

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Chris Hale, general manager
Scott Newton, editorScale down plan
for proposed center

When asked about a new community center, many people said they feel there is no harm in planning.

We agree. A new community center could house exhibits from the Sandy Pioneer and Historical Association, provide a home base for the Sandy Community Players, serve as a good public meeting and banquet facility, and make a good home for worthwhile senior citizen and recreational programs.

The numbers being bandied about so far, however, are too high. Support could be found for a project of more modest proportions.

An estimate currently being used is \$900,000. What would be reasonable? At the least, task force members could knock \$200,000 off that number. Something in the half-million dollar range would be even more appropriate.

The city of Sandy has applied for \$280,000 in Community Development block grants, which are federal funds. These are not matching grants, and would not be jeopardized by a smaller project. There is also a likelihood Sandy will receive less than the full amount.

If the city of Sandy does manage to garner a decent amount of money — and that is a big if — the money would be combined with proceeds from the sale of the present Sandy Community Senior Center building and land, and additional sources of funding. Citizens might be asked to help pay for the rest through general obligation bonds.

The citizens of Sandy simply should not be asked to support too large a project. The Sandy Community Players probably enjoy so much community support, in part, because they do so much with limited resources. Despite the community support, it is doubtful local citizens would want to underwrite the theater company's projects at taxpayer expense.

There are problems with the physical facility that is now the Sandy Community Senior Center, which is located at 38348 Pioneer Boulevard. Access, parking and the layout of the building in general hinder some activities.

It is estimated that the senior center is used at least once a year by about 500 of the area's 1,500 senior citizens. The cost of the program is about \$47,370. That includes maintenance of the building, which is used as a meeting place for a number of groups. Although the cost is reasonable, most taxpayers probably wouldn't support additional spending for senior citizen programs. And a large building just might result in unforeseen expenses.

Planning should continue on the possibility of a new community building. Despite some objections — we have reservations of our own — it appears Meinig Park is the most feasible location because land acquisition would add considerably to the cost of the project.

But regardless of the peripheral considerations, of which there are many, a scaled-down version stands a much better chance of earning the people's support.



Letters to the editor

Auctioneer defends city-school sales

School and city surplus auctions are the way to go when it comes to disposing of any unused surpluses.

I am writing this letter to let taxpayers know that unused surplus is sold for the highest price. It is sold as is, where is. We in the auction profession are commissioned to dispose of said materials.

In regard to the letter to the editor in the Feb. 7 Sandy Post, the lady paid \$50 for said camera. I am sure

this is not a week's wages. The camera in question new is worth \$600 to \$750. If the taxpayers knew we were selling a camera of this value in perfect shape they would be mad.

We sell articles no longer needed, whether needing repair or outdated.

In the auction profession, we have a preview day so that people can come in and look the materials over and make up their mind what they

are willing to pay for an item. They can also see if the items are broken or not.

I am a professional auctioneer, not a camera repairman. If I know a condition of said item I will let the bidders know. I can only say what I am told by a consigner.

As for the auction, the proceeds go back to the schools or city to help with our taxes. Although not much money was taken in, the sale total

was \$2,100.

I don't get rich on this kind of auction. I receive 10 percent of the total, I do these kind of auctions as a community service.

If there are any hard feelings toward me, I am sorry. I only do my job in a professional manner.

Paul E. Spence
DBA-Paul Spence Auctioneers Inc.
Sandy

Personally speaking

Children help make
Valentine's Day

by JOY WOOD

When you're all alone the weekend before Valentine's Day — and up to your hubeaps in snow — as I find myself this year, I think that if I could get out to a store, I would buy and send some Valentines to my very favorite people, my children.

I would write a note in each one, and I'd thank them for the pleasure they've given me through the years.

Starting with my first one, Lynne, I'd thank her for "raising" me. For the courage to carry on that she was has always given me. When I asked, "How can I go on?" Her adamant reply was, "You're going to go on, and you will grow old gracefully?" At the worst time of all. She literally made me put on lipstick, and get dressed, and made me go get in the car, and head out for the unknown road of living alone, without a husband. She made me know that I had to go out among people. And she gave me the courage to do it. All it took was some determination. And some lipstick. And the doing.

