

## The Sandy Post

## Editorial &amp; Opinion

Scott Newton, editor  
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representativeSheriff's office  
deserves support

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office deserves the support of the public in the mail-in election. Ballots were to be mailed March 13.

The sheriff's office received funding through three-year levies in 1981 and 1984. The result has been a stable operation with a good reputation.

The proposed levy will increase the agency's budget by almost \$1 million over the three-year period. We would have preferred a no-growth budget, but do not feel that is sufficient reason to vote against it.

The sheriff's office, which began utilizing a computer system about three years ago, already needs to expand that system. The need for a more powerful computer was foreseen when the current system was put in place, according to the sheriff's office.

The computer is used by the district attorney's office, local police agencies and the corrections division.

The sheriff's office has been using the system in impressive ways. A computer can match hundreds of details on a crime report, which allows law enforcement personnel to look for patterns.

A "high tech" police agency is only as good as its police force, and in this case we think some good police work has been done.

We know of at least two instances in the past three years when crimes were solved in Hoodland by law enforcement agents who believed they saw a pattern and did something about it.

In 1986, the sheriff's office began a new method of patrolling based on patterns of peak periods of crime. This may not have been a new idea — other law enforcement agencies across the country also have been doing it — but the results in Clackamas County were dramatic.

In 1986, deputies initiated 8 percent more investigations into suspicious situations, leading to a 30 percent increase in arrests.

The additional investigations were made possible by more efficient scheduling of deputies.

The change in the way patrol cars are assigned was designed in part to reduce the amount of time it took for deputies to respond to "hold time" calls.

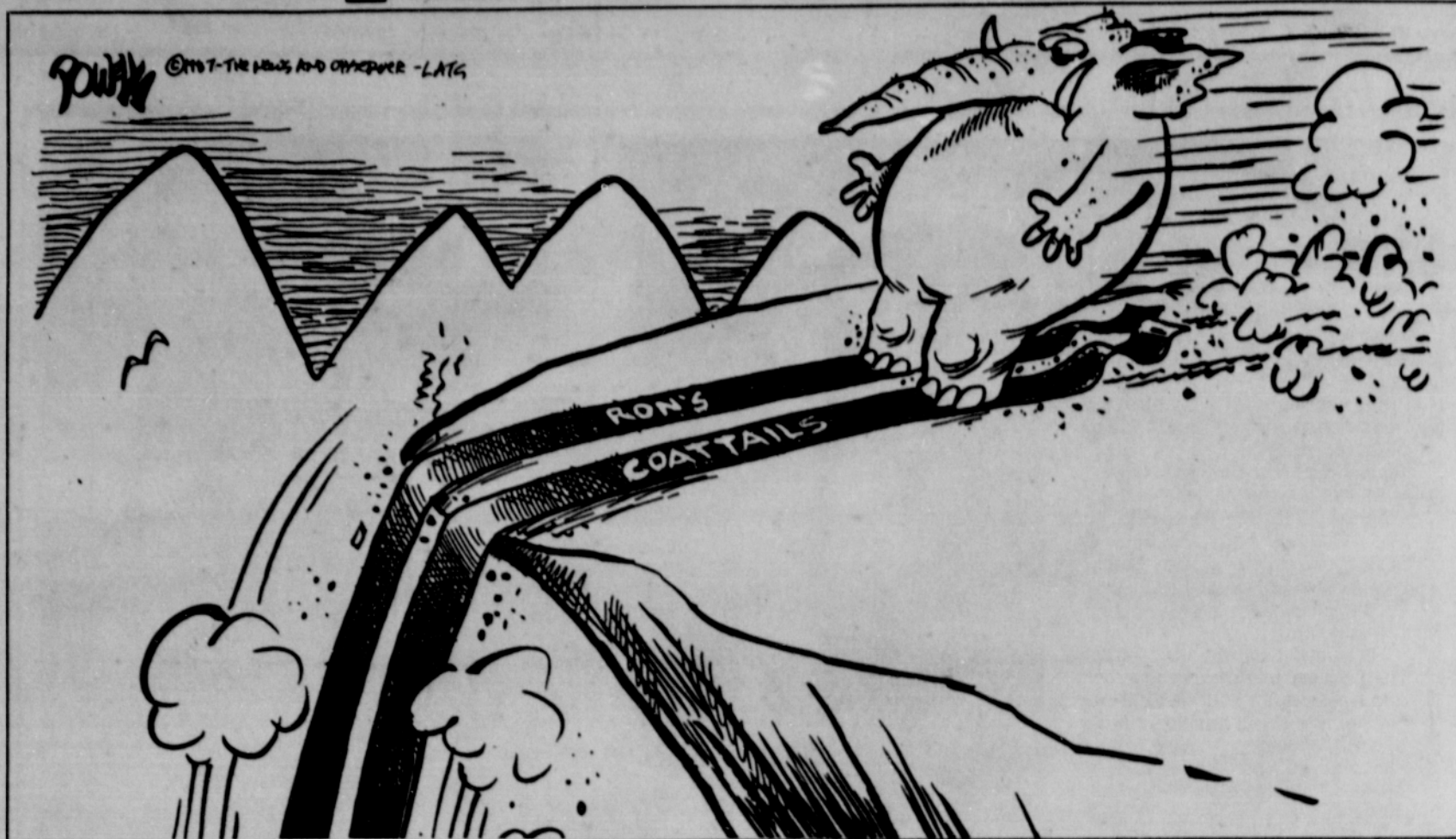
Those calls, such as burglaries, were not being answered quickly enough, the administration felt.

