

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Karinda Hedlund, advertising representative

Clothing, blankets quickly distributed

Area residents with extra clothing, blankets or kitchen utensils should keep the Sandy Community Action Center in mind. Donations would be put to good use.

In the past week the Action Center gave blankets to all 38 migrant workers who went to the center. They came to Oregon owning only the clothes they were wearing, and were greeted with cool weather.

Giving out 38 blankets a week, it won't take long for the Action Center to deplete its supply. Pots, pans and silverware are among the other immediate needs for migrant workers, according to Elsie Kimery, coordinator. Jeans and work shirts also are appreciated.

Because of new immigration laws, Kimery said the agency expects to see fewer migrant workers than in the past. However, this is still a time of high demand on the Action Center's resources.

Regardless of whether one welcomes the migrant workers, the fact is they come here to work. Helping them achieve a decent standard of living is an admirable goal.

It is good sometimes to remember the work that is being accomplished at the Action Center.

In March, volunteers donated 695 hours to the non-profit center. They issued 211 food boxes; provided 40 gallons of gasoline so that people could get to job interviews and apply for food stamps; purchased \$50 worth of prescription medicines; and spent \$89 to pay dental and other medical bills for people unable to afford the care.

People with extra clothing, kitchenware or blankets should remember the Action Center this spring.

Take a vacation right here at home

People who leave here in the summer are nuts.

I am spending my summer vacation at home being a tourist in my own land. And I'm taking my vacation one day at a time. This is my list of things to do this summer. They are mostly cheap. And they are close to home. You can borrow my list if you want to.

• Climb Beacon Rock on the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge before I get too old. I plan to wait for a cool day and take two plump friends with me. We will stop frequently on the way up to breathe heavily and admire the view. We will remember to take a camera and something cool to drink.

Should we have anything left in us, we will stay at Beacon Rock State Park and take the Hamilton Mountain Trail 1.5 miles to the overlook at Rodney and Hardy falls. I'm told it's a good "fat lady hike."

• Ride MAX to Portland and spend a whole afternoon poking around the central library.

• Drive down Highway 99 all the way to Salem, stopping at junk shops and antique shops along the way. Once in Salem visit the gardens and the historic home of Deepwood. If I had kids with me, I would probably climb the tower in the state Capitol.

• Make plans to attend the Skamania County Fair and Timber Carnival in Stevenson, Wash., Aug. 20 to 23. Word is that it's the last free country fair in the area and rumor is that they're thinking about charging a small admission this year. Either way, I plan on going.

• Drive up to Mount St. Helens to see how the old girl is doing since her blowup. And take in the new visitor center.

• Go to The Dalles during Bing cherry season to visit the old Courthouse Museum. They sell cherries there. Spit the pits out the window all the way home. (Remember to roll down window.)

• Drive to Hood River and try Jose's Taco House for lunch. Watch the windsurfers. Shop for (or at least look at) the expensive stuff at The



Sharon Nesbit

Fruit Tree. Then walk through the gardens of the Columbia Gorge Hotel and drive home on the Old Columbia River Highway.

• Go to Carson Hot Springs near Carson, Wash. Take a mineral bath, have a massage and then eat lunch in the 1897 hotel.

• Catch some of the summer performances at Washington Park.

• Eat outdoors. Sit on the deck at Tad's Chicken 'n' Dumplings in Troutdale. Lunch on the outdoor deck at the Royal Chinook Inn in Corbett. A salad and a huckleberry daiquiri in the new dining room at Multnomah Falls Lodge. It used to be outdoors until they glassed it in.

• Go to the Sandy Mountain Festival, the Troutdale City Picnic, the Corbett Fourth of July Fun Festival and the Mount Hood Festival of Jazz.

• In August take a huckleberry bucket and a picnic and go to Indian Heaven north of Carson, Wash. (Stop and get a map at the Wind River Ranger Station on Highway 30.)

• Visit Timberline Lodge for the day.

• Wait until it's good and hot, rent a raft and float down the Sandy River from Oxbow to Troutdale. Take a sturdy person along to tow the raft in the slow spots. Sing in the canyons.

• Splurge on an overnight stay at the White Salmon Inn in White Salmon. Sing in the hot tub.



Letters to the editor

Woman unhappy with local paper

I purchased your paper again today and once again my hopes were shattered. You continually fail to provide the kind of small town newspaper that I crave and am willing to bet, others do to.

Perhaps I'm too old fashioned, too nostalgic, or just too sick of the same old garbage that's crammed into our heads day after day by the airwaves and the printed media.

I grew up in Gresham and always enjoyed — in fact looked forward to — The Outlook. While not perfect, still it covered the local stories of interest to all. I saw (in pictures) our school plays and projects, all my friends engaged, married and practicing their professions. The Outlook was good with pictures.