To my second child, Shane, I'd say, "Remember when we brought your boat into the kitchen so you could work on it and paint it?" It was only a couple of weeks that I had to step into it at the sink and out of it at the stove. People, the neighbors, thought we were crazy, but we didn't care. There was no other place to put it in out of the weather to work on it.

And then there was the time I came home and found you with a washtub full of water and fish in the kitchen. You had the garden hose hooked up to the faucet and you were keeping the water running in the tub, and bailing it out with a kettle, so the fish would have running water.

When I asked why, you said you had been fishing and caught the fish and had brought them home in a bucket full of water. You couldn't stand to let them die, so this was why the tub and hose and all. We decided that you should take them back to the river.

Such a flock you were! It seems like there were always newborn kittens in the oatmeal box, lined with cotton, that you rescued from somewhere. And once a baby squirrel

rel you had found in the woods. We didn't know until after we read it in the paper that it was practically impossible to raise a baby squirrel, but we did raise it.

Then there was an owl with a broken wing, in splints. And always stray dogs. I was a regular contributor to the Humane Society. After all, you can only "use" so many dogs!

Valentine's Day is the day I take out the family album. And I look at you all, all over again.

There's Kerry Ann, at 4 years, in her two-gun shoot-'em-up cowgirl suit, and at 10 years twirling her baton in the parade. My "Query" Ann, I used to call her. She had so many questions about the world. Why was this so? And why that? And, today, she's still asking and searching. And finding her own answers. Mine didn't always satisfy her, but I tried.

And Kim, my "engineer." Always with ! pipe wrench "fixing" the plumbing! And other things. He was the neighborhood visitor. He always had his hands full of tools. He visited, and he fixed things. The neighbors weren't always happy with him and his fixing. But I realize it's hard to be neighborly at 5 a.m. to a little boy pounding on your door. And when the neighbor came out to be drenched with the hose, accidentally or not. We moved quite often those years.

And Judi, the most remote of them all. And yet, the most like me, personality-wise. She just graduated from U of O last year. Put herself through all by herself! And now has a good job. Clothes were her "thing." None of the others cared about clothes especially. She has even been a fashion model!

And then, my baby, Jill. She had to have a rocking horse when she was 2. And a pony when a little older. And a horse when she was in high school. Now she has a whole bunch of horses. Not a herd. Just a bunch. But give her time. She'll own a ranch and a whole herd yet.

Well, you know, I could go on for hours. You know how mothers are.

Good thing I'm snowed in. I'd go broke buying all those Valentines.

Dear Governor Atiyeh's sales tax pitch, and likewise the Oregon Teacher's Union plan, are entirely unacceptable to anyone informed on the history and economics of taxation.

There are too many "ifs" in what they claim the effects will be on income tax, school tax, school spending, new tax bases and reducing property tax. We have heard this line kicked around for 50 years with no results but more inflation, national debt, and continually driving a wedge deeper and deeper between the haves and the have-nots.

Our present property tax system is unjust, destructive and penalizing. If you improve your home, the assessor ups your taxes. If a manufacturer builds a plant for production and to generate employment he first must pay too high a price for land, and this also applies to a home builder, and then his building, machinery and all capital assets are taxed.

We are now building slums and creating barbarians with the present tax system. Current and historical events show that our elected officials have often launched into uncharted waters in matters of monetary policy, government intervention and taxation. Yet the boys we put in Salem and elsewhere, because of lobbying and money powers of special interest, are too lazy, or morally un-

fit, to look for just solutions to our problems. Who are these lobbyists with money clout? They are the Teacher's Unions, the City Clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, the whole gang of various unions who say, "Let our country be damned, we'll push for laws to advance our own interest."

When we build better roads, better schools, better fire departments, free-ways and all such public improvements which increase land values on all adjacent and surrounding properties, such enhanced values are created by human exertion. These "Values" should be siphoned off by way of taxes and used to pay for and maintain (teachers and all public servants) necessary within a civilized state. What I am saying in essence is: Reduce the tax on all personal improvements (buildings, etc.) and raise taxes on all land by an equal amount in 10 percent increments over a period of time. This will result in breaking the existing land monopoly, discouraging speculators and increase opportunity for home building together with all forms of production.

