

The Sandy Post

# Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor  
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

## Sandy Elementary deserves yes vote

Voters in the Sandy Elementary District will be considering a \$2,298,162 levy on Sept. 17. Voter approval of the levy would assure the smooth operation of the district's schools.

The total budget would increase \$100,750 over the 1984-85 school year. That is an increase of 1 6/10 percent, which we feel is reasonable.

The levy request is up \$181,000, or 8 1/2 percent, over last year due to a decline in outside sources of revenue, but we think it is fair to judge the board of directors and administration by looking at the overall picture.

In March, the budget committee approved a slightly larger levy request by a 9-1 vote. The board of directors then reduced the levy amount after voters rejected the original document in May, 822-349.

Despite the property tax burden, we don't think the brunt of voters' ire should fall with the school district — the cause of the problem is an unbalanced tax structure.

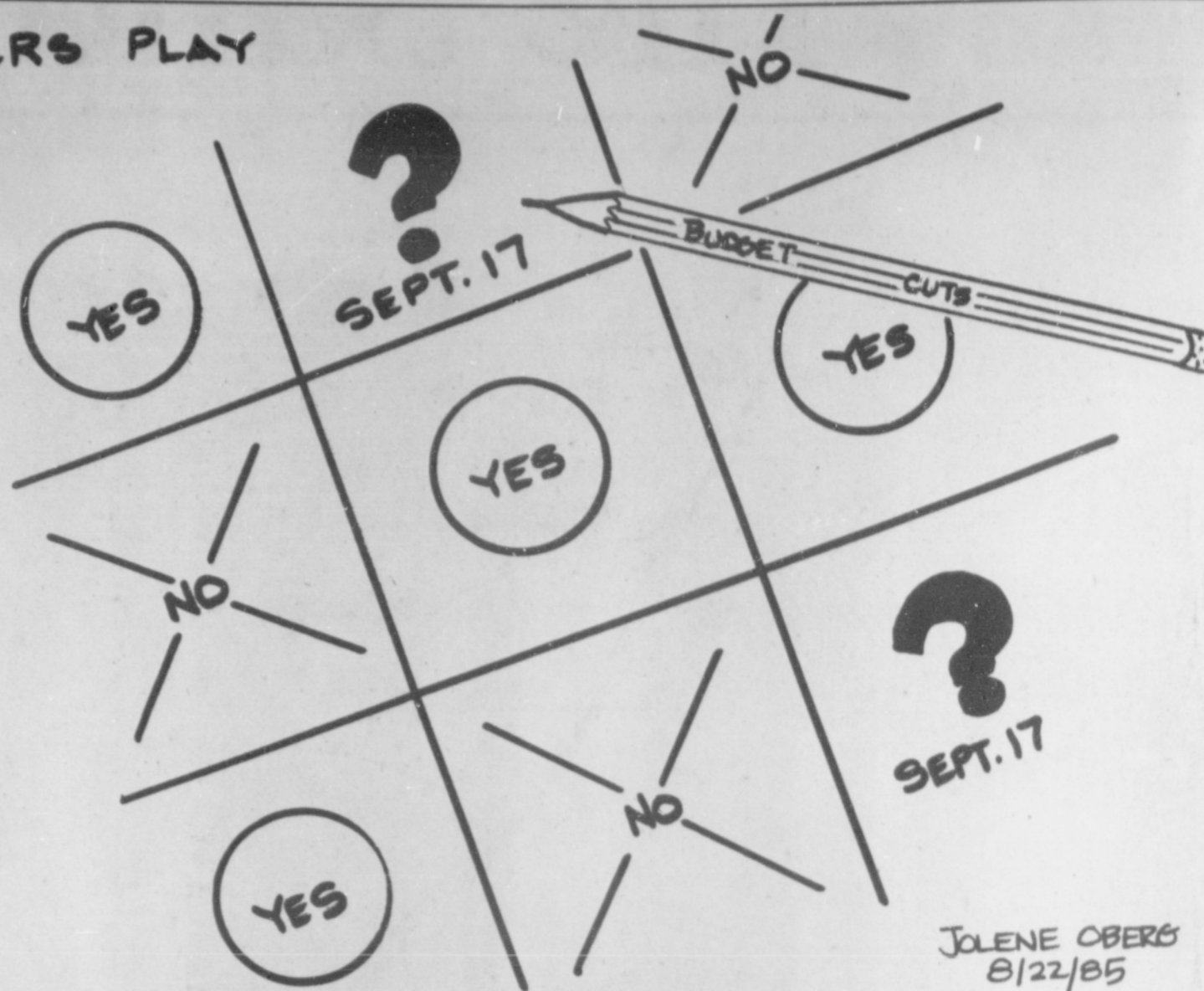
According to Oregon Department of Education figures, the cost of educating students in the Sandy Elementary District in 1983-84 was well below county- and state-wide averages.

