

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representativeMeeker Street LID
expensive, needed

NBC offered a minute of silence during the Super Bowl, and the result was a cascade of jokes about the over-stressed sewer systems of the nation.

The joke is not so funny when it comes to paying for such sewer systems, but that is the dilemma residents of the Meeker Street area face at a public hearing Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. at City Hall.

The City Council is holding a public hearing on a proposed Local Improvement District. At least one City Councilor is convinced there is a health problem because of sewage mixing with the water drain-off in the area.

The high water table in the low-lying area reportedly hampers the effectiveness of septic tanks and drainage fields. In addition, the storm drainage system in the area is lacking.

It is expected that a number of property owners in the area will support the formation of an LID because, without it, development will cease; it is unlikely Clackamas County will approve the building of any more septic systems in the area.

There is likely to be some opposition, however. Cost of the development will be about \$4,000 for the owner of a home on a quarter of an acre parcel, and considerably more for larger property owners. Individual hook-ups will cost an additional \$1,200 to \$3,200.

After the issue is decided, the City Council may consider changing the Comprehensive Plan in the area. Some of the property is high-density residential, and the area may not be able to support that much population.

Looking past the immediate need in the Meeker Street area, expansion will eventually be needed on the "University" main if development in the area continues.

At the public hearing Feb. 18, residents of a larger North Bluff Road area will have the opportunity to petition for inclusion in the LID. It is expected that some property owners will like the idea; at least there has been interest for years.

The cost of the Meeker Street expansion, which covers 25.5 acres and will affect 15 homeowners and 29 tax lots, is \$142,435. Total cost will be \$350,385 if the entire 57-acre, 38-home North Bluff Road area is included.

The city of Sandy, of course, cannot allow sewage to mix with the drain-off water in the Meeker Street area. Residents of the area would do well to attend the public hearing, consider the cost of the project and ask questions or voice their opinions.

The City Council is showing good judgment in proposing the Local Improvement District.

Letters to the editor

Cartoon was unfair
portrayal of librarians

Whether or not it was intended, Jolene Oberg's cartoon in the Jan. 23 issue seems to portray city of Sandy librarians as bumbling and inept, books falling down around their ears.

Those librarians, in fact, are competent and hard working people. As was pointed out in an editorial on the

same page with the cartoon, library quarters are cramped. They have been so for a long time. In spite of it, city of Sandy librarians are cheerful, helpful people. They deserve our thanks.

Martha Spence
Sandy

Property values tied
to well being of schools

Property taxes in this area are high. You can look at your tax statement and say education is costing too much. You can read or hear that taxes for schools are less elsewhere in this country and you can be angry enough to actually close down our three elementary schools and our junior high school.

You can also go to the budget meetings, which have already begun for the high school district and are scheduled to begin Feb. 3 for the grade school district, and tell the budget committees to cut costs. Offer reading, writing, arithmetic and as little else as possible.

By taking these actions, however, the value of every single piece of property in this area is undermined. The most valuable thing most of us own is our home and the market value of that home is directly tied to the excellence of the local schools.

Schools can not be all things to all

people and there undoubtedly will be programs and educators that individual taxpayers can find fault with. It remains in no one's best interest to close schools.

Oregon Fair Share has proposed an owner occupied homestead exemption as the answer to some desperately-needed property tax relief. The legislature can possibly find funding for this more limited approach to relief. Voters who support our schools as they are and voters who wish to affect some changes would all be served by sending a post card or two to Salem supporting a homestead exemption that would stabilize schools and yet retain local control of the schools.

In the meantime, the budget committees need to know what you support in the 1986-87 school budgets.

Joan Ragan
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.



Letters to the editor

We don't want just 'average' schools

Over the past few weeks and months it has been both interesting and revealing to me to read the critical letters to the editor concerning the Sandy area schools. As a parent, citizen, land owner, taxpayer, and former grade school budget committee member, I felt constrained to write briefly in reply.

Let me first note that my wife is a teacher at the high school. Generally speaking I tend to confine my remarks to the grade school district because of my wife's association with Sandy High. Nonetheless, precisely because my wife is a teacher I am privy to many of the personal problems and joys of that profession.

First, regarding wages it is often said that teachers have "cushy" nine month jobs for which they are paid an "exorbitant" salary. My wife's "cushy" nine month job entails staying late after school perhaps a quarter of the time, working on papers when she gets home an average of one to three hours per night, and often spending entire weekends and holidays correcting and grading literally thousands of papers. In addition I doubt if anyone could, in fact, pay her enough to compensate for the emotional strain of trying to propel the poor or unwilling student toward success.

Secondly, national cost averages are being touted lately as a guide to salaries and per pupil spending. But any one remotely familiar with statistics realizes that averages reflect both the highest and lowest figures involved. Unfortunately, school financing is so appallingly bad in some localities that such figures skew such an average to the low side. Statistics such as these must be looked at carefully and interpreted accordingly, as any statistician would tell you. I cannot speak for others, but even were the figures quoted ac-

curate and correct, having an "average" education is certainly not what I desire for my children. More than "average" or "adequate" school financing does make a difference, for the world is different than it was forty years ago.

