

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Chris Hale, general manager Scott Newton, editor

Hospice is a cause worth supporting

Allow us to introduce you to Mt. Hood Hospice. We feel an introduction is appropriate because — despite numerous efforts to get the word out — many people are still unfamiliar with the health care program.

Hospice is a program of care for terminally-ill patients and their families. About 97 percent of the time, the terminal illness is cancer.

Hospice volunteers provide training in nursing skills, which allows families keep the patient at home. Hospice volunteers are available to give family members a break — called respite — which allows the family care givers to return to the job fresh and mentally ready for the tribulations they will face. Hospice provides counseling services during the emotionally-painful ordeal, and for 13 months after the death of a loved one.

Allowing a family member to stay at home during his illness can make those precious last days more rewarding. The difficulty in keeping a patient at home is not medical, though hospice provides many of those services. The problem is that basic nursing care, such as turning a patient or giving a bath, is made more difficult when one must cope daily with the harsh reality of the situation.

Mt. Hood Hospice is on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Our local hospice, with its many services, may be one of a kind in the Northwest. The organization, which is governed by a nine-member board, now employs three staff members. There is a director, a registered nurse and a social services director, whose job is to work out problems with agencies administering Medicare and Social Security.

The time to learn to deal with myriad governmental agencies is not when someone in the family is suffering from a terminal illness. The economics are also encouraging. Hospice spends about \$1,000 to \$1,500 per family for an average of 45 days of care. See how much care \$1,500 will buy you at a hospital.

We are bringing all this up because the Mt. Hood Hospice has hit upon a fun way to raise money, and though we sometimes prefer not to think about the kind of work they are doing, people should not ignore the subject.

The first Fun Raising Auction Party will be held May 10-11 at the Oral Hull Foundation's park. The items to be auctioned off are truly unique. They include a ride in a plane designed for acrobatics, a bus trip for 20 featuring a gourmet picnic lunch and a custom-designed stained glass window display.

One woman is even raising a pig to be auctioned off. There are, of course, more traditional gifts, such as weekend lodging and ski passes.

What else can we tell you about the Mt. Hood Hospice? The patient load doubled from 1983 to 1984. Mt. Hood Hospice serves an average of about eight to 15 families at any one time, or about 60 families a year.

What is the local hospice doing for itself? Fund raising jumped a whopping 275 percent in one year, from under \$17,000 to over \$46,000.

Money comes from individual contributions, memorials and fund raising activities. A little money has also come from the Area Agency on Aging, and health insurance companies have also paid some expenses.

Two classes of nurse's aides — some will be volunteers, others will not — have been trained here in Sandy. Some volunteers have been with the local hospice three years now, which shows not only that some things are being done right, but also that there is a great deal of expertise among local care givers.

This community — Mt. Hood Hospice serves an area from Government Camp to 122nd Ave., and from the Columbia to the Clackamas rivers — is fortunate to have this program. The executive director recently attended a workshop and found the Mt. Hood Hospice's program to be, perhaps, the most comprehensive in the Northwest.

With athletic programs, food drives and an active Sandy Community Action Center, we would never think of chiding this community for a lack of giving. In fact, when someone runs down Sandy they should instead do a little reminiscing, and they would realize this is a community with a big heart.

Still, the needs are great for the Mt. Hood Hospice. Donations to the Fun Raiser would help support a good cause. Give if you are able.

Commentary

Despite a rosy picture tight budget expected

by REP. BOB SHIPRACK

After wrestling with the sales tax referral question since the beginning of the legislative session, it was nice to be able to spend time looking at some other problems facing the state and some of the proposed solutions.

The next major question facing the Legislature is how and at what level should we balance the budget. This question has been posed at a time when the state's economists are now projecting a rosy picture for the state with over 30,000 new jobs being created over the next two years and state revenues increasing by over \$90 million. There is a general consensus among most of the members of the Democratic Caucus to try and cut the Governor's proposed \$3.25 billion biennial budget and create a so-called "rainy day account" for the state.

