

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Everyone benefits in library drive

The Cooperative Library Network of Clackamas County, of which the Sandy Public Library is a part, is acting properly and wisely in trying to shed libraries' wallflower image.

The county's library system is joining other public agencies in taking more aggressive steps to flaunt the many services it has to offer. Many government and non-profit private organizations are turning to attention-getting publicity to justify their existence and worth.

Where the county libraries are concerned, first, it was the Christmas (library) card idea, an opportunity for the frantic or low-budget Christmas shopper to give a meaningful present. The cost was a trip down to the local library.

Now, the system has devised the birthday (library) card, an inexpensively-produced but attractive library-card-in-a-card-folder. Decorated by a cupcake, candles and balloons, the greeting wishes that the recipient use their new card at their local library.

Taking off on a Hallmark slogan, the card ends by saying, "When you care enough to read the very best."

Cuteness aside, campaigns such as the Christmas card idea translate into wider circulation of reading materials and increasing numbers of card holders, at least for the Sandy library, says assistant librarian Sara Forth.

In turn, that means a greater share of the county library levy for libraries like Sandy's that are enjoying growth. And more levy dollars buy new books and lengthen operating hours. Circulation has risen 25 percent from the summer of 1984 to 1985 in Sandy.

Granted, publicity efforts like the holiday cards cannot take all the credit for increasing popularity of libraries. Population growth, naturally, has boosted the number of patrons, Forth says. Her library serves about 3,000 card-holders.

At the least, library officials are hoping that the birthday cards stimulate curiosity about the library and get new patrons in the front door.

The battle is won at that point. With 15,000 books, magazines, cassette tapes, records and typewriters on hand and many more thousands available from the other county libraries, the Sandy library should have something for everyone. And the price of a card—a completed application blank and identification—is hard to beat.

Sandy has another goal, beyond higher circulation and more cardholders: a larger library. And the library's growing popularity can only help to point out the need for more room, and dollars with which to build it.

Library cards open doors to the world and create better informed citizens, but only if there are enough reading materials, and display and workspace, to satisfy everyone's needs.

In the campaign to increase library users and Sandy's library space, there can only be winners.

Hearing makes sense

Sandy City Manager Tom Reber made sense when he suggested Monday night that the Sandy City Council settle the two-hour parking limit question through a public hearing.

A hearing would give both sides of the parking limit enforcement issue equal opportunity to air their views before the council.

It's a far better approach than to let the council members vacillate on the issue, depending on which side comes before them at any given meeting. That's how consensus democracy can erode into democracy by decibel.

A sensitive issue, such as enforcement of the long-standing parking limit appears to be, will require a strong stand by city officials to win credibility in the community. Otherwise, the city may find it difficult to find merchants willing to go along with a majority-but-split council decision or violators willing to cough up fines.

The council should not shrink from this problem, until all seven members can attend a meeting. That may only prolong an issue that could divide the business community and drive away customers of downtown retailers, who may not realize that the two-hour limit posted is unenforced.

Council members should meet the issue head-on through a hearing fair to both sides, weigh the advantages and disadvantages, and then reach a final decision.

Fair promises to be busy for 4-H club youngsters

County fairs help to showcase achievements by 4-H members, says Clackamas County 4-H Extension Agent Linda P. Erickson. Next week's Clackamas County Fair will continue that tradition.

Among 4-H activities at the fair running through Aug. 18 will be exhibits, contests and hands-on demonstrations for fairgoers, Erickson says. Demonstrations are set for 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, Aug. 13 through 16.

A newcomer to the Clackamas fair will be the 4-H forestry identification contest open to everyone, 4-H members and non-members, Erickson said. All participants will earn ribbons.

Daylong contests in preparation of yeast-based goods, pastries, main dishes, minimeals and outdoor meals will be held Aug. 13-17, starting at 9 a.m. Contestants will be judged on food costs and attractiveness, nutritional values, preparation time, and

safety. The schedule of 4-H events is as follows:

Tuesday, Aug. 13 — Showing of market swine, beef and lambs; Crowning of Mr. and Miss 4-H, 6 p.m.; and the 4-H Horse Super Bowl, 6 p.m., at the covered show ring.

