

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representativePreventing crime
goal for workshop

How prevalent is crime in the Sandy-Mt. Hood corridor? What can one do to keep from being victimized?

These are two of the questions that will be addressed at a crime prevention workshop being held Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cedar Ridge library.

A representative of the Clackamas County sheriff's department will provide information on how to secure one's home. There is no way to be completely protected, but on the other hand, there is no reason to make it easy for the criminal.

Just how serious a problem is crime in the Mt. Hood corridor? The sheriff's department's representative will tell us.

A representative of the Sandy police department will talk about the problem in Sandy. Bring your questions.

Law enforcement agencies can't shoulder the burden alone. The Block Home program in Sandy and surrounding areas provides a refuge of safety for children who are victimized, in danger, injured or lost.

About 110 homes and businesses are participating, and more are needed. Come and find out what can be done to help expand this worthwhile program in Sandy.

Information on forming a Neighborhood Watch program will be provided. Neighborhood Watch has proved effective in some neighborhoods. At times, all that is needed is for people to know their neighbors, when they come and go.

It is the goal of the people involved to provide a good deal of information in a concise format. Come and get acquainted.

Personally speaking

Start of school
brings out best

"Hurry up Sara, you'll be late," was the first warning cry of the school year — my march to the drum for nine long months.

"Sara Anne Elizabeth (full name now, she means business), your oatmeal is getting cold!" Hairbrush in hand and shoelaces flapping, I raced down the stairs. I hate oatmeal, I loath and detest oatmeal.

"You have three minutes," she says grimly, "and your hair isn't brushed and your shoes still aren't tied." Child abuse was known even back then. I didn't learn to tie my shoes until I was in the fourth grade. My Mother refused to do it for me except at weddings and family reunions, and every morning of my life for 20 years she fed me cold oatmeal.

So, hairbrush in one hand and spoon in the other, I gulped madly to beat my Mother's three-minute warning. My sisters, all prim and proper and of course fully dressed, were watching this scene with a mixture of awe and contempt. They knew how to tie their shoes, always had their hair brushed and they never ate cold oatmeal.

Out the door we went. We caught the school bus, my three sisters and I, about a mile down the road. A road that was fraught with danger every step of the way.



by SARA FORK

when the bus finally stopped and we climbed on to begin our ride to school, but my sisters carefully moved to the back to avoid sitting anywhere near me.

All this should have bruised my tender feelings, but we were different, my sisters and I. After all, they couldn't whistle through their fingers or spit through their teeth.

'My sisters watched with contempt.'

It was dry and dusty early this September morning, so it was dangerous for my sisters with their pristine white socks and newly-polished saddle shoes. Dangerous for me because I kept tripping over my shoe laces.

The road had big, squishy bugs my sisters were in screaming horror of (I wanted to stop and inspect, but no, we'd be late).

It had potholes that filled up with water after a rain and were great to splash, but not this morning. The school bus is always early the first day of school.

According to my sisters, the school bus was always early and we were always late. We were never late! My Mother's three-minute warnings were based on some kind of psychology that given three minutes to do everything that couldn't be done in 20, you'd never be late. I never was. Unfortunately, I was never prepared either. I still didn't have my shoes tied.

Well, practice makes perfect, so practice I did. Sitting on that big old rock by the side of that dusty road is one of my best memories. In truth, I never tried very hard at learning to tie my shoes. I watched bugs crawling around on bushes, I watched birds flying, spit in the dust on the rock and wrote my name in it. I did all these things because I knew I had an ace in the hole. Sure enough, as the bus came around the corner my older sister raced frantically over to me and started tying my shoes while the next older sister began to brush the oatmeal out of my hair.

All these administrations were contrived to make me fairly presentable

They thought wind was something that messed up their hair, and mud was something that got you dirty and made you go "eeech." Besides, they liked boys! Now that was something to go "eeech" over. So, I wasn't bruised at all. I knew I had all the advantages.

