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Well-attended forum focuses on tax reform

Over 75 people attended "Oregon Decisions: '85" Tuesday, which provided a town-hall type of atmosphere for local citizens and two legislators.

State Senator Steve Starkovich and state Representative Bob Shiprack listened to comments concerning taxes, water issues and juvenile delinquency.

The two lawmakers began by giving overviews of what they think will be the main issues this session. Starkovich, a Democrat who is only the second first-term (recently elected to his second) senator to be selected majority leader in Oregon history, pointed out the state does not assess property, collect property taxes or determine how much will be spent by local governmental agencies.

However, the state does provide

property tax relief out of income tax revenues.

Oregon has, depending on the study, the first or second highest per capita income tax in the U.S., and about the 10th highest property tax burden. However, there is no sales tax, and he asked rhetorically if the burden should be spread.

The sales tax measure proposed last session would have shifted the tax burden from urban people to rural, and Starkovich voted against it. However, he said if a tax is drafted that is fair, he will vote to refer it, even though "the sales tax is not popular with me or other people in my district."

Other topics Starkovich referred to included economic development — he called upon local people to step up their efforts — and water policy,

which he said will be "the natural resource issue in Oregon for the next decade."

In his opening statements Shiprack, D-Beavercreek, criticized Governor Vic Atiyeh for proposing a budget that eliminates property tax relief on the assumption a sales tax will be approved.

He said the two main increases in the governor's budget were in the areas of higher education and human resources. Later — responding to a question from John King about possible cuts on the state level — he asked people to fill out a questionnaire that asks whether people would accept cuts in those areas.

Shiprack said other topics to be dealt with, not including those mentioned by Starkovich, would include solid waste management; the issue

of a nuclear waste facility in Washington (only seven miles from Oregon); ways to deal with waste from "high tech" plants; fishery enhancement; hydroelectric projects; and alternatives in health insurance for state workers, which could eventually lead to lower medical costs as it trickles down to the private sector.

The forum was designed by the Clackamas County Democratic Party as a sounding board for the people Starkovich and Shiprack represent, and a number of people had questions and advice.

Jim Johnson of Estacada criticized a law passed in 1983, the juvenile detention bill, which he said makes it nearly impossible for police to arrest young offenders, even those with a criminal record.

Starkovich said he voted for the bill, and admitted "we screwed up, frankly."

He added, "I can't say anything but that you're right and we're going to fix it early."

Sheri Emerson asked why a flat tax isn't being considered, and drew applause as she demanded "total tax reform at all levels."

Shiprack had mentioned earlier that he supports a flat tax, which would eliminate most or all deduc-

tions in the income tax system. Lobby groups could be expected to oppose eliminating deductions that currently benefit their constituents.

Starkovich said the house revenue committee didn't give Shiprack a fair hearing last session. "They say there are two things you shouldn't watch being made," Starkovich said, "sausages and law." He said he feels the Legislature probably needs to get

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Chamber names Duff Citizen of Year

Jim Duff has on occasion been labeled "anti-business," which makes it all the more interesting that he was chosen as the Sandy Area

Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year.

Don Wilson, outgoing president, considers Duff to be a deserving reci-

ipient. The anti-business label is a "bum rap," Wilson said. "It's just that Jim never hesitates to tackle a problem head-on."

Duff and his wife, Caroline, have been residents of Sandy for over 26 years. He is the senior member of the City Council, having served 16 years.

Duff is on the board of directors for the Sandy Fire District, and is retired from the Army Reserves after 21 years in medical services. An Emergency Medical Technician II, Duff teaches science, health and careers at Cedar Ridge.

Duff, who recently won re-election to his council seat, publicly supported development of industrial areas west and northwest of Sandy, and said revitalization of downtown Sandy would be a priority.

Other people who were honored Saturday night at a banquet at Timberline Lodge were retailers Dave and Kris Cary, owners of the Country Donut House, Kids Kingdom and Prime Time Video; Denise and Roger Redman, owners of Mountain Video; and Pat and Diane Tiller, owners of the Flower Garden.

Jim Patrick, owner of Sandy Truck Lines, received the President's Award, which is new this year. Wilson said Patrick is a behind-the-scenes kind of civic patron with a long history of service to his credit.