Wednesday, Aug. 14 — Showing of dairy cows and goats, poultry, beef, sheep and pygmy goats.

Thursday, Aug. 15 — Showing of all rabbits; Animal showmanship; and the 4-H Fashion Revue, 8 p.m., on the main stage.

Friday, Aug. 16 — Demonstrations and illustrated talks by 4-H members on topics related to their projects or of interest to them.

Saturday, Aug. 17 — Junior Livestock Auction, 11 a.m.; More demonstrations and illustrated talks; and Award presentations.

Sunday, Aug. 18 — Junior, Intermediate and Senior Grand Champion Showman contest, morning; and More award presentations.



Commentary

Employment figures tell only part

NEW YORK — Okay, gang, we've all read the horrible news about the latest unemployment report and we know that it was "disappointing to economists" and that "recovery prospects dim."

But before we all leap out of a convenient window — or, worse still, give Washington the minimal encouragement it needs to embark on one more "stimulative" inflationary binge — let's pause in the day's occupation to take a small true-or-false quiz on the subject.

• True or False: The unemployment rate tells us where the economy is heading.

False. It tells us where we've been. Unemployment is a lagging indicator, which means it may well rise sometime this summer in reaction to the economy's near-stall last winter. If the economy picks up in the second half of the year, as already seems likely, unemployment will reflect this favorable development later on.

• True or False: We're just not creating new jobs in this country.

False. While the official civilian unemployment rate has been stuck at 7.3 percent for the last five months, and has hovered in that range for the

last 11, this figure masks an underlying surge in employment.

In 28 months, fully 8 million new jobs were created, but 5.3 million of them were captured by a rapidly growing work force. In other words, the good news is getting around. The number of "discouraged" workers who are no longer seeking employment fell in June to the lowest level since 1981.

• True or False: Manufacturing is disappearing in America.

False. In reality, it has been constant at 20 to 25 percent of our gross national product for decades. It may even rise in the next decade as modernization and specialization proceed.

It's true that the number of jobs in the manufacturing sector is declining as a result of automation, but as one industrial expert put it, "Very few manufacturing operations will be viable, perhaps within a decade, that are not totally automated. . . . As a result, a continued loss of jobs in manufacturing is a symptom of renewal, as obsolescent plants are either shut down or automated. The alternative is to export labor-intensive manufacturing to foreign

nations."

• True or False: If traditional big manufacturers don't keep adding to their payrolls, the country can't come near full employment.

False. More than 90 percent of the new jobs in this recovery have been created by small businesses with fewer than 500 employees. And 600,000 new companies now are forming each year. Their bosses may not get on Page One, but if the country doesn't shoot itself in the foot with a fat-headed anti-investment tax "reform" program, the prospects for continued meaningful job growth remain superb.

• True or False: With minority teen-age unemployment at an obscene 40 to 50 percent, this is a national tragedy that demands a vigorous macroeconomic solution.

False. In reality, as Ben Wattenberg points out in his book "The Good News Is The Bad News Is Wrong," those much-headlined statistics are inflated by full-time students looking for part-time work. Only about 10 percent of minority teenagers are not in school and also not working.

In other words, as Daniel Seligman

observes in Fortune Magazine, "When you look only at non-students, teenagers have the same unemployment rates as adults." (P.S. One way to make their rates even lower is to eliminate the artificial minimum wage requirement that dissuades employers from hiring more of the youthful and untrained.)

• True or False: With present policies, we'll never get the nation to work the way we did in the 60s.

False. The United States set all-time records this year in the percentage of the working-age population that holds jobs. The truly magnificent saga is the way the private economy has accommodated the massive social change that brought millions of American women productively into the work force.

• True or False: While the underlying employment situation is remarkably robust, it's a better story and a heck of a lot more meaty for opposition politicians to exaggerate unemployment and try to transform it into the dominant economic issue of the day.

Too true, my friend, too true. Rukeyser is a syndicated columnist.

