening of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" Oct. 28 marks the return of the Sandy Community Players to the city after a year's absence.

The group has been performing at the Collins Retreat Center for the past year. SCP's new home is on the upper floor of the Heritage Square building and "Cuckoo's Nest" will be performed there.

The play is based on the novel by Oregon author Ken Kesey and takes

place in a fictionalized psychiatric hospital in Salem.

"This is a mature play that is both thought provoking and humorous," said producer Pauline Stafford.

Steve Brader plays Randall P. McMurphy, a man who connives his way into the institution to avoid a jail sentence. His clashes with Nurse Ratched (Kate TenEyck) are at different times funny and solemn.

"Cuckoo's Nest" is one of four shows the group has scheduled for

this season. "The Christmas Carol," an SCP adaption of the Dickens story, will be revived for the holidays.

SCP has planned a mystery-comedy, "The Real Inspector Hound," as its April show, and a musical for the summer.

The musical, "The Fantastics," will be presented as dinner theater at Collins Retreat Center during Sandy Mountain Days.



Jennie Tupper, Gretchen Marter and Gretchen Anderson model 1950s-style clothing. The '50s day at SUHS was part of numerous homecoming activities.

There's more to Hot Lips than whistling 'Dixie'

by HANK EMRICH

When Helen Monroe talks about her hobby she is not just "whistlin' Dixie." She is whistling that and much more.

Monroe, known also as "Hot Lips Helen" or the "Wildcat Mountain Whistler," just returned from the sixth annual International Whistle-Off in Carson City, Nevada.

Monroe was a finalist in the classical division but her whistling talents are not confined to classical music.

One of the favorites of the audience was Monroe's aerobic exercise spoof, accompanied not by records but "trilling" as vigorous as the exercise.

She says her repertoire is growing constantly. While recently performing at the Sandy Senior Center, Monroe put on a "hillbilly" show (including blacked out teeth), and did a number hula dancing, complete with Hawaiian grass skirt. She performed some traditional tunes as well.

With plenty of room to practice on her farm on Wildcat Mountain Road, Monroe's constant tweeting hasn't yet driven away any neighbors. Monroe does say her

husband and children would gladly pay a bribe "just to have me quit pucker up."

Though already achieving a reputation in the field, Monroe's whistling career began only two years ago.

"I used to have a beautiful singing voice and it just went sour," she said.

Monroe says she enjoys the company of those involved whistling, saying they are a "special breed" who fancy themselves as artists of their own unique individualistic craft.

Oregon's reputation for individuality seems to attract whistlers and Monroe traveled back from Carson City with one whistler she says is special to her. She was accompanied by "Miss Lillian, America's Whistling Sweetheart."

Miss Lillian is 90 years old but Monroe says every year is full of life as evidenced when she performs, "playing a fiddle, dacing up a storm, and whistling a merry tune."

Not without coincidence one of her favorite tunes is "Young at Heart."

"We would turn a few ears our way when we decide to give little impromptu shows at restaurants

we stopped at on the way back," said Monroe.

Last year's grand champion at the Carson City Whistle-Off is also from Oregon. Mitch Hider, from Monroe, was unseated this year by an Australian fireman, making it truly an international contest.

The Australian moved into the finals through the novelty category, using a variety of bird-calls. Although the judging is done on ability, performance, presentation, and time, Monroe says the rules seem to be thrown out the window in the novelty category.

"The crowd goes wild and there are no holds barred on the crazy antics or ideas," she said.

Besides Monroe's exercise stint, one man did his version of "The Stripper" complete with balloons, another had mechanical birds and whistled with cigars stuffed in his mouth, and another wore a bright yellow tuxedo as he demonstrated how he does the voice of "Woodstock" on the "Peanuts" television cartoons.

Monroe is already looking forward to next year's event, a well as entertaining at fairs and other functions.

"I'll whistle whenever anyone gives me the chance," she says.



Helen Monroe