

Letters to the editor

School works to keep expenses down

I am a parent of two children in the Sandy Elementary School District and I am very disappointed with the people of Sandy. To close our schools and tell our children that their education is not important is a tragedy. But to do it as a message to our state government that our tax system is a mess is shameful.

I have been involved in our schools for the past five years, both as a volunteer in the classroom and as a member of our parent-teacher group. I have attended the majority of our school board meetings and our budget hearings for the past year and a half. Our administrators, our school board and our involved parents try very hard to keep the costs down while still providing a decent education for our youngsters. We do not have excesses in our schools. Please volunteer your time at our schools and find out for yourself. Please come to the budget hearings and let us know where you think the costs can be cut. Our teachers strive to provide a very good education without the benefit of paid aides in the classroom. Our Parent-Teacher Club has purchased computers, sports equipment, assemblies, Xerox machine, and other educational equipment that is a vital part of providing a good education and which is standard equipment in the Portland public school system.

The majority of middle schools in Oregon have both a vice principal and after-school sports, which we have cut from the budget. Our grade school children, who also have no after-school activities, had to further give up their field trips for the year.

Our taxes are high in this area but

it is because we have a large amount of land area but not big businesses to help us pay our taxes. The Sandy Elementary School District does not set the tax rate. That is set in Oregon City by the tax assessors. Nor do we have anything to do with the tax assessed value of your home. We all agree that our property taxes are too high but we must all direct our anger and frustration to the people who are responsible for this dilemma — our state government.

In an age of space exploration and heart transplants can you really ask us to provide only read'n, writ'n and arithmetic? I think we should give our youngsters every opportunity to go out into this world to achieve their greatest potential. They deserve the change.

Maggie Lowery
Sandy

Give public the details

I resent school board members and administrators stating that the school budget gets voted down because people don't care about education. Wake up!

What we don't care about is your manner of budgeting that covers and glosses over true expenses so that we don't understand where the money goes and you are afraid to tell us so we can understand. How much are teachers' salaries, administrators' salaries, building and utility expenses? How much is actually held for other purposes and what are those purposes? How much on office

expenses, field trips, etc.? How much was actually spent last year and what are you budgeting this year and if there is any difference, why?

Is the school population increasing — by how much? Is this why? If the school population is decreasing, why are not expenses?

Stop acting like all the other government agencies, thinking the public is stupid and uncaring. If you would make people understand, they would back you. Or are you afraid to let us know the details, as many people suspect, and therefore vote the levy down?

Let us know how much difference there is in our taxes with each levy. Is the tax base the same as last year or higher? It could make a difference.

Deliberately knocking out field trips and sports only makes the public more angry because we know you are doing this to get us upset and those expenses are not the problem.

Also let people know how much each additional election costs — that comes from their taxes also. But at the same time, make your first budget honest, without frivolities and padded accounts, then stick to it because it is what you really need.

Every time you make up an excessive budget and drop it lower because it was padded, you are telling the public that they should vote the first one down. You must regain the public's confidence and so far you have gone the wrong way.

Antoinette Slanning
Sandy

Attacking ourselves

Well, Sandy's famous across the nation! We closed our grade school! "It's too bad for the kids," said a radio commentator I talked to. Yes, it is, but it's also another pressure on family life in a culture which already offers too many challenges to the family. What's bad for the families is ultimately bad for the community. Parents are talking of moving, and others won't want to come here after this. These are sensitive, concerned people, the kind the community needs. Business will suffer at a time when business cannot afford it.

People are fed up with taxes and government. They're going to "show them." In fact, we are attacking ourselves, we're not taking responsibility for constructive change. Specifically, very few voters have attended school budget hearings or board meetings, or gotten a copy of the school budget and studied it. If they're voting against the school it's because of some personal dislike, a rumor, or someone else's gripe. Getting at all government through the schools is blind prejudice. Like American citizens being attacked because some group doesn't like our government's policies. William Buckley Jr. wrote that voting is a sacred trust. That a citizen had the responsibility to be informed and to vote for what was good for the community over self interest. We dropped the ball here at Sandy and in other places across the state last Tuesday.

Maybe we can no longer choose between self interest and the com-

munity's welfare. If so then we deserve to lose local control of our schools. If not, let's wake up and be responsible to the trust place in us and be good stewards of our young citizens, as well as our own future, by constructively participating in and supporting our public schools.