The hands-on work — when board members and budget committee members have an opportunity to go through the budget item by item — is performed in the winter and spring. The effective use of resources is the ongoing responsibility of board members, whom we elect.

With these controls in place, voters should either express confidence in the board or turn out to elect replacements. We have enough confidence in the board of directors to support its levy request.

Although a failure at the polls would not result in a crisis situation — it appears there would be enough money to operate until a November election could be held — voters would be wise to allow the district to get back to the business of operating schools.

VOTERS PLAY



THE SCHOOL LEVY ELECTION GAME

Letter to the editor

## Board, officers make soccer league work

I am writing this letter for two reasons. The first one is I would like to thank the Sandy Post's Pat O'Halloran for taking some great action pictures of the kids playing, and having fun, in the Sandy Cascade Soccer Club. We have almost 400 children involved in the club this year, and there is never a dull moment on the soccer fields at Kelso and Cedar Ridge schools.

Second, and most important of all, I would like to publicly thank the people who have worked so very hard to make this club the success it is. This year's board members have put a lot of their home life aside to donate many hours to the club. We have been meeting once a month since February, and our meetings are long and demanding.

Not only do we attend board meetings, but work hundreds of hours out of our homes. We all volunteer our time, and our only rewards are knowing that we are doing it for the kids. I have had truly remarkable people working with me

this year, and they deserve a lot of appreciation and gratitude. While parents, grandparents, friends and relatives are watching their children enjoying soccer, I hope they will remember the following people are the ones who made it happen. Also, a million thanks to our 30 coaches who also donate their time, and skills. Also, thanks to the people who volunteer to referee games for us. Without these caring people there would be no club. The board members for this year are: Gary Head, vice chairman of judicial affairs; Dave Fleming, vice chairman of scheduling and competition; Cathy Langley, secretary; Marty Wolff, senior registrar; Dave Lythgoe, Welches registrar; Mary Ann Burke, member at large; Penny Volker, coach coordinator; Jan Thompson, uniforms and equipment; and Scott Winchester, field maintenance.

Ginny Rada  
President/treasurer  
Cascade Soccer Club

Personally speaking

## Don't laugh; Wyoming is a nice place

Less than two weeks from now friends and teachers alike at Sandy High will be asking each other, "So, what did you do over the summer?" I will respond with an answer something like this:

"Well, I spent some time in Wyoming."

"Wyoming! What's in Wyoming?" Western Oregonians are a little too spoiled with all the conifer trees, not to mention the Mt. Hood National Forest. In reality, Wyoming offers a whole lot more than just Yellowstone Park.

True, Wyoming does have its share of jack rabbits and sagebrush, but that is a worn-out stereotype. A 12-hour drive on I-80 through Wyoming hardly provides a realistic idea of what the state really has to offer (never mind that the government installed the MX missile near Cheyenne).

Just last month (July) I spent a weekend out on the prairie (60 miles north of Laramie) with my grandparents and was astounded by the variety of wildlife. Here is a condensed version of the critters seen: Antelope, badger, rattlesnake, weasel, pelican, golden eagle, falcon, hawk (several kinds), prairie dog,



by DAVID SCOTT

marmot, great horned owl, bunny rabbit, jack rabbit, lark, hummingbird, deer, water snake, gopher, turkey vulture, mallard duck and last but not least — the horned toad.

