

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Public won't buy library expansion

We hope city employees don't spend too much time preparing for a possible expansion of City Hall and the library. The odds of the public approving the sale of general obligation bonds are slim and none.

The Sandy City Council gave a "reluctant yes" to the staff of the library Monday, allowing them to go ahead and pursue financing of the proposal. About half the books on the shelves are checked out each month — a phenomenal percentage. With \$70,000 in the library trust fund, money raised primarily from the sale of a building by the Sandy Women's Club, some expansion seems feasible. In addition, it appears reasonable to grab some federal dollars while they're still available. But even if the state were to come through — and we probably won't know until June — the public is going to give the expansion a thumb's down.

Local funding, it is expected, would be needed to the tune of about \$230,000. If bonds were sold, one estimate shows an increase in property taxes of 36 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. That's not bad, but we don't think the public would buy it.

The Sandy Public Library serves its public well, despite the cramped quarters. There is barely room to turn around in the offices at City Hall, and the police department could use expanded quarters to keep criminals and victims separate during investigations. Be that as it may, the public wants government to make due with what it has.

An expanded library would be nice, but until the property tax burden is lessened, we can't afford it.

City Councilor Brad Picking questioned whether the present site, because of location and a lack of parking, is the place to expand. We share his concerns.

Councilor Marge Frederickson was the only one to vote against the resolution. "We're just spinning our wheels" by planning for an expansion, Frederickson told The Post. Marge, we couldn't agree more.

Letters to the editor

Statistics on benefits incorrect, misleading

Many readers of The Post who are informed about Oregon school finance undoubtedly noticed the inaccuracies voiced by Gwen Ericcson in her address to the Chamber of Commerce as reported last week. In addition to being inaccurate regarding graduation requirements and the drop-out rate, her financial statistics were misleading at best, and completely wrong in some cases.

One example is that Ms. Ericcson tried to convey the impression that the teachers' Social Security contribution is somehow paid by the district as a fringe benefit, over and above the negotiated salary. This is absolutely untrue; Social Security is

deducted from teachers' paychecks as from that of any salaried employee.

We do agree with Ms. Ericcson that local involvement in the budgeting process is essential, and we are encouraged that more people are attending the budget meetings this year. We urge everyone to attend the Sandy Union High budget meetings on Jan. 28, Feb. 3 and 10 and the budget hearing on March 10.

Executive Board
Sandy Education Association
Submitted by:
Jan Luelling
Boring

Pet ownership requires responsibility

To the person who recently abandoned the three darling Australian shepherd-mix puppies on Wagoner Loop, Sandy — Shame on you! This was absolutely cruel and inhumane to say the least.

Just by chance I found your puppies along the road, frightened and starving. I took them home and fed them for you. The next day my hus-

band and I also found a place for them, which was your responsibility as their owner.

Obviously you didn't want them but there are other ways. You can take them to the Oregon Humane Society, advertise for homes in the local newspaper, or better yet, have your mother dog spayed. Now don't tell me that you can't afford it.

If you can't be a responsible pet owner then you don't deserve to have a faithful and loving dog.

Mrs. Mildred Graves
Sandy

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.



Personally speaking

Dieting seems to defy 'horse sense'

by TAMI CISSNA

It's New Year's resolution time and it seems enterprising advertisers are riding the waves to suck in new profits.

Diet. Notice all the diet ads? We are bombarded now with half-priced clinic offers, frozen no-cal "cuisine," day planners with diet sections and fat-burning pills, just to name a few.

Actually, I am amazed that we are still gullible enough to buy "Celebrity Sweepings" magazines with headings such as, "Lose 30 Pounds on Fudge Diet." But we are.

Most fad-diets blaze in and out like a falling star. Perhaps it's not their success rate that keeps them popular, but the offer of new hope.

Maybe this one will work; the cinch-belt didn't work, but maybe this will.

I've been on a few fad diets myself. Remember the no-carbohydrate diet? I think that was one of my first. You could eat all you wanted of food containing little or no carbohydrates. That meant a lot of meat, cheese, meat, cheese, etc. Being on this diet really made fruits and vegetables appear delicious, and a plain slice of bread tantalizing.

While shopping, my Washingtonian friend confided that she cried while on this diet as she walked past the Twinkie section.

One of the worst diets I ever went on was the dreadful liquid-protein diet. This protein liquid came in a big shampoo-style bottle and tasted as

though rumors of horse-hoof contents were true. It was truly a sickening diet. I lasted only a short while. Another person I knew, who lasted much longer, used to brush her teeth constantly — just to taste the toothpaste.

Remember the chocolate-covered caramels with a magic formula to cause loss of appetite? They contain 15 calories per candy. The directions will tell you to eat one before each meal. Many people, however, eat the whole box — 720 calories.

I, personally, lost weight the best while following a photocopied diet clinic plan containing less than 500 calories per day. At least it was balanced. I have a terribly low tolerance for all-grape fruit, all-

boiled eggs, all-peanut butter, or all-anything diets.

