

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representativeCouncil correct
in not levying 6%

Great. Excellent. Fantastic. Those are just a few of the adjectives that can be used to describe the Sandy City Council's decision not to levy the 6 percent of its tax base allowed by the Oregon Constitution.

The budget committee voted 9-4 recently not to levy the 6 percent, or \$28,000. The City Council — whose members also serve on the budget committee — upheld that decision Monday evening when it adopted the 1986-87 budget.

The tax rate per \$1,000 valuation will go from \$5.45 for 1985-86 to a projected \$5.39. Had the budget committee decided to levy the additional \$28,000, the rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation would have been \$5.65. City Council members have apparently been listening to taxpayers' concerns and decided to save citizens 26 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

It is reasonable to say that the City Council could have found good uses for that money. It could also be argued that, in the long run, some of the people who voted against the 6 percent increase may wish they had levied the full amount.

This is a case where the short-term consideration was best. People want and need property tax relief. The City Council was wise to grant it.

The city of Sandy's tax base for 1985-86 is \$467,334. The tax base next year will be \$467,334. Good show.

Commentary

Chamber committee
says yes on tax bases

From the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce

The board of directors of the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, meeting in a special session Tuesday morning, May 6, voted to accept a recommendation by the Chamber's education committee to support tax base measures for both Sandy school districts on the May 20 primary ballot.

The report to the board, signed by Phil Jonsrud, education committee chairman, said:

"The (Sandy Area) Chamber of

Jonsrud reported that one member of the five-member committee dissented from the majority view, and another member was out of town at the time the committee met.

He said committee support was based, among other things, on members' perception that the business community is adversely affected by the continuing controversy of property tax operating levies for the schools, and by the problems or divisions among people in the community.

Board members emphasized their recognition that Oregon's heavy

The districts have proposed sensible
tax base measures that hold the line.

Commerce committee that was created to study the Sandy schools' tax base question has concluded that the Sandy Elementary School and Sandy Union High School Districts' budget committees have proposed sensible tax base measures that 'hold the line' in costs, and, therefore, in order to eliminate the costs and turmoil of repetitive elections, and in order to give stability to the schools and to the community, this committee recommends approval at both school tax base elections on May 20, 1986."

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 of the letter.

The news deadline of noon, Tues-

day 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 area residents.

We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines or for length. A preferred maximum length is 300 words.

Where to write

State Representative Bob Shiprack, D-Dist. 23, 22610 Forest Park Rd., Beavercreek, Ore., 97004. 631-3817.

State Senator Steve Starkovich, D-Dist. 14, 52 Willamette Green, Canby, Ore., 97013. 263-8551.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Oregon, 711 Hart Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. 202-224-3753. Portland office

phone 221-3386.

Rep. Denny Smith, R-5th Dist., 1213 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C., 20515. 202-225-5711. Salem office phone (toll free) 800-452-7889.

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Oregon, 259 Russell Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. 202-224-5244. Portland office phone 221-3370.