Senior Center news

The senior center is busy planning for the second annual Picnic in the Park with The Sweet Adelines and The Original Troubadors scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 18, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Meinig Park.

A picnic lunch of chicken with barbecue sauce, salad, roll, baked beans and watermelon will be served throughout the afternoon. Tickets are \$4 per person and can be purchased at the senior center in advance or Aug. 18 in Meinig Park. Funds raised will benefit the Loaves and Fishes program.

The Sweet Adelines is a well-known choral group and The Original Troubadors is an eight-piece band that features swing, jazz and traditional tunes.

A pressure-cooker gauge testing clinic will be held at the Senior Center Monday, Aug. 12 at 12:30 p.m. Robert Nelson will provide this service free of charge that afternoon as a courtesy of the University of Oregon Extension Program.

Senior Day at the Clackamas County Fair is Wednesday, Aug. 14. Always a favorite, the fair has much to amuse and entertain even the most seasoned fair-goer. Livestock exhibits, craft booths, food stands and the music of local groups, as well as nationally-known artists, provide many attractions. A free rodeo is scheduled in the evening. Departure will be at 4 p.m. and return approximately 10 p.m.

Seniors may sign up at the center for a day of fishing and picnicking along the Clackamas River Friday, Aug. 16. The Clackamas River is a beautiful spot which provides a variety of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. One may spend the day fishing, hiking or just relax and enjoy the scenery. Anyone wishing to fish, but does not have the proper equipment, should contact the center for assistance. For additional information, call the senior center at 668-5569.

Activities Aug. 8-15
Thursday, Aug. 8
8:30 a.m.: Morning stretch
Noon: Golden Age Club potluck

Friday, Aug. 9
9 a.m.: Depart for Scandinavian Festival in Junction City.
Noon: L & F meal

Sunday, Aug. 11
Fun Day at Oral Hall

Monday, Aug. 12
8:30 a.m.: Morning stretch
Noon: L & F meal
12:30 p.m.: Pressure-cooker gauge test

1 p.m.: Cards
1 p.m.: Band practice

Tuesday, Aug. 13
10 a.m.: Golden Age Club Board Meeting
Noon: L & F meal

12:30 p.m.: Movie — "Places in the Heart"
1 p.m.: Ceramics

Wednesday, Aug. 14
9 a.m.-noon: Foot care clinic
Noon: L & F meal

4 p.m.: Depart for Clackamas County Fair

Thursday, Aug. 15
8:30 a.m.: Morning stretch
Noon: L & F meal
1 p.m.: Bunco

SDA church names pastors

Two men have been named to become the new senior and associate pastors with the Hood View/Pleasant Valley Seventh-day Adventist churches in Boring, says church spokeswoman Lorraine Juberg.

The Rev. Douglas Robertson has been named as the new senior pastor for the two churches in Boring, Juberg says. His associate at the Pleasant Valley church will be Phil Muthersbaugh.

Robertson is coming from the South Salem Adventist Church to replace the Rev. Ron Smith. Smith is leaving after eight years there to take an administrative post at the church's western Oregon office in Clackamas.

Robertson has taught at the Gitwe College in Rwanda, Africa, and served as assistant pastor for the Portland Sunnyside, Eugene/Santa Clara and Roseburg/Glide churches. He has a bachelor's degree from Loma Linda University in California, a Master of Divinity Degree from An-

draws University Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Mich., and a Doctor of Ministry from the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

The son of a minister, Robertson was born in Seattle, Wash. He has a wife, Karlene, and three children, Douglas, 7, Mary, 4, and John, 2.

As associate pastor, Muthersbaugh will replace Don Ritterskamp, who will pastor the Myrtle Creek/Winston churches.

Muthersbaugh has served as assistant pastor at the Portland Sunnyside Church.

He has received an associate of arts degree at Portland Community College, a bachelor's degree in theology at Walla Walla College in College Place, Wash., and a Master of Divinity Degree from the Andrews University Theological Seminary.

He was born in Portland. His wife, Debbie, is from Washington. They have a 2-year-old daughter, Amy.