Quick response to "hold time" calls is probably a matter of good public relations. It may not matter whether a deputy takes a report one hour or four hours after a burglary, but it makes a difference to the person who has been burglarized.

Regardless, any system that reduces the time people wait to see an officer and also results in more arrests is to be praised.

A strong law enforcement agency in Clackamas County is of benefit to people in the Mount Hood corridor, rural Sandy and, to an extent, residents of the city of Sandy.

We believe the sheriff's office has performed responsibly and deserves support at the polls.



## Letters to the editor

Board member  
supports McMahan

As a board member at Welches, I have been discouraging in the last nine months to see years of work thrown aside or threatened with impulsive actions by a malcontent three-member majority.

It is time for a change. Having known candidate Jeri McMahan for a number of years, I am confident she will be voting objectively, only after hearing all sides and considering the ramifications of her actions.

Jeri's past work experience in management and her recent civic responsibilities as pre-school president and as P.T.O. president well qualify her for this position.

I urge voters to consider Jeri McMahan for the Welches School board.

Dave Enna  
Zig ZagRe-elect  
MaryAnn Burke

As taxpayers and parents, we're hoping MaryAnn Burke is re-elected to position number 5 on the Welches School board. Not only because she understands the value of academic education in a child's life, but because she's a common sense individual who knows you can't spend money you don't have and you can cut costs if necessary without affecting academic quality.

We support MaryAnn Burke for re-election.

Gordon and Theresa Christian  
Marmot RoadAEA inflates  
cost of school

If you wanted to make the grade school cost per student figures look really high, make it look higher than national or state averages, how would you do that?

The same way Mr. Cummins of the AEA (I think that stands for Against Education Anyhow) did it in his letter to the editor March 5.

Mr. Cummins took the total budget figure and divided by the number of students. Now that sounds reasonable, unless you know that that number includes money that is counted twice, making it considerably more than the General

Fund figure (the actual amount of money they have to spend).

Total budget figures include inter-fund transfers, money that is counted first in the general fund and then counted again when it is transferred to the food service department or the transportation area, to mention two.

Also, when the state Department of Education figures cost per student it doesn't include federal programs, student body accounts, debt service, non-reimbursed transportation and other factors.

Now if you wanted to make our Sandy Elementary District figures look really out of line, and much higher than the state average or the national average, all you need to do is add all those things back in to get a very bloated figure, and then compare it with the state or national figures. And this is just what Mr. Cummins has done.

Twisting figures this way, he can tell you that our costs in Sandy are 25 percent higher than the nation. Our costs are below the national average according to the way our state Department of Education compiles its figures.

To even complicate things more there is no nationally accepted formula for figuring cost per student because some states pay all of their teachers' salaries, their retirement, or building costs and upkeep.

But if \$3,200 were the magical number (national average), Sandy Elementary is still below that figure. The state has computed the figure at \$2,981.

My question is, what purpose does Mr. Cummins and the AEA hope to accomplish by continuing to make these inaccurate comparisons?

Connie Whitlock  
SandyPresent board  
works just fine

"If it's working, don't change it" is exactly how I feel about our present school board.

As a taxpayer and a parent, I've been pleased to see some of the decisions our school board has made. I think Dave Enna, MaryAnn Burke, Marilyn Leslie, Dawn Morrison and Marge Wicks are all very conscientious, dedicated individuals who care about Welches School and most importantly, about about the students at Welches.

There may be disagreements, but by and large I've seen our present board work hard together. I'd like to see it remain.

MaryAnn Burke is a certified teacher with longtime involvement in

many aspects of our community. Already in one year she's proven her leadership qualities as a board member.

She's committed to quality academic education and getting the most for our tax dollar as she exhibited by her vote of "no confidence" in the original budget that was presented by the current administration. She represents us as patrons who demand fiscal responsibility and I'd like to see her remain on the board to proceed with the business of making Welches the "darn best little school in the state."

Roger and Edna Cooke  
BrightwoodMerchants make  
carnival a success

Thank you to the Sandy merchants who gave so generously to the Sandy Parent-Teacher Club. Donations of goods and services were used as door prizes and bingo prizes at our annual school carnival on Feb. 27. The carnival was a big success.