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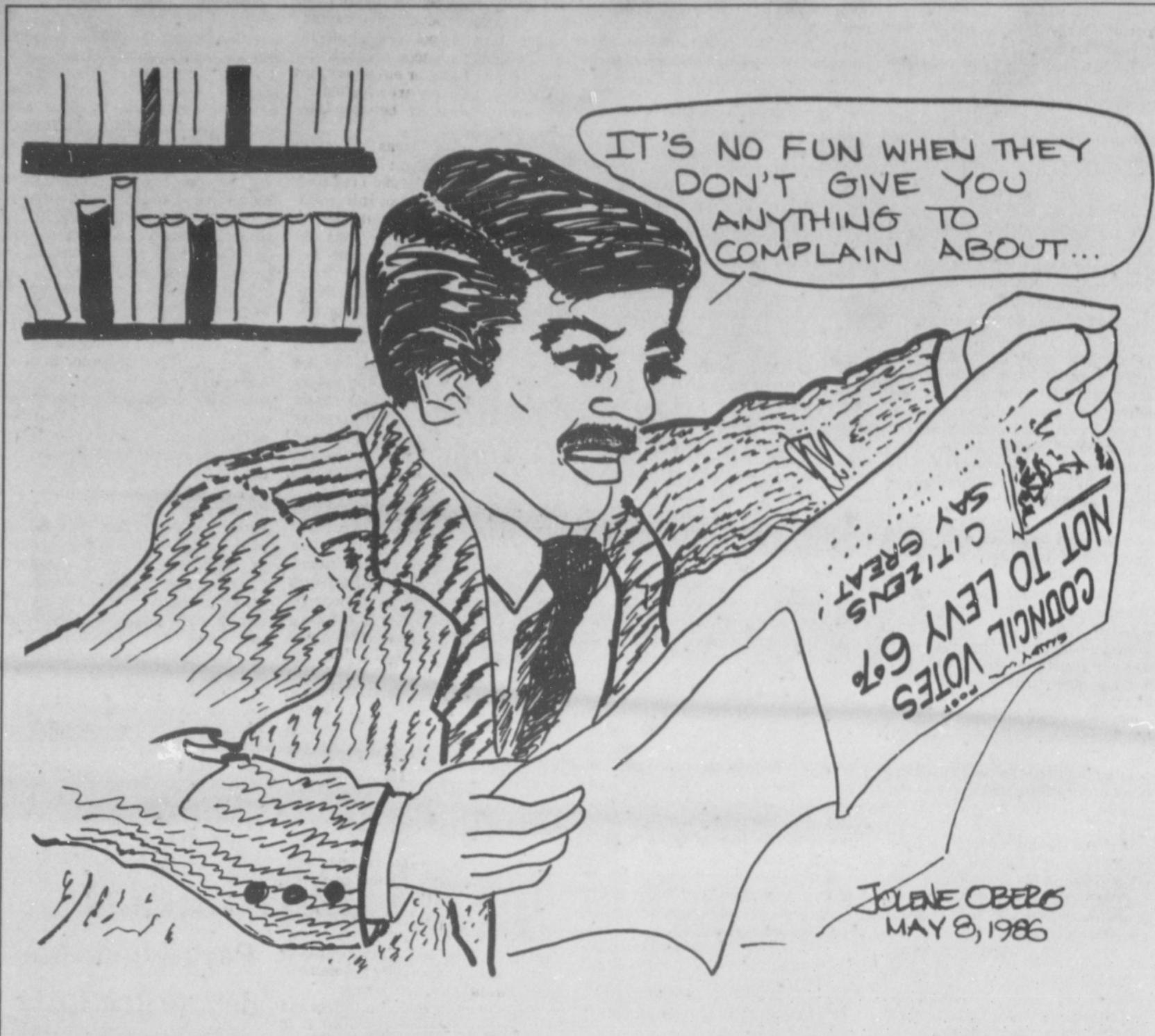
668-5548
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Sandy Post, Sandy, Oregon 97055

No. 18

May 8, 1986



Letters to the editor

Common sense answer to tax question

Like most people, I've listened for the past three years to the school budget debate. It's been difficult to sort out the claims made by both sides. As election time approaches, it seems that the best way to determine how to vote is to answer the question, "Which side is presenting the most reasonable argument?"

Yes, a 50 percent cut in the school budget sounds good, but come on now; is such a suggestion reasonable?

Public debate of the operations of a public body, especially our schools, is certainly desirable. Careful examination and research can lead to positive alternatives for improved operations and lower cost. But tell me, can a proposal for a 50 percent cut be based on careful research?

Do the people who are proposing this believe that we voters were dumb enough in the past to allow the school board to levy double the taxes they actually needed?

Why, even one of the supporters of this proposal, who is a school board member, didn't make one suggestion as to how this 50 percent cut could be achieved. It almost seems unbelievable that after three years of complaining and shouting not even one suggestion is made by a representative of the people who put forth this proposal, yet they expect the public to support them. If, after three years, all that can be offered is an unsupported proposal for a 50 percent budget cut, then one has to wonder if there is any substance at all to their arguments.

Common sense tells me that given the choices offered, the only reasonable choice is a yes vote on the tax base questions of our local schools.

Bob Rathke
Sandy

'No' vote
insures control

The Sandy High and Elementary School (Boards) should have informed you that the tax base levy published for the May 20, 1986 election includes a permitted annual rate increase of 6 percent.

By voting "NO," you the voter will not be signing a blank check that would allow that portion of your taxes to increase up to 6 percent annually without taxpayer approval.

In a matter of years, your tax assessment for school could conceivably double. A "NO" vote on this measure will insure your control of school fundings.

It is my belief that we citizens, as taxpayers, are entitled to and should demand all the facts concerning our school system. In your opinion, can

the school boards' actions on this matter be considered to be prudent, responsible and administrative procedure? Exactly what can we, as taxpayers, expect next from them?

Lloyd A. Cummins
Sandy

Instability
caused by board

I have a comment on Terry Lenchitsky's letter "Crisis: Teachers are leaving." I share Mr. Lenchitsky's concern over the teacher exodus and agree one reason is unstable financing; however, I take exception to the suggestion this problem is caused by the taxpayer for the following reasons:

1. It is common knowledge taxpayers want the budget cut and probably won't support a levy same as last year.

2. The Affordable Education Association proposed a reduction of over one million dollars which could have resulted in voter support and stable financing but the school board rejected that proposal.