There is little doubt that private, church run schools even with low, unattractive salaries and incomplete curricula can be run more inexpensively and show moderate gains over the public school system in its pre-

as Oregonians wish to maintain strict local control and insist on the multitude of small school districts that we currently have, the bill for doing so will remain proportionately high. Costs within Oregon school districts vary enormously from county to county, with some districts educating "high off the hog" while neighboring ones struggle to remain open. Merging districts would ultimately save millions of dollars in taxes and school spending. The lower

And the basics? My children are certainly getting them. And if there are deficiencies you may rest assured I will find out why and take any necessary remedial action on whatever level is necessary.

Make no mistake, I believe in cost cutting, effective budgeting and excellence in the educational process. I would, in fact, prefer to have the entire public system become more closely aligned with the private sector. In the end everyone would be better served: students, parents, teachers and our nation.

Unfortunately, I see no likelihood of such a thing happening in the near future. The commitment of this country remains too strongly in favor of public, not private, education. But until such time as that commitment changes I will support the schools and do my best to see that the system we have works as efficiently as possible. Our dollars are, in the main, not being spent unwisely.

William W. Lenon
Eagle Creek

Merging districts would ultimately
save millions of dollars in taxes
and school spending.

sent form. If public school teachers had the smaller class loads and the more committed students (and parents) that private schools typically have, doubtless their achievement tests would also show great improvements. Public schools are, however, a more complete microcosm of our society, from saints to sinners. Yet its teachers are expected by many to educate the uneducateable, the unwilling, the uncaring and the violent as if they were all in the same category as the interested and eager learners. Private church schools have the option of dumping the unwilling, disruptive student into the public system. Public schools have no such options and must deal directly with gross attitude and behavior problems that often adversely affect the entire school and its teaching atmosphere.

Yes, costs can be cut. But, as long

costs per student in neighboring states no doubt in part reflect unified statewide systems, as in the case of Washington.

Kiwanians say thanks

For the past few years the Kiwanis Club of Boring has spearheaded an effort at Christmas time to furnish food and Christmas presents to the ones in the Boring and Damascus communities who are in need. The program this year was a great success for 253 people in these communities had a little brighter Christmas because of a lot of caring people and organizations.

We wish to give a special thanks to Fire Chief Matt Shields and the fire department for the effort they put forth in the planning of the project and the amount of work done by them

in the completion of the project.

Another special thanks to the students of the Boring and Damascus Elementary schools for the amount of canned food collected by them, to the Boy Scouts and Builders Club and the girls from Barlow High School for their help in packing the boxes and sorting the tags.

To all the organizations and individuals in the community who donated so generously we give our heartfelt thanks.

William Boring, secretary
Kiwanis Club of Boring

Cedar Ridge students
have earned support

There are happenings at Cedar Ridge School that the public should be made aware of. Cedar Ridge School has 350 students in the seventh and eighth grades. They, along with some involved parents, have taken on the task of raising over \$11,000 to finance extracurricular activities.

Winter activities include girls basketball and boys wrestling. Spring activities will include boys and girls field and track. With guidance from administrators, staff and parents the energies of the students have been put to positive use. They have helped raise money.

Raising money is not easy. They have a long way to go. Cedar Ridge students have shown their appreciation for these activities.

Some people in the community would have us believe extracurricular activities are a waste of taxpayers' money. They seem to be say-

ing we should settle for less than the best for our children. Many of these negative people do not volunteer one minute of their time for the betterment of our community, let alone the endless hours volunteers put into our schools. They do not see the benefits extracurricular activities add to a well-rounded education. They cannot see beyond their pocketbooks.

I would like to encourage all concerned parents to become involved in Sandy Elementary Schools' budget committee meetings, which begin Feb. 3.

Our students have shown their desire for extracurricular activities. We, as parents, need to make sure their needs are met. We, after all, are responsible for the quality of our schools.

Jackie Key, volunteer
Parent-Teacher Club

Where to write

Senator Steve Starkovich
S-223 State Capitol
Salem, Ore. 97310
378-8810

Representative Bob Shiprack
H-292 State Capitol
Salem, Ore. 97310
378-8784

The Sandy Post

(USPS 481-180)

MEMBER Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association National Newspaper Association and U.S. Suburban Press.
Published weekly Thursdays by the Outlook Publishing Co. Box 88, Sandy, Oregon 97055. Second class postage paid at Sandy, Oregon.

668-5548

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Clackamas County per year	\$9.00
Multnomah County	\$10.00
Elsewhere in Oregon	\$11.50
In Northwest and Pacific Coast States Outside Oregon per year	\$14.00
Outside Northwest and Pacific Coast States, per year	\$17.00

Sandy Post, Sandy, Oregon 97055 No. 5 January 30, 1986