

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Chris Hale, general manager
Scott Newton, editorFlares a necessity
for emergencies

Very few people drive around for any length of time without a spare tire. Flares should join that list of required merchandise for the trunk.

If you do have to change a flat or need to work on your car, flares are going to alert people that there is activity in the area.

Likewise, with the winter weather upon us, there are bound to be accidents regardless of how careful people are. If you are the first person on the scene, and happen to be carrying flares, the possibility exists that you will spare someone injury or further damage.

Some people recommend carrying flares in the car, instead of in the trunk, for easy access.

Either way, it is a simple matter. Do you have flares in your car?

Letters to the editor

Pioneer Park has
turned into a dump

On the way into Sandy there is a park, Pioneer Park just off 362nd Drive. My family would have great picnics and family get-togethers. Every once in a while a squirrel would come out of a tree to get a treat and look things over.

But now that park has turned into a dump. Trash is piled up on the BBQ pit that we once used to cook on; bags of garbage lay around, beware of dog signs are on the trees, fuzzy squirrels turned into fuzzy gray rats that look the trash over. The trash cans are overflowing.

I'm told that the park is privately owned and that the owner lets the public use it, for which I would like to thank him. I'm also told that there is

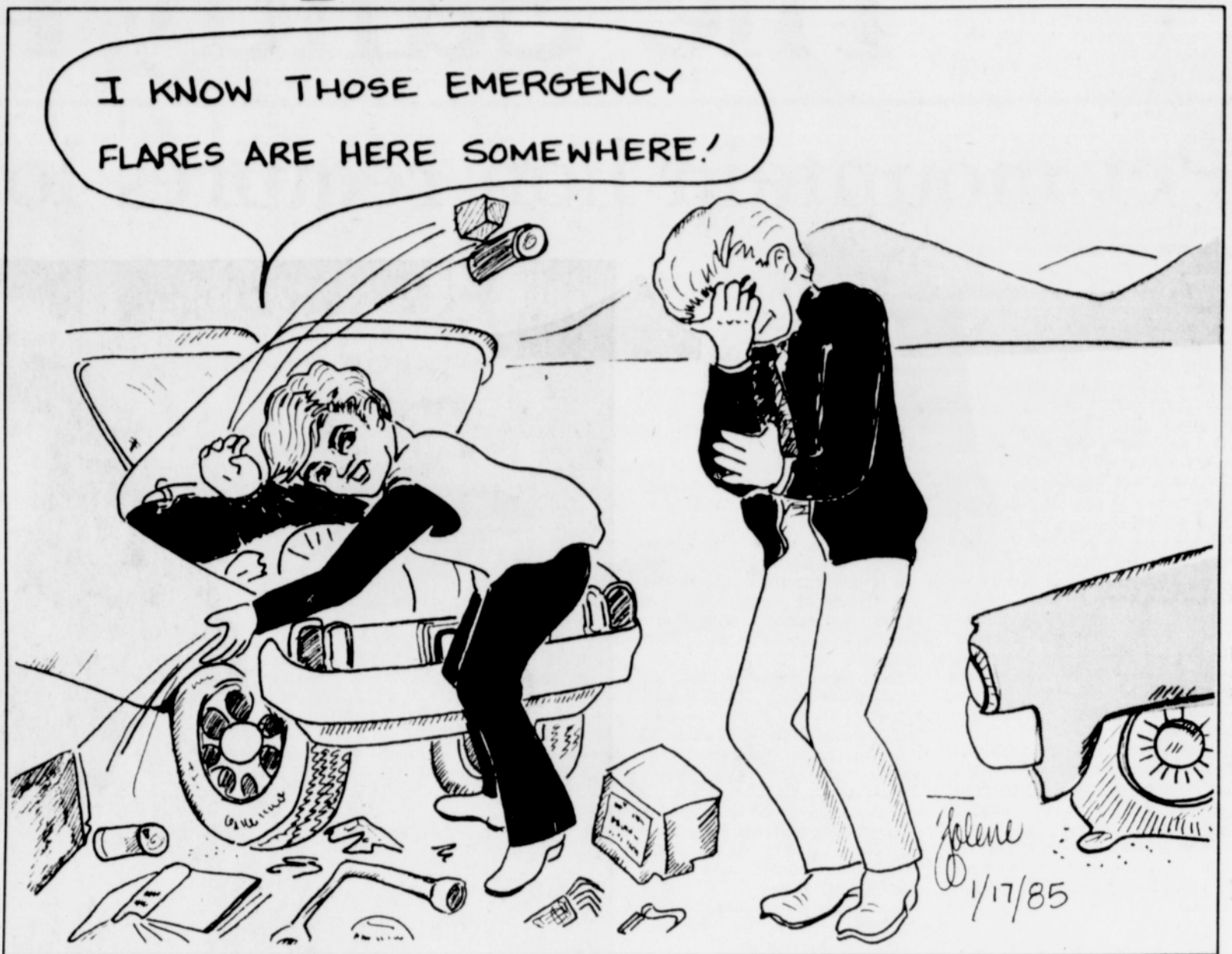
a caretaker but I feel that he or she has been gone for a long, long time... or maybe the caretaker just doesn't care.