In due course I learned to tie my shoes, which caused a major celebration in our house. In honor of this wonderful and momentous event my Mother got so excited she promptly went out and bought me a pair of loafers.

Policy
on letters

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced and signed. An address and telephone number should also be provided, although only the name of the letter writer and the city or area he is from will be published.

Letter writers may also wish to include a title or office held if it is appropriate considering the subject matter.

The news deadline of noon, Tuesday is also the deadline for letters to the editor.

Letters should be accurate, free of libelous remarks and in good taste. This newspaper attempts to publish all letters it receives from local residents. We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines or for length. A preferred maximum length is 300 words.



State of the state

Balanced tax system will provide jobs

by GOV. VIC ATIYEH

Jobs.

That is the singular topic of conversation as I meet with corporate executives in my office in the State Capital, in other states and overseas.

But as we talk, one question keeps cropping up.

"Why," I am asked, "don't you Oregonians balance your tax system?"

These executives cannot understand why Oregon continues to live with unreasonably high property and income taxes.

Our income tax is the third highest in the nation; most companies do not want to ask their executives to move to a state in a tax league with the state of New York.

Our property tax is the nation's eighth highest, which makes it harder for Oregon to compete for jobs.

But Ballot Measure 1, the bipartisan proposal to balance Oregon's tax system, will reduce our income-tax ranking to eighth, slash our property taxes to 22nd and attract new jobs for Oregonians.

Tax Fairness

Companies dislike Oregon's un-

balanced tax system for the same reasons you and I do.

Companies, like homeowners and renters, are frustrated by a burdensome property tax that they must pay whether they make a profit or show a loss. In lean times, no company wants to be forced to lay off employees so it can pay its property taxes.

Most Oregonians know of companies and executives that have left Oregon because of our high income tax.

However, I know of companies that now are taking a serious look at investing in jobs for Oregon because we are considering balancing our tax system.

These companies say that a sales tax will be fairer because it will tax companies and consumers when they make certain purchases.

They understand that a balanced system "breathes," which means taxes get smaller when companies and consumers cut back on their spending.

School Stability

Companies, like you and me, also prize quality education. They demand excellent public schools for their employees' children and quality community colleges to train their

workers.

But they worry that Oregon's white-hot anger at property taxes could cause an educational meltdown — poorer schools, perhaps even more school closures.

Companies say they like Ballot Measure 1 because every penny from the sales tax will go to reduce property and income taxes now spent for schools and community colleges.

They also like the fact that key provisions of the sales tax will be locked into the Oregon Constitution, where only the people can change them; that property taxes will be more strictly controlled than ever before, and that local governments will be prohibited from proposing local sales taxes.

Public-Private Partnership

Companies also depend on government to install water systems, build sewers, maintain streets and bridges and offer other essential public services.

But as local government reacts to a voter backlash against property taxes, many public facilities are deteriorating or not being built at all.

My public works task force recently reported that cities, counties and special districts will have to spend \$2 billion in the next five years to pro-

vide essential facilities.

Balancing our tax system can help us to meet those needs by reducing pressure on the property tax.

In considering Ballot Measure 1 on Sept. 17, ask yourself whether Oregon can afford to miss any chance to attract new jobs.

Consider, too, that Oregon is among only five states that have not balanced their tax systems with a sales tax. And remember Oregon's sales tax will be without peer for fairness: Many everyday purchases will not be taxed, and as many as 48 percent of Oregon households will receive a rebate on sales taxes they pay.

In my opinion, this chance to vote for thousands of new jobs for Oregon is about as rare as the celestial alignment that permits us to see Halley's comet only once in a lifetime.

If we fail to seize this opportunity, Oregon will continue along its hapless treadmill of boom-and-bust employment, ever-higher taxes and rising uncertainty about our future.

But if we seize this opportunity, pay windows will open, growth of taxes will be controlled, and the instability of our public schools will become history.