The Business Leader of the Year award went to Brad and Vicki Pickings, owners of Janz Berryland. The

Pickings negotiated with McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Wasson Brothers Winery and Safeway in developing the west end of town.

The city of Sandy — Wilson is city planner — and Pickings have had more than a few run-ins in the past. Wilson said all through his term that his position with the city would not affect his work as Chamber president. He added that Sandy is the kind of town where, with only a few exceptions, people can be friends even after disagreeing on an issue.

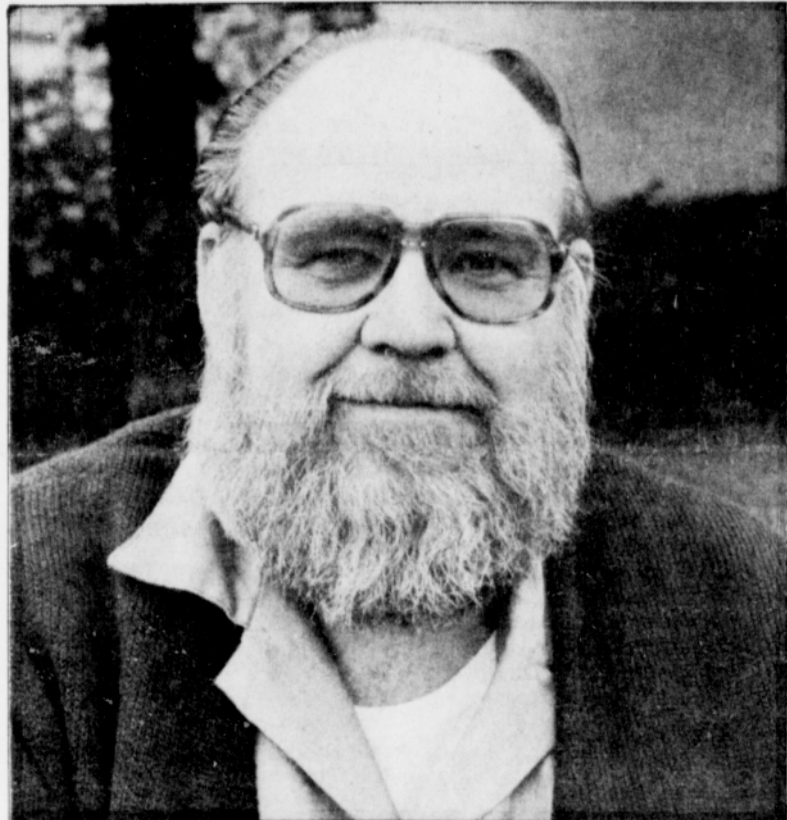
Wilson said he is pleased to have the Chamber finish the year in the black, which was accomplished through successful fund raisers such as the Wine Fair and Feast and casino nights. A modest increase in membership was another accomplishment, Wilson said.

"A lot of people, who forever should have been in Chamber, are now involved," Wilson said, which will make for a stronger organization.

Wilson and his wife, Carol, came up with the idea for the Wine Fair and Feast two years ago. They stole the "class act food and wine" festival idea from Newport, Wilson said.

Wilson, who saw membership rise from 113 to 120 in 1984, said he will be in charge of membership for 1985. He has set a goal of 200 members.

Joyce Atkins is the president for 1985.



Jim Duff



Sen. Steve Starkovich



Rep. Bob Shiprack

Chamber publishes Hood Guest Guide

People who think business on the mountain is limited to three ski resorts and Rippling River should consult the Mt. Hood Guest Guide. The pamphlet lists 47 businesses.

The idea is to show there is a self-contained community with a lot of "lively businesses," according to Kurt Mezger. The pamphlet was co-sponsored by the Hoodland Area Chamber of Commerce and the Mt. Hood Recreational Association.

Mezger, owner of Chalet Swiss and a member of the Chamber's board of directors, said similar pamphlets have been used in the Bend area in the past.

The only expenses were "a little art work" and the printing. Businesses bought space in the brochure, with Chamber and Recreation Association members receiving a discount. Area motel owners and operators made a commitment to distribute the pamphlets, Mezger

said, and Mt. Hood Meadows and Rippling River will distribute them as part of their marketing programs.

