

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Students deserve sports program

The fund raising efforts of the students at Cedar Ridge School have been nothing short of amazing.

The junior high students, through magazine and record sales, and then a candy sale, have raised about \$4,500 for a sports program.

That is short of the amount needed to pay the full cost of the two sports the students are working to reinstate — wrestling for boys and basketball for girls. They have received the okay to begin practicing soon, and the additional \$1,300 will be raised; other fund raisers are planned. The Cedar Ridge Parent-Teacher Club and Student Council will probably need to raise an additional \$5,800 for track and field, which is coeducational.

While it is admirable that the students have raised so much money — indeed, 75 percent of the student body participated in the latest fund raiser — the important thing is for the public to take note of how important these activities are to the students.

Not all of the students who helped raise the money will participate in the sports that have been reinstated, but it appears they want their friends to have the opportunity.

Even for non-athletes, sporting events provide a place for social gatherings, a place to relax with friends in a non-stressful atmosphere.

Sports, music, drama and other extracurricular activities have their place in school, but create a public relations nightmare for board members and administrators. Even a limited sports program appears frivolous to some taxpayers, who are finding their own lifestyles more and more restricted by property taxes.

As the Cedar Ridge experiment is proving — this isn't the first time students have been denied the opportunity to participate in sports programs — students want an opportunity to compete.

Exchange students from other countries regularly comment that activities in American schools create a "school spirit" that is unknown in their home schools.

We do want budget committee members to be frugal. Obviously it is not our wish to see Sandy become a training ground for the University of Oklahoma football team. And, we can understand taxpayer frustration with the number of sports offered at Sandy High School.

To balance that, keep in mind the value of extracurricular activities can't be measured, but the benefits are real. Sports programs are a healthy way for junior high and high school students to burn up excess energy. They learn to work toward longterm goals.

As budget hearings get underway at area schools, we hope the people who have supported sports programs and other extracurricular activities will continue to get out and defend these programs.

The programs may need to be defended in the community more than at budget hearings. That is no easy job; it comes with a high level of frustration from dealing with people who are distrustful of government at all levels. Some of that mistrust is justified.

Many people defend activities for young people by threatening that the alternative is an increased crime rate. It is the "pay me now or pay me later" dilemma, and whether it is valid or not isn't even the point.

Parents and adults are doing a good job locally in volunteering their time toward organizations such as Scouting, 4-H and summer baseball. But youngsters in Sandy deserve the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored activities, just like their counterparts all across Oregon and the country.

The students at Cedar Ridge have proven they are deserving.

Letters to the editor

Without reductions, patron will vote no

It is with no small amount of anger that I opened and was confronted with the amount of our additional property tax bill, due to the passage of the Sandy school levy on Dec. 3. On the 7th of January we received a bill for \$565 due the 15th of January, which is over and above the property taxes we paid in November. This is a nice tidy sum to come up with when one does not have it!

I still haven't forgotten the strain of this same situation a year ago when the high school did their number on us. I guess other voters have a shorter memory, or unlimited funds.

To us, the real "slap in the face" was reading in the paper (The Oregonian, Dec. 23) that the school board granted 5 percent pay raises to some individuals. Now, I don't deny anyone a pay raise (I haven't seen one in almost six years) but, retroac-

tive to July 1st? Also, let's not forget that we paid two high school superintendents' salaries for a year when Mr. Peters was fired. I'm sure glad that the Sandy school system has such wise use of funds, and a good supply of idiots to vote in favor of such funding.

It also irks me to see these levies pushed back to the voters with their same amount of money. Perhaps if they'd done some "belt tightening" like the rest of us do, it may not take so many elections to get a levy passed. I feel that they're teaching our kids that "if one whines and pleads and refuses to lower their demands long enough, they'll finally get their way." Due to these practices, my voting response for future levy requests will be negative for some time to come!

Glenn E. Severns
Sandy

Thanks, Santa Claus

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jerry Noe of Business Services Unlimited and Berry Martell of Sunshine Landscaping for helping to locate Santa for the Greater Sandy Business Association's Christmas promotions. He is one hard guy to get ahold of at Christmas time.