Instead of the above, we allow the increased values to go into the pockets of that great hoard of land speculators commonly known as leeches and parasites.

In pure economics, "land rent" is

that portion of income derived from what society is forced to pay for the use of raw land. What must be legitimately paid for use of improvements is justly called "interest" and not "rent." What I am talking about is known in economic literature as "Society Created Land Value Taxation," which takes the rent to pay for public needs. In every dollar's worth of (labor and capital created) goods that you buy, there are "X" number of dollars included in the price for "LandRent" and that portion now goes into someone's pocket for doing absolutely nothing, underserved income. This fact has more impact on our national debt, inflation and business cycles than you will ever know because out there those 7,000 plus economists employed by all governments are as useless as so many witch doctors.

There are cities, countries and governments both in America and abroad that have adopted the Land Value principle of taxation, at least in part and wherever applied those societies involved are better off. If the Governor loves Oregon like he says, he should check out "Land Value Taxation" in these countries: Denmark, Austria, New Zealand, South Africa, Rhodesia, Kenya, Canada and Jamaica; also these places in the United states: Pittsburgh, Penn., Scranton, Penn.,

Fairhope, Ala., Three Arden, Del., and the California Irrigation District.

Salem, Oregon, could truly make a historical event by introducing this tax philosophy at a state level. In 1963 this writer witnessed an attempt in the California Legislature to change the state Constitution permitting this tax structural change but the traitors who stopped it on the Assembly floor were lobbyists for the real estate interests, big corporate farmers and the rail roads.

This is no 15-minute subject and requires at least 40 hours to understand all of its ramifications. There has been research and studies made which support this thesis. There are historical standards or canons, to which taxation should conform such as, taxes should: A. Bear as lightly as possible upon production; B. Be easily and cheaply collected; C. Fall as directly as may be upon the ultimate payers, without the ability to pass on or hide; D. Must be certain; E. Bear equally so far as to give no citizen special advantages. "Land value taxation" meets these criteria.

For the members of the "Local Government Tax Forum" who worked so hard for the sales tax, and the local Chamber, please don't call this "radicalism," it is "Americanism."

C.B. Koenig
Sandy

Supporting adoption is truly pro life

The Greeks made a distinction in kinds of love. I'm sure the Pro Life movement proposes "Charos," a love with a common concern for others, but they forget that an unwanted child will not experience the kind of love that will produce a healthy, happy human being.

"Storgi" designates the kind of love that is found in the family and in natural affection. Loyalty is love with a plus. "Philiis" is strong enough to hold people together under any circumstances. Every child not only has the right to life, but the right to be wanted and loved in these ways. Unwanted children end up abused and unhappy.

If Pro Life were truly pro life they would consider the life of the mother bearing the child and the life of the child after birth. Pro Life would be making it possible for the pregnant

woman to know that her healthy baby carried to term would have a home in a loving family. Pro Life would provide medical care and support for the pregnant woman. If the mother were raped or using drugs or carrying the baby with hate, it is likely the baby

will be defective and a burden to society.

I oppose abortion — I am the mother of seven — but I have a daughter unable to have a child and the possibilities of adoption are difficult and expensive. Through church

ches and "Agape," those desperately wanting a child could be supporting and giving aid to those who want to destroy a life... and that would be truly pro life.

Mrs. Joseph Stein
Zig Zag

Program needs parents to survive

This letter is meant for members of the Sandy Area Summer Recreation Association and to any parent with children who wish to play baseball or softball this summer.

There are a few people (and I must stress the word few) who are trying to organize this summer's baseball and softball activities. However, due to the poor turnout of people at our

meetings, we do not have the support necessary to guarantee a successful season.

We are to the point now that if we cannot stimulate community involvement, the Association will have to be dissolved. It seems a waste for the Sandy area to develop a program that has the potential of this one and then just let it die.

There are several hundred boys and girls that need your help, so please get involved with this youth program. Our next meeting is at TJ's Restaurant at 7 p.m. on Feb. 17. If you cannot attend, but wish to participate, please call me in the evening at 668-7742.

Gene Kelley
Sandy