

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

 Scott Newton, editor
 Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Allow schools to continue course

For the third time The Sandy Post is endorsing the levy of the Sandy Elementary District. Public approval is critical this time.

We have supported the levy for several reasons. According to information from the state Department of Education — as reported in the past — the Sandy school district was well below county- and state-wide spending averages in 1983-84.

The budget is slightly more than 1 percent larger than last year's, which we think is reasonable. There is an increase in the levy rate of about 5 percent, but this is because of a decrease in other funding sources over which the district has no control.

We also believe in the budget committee system. Budget committee members serve three-year terms; they have the opportunity to learn what is in the budget. Board members, who also serve on the budget committee, deal with the budget and, perhaps more importantly, the related programs. They know what programs cost and whether or not they are valuable to the educational system.

The committee that worked on this year's budget agonized for some time over the need for a vice principal at Cedar Ridge (a position that has since been eliminated). Need versus expense was vigorously debated. Budget committee members pay property taxes too.

Some people would say that the school board hasn't caught on to what the public is saying, that a reduction of \$125,000 in two elections is not enough. Another way of looking at it is, if the district could cut a half a million dollars from the budget approved by the budget committee, then the budget committee would have been too lax. We don't think that is the case.

When the voters rejected the sales tax in September, they handily downed the school levy as well. The point is well taken; the public wants less spending. Perhaps a tax limitation is next. Be that as it may, the issue Nov. 5 should be schools and not the tax structure.

School closures are emotional and messy. Some people get angry and make accusations; others get upset and shed tears. It would be a shame to create turmoil in a school district that otherwise runs smoothly.

Promote tourism with Measure 1

It should be relatively easy for voters to decide how to vote on Ballot Measure 1. There is no opposition to the redistribution of the hotel/motel room tax.

The Clackamas County Commissioners endorse it, the Fair Board approves of it and the Associated Chambers of Commerce — of which the Sandy and Hoodland chambers are affiliated — are for it.

The hotel/motel tax has turned into a bit of a windfall for the county fair, and with new hotels in unincorporated Clackamas County joining Timberline Lodge and Rippling River, it appears the tax, approved four years ago, could be even more of a boon.

One issue in the matter is fairness. Voters approved the tax against a relatively defenseless industry, giving incorporated areas the opportunity to exclude themselves. In other words, they voted in a tax on two resort hotels.

A lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the measure has been dropped; people in the industry are apparently willing to let the voters decide on the redistribution.

It only makes sense that the people who bring in the money should be allowed to spend some of it to regenerate the resource.

A fraction of the money now makes its way back to the Mt. Hood Recreation Association, which battles the heavy hitters in Central Oregon with a minuscule budget.

The Gold Card, Silver Card and Bronze Card programs pay operating expenses for the Mt. Hood Recreation Association, which is a committee of the Hoodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

The "card" programs are essentially skiing packages for the public, employees of the ski resorts and chamber members.