With the creation of the "rainy day account" the state would be prepared for the next economic downturn,

which some people in the Capitol hallways feel is just around the corner.

In the past, the Legislature has been called into special session in order to balance the budget when a projected state revenue shortfall occurs. Sometimes these sessions take weeks as budgets are pared in order to bring the budget back into line. By saving our money for just such an occasion, the state will not be thrown into an economic crisis every time there is a national economic downturn.

I should point out that this question of how we're going to balance the budget is a long way from being settled; but, we are looking at a very lean budget with few, if any, new programs. There may be an actual cut in income taxes with property tax relief targeted to those most in need. This can be accomplished by expanding the current Homeowners and Renter Relief Plan.



Salem Scene

Thousands use Legislature's hot-line

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Despite all the changes wrought by divestiture and deregulation, you can still reach out and touch the Oregon Legislature by phone — toll free.

Thousands of Oregonians take advantage of that opportunity whenever the Legislature meets in Salem and the current session is no exception.

A total of 10,656 incoming calls were logged during this session's first nine weeks by two operators who perform what lawmakers describe as bill status reports.

Part of an extensive Legislative Information Service, bill status reports enable citizens to keep track of any of the 2,000-odd measures that likely will be introduced this session — and stay abreast of their progress as the session continues.

The number to dial is 1-800-452-0290. It is the same toll-free

number that has been publicized now for three sessions and probably gets the lion's share of all legislative information calls from the concerned public.

Actually, there is a second toll-free number that at least half of this session's callers should be using. It is 1-800-982-1211. By calling that number you can leave a message or your individual Legislator or request him or her to call you back to discuss pending legislation.

This call-back service is handled by state operators and they do not log the number of calls being received.

The bill-status service is also a method by which citizens can request free single copies of individual bills under consideration. These requests are forwarded to the Legislature's Distribution Center, which in turn mails bills to those who request them.

These services are part of the Oregon Assembly's continuing ef-

orts to encourage citizen participation in the legislative process. It has evolved since the late Fifties and has included rules providing for public hearings on all bills, expanded hearing room facilities and additional space for reporters who cover proceedings for the state's newspapers, radio and television stations.

The telephone service actually began in 1973 and achieved its present state of sophistication in 1977. Bill status reports that session handled an estimated 50,000 calls and as many as 597 on a single day. In 1979 bill status calls dipped to about 30,000 with 467 recorded on the busiest day.

The record-long, seven-month session in 1981 prompted 38,404 calls and a peak of 341 on a single day.

Two years ago, operators logged a total of 33,318 calls during that session and handled a whopping 516 on their most hectic day.

Nine weeks into the current session, the busiest day occurred Feb.

14, which also marked the 116th anniversary of statehood. A total of 337 calls were logged that day — none of which were made to wish Oregon happy birthday.

Instead, a great many of the calls at that particular time were from citizens protesting one of three issues that have so far seemed to attract most public attention. Number one on that list has been proposed mandatory seat belt legislation — which zipped through the Senate and then died in the House of Representatives, largely because of the public's outcry.

Ranking close behind anti-seat-belt calls are those inquiring about sales tax legislation and a bill that proposes state policy toward children. Most callers complaining about the latter bill seemed to fear the state plans to step in and assume responsibility for raising their offspring.

These types of calls are not what the bill status reporting service was designed to accommodate.

Commentary

Movie recruitment works in Oregon

by GOV. VIC ATIYEH

The Warner Brothers scout on the other end of the phone line said he was looking for a weathered-looking town with New England charm that could pass for a yesteryear San Francisco.

To most states, that might sound like a tall order to fill. But our state film and video recruitment office knew the town he was describing could only be Astoria.

As a result, the Steven Spielberg movie "Goonies" was filmed at Astoria.

