

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor

Oral Hull garden top local attraction

When people talk about the attributes of the Sandy-Mt. Hood area, one sight that should not be overlooked is the Garden of Enchantment at Oral Hull Park. The place is magic.

The garden is terraced into the side of a hill, with areas along the pathways representing the five senses. The sense of taste, for example, is represented by an area where one can break off pieces of a plant, such as peppermint, and sample it.

There are plants one can feel, representing a spectrum from sword-sharp yucca to smooth-leaved peonies. Aromas, sounds and — for the sighted — visual effects add to the uniqueness.

When people think of the Mt. Hood corridor they often think of the Salmon and Sandy rivers, hiking areas, ski areas, the Alpine Slide, Timberline Lodge, or a variety of restaurants or other businesses.

Oral Hull's Garden of Enchantment ranks among the top attractions.

The parking is easy, and the price is right (it is free). The asphalt pathways are lower than the plant beds, allowing one to smell the pungent marigolds or feel an Australian fern without bending over.

The signs are in Standard English and Braille, and the most knowledgeable horticulturist is bound to learn something from a tour through the small but gloriously-bountiful garden.

The people who make the Garden of Enchantment a great place are members of garden clubs from Clackamas District No. 15 and Multnomah District No. 14, which are sanctioned by the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs.

They held a work day a few weeks ago; one of many to be held during the growing season. These people work hard on a unique facility. When it was built in 1970, there were only nine other gardens for the blind in the U.S.

The garden of enchantment is open to the public every day through November between the hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Many local people have never seen the Garden of Enchantment. They should be encouraged to do so. One visit is all it takes to make one an ambassador of the Garden of Enchantment.

Letters to the editor

Where is coverage of SUHS golf team?

Is it possible that the staff of the Sandy Post is unaware that Sandy High School has an outstanding GOLF TEAM?

The past week or so they have been competing around the tri-county in the Mt. Hood Conference along with the various high schools in the area.

They have done an outstanding job but you would never know about them if you relied solely on the Sandy Post.

Last year they received the same treatment. Some of us are beginning to wonder if the reporter (if there is one) covering the baseball, basketball and swimming events even

knows that there is a team since they have to play, practice and compete outside the narrow confines of Sandy.

Perhaps you could lengthen his chain, increase his mileage so he could report on ALL happenings at Sandy High and in so doing possibly increase your circulation.

We realize that advertising governs the size of the paper, etc. Perhaps you could drop some of the verbatim reprints taken from the Outlook and occasionally give us something original.

Matt Shields Sr.
Boring

Parents at Firwood support levy measure

We are parents of Firwood School students in the Sandy School District. Through the year we have spent many hours at our school either helping in the classrooms or working with the Parent-Teacher Club.

We have been able to observe the daily running of our school and we all agree that our money is well spent. There are no "frills" or extras. The District is trying to give our children an education that will prepare them not only for Sandy High School but also for whatever their future dreams or desires are.

If you believe there is money spent unwisely please spend time at your child's school and see if you are right. Do not vote according to what you have heard. Find out for yourself and then vote. The most important responsibility you have is to vote May 21. Support your school. Please vote!

Donna Stuart
Maggie Lowery
Lorilee F. Miller
Lois Brittle
Michele Riggs
Becky Hanning

'Thank you' VFW

A big "thank you" to the Ladies Auxiliary and the VFW Post 4273 of Sandy for all the work and love that went into the benefits for us.

I want to mention the spaghetti dinner cooked by Marty LeDoux and the many helping hands, the fireworks display by Bill and Cheryl Vaeretti, the things for the raffle by Esther

Means, the donations, cards, calls and flowers.

There is no way a person can stay on the sick list with so much care and kindness shown to us. Again, thank you.

Nadine and Bill Miller
Sandy

Statement clarified

My views concerning SUHS budget committee meetings appeared in the Sandy Post May 2. Several budget committee members took exception to my statement "at Sandy High, the budget committee reviews only a small part of the budget — approximately 30 percent — the other 70 percent is untouchable."

My statement was based on remarks made by the school business manager at the opening meeting and

was not challenged by the budget committee.

The budget committee explained that they cannot discuss individual salaries or benefits (the untouchables); however, they can reduce the money budgeted for these items if it appears excessive. I stand corrected.

John H. King
Sandy



Commentary

Representative explains sales tax

On September 17 you will be asked to vote on a sales tax for property tax relief. I have seen growing interest in this plan the last three years and want to give you a brief outline of what the proposal does and does not do.

It would be a 5 percent tax on goods only that would raise approximately \$926 million during the 1986-87 biennium. Home food, medicines, utilities rent, and home sales are the major exemptions. A vote of the people would be required to change not only the rate, but exemptions, after 1987. Of the money raised, 85 percent would go to property tax relief, which would mean about a 35 percent reduction in property taxes. Fifteen percent would go toward income tax relief, which would mean about a 9.7 percent reduction. Renters would receive equivalent rent relief. Low income persons (up to \$17,500) would receive a refund of up to \$40 per year. Retailers who must collect the tax would keep 2 percent of the collections to offset their costs.

A Constitutional limit would be placed on schools and community colleges. New tax bases would be established based on State Basic



by Rep. Bob Shiprack

School support, sales tax revenues, property tax monies and whatever Federal dollars are available. The property tax portion of the new tax base for schools can grow at a rate of 3 percent per year.

One tax base election would be allowed in May of each year, and a special levy election could occur in September each year only if total spending or spending per student was no greater than the prior year. All

other districts would be limited to two elections in May and September of each year.

State government would also be limited to the rate of growth in personal income in Oregon, although aid to schools and community colleges would be outside the base. In times of a good economy, sales tax revenues may boom and there is set up a "rainy day fund" so that up to 3 percent of the excess monies would be set aside up to a maximum of 10 percent for times when sales tax dollars decline.

The Severance Tax was designed to be in lieu of property taxes and the Western Oregon Severance Tax will be cut from 6.5 percent to 5 percent.

How will this proposal affect individuals? Each family will fare differently. Currently, Oregon ranks 18th in total taxes based on per capita, 13th in property taxes, eighth in income taxes and last in sales tax dollars as a part of state and local tax revenues.

Under the sales tax, Oregon would be 26th in property taxes, 11th in income taxes and 26th in sales tax. The question of a shift of taxes from

households to business and vice versa rests with the \$51 million designated for renter relief. If landlords pass on all the money to their tenants there would be a slight shift from households onto business. If none of the money were returned to renters, homeowners would pay about \$106 million more and businesses \$76 million less. You will have to decide what you think will happen.

Given the percentages of cuts in income and property taxes one can approximate whether one would be a winner or loser under the tax. Using statewide averages that are close to our district's tax rate, for instance, a household with a \$25,000 income and \$50,000 home value would break even at \$10,500. If that family spends less in purchases subject to the tax they are winners, if more they lose. At \$50,000 income and \$80,000 home value, households would break even at \$17,396.

If you have any questions about the proposed sales tax please contact me. The address is: Rep. Bob Shiprack, Rm H-292, State Capitol, Salem, Ore., 97310. Or call me toll-free at 1-800-982-1211.