The owner must have thought that the land was special to turn it into a park. I wonder what happened? Or maybe he just doesn't know, or maybe he just doesn't care anymore. Well, I do, and there's a lot of other people who feel the same way I do in Sandy.

Thank you.

Christie Shellito
Sandy

Editor's note: The Sandy Pioneer and Historical Association owns the park.



Friends, neighbors thanked

We wish to extend our grateful thanks to our many neighbors and friends for their thoughtful expressions of sympathy and kindness in

the recent loss of our beloved son and husband, Michael Ray Shearman.

Richard and Rose Shearman
Carol Ann Smith

Thank you for condolences

We wish to thank all who sent flowers and cards and those who participated in the services.

Viola Smart
and family
Sandy

Personally speaking

Mountain lion tames
Post photographer

by SCOTT NEWTON

Taking pictures is pretty easy. You adjust for the light, focus and squeeze the trigger.

But recently I faced one of the most difficult assignments in my life. I had permission to take color photographs of Debbie Paola and her mountain lion, Snohomish.

Snohomish sometimes becomes infatuated with items, such as bottles and, as it turns out, cameras.

As I got into the cage with Mitch, Debbie and Snohomish, it became apparent that the big cat was eyeing my camera. He paced back and forth for several minutes, while Mitch and Debbie, also moving back and forth, kept him away.

Cougars are territorial, I guess. What I know for certain is that that cat didn't settle down till I left the cage. Debbie had suggested that I shoot the picture through the mesh fence. Great idea, I thought, shutting the door of the cage behind me.

"Oregon Decisions: '85," the forum that featured state Representative Bob Shiprack and state Senator Steve Starkovich, was quite a success, in my opinion.

I couldn't help but notice, however, that hot dogs remained a topic throughout the evening.

Serving hot dogs — along with coffee and soda pop — was the brainchild of Von Brashler, perennial idea man.

During a discussion about how the flat tax wouldn't be considered until the sales tax had been dealt with, Starkovich said, "They say there are two things you shouldn't watch being made, sausage and law."

Considering President Reagan's landslide, one has to wonder if the Democratic Party is in such a state of disrepair that it has to resort to serving free hot dogs to draw a crowd.

But then again, maybe it worked. Over 75 people attended.

I like Jim Duff, but then how could a reporter not like a politician who is almost always "on the record"?