Also a round of applause to T.J.'s

Restaurant and Lounge and to Hubbell's Longburger and Breakfast Country for their cooperation and coordination of "Breakfast with Santa." They epitomize the purpose of G.S.B.A., which is: "Shop Sandy First!"

Kimberly Nelson
G.S.B.A.

Letters to the editor

Educational support costs can be cut

The purpose of this letter is to encourage communication between taxpayers and school officials. School budget committee meetings will soon begin; therefore, every taxpayer's input is important to the process. In other words, make your views known now and at the polls.

To encourage participation, I am listing below my observations, gripes, complaints and suggestions. I hope others will do the same.

First, I hear a lot of hype about the budget committee meetings, but I don't believe in their present form that they are the answer to our problem. Eighty percent of the budget is for teacher pay and administration-support personnel (alleged untouchables) and can't be discussed. The remaining 20 percent, nuts and bolts, include fuel, electric, etc., which can be reduced, but how much can be saved from the necessities?

Schools are labor intensive, hence 80 percent of the \$6 million grade school budget and 80 percent of the high school \$5 million budget is spent for labor.

Grade school teacher pay is reported to average about \$22,000 a year, but what is not reported are fringe benefits at approximately 30 percent, or \$6,600 for a total wage of \$28,600, not bad for nine months' work.

Granted, teacher pay and/or fringe benefits are high and should be reviewed, but a good teacher deserves a good wage.

On the other hand, administration-support personnel costs represent almost 50 percent of the labor cost, or

approximately \$2.4 million dollars at the grade school and approximately \$2 million at the high school. To bring these figures into perspective I use the much debated national cost per student average of \$3,000. Next, take the grade school budget of \$6 million divided by the number of students, 1,445, and we have a cost of \$4,152 (high school cost per student is \$4,081). What these figures mean to me is that our costs are \$1,000 per student over the national average (the save figure reported in The Oregonian some months ago).

Next, take the 1,445 grade school students at \$1,000 and we have \$1.4 million, or what I call overcharge. In other words, I believe the grade school administration-support personnel budget of \$2.4 million mentioned above should be cut \$1.4 million just to bring our costs in line with the national average.

If our cost per student were brought in line with the national average, the grade school budget would be \$4.3 million (1,445 X \$3,000) and not far from the \$3.6 million paid to the school from state and federal governments and other sources.

Some months ago a high school student approached me and said, "You don't understand. All we want is the same chance you had to get an education." I think that statement describes my position exactly. When I went to school we had 30-40 students in a class; we had one principal and teachers who taught. Our football coach was a full-time wood shop teacher and the track coach was a full-time English teacher.

Now, before someone has a stroke, let me point out some interesting observations. Home schools, private schools, and church schools abound in the Sandy area. Students in this teaching environment have none of the extras offered at the public schools (a basic education), yet consistently test out in achievement tests 1-2 years beyond public school students. In other words, the basic education I received 40 years ago is adequate today.

I believe the school board members are individually and collectively responsible to see that our schools are open and children receive an education. The responsibility is not in Washington, D.C., Salem, or

with the school administration. To ensure passage of future budgets and levies, if needed, I suggest the next budget reflect a cost of \$3,000 per student, and that all necessary approval be finalized before June so students can make plans for the up-coming year.

In closing I urge all taxpayers to make their views known to the editor, or school board members. Your input is needed to direct the process, so please write, call, or at least clip this article and send it to the school board with notation that you agree or disagree.

John King
Sandy

Kiwanians say thanks

The Kiwanis Club of Sandy would like to thank the many people in community who helped make our Christmas Basket Drive a success.

Contributions of food, toys and money were up this year, helping to make it a good Christmas for the many underprivileged people in the area.

We appreciate the efforts of the boys and girls from area schools who contribute so much to this worthwhile project.

We would especially like to thank the people at Mercury Development for the use of the building. Other businesses and organizations that

contributed included the Mt. Hood Mudders, The Movie Place, Sandy VFW Post 4273, Sandy Community Action Center, Action Auto, Holt's Store, Sandy 7-Eleven, Bowman's Sandy Thriftway, Sandy Sentry and Shorty's Corner.