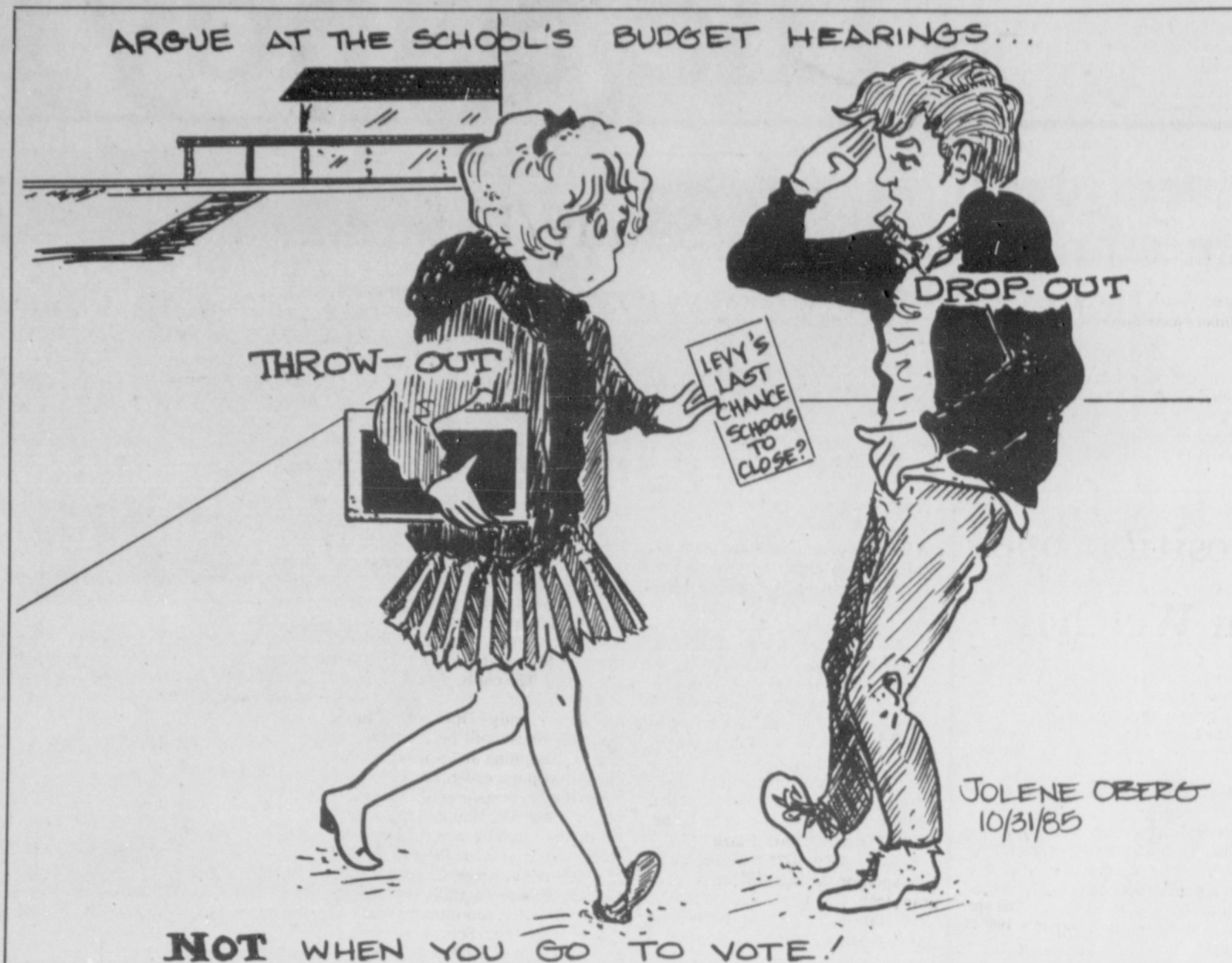
The money that is received now by the Recreation Association from the room tax goes for media buys and direct promotion of the mountain. Not one cent goes toward wages or even paper clips.

It is true that the three ski resorts and Rippling River would benefit from the redistribution plan, but if people on the mountain and in Sandy want to gain access to more tourist dollars, this is a painless start.

Tourism is a clean industry with the potential of bringing more jobs. Tourists shop in local stores for groceries and items they may have left at home, and they eat in the restaurants. At present, the potential for tourism hasn't even been tapped.

Ballot Measure 1 is not a new tax, and in fact the hotel/motel tax is rarely ever paid by Clackamas County residents. This is an issue on which the people of this end of the county should stick together. Vote yes on Ballot Measure 1.

**Vote on
Nov. 5**



Letters to the editor

Don't send the wrong message Nov. 5

The people of the city of Sandy have the opportunity to send a message far and wide on Nov. 5.

The message is: "This community wants nothing to do with the economic growth of the area; this community will take no responsibility for county, state, national or international affairs; this community wants nothing to do with the leaders of tomorrow; this community will not meet its responsibility to its members; this community does not care about its children and will not be held responsible for their education."

You can send this message by voting against the "no frills" levy on Nov. 5. And, if you're real sick, you can even feel proud of it. It's your chance to show the world just how little you care.

All this because a levy doesn't pass?

You bet! If the levy fails on Nov. 5, all the schools in the Sandy School District No. 46 will close their doors on Nov. 7. This includes Sandy, Kelso and Firwood Elementary Schools, and Cedar Ridge Junior High. Where will you take your children to school?

The levy up for election on Nov. 5 even goes beyond the "no frills" level. All sports, field trips, and extra-curricular activities have been cut from the budget.

This is not a surgeon delicately removing an unwanted growth. This is a radical amputation to try to convince you that the patient is worth saving.

You don't have children so it doesn't concern you?

WRONG! Take a look at economic growth in the area. A basic requirement for economic growth is an expanding market. When families (who make up this expanding market) are considering communities to live in, one of their prime considerations is the quality of the schools their children will attend.

You can't expand the market by closing the schools. In fact, by closing the schools, you will cause your market to shrink as people move to areas that do have good schools. A shrinking market causes economic recession, not economic growth.

Next, take a look at your civic and government leaders. Where did they come from? The came from your classrooms. Where will tomorrow's leaders come from? Not from Sandy if this "hide your head in the sand" attitude prevails.

How can you expect tomorrow's leaders to look after your interests if you can't even provide them with enough of an education to know what those interests are?

Don't send a message of irresponsible pettiness and apathy on Nov. 5.

Send a message of responsibility and pride in our community, our schools, and our children.

Pass the operating levy for Sandy Elementary School District No. 46 on Nov. 5.