I lost about 20 pounds, but I was starved most the time. Sometimes I felt like my cheeks were gaunt and my eyes were sunken in. One time I lost control and ate a whole head of lettuce — 45 calories.

There are, it seems, as many diets as there are green-eyed entrepreneurs looking for an easy buck. Of course some are sincere. But now, with experience I have gained a little wisdom. I realize a few things: live sensibly, eat sensibly, exercise sensibly. Do nothing fanatical. There is no wonder-diet. Use your head.

Maybe I should write a book called, "The Horse Sense Diet." Think it would sell?

Commentary

Top budget priority: Keep the tuba

by SCOTT NEWTON

The Sandy High School budget committee received a good exercise in the nuts and bolts operation of a school last week.

Budget committee members were given a stack of capital expenditure requests, and were asked to rate them 1, 2 or 3.

I thought I would go over the list and play the budgeting game myself, but first I'd like to lay down some ground rules.

First of all, capital expenditures are purchases that cost over \$100 and are expected to last more than a year.

Secondly, keep in mind that some are in the proposed 1986-87 budget and others are not. Because it is discussed here doesn't mean it is in next year's proposed zero-growth budget.

And finally, judgments are made according to descriptions, justifications and estimated total costs listed in the packet. Department chairmen

wrote the justifications.

I'm doing the exercise much the same way a budget committee member would going into the public hearings.

Let's start with something easy. How about the physical education department's request for air conditioners for their teaching areas. Temperatures can range from 87 to 91 degrees, according to the justification. It reads: "Honeywell recommended wall air conditioners as the only method by which the problem could be eliminated (in a cost-effective manner)."

Total estimated cost is \$1,500. Let's give this one a 3. It gives taxpayers a good feeling to know that students and teachers are working at a literal sweatshop.

The science department would like a replacement microscope. Cost is \$1,200. The original set was purchased in 1966-68. Microscopes need to be on a replacement schedule.

I'll give it a 1. Science is a high-priority field.

This gets harder. The mathematics department would like \$7,500 to purchase Apple IIes to replace TRS-80 computers. The justification: "They (the old computers) have become obsolete with current, updated machines that have more versatility for educational values in all classes."

I'll give 'em a 1 on that one, but not without denying another request for \$7,000 for new computers by the same department. The requests were distinguished in that one was a replacement cost, the other an initial expenditure.

The communications department needs a cassette player for its Spanish classes; the one currently in use produces a garbled sound. They also need a typewriter, and an enlarger. Total cost is \$1,000.

I'll give it a 3. They can purchase the cassette player, but they must make due with the typewriter and enlarger.

The decision-making is difficult in the vocational-industrial education department. While the skills taught are hands-on, the requests are high dollar.

Construction/remodeling in the agricultural/forestry rooms is \$2,500, four computers and a printer for business education is \$6,000, an exhaust system in the metal shop is \$7,500 and a wire-feed welder is \$1,200.

In addition, there are requests for two lathes and a table saw for wood shop (\$2,000), and a request for a bench grinder, punch press, bench top etcher and digital meters, estimated at \$1,500 total, for classes in electronics.

Remodeling the agricultural/forestry rooms gets a 3, as does the four computers and a printer. The exhaust system, for exhaust tubes in gas and arc welding areas, gets a 2. The welder gets a 1.

In addition, I'd buy the equipment for the wood and electronics shops. The business education class needs four typewriters to keep on its replacement schedule. Cost is \$2,000. I'll rank it a 3. Students need to learn to type on the newer machines, but times are tough.

The forestry department needs two replacement chainsaws. Cost is \$400. A 2 is the best I can do.

I regularly defend the performing arts as teaching essential skills. The vocal and instrumental music departments have joined forces with the drama department to produce some extremely fine musicals. People who have missed "Working," "Damn Yankees" and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" have missed out on some good performances.

Regardless, the \$750 remodeling for the stage area, the \$1,000 video tape system for the vocal music area and \$500 "lighting strip" all get 3s.

I think the instrumental department could do without the \$1,500 french horn and the \$1,200 alto saxophone, but I'd give 'em the \$2,400 tuba.

As a former tuba player myself, I know the rotary valve tuba has faster action.

The social studies area didn't ask for much. I'll give them the \$800 to remodel rooms 62A and 71.

I'll give the athletic department its eight hurdles for track and field (\$360), but the storage area for track and field equipment and football pads (\$1,750) will have to wait.

I would give the library the OK to buy a 16MM projector for \$600 and a sound filmstrip projector for \$325, but the 42 chairs for \$2,000 will have to wait.

How am I doing so far? It's been child's play compared to looking at the capital projects. Two roofing jobs are listed, one for \$43,000 and another for \$30,000. These are too close to call without additional information.

All in all, there are a lot of requests for typewriters, computers and remodeling jobs. By writing this, I have attempted to give readers a shotgun sampling. It would take an entire book to explain and critique every request.

The point is this: This budgeting is not clear-cut; everyone has different priorities.

And I know you thought I was joking, but I really do hope the tuba gets a high-priority ranking.

Budget committee hearings are currently underway at Sandy High School. A compilation of the ratings given the various items will be available next month.

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