Duff, recently honored as Citizen of the Year by the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, joins a pretty elite group. Consider the list of previous winners:

1965, Lyle Seaman; 1966, Mike Paluck and Bob Smith, posthumously; 1967, Ivan Barker; 1968, Hazel Murray; 1969, Don Deming; 1970, Clyde Sutherland; 1971, Howard Berger; 1972, Olin Bignall; 1973, Phil Jonsrud; 1974, George Morgan; 1975, Dale Nicholls; 1976, Florence Schmitz; 1977, Mel Haneberg; 1978, Pete Sulzbach; 1979, Marjory Hoffman; 1980, Darrell Dempster; 1981, Ruth Loundree; 1982, Ann Fenwick; and 1983, Macy Brader and Pat Spradling.

The Chamber, without a doubt, has established "THE" prestigious award in Sandy. Congratulations, Jim.

Policy on letters

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced and signed. An address and telephone number should also be provided, although only the name of the letter writer and the city or area he is from will be published.

Letter writers may also wish to include a title or office held if it is appropriate considering the subject matter of the letter.

The news deadline of noon, Tuesday is also the deadline for letters to the editor.

Letters should be accurate, free of libelous remarks and in good taste. This newspaper attempts to publish all letters it receives locally. We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines or for length. A preferred maximum length is 300 words.

Opinion

Sanctity Sunday shows respect for life

From Sandy Family Services

Thousands of churches across the United States will observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on Jan. 20. This date is the Sunday closest to Jan. 22, marking the 12th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision, which requires that abortions be legally available on demand throughout pregnancy.

The Sanctity of Human Life Sunday program was developed by the Christian Action Council, a Washington, D.C., based Protestant group that combats abortion and other life-threatening practices such as denying medical treatment to handicapped newborns. The Christian Action Council sponsors a balanced program of activities including education about "Life" issues, the formation of public policy, and service to women with untimely pregnancies through their Crisis Pregnancy Center Ministry.

"Sanctity of Human Life Sunday represents a prophetic statement by the church against our nation's growing disregard for human life," said CAC Executive Director Curtis J. Young. "It is also a reaffirmation of the church's own commitment to protect the fatherless and to help those in crisis. 1.5 million abortions per year is a clarion call to Christians to enter this battle."

"We believe that Roe constitutes a clear turning away from Judeo-Christian standards of justice to favor those of paganism," notes Young. "Justice Harry Blackmun cited the precedent of 'ancient religion' to justify his abortion decision in part. What he failed to point out is that not only did 'ancient religion' permit abortion, but also slavery, polygamy, crucifixion, and infanticide. It was only through the wide spread influence of Christianity that these practices were abolished. We are here to say that the 'ancient

religion' of Christianity holds a much higher view of humanity and we're celebrating that fact."

The Christian Action Council maintains that evidence abounds to indicate a shifting ethic. "The sanctity of human life is eroding on many fronts," Young asserted. "We've seen over 15 million abortions since 1973. In April of 1982 a baby afflicted with Down's Syndrome was starved to death at the request of his parents, and with the sanction of the courts, in a Bloomington, Indiana, hospital. In the July, 1983 issue of Pediatrics magazine the lead editorial compared a severely defective newborn to a dog or a pig. In March of 1984, Gov. Dick Lamm of Colorado stated that the infirm elderly had a 'duty to die' for the economic health of our nation and our children's future. The list goes on and on."

Young projects that the involvement of thousands of church-goers will spur a new wave of protest

against the practice of abortion and infanticide. "Last year over 7,000 Christian churches participated in Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. We also enjoyed the support of President Reagan last year as he proclaimed Sunday, Jan. 22, 1984 as 'National Sanctity of Human Life Day.' This year we expect the number to jump to 15,000 participating churches," he said.

"We're overcoming these practices with a better way, a way that respects human life at all of its stages. The Christian solution to human problems has never been to eliminate people, but to provide justice for the innocent and mercy for the afflicted."

There is a Crisis Pregnancy Center located in Sandy at 39332 Proctor Blvd., which provides free pregnancy tests, confidentiality, and help without cost. The phone number is 668-8101.