Terri Huff,  
PTC president  
SandyRescue personnel  
did great job

I would like to thank Alpine Ambulance, the Sandy Fire District's rescue personnel and the Sandy police for their quick response and professionalism on Feb. 27.

They responded to an emergency that night at my home. They were not able to save the life of my wife, Naomi, but I believe they did everything they could and I appreciate their efforts.

Gerald Goodwin  
SandyBurke works  
for excellence

MaryAnn Burke takes pride in and is working hard for excellence in education for our students at Welches School.

She has exhibited leadership qualities together with a calm, sensible viewpoint regarding school decisions. She comes to board meetings well prepared, researches thoroughly matters under discussion, and is in favor of a realistic budget.

Being a former elementary teacher with five young children at home, MaryAnn is well qualified to

represent us as a member of the Welches School board.

We are lucky someone of her caliber has decided to share her time, experience and common sense for the benefit of Welches School and the whole community.

A job well done this past year deserves a vote of support for MaryAnn Burke.

Kaye Gomes  
RhododendronBurke has  
proven ability

Since MaryAnn Burke was elected to the Welches School District board she has proven her ability to represent our community with the quality commitment that we should recognize as a valuable resource.

She has taken her job with seriousness, she devotes the time to research the issues, and has proven her ability to make decisions as a truly independent thinker.

Her openness and honesty are always evident. Do we want to lose a person like this as our representative? I don't. I feel she has proven her abilities and I would encourage the voters to re-elect MaryAnn to a full four-year term.

Shirley Dueber  
BrightwoodWelches needs  
Jeri McMahan

With our state educational system in a crisis, it is vital that we elect individuals to our local school board who will insure our children receive the quality education they deserve.

Jeri McMahan is a candidate for a position on the Welches School District board. As parents of children in the district, we strongly support her. Jeri has proven her leadership abilities and sincere interest in children as past president of the Mount Hood Pre-school and Welches Parent-Teacher Organization. She is continually donating her time to various community affairs.

Lately we have seen local individuals in decision-making situations who consider their personal motives before the rights and needs of those they represent.

Jeri has repeatedly displayed her sense of fairness, compassion and respect for others. She is the qualified individual we choose to help direct the future of our children and the community.

David and Leslie Lythgoe  
Welches

by Adam Kraft

by SHARON NESBITT  
Staff writer

Whether or not Jolt soda pop — "all the sugar and twice the caffeine" — fizzes in the market place may depend on children such as the third- and fourth-graders at a local school who made "Stop the Pop" posters.

The kids were fired up by what they learned in drug education classes.

Caffeine, they point out, is a hidden drug.

It tickles me to see young people turn what they learn into real-life experiences. But one thing kept nagging at me in all this soda pop tempest.

In their roles as consumer advocates, the children were not only protesting, they also were asking storeowners to take Jolt off the shelves.

It seems to be a growing trend to make retailers the heavies when controversial products are for sale. Whether the concern is over caffeine-charged cola or Garbage Pail Kids trading cards or Playboy bunnies, more and more people insist that their local stores quit selling items that offend them.

Like my Grandma used to say when somebody quit talking and started shoving, "They've done quit preachin' and gone to meddlin'."

It boils down to a question of rights. We can holler all we want about television and books that we think are immoral or products that do us harm. But so long as the goods are legal under the laws our land, we all make those decisions for ourselves.

We exercise our rights by not watching, not reading and not buying. I don't want anybody short-circuiting that process by deciding what is good for me.

I won't drink Jolt. As a person who

drinks "unleaded" coffee, I'm not as concerned about the caffeine as I am the sugar. Those of us on the fat side of 40 tend to savor what little sugar our diets allow for luxuries such as chocolate truffles.

But my weight problems don't give me the right to demand that sugar products come off the shelves. I feel that same way about Jolt. So long as it is legal, and it is, it should stay in the store where consumers can vote on it with their dollars.

I like to hear people complain and bellyache about things they don't approve of because it reinforces everything we know about our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We're going to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Constitution this year. The Bill of Rights is a little bit younger, but it basically says that the freedom that gives the other guy the right to complain about Jolt also gives me the right to drink it if I want to.

I once saw an old movie about a young man who approached a prominent judge and said, "If it's a free country, why can't I punch you in the nose?" The judge answered, "Because your rights end at the tip of my nose."

I wanted to make sure the young people at this school knew where the tip of my nose was when they asked storeowners to take Jolt off the market. The teacher assures me that the children know about rights and understand that just as they have the right to complain, the storekeeper has the right to sell the product.

That makes me feel better. For exercising rights is a powerful exercise and children who start this early are bound to be aggressive citizens. I just hope they never discover anything bad about chocolate truffles.

## 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.

We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines or for length. Letters should be 300 words long.

