

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Chris Hale, general manager
Scott Newton, editor

Brooks deserves job

The race for Clackamas County sheriff is graced with two good candidates — appointed incumbent Bill Brooks and candidate Harold Amidon.

In the November general election, we recommend a vote for Bill Brooks.

Primarily for two reasons, this is a tough choice.

First of all, Amidon lives in Sandy, and a major complaint here is that the people in county government barely acknowledge we exist.

But more importantly, we feel that Amidon is qualified. He has headed up the patrol division, detectives and institutional services (jails) during his over 20-year tenure at Multnomah County. Besides an impressive record in management, he has distinguished himself in the field. He was cited for good work in a hostage incident at the Ringside Restaurant four years ago. He was field commander in an incident where 10 hostages were released after 17 hours of negotiations.

We feel, however, that Amidon must wait his turn.

With 30 years of law enforce-

ment experience, Sheriff Bill Brooks — appointed a year ago — has proven he has the right stuff.

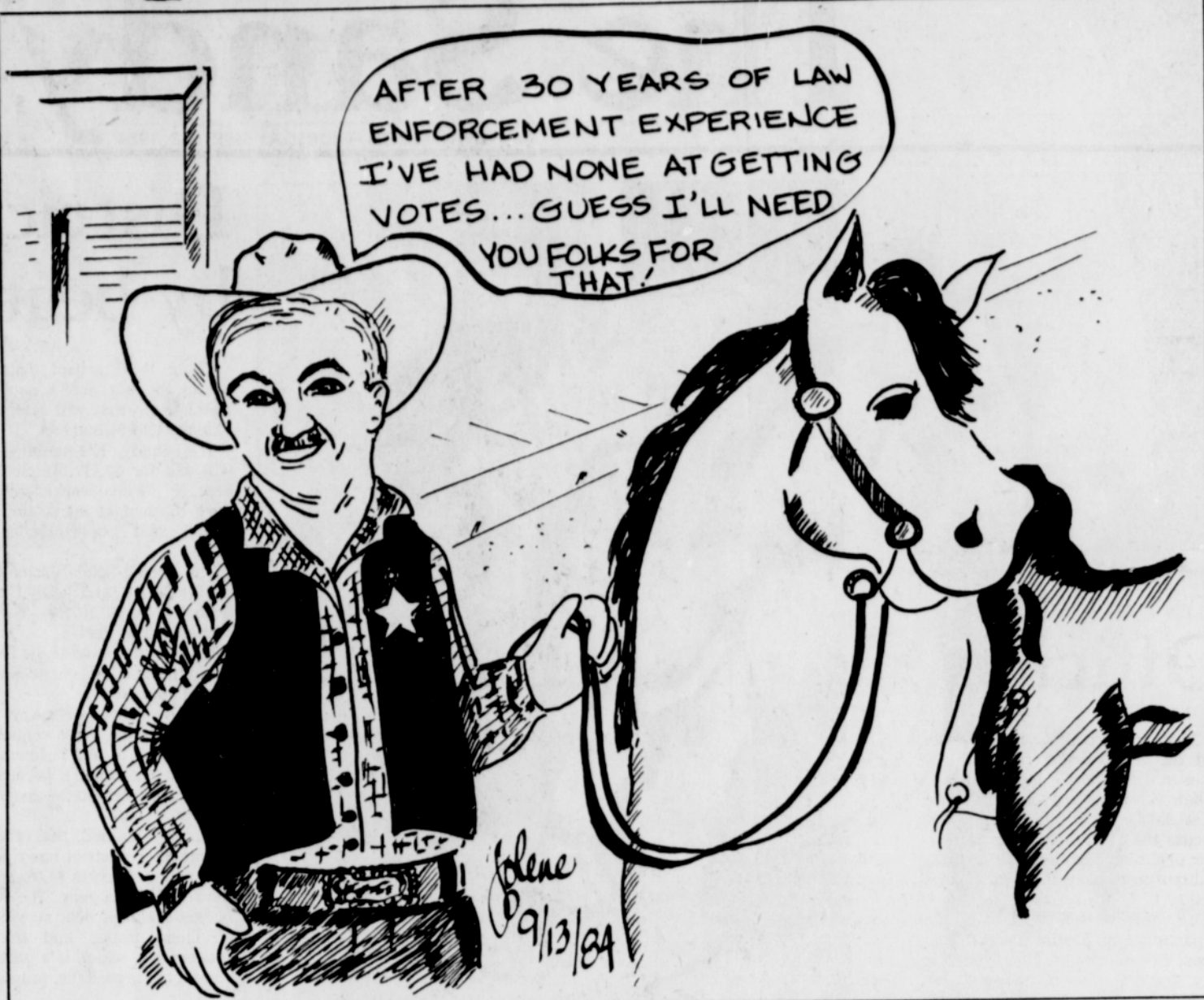
The Clackamas County sheriff's department has been fairly well supported by the public in the past. Three serial levies have been passed, the latest having been approved earlier this year.