Salem Scene

Committees key to lawmaking process

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Jokes and wacky definitions to the contrary, committees are one of the most essential ingredients in Oregon's legislative process.

With the 63rd Legislative Assembly just beginning, much speculation arises from selections of committees and the lawmakers who will chair them.

Committees are important because all proposed legislation receives committee scrutiny and must pass committee muster in order to achieve passage in Oregon's bicameral Legislature.

Proposals are introduced in both Senate and House and are referred to committees dependent largely upon subject matter. Committee approval and passage of bills in one chamber is only half the battle. Such bills are then referred to the other chamber and must make their way through that committee process before consideration and adoption. And it takes passage by both chambers in order to become law or fall victim to veto by the governor.

It is this lengthy and complicated process that often gives rise to humorous references to the committee system.

Nonetheless, that's the way the Assembly conducts its business and key elements are designations of committees and selections of those who chair them.

The spoils system of two-party politics exerts its influence on the selection process. Majorities in each chamber elect their own leadership and those determine what committees will operate, who will chair them and who will sit as members.

Often as not, committee chairs usually get their assignments based on individual support of each chamber's presiding officer. Other factors enter in but intraparty politics is a big consideration.

As has been the case since 1973, Democrats again own majorities in the House and Senate. And as is most often the case, Democrats chair all of the committees in both chambers.

Announcements from Speaker Vera Katz, Portland, and Senate Pres. John Kitzhaber, Roseburg, indicate the House will operate with 17 committees and the Senate will have 16 — one committee more in each chamber than during the 1983 session.

Selections of committees by President and Speaker tend to indicate the importance of subject matter to be considered.

For instance, both Senate and House propose a joint committee to consider legislation relating to water — elevating water-related subjects from previous consideration along with environment, natural resources and energy.

Then there are special committees established for a variety of reasons, such as the Senate's Utility Rate Review Committee this session. There is no House counterpart.

A number of committees are established jointly, some by previous statute. Their leaders are co-chairpersons. The vast bulk of all committees have nearly identical counterparts. Examples are Judiciary, Revenue, Ways & Means, Education, Labor, Transportation, Sunset Review, Human Resources

and Trade & Economic Development, to name a few.

Then there often appears an anomaly, a subject that achieves full committee designation in one chamber while being lumped with others in the other chamber.

Such an issue this session will be

Housing — a subject with full committee status in the House but to be considered along with Business and Finance in the Senate. Observers have to believe such emphasis stems from far more than the possibility of puns relating to the House committee on Housing.

Letter to the editor

What is response on
state spending cuts?

I discovered some interesting statistics at the Starkovich-Shiprack Forum January 8. In response to a question about state spending Mr. Shiprack supplied the following state budget figures: 1980 — \$3.7 billion, 1982 — \$3.1 billion, 1984 — \$3.1 billion.

Based on these figures state spending is, at best, holding even and certainly not decreasing. When Mr. Shiprack and Starkovich were questioned concerning the legislators' program to cut state spending there was no response.

Now having made the point that there is no reduction in state spending, let me say that there has been a substantial increase in state spending. If you will review the Sandy High School budget for 1984-85, you will see a steady decline in state funding. For example, total revenue from state sources was \$1,268,072 in 1982 and only \$944,714 in 1984, a decrease of \$323,368. Who made up the \$323,368 shortfall? Why, of

course, the taxpayer. This was part of the tax levy we paid in December 1984. In other words, we paid twice for the same service; first, when we paid state income tax and again when we paid the tax levy.

I personally resent the manipulation and, more, the double payment for the same service, and now the possibility of a third payment (sales tax) for the same service.

As I ponder the taxpayer's dilemma, one thing stands out and this is, why aren't the educators screaming about the reduction in state funding?

Regardless of how one might speculate, it is obvious that sending money to Salem (Oregon income tax) with the hope that they will fund the schools isn't working. Before seriously considering any new tax proposals we must correct our number one problem, and this is to get our school tax dollars back from Salem.

John King
Sandy