While you halfheartedly attempt to cover local events, there still seems to be something missing. How about something for the homemaker — are local recipes too corny? How about a local fishing report written by a funny if not necessarily well-educated local yokel? How about a guest pastors minisermion or report on church activities?

How about a teachers column? Surely there are teachers in Sandy who could relate some of the interesting, funny and even sad things that happen in our schools. Let's face it, kids are funny. There's got to be some good stories out there in the schools. How about printing some stories or art or poems the local children (adults and seniors, too) have written. I'm sure some of the local businesses would contribute gift certificates to those whose efforts you chose to print.

How about some humor? The library is full of books. Surely there are some old jokes, stories or folklore that most have forgotten and would like to see reprinted.

How about a kiddie classifieds for kids only? Toys are pretty expensive nowadays. Maybe the kids would like to buy-sell-trade. I bet their ads would be humorous, too.

How about a history of Sandy column with pictures — those could be worth saving in a scrapbook (remember those?).

The ideas are endless. Why don't you ask your readers? Perhaps these ideas are not cost-effective, or your

budget just can't handle any more print (you could make room for more by cutting out about one-half of what you do).

Or perhaps you all have other full-time jobs and just enjoy "playing" at journalism. At any rate, I sure wish Sandy had a good weekly paper. Something to look forward to, you know?

Dorothy Pratt
Sandy

Orientation appreciated

I would like to express my appreciation for the orientation at Sandy High School on May 20 for incoming freshman students and their parents.

I was favorably impressed with the honest and concise information presented by Dr. Kent Heaton and Mr. Dennis Crow. It was very enlightening.

The student council president delivered a very enthusiastic welcome and encouraged the students to become involved.

Mike and Lois Drill
Sandy

Kindergarten beneficial

Five-year-old youngsters in the Sandy Elementary District No. 46, coming from average and lower income families, are missing an important opportunity. These 5-year-olds, whose parents are less financially situated, are deprived of the benefits gained from the kindergarten experience available to those families enjoying above average and higher income.

In all fairness, every 5-year-old child should receive the benefits a good kindergarten program supplies. Kindergarten will enable every 5-year-old to make a running start in education.

Does the cost of a kindergarten program outweigh the benefits? Our answer is "no." The benefits far outweigh the cost. It's neither fair nor equitable that the parents of nearly half our 5-year-olds cannot presently afford the fees of kindergarten.

The proposal of the Sandy Elemen-

tary District budget committee to establish a public kindergarten starting next school term needs community support. Kindergarten is a desired, beneficial, and fair step forward in education.

Won't you join us in voting "yes" for equal opportunity for all 5-year-olds in the June school budget tax vote for District No. 46?

Duane S. and Madeline Knapp
Sandy

Superintendent does the job

I believe it is time to stand and be counted. The time to "wait and see" has come to an end. Dr. Kent Heaton, as a parent of two SUHS students and a member of this community, I would like to say a heartfelt "thank you" to you.

When the school year began, I read with interest the expectations of our new superintendent, Kent Heaton. He said the rules, although not new, would be enforced, students who chose to break the rules would be held responsible for their actions, the teachers would be expected to do their jobs, and the administration would be answerable to this community. Personally, I did not think he had a chance.

Acceptance of changes comes slow everywhere. The first few weeks of school, the students learned that suspension for skipping school was a promise, not a threat. No, the problem is not completely solved, but a beginning has been made. Then came the great Smoke Free Campus controversy, once again a new and much needed beginning. There are so many more new beginnings that have been made that I cannot even begin to mention them all. However, accountability is there.

Have you ever called or dropped in on Dr. Heaton? I have. When I called, if he could not take my call immediately, he always got back to me in a reasonable amount of time. When I dropped in, if Dr. Heaton could not see me immediately, an appointment was set up at my convenience. Yes, it is true. Dr. Heaton is available to those of us who care enough to find out firsthand what is going on.

Our high school is in need of improvement in many areas. Dr. Heaton cannot do this alone.

My plea to the community is this: Let Dr. Heaton know you are behind him 100 percent. Get involved. Do not listen to rumor and gossip, get the facts from the man who is accountable to you.

Most of all, please let Dr. Heaton know that you appreciate the hard work and effort he has put out this year.

Melody DeLay
Sandy

Student says thanks for help

I would like to express my gratitude to all the people who have helped me raise funds by donating their newspapers to me to recycle.

This weekend we will have a van from the recycling center to pick these up. We would also appreciate it if other people who have newspapers would give us a call so we can turn them in.

On June 6 we will be having a car wash at the fire department to raise more money.

If you would like us to pick up your papers our phone number is 668-6551. Or, you could bring them by our house on Saturday or Sunday. Our address is 21545 S.E. Bornstedt Road.

Again, I would like to say thank you to all those who have helped me raise the funds necessary to travel a foreign exchange student.

Cheryl Cochran
Sandy

Sandy Post letter policy

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 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.

by Adam Kraft

Bobcats



The Sandy Post

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