In view of the above, I feel unstable financing is caused by the school board and administration who have not been sensitive to taxpayers' ability and/or desire to pay for the proposed levies.

I think it is time to look at a basic school program that taxpayers can afford, and will support, hence stable financing.

John King
Sandy

Affordable Ed.
group disruptive

It's about time the so-called "Affordable Education Association" is challenged as an irresponsible, negative and disruptive influence in our community. The article on page 1 of the Sandy Post last week, headlined "Groups differ on tax base funding level," obviously was an objective attempt to display those differences, and I commend you for the effort.

One problem is that John King's quotation, "We (Affordable Education Association) don't want the schools closed..." is belied by the organization's tactics, and by its representations to the boards of directors of both Sandy Elementary and Sandy Union High School Districts, and to people to whom they offer their petitions of one kind or another for redress of "grievances."

They arrogantly claim the budgets of both districts, developed by budget

committees comprised of our neighbors — the respective (unpaid) elected boards plus five "freeholders" (qualified voters) — can be slashed by almost 50 percent. Their argument is arbitrary and specious. It is clever — seemingly plausible, but actually deceptive.

School administrators and board members have tried beyond the limits of human patience (witness the resignation of SUHS Superintendent Roberta Hutton), and with more courtesy than they got in return, to explain that a "standard education" in Oregon is defined by statute and the State Board of Education, and includes requirements that cost money. Funds from State Basic School Support and/or the federal government pay some, but not all, the costs. Failing to meet the requirements means not just losing those funds, but having a sub-standard school.

The intransigence of this group, its unwillingness to be either reasonable or responsible, is why Sandy can correctly be described by John King as having a great deal of "bitterness."

To allow this small, negative group to prevail would mean that the majority — good citizens who want good schools — have been overwhelmed by a few noisy nihilists in our community.

The Affordable Education Association has offered no constructive program. Its most recent ploy, a petition requiring the SUHS board to submit to the voters a proposal for consolidation of the high school district with all of its five feeder districts, is, I believe, just another part of its strategy to divide (not consolidate) and conquer.

It is designed to confuse, not solve, the problems of our educational system. Unification of the schools may have benefits somewhere down the road — but not if it is imposed by the people of one area on any unwilling district. Ask folks in Boring, Cottrell, Bull Run and Welches Districts what they think.

Morton Spence
Sandy

Vote for change;
vote for Lutz

I was so delighted the other night. I went to Benson High School to hear Joe Lutz speak. He is a conservative running against Bob Packwood.

He has some refreshing ideas. There are some changes here in Oregon that must be made. Joe Lutz is for Oregon. His platform is the economy, state and national.

Joe Lutz feels if we sent senators to Washington that are deeply in debt

they will want raises in their salaries all the time. He promised to vote against all personal raises and if a raise were passed he would give his raise back to the United States Treasury.

Washington will be a great place for Joe Lutz. I know he will make a big difference for Oregon.

I'm tired of the Packwood rhetoric. He has been senator too long. He's forgotten his people.

Come on Oregon. We're long overdue for a change. Let's vote Joe Lutz in.

Cindy Grenvik
Brightwood

Action Plan
benefits county

On April 8 I had the pleasure of presenting to the Clackamas County Economic Development Commission the Economic Development Action Plan review draft for 1986.

The drafting of this plan by the 31-member task force was a major step in the continual effort to respond to the needs of the future of Clackamas County.

When the assignment of chairman of the task force committee was given to me, the one thing I expressed at the beginning was when this plan was adopted by the ECD it was not to be placed on the shelves of the county and gather dust.

For over 15 years I have been operating a business in the Molalla area, and it is hard for me to understand that it has taken this long to put together a plan that will shape the future of Clackamas County.

This Action Plan sets strategies and ways to implement them over the next five years. Some of these will be short-term goals and others will be long-term goals, but all will give a direction for the county to proceed with.

None of the goals are set in cement. For the betterment of the county, they can be changed or modified, and with this molding the Action Plan will become even better.

On the E.D.C., I believe we have some men and women with the strength and vision to adopt this plan and to work with it so that the hopes of all citizens in Clackamas County can be fulfilled. That they can have full employment and have a good place to bring up their children.

With this, I would like to thank the 30 members of the task force and the county project team for taking the time and energy in putting together what I believe is a very good plan.

George Abbott
Plan Task Force chairman
Molalla