Out of all the animals, the badger made the biggest impression on me. Dad spotted him waddling away from the gravel road near Wheatland Reservoir. As we jumped out of the Blazer, the beast increased its speed but could not find the friendly con-

finer of a hole. It was simply too overloaded with blubber to keep the momentum up. However, the animal had no intention of hunkering down and freezing like a browbeaten puppy. It revealed claws the size of a black bear's (astounding considering badgers weigh only 20-30 pounds) and a set of teeth ready to rip open flesh at the right moment. The badger charged several times, mostly bluffing, but we took no chances. One swipe of the monstrous claw would have quickly put an end to the Wyoming vacation. We left in peace and he left in peace.

One of the more tranquil events included a trip to Shark Tooth Ridge, a name given by my grandfather Scott. The bluff is comprised of much more than the common sandstone and scattered flint. Fossilized shark teeth, no longer than the size of a human thumbnail, lay on the outer surface. All that was needed to spot them was a sharp eye and patience. After an hour or so, I had collected more than 150 of the minute fossils. Considering that each one dated back to 350 million years ago, I was fairly pleased. It was hard to believe I was standing on land that was once covered

by an inland sea.

Horned toads also made up part of Shark Tooth Ridge. They darted quickly about the weeds and sandstone in lizard fashion but were shaped very differently from a classic four-legged reptile. Instead of a thin snake-like body, the tiny creatures all looked fat, somewhat akin to a desert toad. In all, I counted seven horned toads, three of them babies.

The evening darkness crept up quickly with the departure of the wind. We then discussed the day's adventures, accompanied with a hot cup of tea, of course. By this time the moon had risen up through the clouds, so round and yellow, like a banana cream pie. Nothing else remained to do but listen to the night's sound effects. Occasionally a coyote would yelp into the crisp air or maybe one would even hear the distressed cry of a young rabbit.

Somehow, the storm that killed 12 people in Cheyenne missed us that night, and we left the next morning, naive to current events but in touch with the Wyoming nature.

Commentary

## Congressmen can help cut through red tape

by U.S. REP. DENNY SMITH

Social security celebrated 50 years of providing benefits to our nation's seniors last week. Today, more than 36 million Americans, one out of every six, relies on Social Security and Medicare for income and health benefits. One quarter of the federal budget is dedicated to helping older and disabled Americans who receive these benefits.

As you might imagine, a program this large has its share of problems. We've all heard the stories about dead people receiving benefits, disabled people being summarily removed from the rolls, and checks "getting lost in the mail."

Despite the best intentions of those who work for the Social Security Administration, errors do occur. While most are solved by a call to the local Social Security office by the person affected, some require additional attention to correct.

That's where members of Congress often lend a hand. In addition to our lawmaking responsibilities, a large portion of our time is dedicated to helping people cope with the laws and programs already on the books.

If you are one of these unfortunate people who needs special help with a federal program, such as Social Security, or if you know someone else

who could use a hand, please write or call my Salem office.

You can call 399-5756 in the Salem area, or toll free from anywhere in the state, 1-800-452-7889, to get assistance. Often problems are solved with just a phone call or a letter from me to the appropriate agency.

Take, for example, the woman from Molalla who contacted me. She was having difficulty getting Medicare to pay for an ambulance bill. Despite her attempts, nothing seemed to work. My office in Salem contacted Medicare and asked that they recheck their records. Sure enough, the spotted an error and paid the woman's claim.

Often just a note from a congressman to an agency will help speed along the decision process in an agency. Obviously, I can't, and don't, promise to solve every problem. But I do promise to do my best to make sure each person is given fair and prompt consideration by the federal agency involved.

Helping Oregonians work out difficulties with federal problems is a rewarding part of representing Oregonians in Congress. If you need information, or help solving a problem, send a letter to me at P.O. Box 13089, Salem, Ore., 97309.

I look forward to hearing from you.