Pam and David Gracia
Sandy

Programs sound in Sandy District

We want to express our feelings concerning the Sandy Elementary School District and upcoming budget election on Nov. 5.

Children throughout this district are being involved in an extremely sound instructional program with excellent teaching-support personnel. Our children are fortunate to be involved with positive school experience where teaching staff and support personnel are spending invaluable time creating learning adventures for their most important product — our children.

Our community will certainly profit from those future adult citizens. Sandy Elementary School District certainly deserves your "yes" vote this Nov. 5.

Jack and Marilyn Martin
Sandy

State senator urges yes vote

I am writing to urge everyone's support for the Sandy Elementary School levy request on November 5th.

The citizens of Sandy have a good reputation for the support we give our schools. We want the most for our money and people know we're getting it.

This levy request is \$125,000 less than the first request made in May. Failure of the levy would mean no school for the rest of November.

Please support Sandy Elementary School on November 5th.

Sen. Steve Starkovich
District 14
Senate majority leader

Budget now is bare bones

Our children's education is our most important natural resource. I urge all voters to vote yes on the Sandy Elementary levy on Nov. 5.

The administration and school board have made many cuts to lower our taxes to help pass the levy.

We now have a bare bones budget and if the schools close, many other cuts will have to be made before the budget is resubmitted. I feel these cuts would be very harmful to the quality education system we now have.

The Cedar Ridge after school sports and elementary field trips have already been taken away. I was, however, very pleased to see the school board form a committee of administrators, board members and

parents who will look into alternative funding to bring back these programs.

Let's work together to form strong support for our schools by voting yes.

Ann Marie Amstad
Boring

Thanks for hours of time

We, the parents of Firwood School, would like to say "thank you" to the school board and budget committee for the volunteer hours you have given our district.

We are also encouraged by the number of parents coming to the monthly school board meetings.

Tuesday, Nov. 5 a levy is going to be voted on by the patrons of this district. We would urge you to say "yes" on Tuesday and then get involved the rest of the school year to watch how your money is being spent. Thank you.

Maggie Lowery
Art Lowery
William Lenon
Becky Hanning
Michelle Riggs
Donna Stuart
Rex Brittle
Lois Brittle

Tourism means bucks to Sandy

On Tuesday, November 5th two very important issues will be decided. One is the school budget levy, the other involves jobs and tourism. Ballot Measure 1 is an adjustment of the tourist room tax distribution. Because of the new hotel/motel rooms now in use, and additional hotels planned in Clackamas County, more room tax dollars are available than originally estimated.

Ballot Measure 1 allows those excess funds to be used to promote tourism in Clackamas County. This is not a cut in funds for the County Fair Board, 4-H or FFA. It is NOT another tax. It's a redistribution of the additional funds. Tourism means big bucks to Sandy. A yes vote on Ballot Measure 1 is a direct support of more jobs in the East Clackamas area. I urge you to vote YES on Ballot Measure 1.

Jack Elder,
marketing director
Mirror Mountain Ski Area

Measure 1 is well crafted

Ballot Measure 1 on the November 5 Clackamas County election is a carefully crafted housekeeping measure which is supported by all

parties most directly involved.

This measure will put into effect a redistribution of the existing hotel-motel room tax revenue. Money which has been going to the County Fair is protected for that use, and the Fair is guaranteed a share of increases that are sure to come.

In the future tourism development will also share in the room tax revenues, thus enabling Clackamas County to invest in an undeveloped industry that will produce new jobs, bring business to entrepreneurs and strengthen our economy.

I urge a "Yes" vote on Ballot Measure 1 on November 5.

John Hakanson
Milwaukie

Joe Lutz for senator

Last Tuesday Joe Lutz was at Hubbell's holding a political meeting and if you couldn't be there you missed meeting the man who is running against Bob Packwood for the U.S. Senate.

A sign at Joe Lutz's press conference in Portland described him in a few words, "He is a honest Joe." Besides being honest, he has all the other qualities that a candidate needs to make an excellent senator. He is intelligent, informed, knowledgeable, and has some constructive ideas on how to solve many of this nation's and state's problems.

Along with having new and wise approaches to some very serious problems, he is prepared to make some very definite stands against hard line policy.

We all need to take a second look at the senator we have now and what we could have with Joe Lutz. We certainly need a senator from Oregon who will put Oregon first on his agenda and spend more time in Oregon than in New York. Of course, Oregon isn't giving Bob Packwood \$4½ million like New York is for his campaign.

If you are a Republican I hope you will consider Joe Lutz in this primary race.

Charlene Opperman
Sandy

LETTERS POLICY

The Post asks that all letters to the editor be typed, double-spaced and signed. Deadline is noon, Tuesday. Letters should be accurate, free of libelous remarks and in good taste. This newspaper attempts to publish all letters it receives and may edit material lightly to conform to guidelines. Maximum length is 200 words.