Brooks received a vote of confidence a year ago when the Clackamas County Commissioners appointed him sheriff, and the public must believe that the department is doing some things right.

The reports on Brooks' first year, and his past performances in various high-level jobs, have been very good. He apparently is able to work with people in other law enforcement agencies.

Our primary reason for supporting Brooks is that we believe him when he says he can provide the leadership necessary to keep the law enforcement agency an effective one.

Bill Brooks deserves a four-year term. He has proven himself in his year in office, and we urge voters to let him show us what he can do with a full term.



Commentary

Uncertainty remains

by ROBERTA HUTTON

The school year is off to a good start at Sandy High. We have a total of 1225 students as of the end of the school day on Monday, and more registering each day. That presents some real problems in terms of space. We have several classes running near 40 students. We've kept the maintenance crew busy getting old chairs out of the attic. Every room in the school is full each period of the day. We're currently searching for a spot to start a study hall for students who need either detention, or just have some time for extra help. So far, no luck. Some days we almost wish we did have the 1000 students inaccurately reported in a recent letter to the editor!

A big question in all of our minds just now is the levy coming up on September 18. With a good year under way, we don't

need the uncertainty that plagued us so much last year. The levy has been reduced by \$176,000 since the tax base election in May. Much of that reduction is through staff cuts in the support areas. We're expecting all of current staff to pick up the slack and they are doing a great job. Job roles have changed substantially with the reorganization, and we hope to do a much better job at the same time. Our new attendance procedures seem to be working, we appreciate the fine support we've had from parents. Keep those phone calls coming. We will be surveying parents at mid-year for their ideas on how we can continue to improve.

Please remember that the administrative office is open until 7 p.m. every Monday. You don't need an appointment, just drop in. Also, board meetings are again set for the second Monday of every month. Plan to attend one soon.

Letters to the editor

Project is mismanaged

During the recent overlay and capping of U.S. 26 east of Sandy on Monday, Sept. 10, 1984, did you get your vehicle covered with tar?

If you did not, you were lucky.

This entire project appears to be an example of poor management and supervision to get a job done at the expense of the taxpayer and vehicle owner.

Not one sign was posted on either end of the ten mile stretch of the project to make the motorist aware of fresh oil and loose sand/rock. "Only 35 mph signs, use left lane, and men working were displayed, the latter two only on the east end."

On one stretch of the highway over two miles of raw oil was sprayed without any

sign or notice and, after two hours, was later covered with a dirty sand-like substance. Dump trucks were dumping sand (?) on the fresh oil seal next to traffic without a flagger or any other traffic control assistance.

This is the second fiasco in the last two weeks. DOT takes no blame for the contracted service. Related claims may be filed with:

Contractor: Fabricated Incorporated, 2705 Lancaster Drive NE, Salem, Ore., 97305. Phone 585-5950.

Insurance carrier: Tromp and McKinley, in care of Ray Paiement, Eugene, Ore. Phone 687-2222.

Z.W. Gernhart
Boring

King's letter fraudulent

The letters to the editor column in a newspaper is unique in that the newspaper takes no responsibility for the accuracy of what is being written. That is the only way John King could have gotten his piece published in last week's Post.

Although I am unable to verify most of his figures, the fraud of the ones I can verify lead me to doubt the veracity of the ones I can't.

He compares the high cost of a high school education in Sandy (\$5000/student) with that of Houston, for example (\$2724/student). Now, it should take less than a high school education to question why Houston and Sandy should have anything in common, including the cost of educating its students.

But even if it were a fair comparison, the figures for Sandy are blatantly false. They are based on an enrollment of 1000 students, whereas the actual enrollment is 1225 and rising. That brings the cost down to \$4186/student. But that figure includes \$428,000 for bonded indebtedness. And since Houston or any other school doesn't figure in any bonded indebtedness, it is fair to refigure Sandy's without theirs. Now the figure is \$3836/student.

