

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Action Center needs winter help

As we head into the holiday season, we should keep in mind that cold weather creates additional problems for the unemployed and others with financial problems.

Sandy is unique in that it is served by the Sandy Community Action Center, an efficient organization that provides a number of valuable services.

The non-profit agency stays afloat primarily through the good graces of local churches, civic groups and some active, energetic individuals. A look at the services provided each month gives a person an indication of how difficult life can be.

In the Action Center's September report, for example, were these miscellaneous items: "... We took a box of food to a woman unable to walk or drive. We transported a woman to the Veterans Hospital and another to a Food Stamp interview at Gladstone. Another stranded woman was taken to the home of a volunteer to spend the night. A wheelchair was located for a person with a broken hip."

The Action Center contributed \$103 to three different people for the extraction of teeth and other medical services, provided 122 gallons of gasoline to get people to job interviews or to meet other obligations, and gave out 49 quilts and/or pieces of furniture.

The Action Center was visited by 1,932 people during the month, which includes the 597 who were there for the USDA cheese and butter distribution.

In September, 53 new families requested food boxes, bringing the total to 182 food boxes issued.

If one finds these numbers hard to believe, that person should pick up a monthly report some time. Or better yet, talk to an Action Center volunteer.

According to Elsie Kimerly, program coordinator, food (especially canned goods), warm winter clothing and money are needed to provide assistance to the many people who are seeking help.

The center offers financial help to people in dire circumstances. The money might be spent for such things as medical emergencies, rent or utility bills, or for gasoline.

The volunteers at the Action Center are working to solve people's problems, but that is easier said than done. Often one has to be satisfied with stopgap measures.

Donations are tax-deductible. Tangible goods can be taken to the center, which is located at 38982 Pioneer Blvd. in downtown Sandy.

To help out a neighbor this winter, give to the Sandy Community Action Center.

Letters to the editor

Extra activities are important to school

This letter concerns the Cedar Ridge School levy being shot down. Frankly, I think that the adults who voted it down were wrong. I think their attitude was this: "Well, we've got to cut back on money, and we want to do away with the least important things, so let's do away with anything extra for the kids."

This is really bad for the schools. Our school officials and superintendent and all those other people are trying to make school interesting. They are trying to make school not just a place to learn, but a place to have fun.

I have admit that I was not looking forward to getting up at 6 a.m. and

going to school. But I was looking forward to the basketball season. Now that it has been taken away from us, along with other sports, a big part of the fun at school is gone.

How many of you adults like to work at a job that is not fun or has no joy in it? Do you think that kids will like to go to a place that has no fun? You have a choice. You can leave your job... kids can't change schools.

Kids can only use what you as a voter gives them. If the roles were reversed, what would you like the kids to give you?

Kirsten Walker
Sandy

Juvenile Services supports school levy

Once again our school system is in crisis. Sandy grade schools will close if the November budget is not passed. Many people in the Sandy area suffer financial distress from circumstances beyond their control, and the larger Clackamas County Community sympathizes with them.

Many times the only way voters have to express their concern and frustration with governmental waste is to strike out at the schools and vote against levy issues, but A VOTE AGAINST OUR SCHOOLS IS A VOTE AGAINST OUR FUTURE.

The best insurance for ourselves is

the education of our youth. Unless we arm them adequately to compete in the tightening job market, they will be handicapped for life. Students who have no school to attend are apt to fill their days in non-productive, sometimes destructive, ways.

Our children need our votes this November. They are the greatest natural resource we have. Let's prove to them that we care enough about them to insure their futures... and our own.

Connie McFarland, member
Clackamas County Community
Juvenile Services Commission

VFW there when needed

I wish to express my gratitude to Post 4273 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and to my many friends for their help, the kind cards and other

expressions of sympathy. They were there when I needed them most.

Mary Elliott
Rhododendron

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

Agriculture important to economy

Things are happening to Oregon farm products that would bring a smile to the lips of Willie Nelson and others in the recent 14-hour Farm Aid concert.

Guests at Oriental tourist hotels are sipping Oregon wines. Japanese agribusiness firms are working with Oregonians to produce gourmet Shitake mushrooms. And Oregon-produced popcorn and poppers are being sold to the South Koreans.

Some Oregon farmers, like those nationwide whom Farm Aid was intended to help, are struggling against a sour farm economy. But Oregon does enjoy unusual advantages. With more than 170 crops under cultivation, the Oregon farm economy is unusually diversified.

With a history that includes the first agricultural commodity commissions (and also the most of any state), we have a proud history of successfully selling our produce.

With our proximity to the fast-growing economies of the Orient, Oregon can actually ship farm products less expensively to Tokyo than to Tallahassee.

It has become clear that Oregon farmers must harness this gift of geography with their sales skill to sell products which already have earned a worldwide reputation for quality. That is why representatives of the Oregon Department of



by GOV. VIC ATIYEH

Agriculture are marketing Oregon farm products on every habitable continent on the face of the globe.

Each of our international marketing people schedules two or three annual fact-finding trips to diverse regions of the world. They speak languages such as Japanese, Korean and German.

In addition, Oregon is well-represented at major food shows. During October, Oregon farm products such as herbs, spices, honey and other specialty items will be tasted at the world's largest food show in Cologne, West Germany.

odorless garlic.

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In November, we will conduct Oregon-only food shows in Japan and Taiwan. These shows are a proven means of capturing the undivided attention of hundreds of important buyers.

Most Oregonians know about our sizeable exports of wheat — nearly \$500 million last year to Japan alone — and our growing sales of packaged fruits and vegetables. In fact, in recent months three new contracts have been signed to provide frozen products to Korea.

But we also are promoting other Oregon products as varied as frozen baked potatoes, frozen pizzas and

An African nation that invests in 100 pounds of Oregon bean seeds, for instance, should be able to plant three acres that will produce 6,000 pounds of dried beans. That original investment in seed would have bought little more than a case of canned beans.

Oregon's aggressive work in promoting farm exports is only one of the reasons that the U.S. Department of Agriculture refers other states to Oregon when they have questions.

We recognize that a healthy farm economy is the linchpin of a healthy statewide economy.