Mezger said they limited the brochure to Mt. Hood corridor businesses. Sandy merchants were not included in this particular project. "I hope we didn't step on any toes," Mezger said, explaining that some Sandy business owners had expressed interest.

The pamphlet lists service stations, churches, ski and recreation areas, restaurants and other businesses. A few businesses have multiple listings. A map shows each participating business's location. There were 15,000 copies printed.

Copies may be obtained by writing or calling: Mt. Hood Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 342, Welches, 97067 (622-3017); Mt. Hood Recreation Association, P.O. Box 158, Welches, 97067 (224-7158, ext. 1600).

Mechanics teacher a well-kept secret

by SCOTT NEWTON

Sam Sakamoto may be Sandy High School's best kept secret.

He doesn't coach, hold political office or call and ask to have his program publicized at levy election time.

What he does is teach a practical skill that will probably save students money somewhere down the line — he teaches auto mechanics.

With the automobile the second-largest investment many people will make, an understanding of the workings of that car is as important to some students as college English is to others.

Sakamoto is in his ninth year of teaching at Sandy High. He attended Multnomah College on the GI bill, worked "on the line" as a mechanic in the Oregon City area from 1947 to 1970, and then managed a shop — Keller Datsun in Gladstone — for six years.

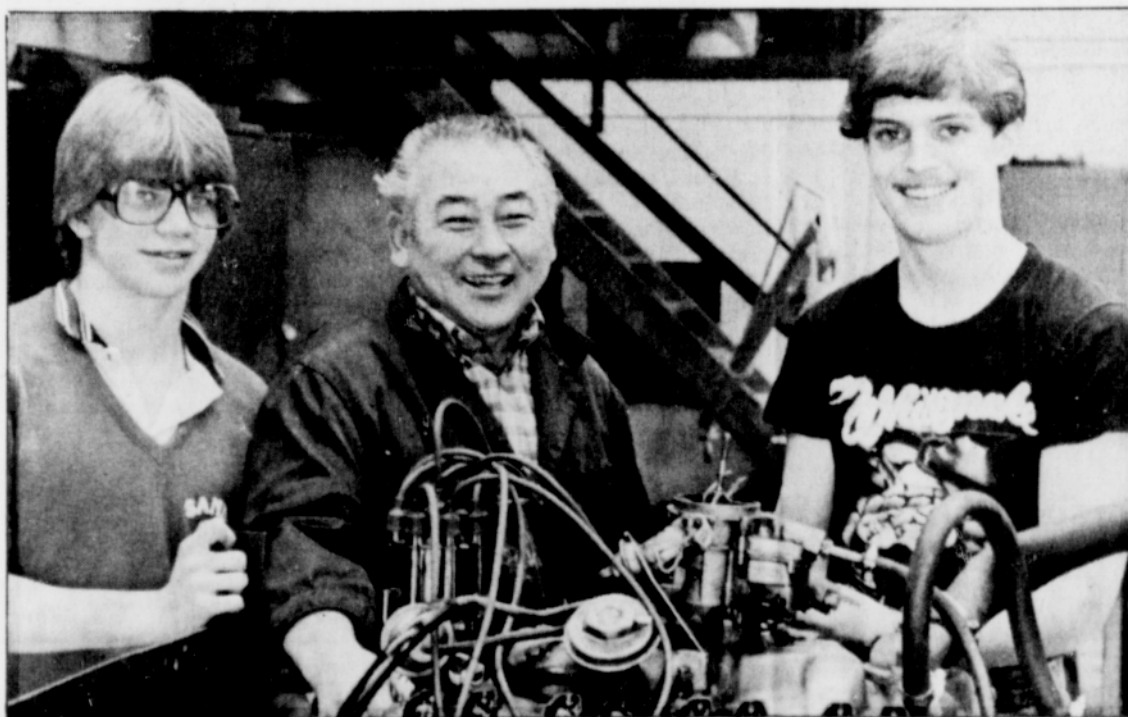
He has a matter-of-fact attitude. Asked how he likes teaching, he said, "Sometimes it's frustrating, but then it is in industry also."

There is room in the shop for about three cars, and it is essential the area be kept clean because of the limited space. They have a Sunn machine, which is needed for working on newer cars, but sometimes they do things in a makeshift way.