But Houston doesn't bus any students, and Sandy's busing budget of \$200,000 (down from previous years) subtracted from the total budget brings the per pupil cost to \$3673. Also, Houston budgets grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. Since it's much less expensive to educate the lower grades, this further lowers their per pupil figure.

And what else is an unfair comparison

between Sandy and Houston? Probably more, but I don't know what all. But I do know that Sandy is no more like Houston than Cherryville is Portland.

Education is not cheap, but it would be a shame to prove what a bargain it is by closing the school, even for a short period of time. The alternative then would be very expensive.

I question the motives of Mr. King who has sat down with the superintendent and gone over the actual figures of enrollment and budgets and then chooses to use other figures to urge voters to reject the levy request. Maybe it should be rejected, but it should be done from a position of knowledge of the facts. And the facts show that, although we may be where we want to be with this school, we're headed in the right direction and making progress.

Let's continue making progress in the quality of new teachers, the continued upgrading of curriculum, the tightening up of discipline and course requirements and the continued search for ways to achieve this at the least possible cost to the people.

I do not necessarily advocate a "yes" vote on the budget request. I do recommend that anyone considering voting against it have the guts to call 668-8011, ask for Superintendent Roberta Hutton (if she's not at her phone, ask to have her call you back) and tell her why you are voting against the levy. Then if you're fair enough to listen to her opinions and still feel it should be voted down, vote "no."

I've done exactly that and I will be voting "YES."

David A. Cary
Sandy

Letters to the editor

Sandy parents praise school system

We are parents of children in the Sandy Elementary School System and we think it is time that taxpayers of this area realize what good schools we actually have. Being actively involved in the Parent-Teacher Club and in our children's classrooms, we have had the opportunity to view our teachers up close.

We have very good teachers who are not babysitting but are working to see that our children receive the best education they can get.

There are no frills in our schools in the Sandy area. Those of you who think they exist should take the time to go to school and find out for yourself. Almost all of the fun activities for our students, including assemblies, are paid for by the Parent-Teacher Clubs and not by the taxpayers.

We feel that the administrators of our district work exceedingly hard to find ways to cut the budget and still give our children the good education they need.

We plead with you people who are burdened down with excessive property taxes, to fight your battles in the Legislature, and not make our children, our teachers, and our administrators suffer for the mismanagement of our tax system.

We are asking you to vote yes on the Sandy Elementary budget levy on September 18.

Thank you.
Maggie Lowery, Donna Stuart, Michele Riggs, LauraLee Miller, Patty Tobias, Lois Brittle and Donna Radke.

Voting no hurts kids

Last spring, the Sandy Post described Sandy High as "... the whipping boy of the community..." Sadly, this seems to be true. Why? As a parent and property tax payer who has taken considerable time over the last year to attend board meetings, school events and who has talked at length with teachers, school administrators and parents, I have concluded that Sandy High is a very good high school and that the \$350 per year of my tax money that goes to this school is a bargain!

Am I blind, naive, have I been duped? I don't think so. Do I admire every person I have met at the

school? No! Are there things that could be improved upon? Yes, of course. Then why don't I vote no until these things are just the way I want them.

That makes about as much sense to me as tearing my house down because I don't like the way one room looks. A no vote condemns the whole school and everyone in it (let's remember the 1,100 kids). The mechanisms exist for solving problems without destroying the school. A close, honest look at Sandy High does not justify the condemnation of the school advocated by some. Perhaps the issue is how close and how honest a look some people take.

Let's not take out our political and philosophical frustrations on our youth! Vote yes, for Sandy High!

Bill Kruger
Boring

Don't protest with no vote

If you don't like the decision of the school board, work to remove the board at the next election — but don't get rid of the school. To follow Robert Shaw's advice and vote against the upcoming school levy because of an objection to a particular school board decision is shooting at the wrong target and certainly isn't in the best interest of our youth or our community.

If Mr. Shaw objects strenuously to the action taken by four members of the high school board regarding the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives," then he should form a committee and try to recall those members. We know that some people believe that voting against a school levy is a method of registering a protest against the school board's actions... but we believe firmly that a "NO" vote will hit a target not intended... our kids.