A special thanks to Dr. Al Lamke and his wife, Helen, who repaired toys for us as they have done for so many years.

We send warm thanks to area residents for helping collect food and gifts. Together, we gave love along with the Christmas baskets.

Frank Marcy,
chairman
Kiwanis Christmas Basket Drive

Yesteryear in Sandy

Cherryville Post Office closed by feds

by SCOTT NEWTON

Thirty years ago the Cherryville Post Office closed, locker beef was 22 cents a pound and a burglar was found "cowering" in the closet of the Sandy Photo Shop at 3 a.m.

The Jan. 5, 1956 Sandy Post reports that the 70 patrons of the "tiny pioneer" post office will begin receiving mail on a rural route delivery system instead of picking it up at Post Office boxes. Mail carrier for the new Sandy route 1 was Gus Heibert.

While the changes were expected to make it easier for those on the route, many Cherryville residents were upset. A petition drive was undertaken to show support for the postmaster, but it was to no avail.

The closing was part of a national effort to consolidate the Postal Service. The building is still standing, and many people use it as a landmark when giving directions.

Half the fun of sifting through old newspapers is reading the advertisements. A Richardson Chevrolet advertisement shows a Bel Air Sports Coupe. The copy reads, "It

looks high priced... but it's the '56 Chevrolet!"

Locker beef, sold by the whole or half, was 22 cents a pound 30 years ago at the Super Market in Sandy.

Deputy Sheriff Paul Lowery discovered a 25-year-old burglar or prowler "cowering" in the closet of the Sandy Photo Shop, according to the Jan. 12, 1956 issue of The Post.

Lowery responded to the call about 3 a.m. on a Saturday. Though the suspect clutched a knife, he did not put up a fight.

Twenty years ago a new Thriftway store opened, ground beef was 29 cents a pound, Olin Bignall was elected president of the Kiwanis Club of Sandy, and a Post editorial pondered our dilemma in Vietnam.

Williams Thriftway, located at the corner of Pioneer Boulevard and Meinig Avenue, was opened by Bob Williams, who for five years operated the Sandy Food Center here.

The building is now vacant.

The Jan. 6, 1966 Sandy Post also reports that new officers for the Kiwanis Club of Sandy were Olin

Bignall, president, George Howeller, first vice president, and P.N. Smoke, second vice president.

At the Big Chief — located in the "heart" of Sandy — ground beef was three pounds for a dollar. At Piggly Wiggly's, it was 29 cents a pound.

A Sandy Post editorial pondered the director: our involvement in the war was taking us. The editorial said, "Several congressmen who previously hadn't said 'boo' about the war have raised public questions about our involvement and the size of our involvement."

"Others have been quoted as saying they've been surprised at the depth of feeling about the war in their home communities. In short, at long last congress may get around to asking some questions about the war we've drifted into, and congress can ask questions since it controls the purse strings..."

"Some of us would like to know what we're buying with our money."

Ten years ago, Multorpor Inc. 3ki resort was robbed of \$35,000, voters axed a Mt. Hood Community College levy and Williams Thriftway sold

ground beef for 78 cents a pound.

Multorpor President Carl Reynolds was en route to Portland when he stopped at a service station in Sandy. He was robbed at gunpoint by a young man with reddish-blond hair who fled on foot. A \$1,000 reward was offered by General Manager Joe Darr for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the man.

The Jan. 8, 1976 Sandy Post said editorially that the MHCC election was the "most crucial election the College yet has faced."

MHCC sought \$2.3 million for each of five years. The five-year serial levy was an attempt at long-term stability, an alternative of the annual levy requests. The proposal was defeated by 1,600 votes out of about 8,400 ballots cast.

The next week's editorial read, "We don't think Tuesday's vote was in any way a rejection of the College. We think it was a protest against ever-rising taxes at every level and, to a lesser degree, against what many people perceived as an overemphasis on athletics."