"Sometimes tools can make a job easier," Sakamoto said, "but you use what you can. If everything went smoothly, the kids wouldn't learn."

Sakamoto teaches two first-year classes, two second-year classes (in two-hour blocks) and has one third-year group. Some students come in with a good deal of knowledge from reading such magazines as Hot Rod.

There were eight girls in one first-year class, and Sakamoto



Sam Sakamoto with students Danny Emerson, left, and Hohl Nunes.

Photo by Scott Newton

started with the basics. "The boys were not too keen on the idea of showing how to change a flat," Sakamoto said.

By the end of the year, however, two-person teams will have disassembled and assembled a lawnmower engine twice — one time for each partner. It must run when re-assembled.

Second-year students rebuild an engine, usually a V-8. They learn to do body work, put in windows, and repair brakes, transmissions and whatever else comes along. Classes for third-year students are usually small, and they continue to do the more advanced work.

By the second semester of a student's second year, work on one's

own automobile is allowed. "That's what they actually want to do, work on their cars," he said.

For about the last 15 years Sakamoto has been working part time as a commercial fisherman on the coast; he has a 24-foot dory.

There was no salmon season last year, and the fishing has been off in recent years, he said. He does some crabbing when things are slow.

One gets the impression he would go even if he didn't make a dime. "It seems like if you have problems, you go out there and it cures everything."

Sakamoto said a high school program can only be expected to provide students with the basics.

Community colleges and technical schools are filling the gap in the field, which is increasingly calling for higher levels of skill.

"You just have to be honest about that, but they will get their foot in the door. Every year we have a few who get their foot in the door."

The students who do go to the trouble of getting an advanced degree will probably find themselves making a decent living. The flat rate for mechanics has gone from about \$12 an hour in 1976 to about \$30 to \$35 an hour at present, Sakamoto said.

"I feel as long as there are cars on the road there are going to be jobs for these kids."

Ski shop sets benefit in honor of Otto Rode

Mt. Hood Hospice will benefit from a ski shop promotion set for the next two Mondays.

Kjell Rode, son of the late Otto Rode, said the Sandy Senior Center and Mt. Hood Hospice did a lot of things for his father when he was alive.

To pay the community back, he has planned a benefit whereby skiers can rent poles, boots and skis for \$5 a day. All proceeds go to Mt. Hood Hospice. "We want people to know about them and us," said Kjell, who feels the package is a good deal for everyone involved.

Hospice is a program of care for terminally ill people and their families. Mt. Hood Hospice serves an

area from Gresham through Government Camp. Funding is almost entirely dependent on donations.

"We really appreciate his support of hospice and hope that skiers will patronize someone with a real interest in the community," said Kathryn Broderick, executive director of Mt. Hood Hospice.

Otto's Cross Country Ski Rentals is located at 38716 Pioneer Boulevard in Sandy. Kjell recommended that people come in early to be fitted for equipment. To make reservations, or for more information, call 668-5947.

The benefit will be Jan. 14 and 21. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends.

Travel agent tells club about 2-week trip to Nepal

by SARA BERGER

Travel Agent Leala Harris showed slides and reported on the culture of Nepal as she observed it on a two-week trip through the Himalayas last May, which included five days of hiking.

The program was presented at a recent Sandy Business and Professional Women's Club meeting.

Nepal has been open to visitors since 1951 but they do not allow artifacts to be taken out of the country. There is no crime and travelers feel safe, Harris told the group.

Wages and goods are low by American standards. Porters carry 80-pound packages for \$2 per day. Made-to-order pantsuits sell for \$2 each.

The Nepalese are a warm, friendly people, according to Harris. They are Buddhist and Hindu. Cows are

regarded as sacred. Franciscans are allowed to teach in their schools but cannot teach religion, and instruction is carefully monitored.

Nepal is one of the few countries in the world where a living person is worshiped, according to Harris. A young girl, age 6, is chosen to be a goddess and is removed from her family until age 13, when she is returned to her family and a new goddess is chosen.

Marriages are still arranged by the parents.

Nepal has a monarchical government and the tribal lands are leased. Water buffalo are used for cultivating the terraced hillsides.

Donkeys carry food packs into the villages as there are few developed roads.

Harris, a Sandy resident, is employed at First Class Tour and Travel in Portland.