If monies from the levy went to pay the school board, perhaps Mr. Shaw's suggestion would have some merit, but school board members aren't paid for their services. The levy will provide money to educate our kids. We can't afford to make these students pawns in a war based on a school board action.

The decision to vote for or against the levy should

not be based on a book or the actions taken by the school board... it must be based on answering the question "Do our students deserve to be educated and are we going to provide the funds to provide this education?"

We believe that our community and our country need an educated population. We also believe that our students deserve your support. For these reasons, we strongly recommend that you vote in favor of our kids — vote YES on the high school levy.

Norm & Arty Trost
Sandy

P.S. The book mentioned above HAS been taken off the high school library's shelves. It is now available only to the counseling staff as a reference.

Boards aren't responsive

Since the last letter I wrote concerning a book in our high school library, I have kept silent, due to the fact that I did not want to be labeled as a "fanatic." Not because I care so much what other people think of me, but for the simple reason I did not want any input I might have in regards to my children's education to be considered irrational and tossed aside.

However, I am aware that another election is coming up, and I feel I must again bring up a couple of sore subjects. No. 1 — If anyone read John King's letter in last week's letters to the editor section, they will realize that it takes as much, or more, money to educate a student at SUHS as it does in some of the richer communities of the United States. I applaud John for the hours I know he must have spent researching the contents of that letter.

No. 2 — Our school board. I attended one of their meetings not long ago, and the principal of SUHS was "let go" to save money. Now I have no idea what the man's wages were, but I do know that the board turned around in "the same breath" and ok'd almost \$20,000 for a new van to haul our superintendent and rally squad around, and for new athletic equipment. It just seemed strange to me that they would consider these things more important than a man who was, from what I could gather, quite

good at his job, and who also has children of his own.

I don't know much about politics, but there seems to be a lot of it going on at our school board meetings.

This same board that is supposed to have our children's best interest at heart also decided that the disgusting book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives," is suitable enough to be used in the counseling of our kids.

Lastly, I am tired of being blackmailed before each election! If the schools close down because we do not vote to give them more money to mismanage, then so be it! I am beginning to think that I could do a better job educating my kids, anyway, and for a lot less money!

I really do hope Roberta Hutton's abilities match her ego, because there are not many people who can hold down two major jobs, and do it well, while being paid wages for only one of them.

Sheri Emerson
Cherryville

Boards don't pay attention

I would like to express my indignation about our two Sandy school districts. I am sure they have made history. They must be proud of their recent achievements.

The administration and school board at Sandy High School voted to keep a pornography book, while the administration and school board at the grade school voted to not allow the Gideon Bible in.

Dan MacDonald of the high school and Dennis Traxler of the grade school board are two men who need to be commended for standing alone on these issues. They alone of those on the boards are evidently the most concerned about our youth and their futures.

By the way, where were the "men" who stand behind our local church pulpits on these issues? A few were involved for awhile on the high school issue, but unfortunately none of them followed through. What will it take for our ministers to wake up?

Anyone wanting to understand the tenets of humanism and what it will do to your children only need to read the

"Humanist Manifesto." Ask for it at your public library. If anyone still doubts the goals of our public schools after reading this, they are indeed blind. Ninety percent of the signers are educators. Wake up parents.

In closing, our school boards and administrators need to know that they are our servants and they had better be listening to those they serve. How can anyone in good faith vote yes on any school budget when it is obvious that the majority view of the community is being ignored.

I urge a no vote on the Sept. 18 high school budget and on the next grade school budget.

Madalyn Flock
Sandy

Vote no to protest

Naive as I am, I was under the impression that schools and their boards were interested in what the people in their districts felt. I was sadly mistaken. The Sandy High School board does not care, with one exception, and apparently neither does the Sandy Elementary board, again with one exception.

Large numbers of concerned citizens turned out to show their shock and disgust of the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" at the Library Reconsideration meeting in April and at the school board meeting in May. In July the board was supposed to vote to either keep the book or get rid of it. You should have been there. They didn't do that, they voted on whether the book should go into the guidance and counseling center. The few people that were there were upset by this action and had to practically beg to be heard, while one man who didn't even ask to be heard was called on for his opinion. He, of course, was in favor of keeping the book. One voice in favor was more important than many who were opposed.

The grade school board also took a great deal of notice of one caller and changed board policy to suit this anonymous caller.

We have one last way to let the school boards know how we feel. We can vote NO on their budgets Sept. 18.

Teresa Shaw
Sandy