William P. Kruger
Boring

There must be another way

Well, citizens of Sandy, I certainly hope that you are proud of yourselves. You people who voted NO on the school election have taken it on yourselves to deny our children, the future leaders of our country and our most prized possessions, a right to get an education by going to school.

You people that cared enough to attend the school board meeting Nov. 6 heard some very good points. Many people stood up and presented themselves very well. There were reasons given as to why some of you voted no.

To some people this is the only way they know how to make themselves heard that they do not want higher taxes. They really do not want to hurt our children, but do not know of any other way to be heard. Let me tell you people, there has got to be another way.

To other people, they feel that they have already paid their share of school taxes when their own children were in school and now that they are not in school anymore, they are not going to pay for other people's children's education. Let me tell you people, what about the people that paid for your children's education when their children were not in school anymore?

To the people that voted no because they feel the teachers and administration personnel get too much money or that there are too many of them: Let me tell you people, in order to maintain a high level of education, we need good teachers. They are people just like you trying to make a living and support their families. You would not want to take a cut in wages, neither do they. If we cut their salaries and cut down on personnel, we will have the good teachers and other personnel that work in our schools go to another

school were they can make the money they are worth and not have to worry about the budget passing all the time.

To the people that voted no because you do not want additional expense: Let me tell you people, all these ridiculous elections we keep having to hold to try and get the school budget passed is costing thousands of dollars. This is certainly the first place we, the taxpayers, could save money.

I understand that there is a problem. I certainly do not agree with the way our school system is financed. We might be able to do something if we were to come together as a community and work as a group instead of arguing and fighting about the school budget. It is our number one priority to get our children an education. We have to get the children back in school by passing the budget and doing so convincingly. After we get our children in school, where they must be, instead of on the streets getting into trouble or home alone when they are too small to be alone, we can try to do something about the system.

I do not have all the answers, however, I think if we were to pull together we might be able to at least let someone know that we are very concerned. One suggestion is to write a letter to Mary Roberts, Secretary of State, and tell her that we feel the state of Oregon must support our

educational process more and better. We think that they need to pay a greater portion of our state's education and give some of the many reasons we believe this is a critical situation. Maybe all the citizens of Sandy could sign this letter and maybe it would show the state that at least we are concerned and want something done.

PLEASE VOTE YES ON THE SCHOOL LEVY AND GET OUR CHILDREN BACK IN SCHOOL TO GET THE EDUCATION THEY DESERVE.

Charles and Linda Herrell
Parents and citizens
of the community of Sandy

Thanks for the support

The Kubitz family would like to thank everyone for their support following the death of a loved one.

Ruth Kubitz
Sandy

Classified:
667-6633



Pickup being towed up 150-foot bank.

Photos by Vern Richards

Women OK after pickup goes off bluff

Two women received only minor injuries when their car went off the road and rolled 150 feet down the Sandy River bluff before coming to a stop against some trees, according to a Sandy police department report.

Brenda Baldock, 23, Portland, and Gale Rugg, 33, Boring, were in a 1983 Dodge Ram pickup headed south on Bluff Road on the "S" curves near Andrews Street. Baldock was the driver.

The pavement was wet, according to Fred Punzel, police chief, though there is no cause of accident listed in the report.

The pickup went over the edge,

where there is no guardrail, and rolled several times before stopping on some trees.

Punzel said from the edge of the bluff to where the car stopped was measured at 150 feet. The two women managed to get out of the vehicle, crawl to the top of the bluff and seek help.

Punzel said they were fortunate to be able to get out. With no visible markings on the road, and the pickup out of sight, no one would have known they were there, he said.

No citations were issued. The pickup was totaled.



The pickup was a total loss.

Kiwanis Club makes plans for Christmas Basket Drive

The Kiwanis Club of Sandy will soon have barrels out in local grocery stores in preparation for the group's annual Christmas Basket Drive, where food baskets are given to needy families.

Toys and canned food can be taken to the Sandy Fire Hall, according to Frank Marcy, Kiwanis member. A

location for putting the food baskets together has not yet been identified.

The club also welcomes donations to purchase items to include in the basket other than canned goods. Donations can be sent to Mel Barnes, treasurer of the Kiwanis Club, at 42451 Wildcat Mountain Drive, Sandy, 97055.

Hoodland CPO to meet

The Hoodland Community Planning Organization will be meeting Monday, Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Welches Grade School.

To be discussed will be revised county regulations, such as new requirements for hydros and trailers.

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