"Goonies" is only the best known of a growing number of movies, TV specials and commercials filmed annually in Oregon. During 1984 alone, Oregon was host to crews filming "Toby's Gorilla," episodes of "Knots Landing," a popular Japanese TV series called "From Oregon With Love," and commercials for such companies as Kodak, Chrysler and Coca-Cola.

Out-of-state film companies brought an estimated \$6 million to Oregon last year. Still better news is that the work of these companies benefited communities large and small, including Depoe Bay, Frenchglen, Lincoln City, Madras, Newport and Tillamook.

Significantly, this is also an industry that local communities can help to promote.

Right now, our successful, one-woman film recruitment office in Salem is asking community officials — city managers, county commissioners, economic development officers, chamber managers, etc. — to help us create a statewide file of Oregon photographs.

We are asking for photos of historical sites, neighborhoods, com-

munity activities and local scenery ranging from airports, bridges and cowboys to windmills, yachting and zoos.

Assembling such an inventory is essential because film studios need these pictures and usually they want them yesterday.

When we needed photos of Astoria, for example, we had to ask the local chamber of commerce manager to shoot some film and put it on the bus to Portland for processing. Meanwhile, our film-recruitment officer was driving from Salem to Portland, where she delivered the photos to the airport and put them on a Los Angeles-bound plane.

When another studio wanted red barns surrounded by silos and trees for a farm-equipment commercial, we knew Forest Grove had exactly that in profusion. But we lost valuable time driving there, shooting film, and getting it processed and to the studio.

Selling studios on Oregon without photos is like telling a Texan who thinks he might want to buy your house, "I know you can't come and see it, but I can't send you any pictures, either."

It is in Oregon's best interests to help this clean industry grow. Much of the money that studios spend goes directly to local merchants, skilled labor, and the hospitality industry. Ultimately, everyone benefits. "Goonies," for example, spent \$5,000 to renovate a house and another \$60,000 to build a set at Ecola State Park.

We are working closely with the Oregon film industry (estimated economic impact \$80 million annually) both to strengthen it and to inventory the talents and other resources it can provide to visiting, out-of-state

studios.

Happily, Oregon offers clear advantages to film makers.

Oregon boasts a diverse terrain that is neither well known to moviegoers nor far from Hollywood. We can offer "generic" settings that pass for anywhere as we did when we showed a studio how Portland could be used for a film about New York city.

Letters to the editor

Sandy girls deserved coverage on Page 1

Congratulations to the coaches and players of the best SUHS girls basketball team in school history, their league title and fifth-place finish in the state tournament.

I'm sure if it had been the boys basketball team some reference

The movie "Goonies," which will be released in June, is about the adventures of two young boys who find a treasure map.

But when Oregonians see this movie, they can take satisfaction in knowing that by promoting this industry we have found our own treasure map that is leading Oregon to a stronger, more diversified economy.

Don Ingram
Sandy

Merchants aid PTC

The Firwood Parent Teacher Club would like to thank the merchants of our area who gave so generously. Our carnival was a big success due to the following merchants:

Gregg Food Products Inc., Fred Meyers, Gordon Stone's, Kid's Kingdom, The Hairline, Sandy Lumber and Hardware, Ava's Hair Design, Prime Time Video, Pioneer Electronics, The Movie Place, Camera Connection, The Flower Garden, Sandy Country Florist, Dorothea Neumann-Avon, Mon-

gomery Ward of Sandy, Sandy Office Supply, Sandy Rexall Drug, Shorty's Corner, Trile XXX, Trout Farm, Joe's Donut Shop, Sandy Kentucky Fried Chicken, Griff's, Coast to Coast, Calamity Jane's, Janz Berryland, 7-11, Bowmar's Sandy Thriftway, Sandy Sentry, Sandy Locker, Oregon Chief, Sandy McDonald's, and Rockwood Burg + King.

Maggie LeWery, president
Firwood PTC
Sandy