

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Council's programs making difference

With weed control, Marge Jacoby's beautification work and the upcoming Mountain Festival all in the news, it is appropriate to consider the general appearance of Sandy.

Plenty of work is still needed to spruce up Sandy for the Mountain Festival, but all in all the city is in pretty good shape.

The Sandy City Council can take some credit for that. Its annual spring cleanup day has been a large success. In the past two years, Mount Hood Refuse has hauled off 65 tons of garbage as its part of the annual cleanup.

The City Council also has been actively pursuing its weed abatement program, which has been successful despite some glitches. It is an ambitious program and the council deserves credit for implementing it.

Not to be overlooked are the efforts of the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, which holds a beautification program each year encouraging business owners to plant flowers and landscape their property, and the work of Jacoby, who single-handedly took on the landscaping of the triangle on U.S. 26.

We know there is still plenty of work to do — a 100 percent occupancy rate downtown wouldn't hurt — but much of the downtown area is well-maintained.

In the past few years, it seems the city has moved ahead, not backward, and that is a good sign.



Rat beats Gene to Washington, D.C.

The rat that went to Washington, D.C., made a good story at Saturday night's going-away party for Green Gene.

Green Gene is a nickname for Gene Zimmerman, the fellow who has been ranger of the Columbia Gorge Ranger Station for the last 10 years.

All dressed up in his U.S. Forest Service uniform, green from top to bottom, tall, good-looking and soft-spoken, he is just what you'd expect a forest ranger to look like. Privately, he calls the uniform his "celery suit." Wear it into the gorge, he once said, and you spend all day telling people where the restrooms are.

I got in a little trouble over that celery suit business," Zimmerman admitted, after we printed his quote in The Outlook. Funny, because Zimmerman is so proud of the Forest Service. But, on an official basis, federal agencies are not widely known for wit and sense of humor.

On an unofficial basis, the people who make up the "Forest Circus" are pretty darned clever. They got together Friday night at Multnomah Falls Lodge to roast Zimmerman and say goodbye to him. Green Gene is going off to Washington, D.C., to work on legislative affairs for the Forest Service.

It is pure coincidence that the rat got there first.

Zimmerman started out as a big, backwoods kid from Pilot Rock. He had to work five summers for the Forest Service before he could get a permanent job. If he'd had his way, he would have stayed in the woods. He confided Friday night that when he was offered the Columbia Gorge job with all its human resource programs and public exposure, he first shied away.

I would have rather vomited than get up in front of people and talk," he said. He still talks in an "aw-shucks" kind of way.

And he still likes the woods and elk camp with his Eastern Oregon hunting buddies. They all showed up Friday night with a tale or two to tell. "We called it the birds and the bees. Gene taught us to say fauna and flora," they said.



Sharon Nesbitt

On one of those elk-hunting trips, a Forest Service colleague of Zimmerman's spent three days chasing a big rat around the cabin trying to kill it.

Several days later, Zimmerman succeeded in dispatching the creature and, after allowing it to mellow several weeks, chucked it in a box with a couple of railroad spikes and shipped it COD to his friend in the nation's capital.

The crowning touch was the elk tag Zimmerman tied around the deceased rodent's neck.

There were lots of such stories Friday. One fellow worried whether Washington will have a Kreuger's truck stop where Gene can load up on carbois. Someone else shot him splat in the face with a squirt gun loaded with Bull Run water, a reminder that the Columbia Gorge ranger is also the fellow who takes care of Bull Run, Portland's water shed.

"Until I met Gene, I thought a water shed was something you bought at G.I. Joe's and Bull Run was a battle ground," one fellow said. "It still is," echoed a voice from the crowd.

"They don't filter their water in Washington, D.C., they just set fire to it," another person advised.

So they whooped and hollered and gave funny gifts and somehow, with all that unofficial humor, managed to let Green Gene know he'd done a good job. That he has left the gorge a better place than he found it.

And that is always the mark of a good woodsman.

Kindergarten needed by all

Thanks for the fine coverage you have provided Ann Marie Amstad and others interested in passage of the Sandy Elementary School budget, which includes money to institute kindergarten.

We wish to express our support for people like Duane and Madeline Knapp who supported the inclusion of kindergarten in the school budget in a letter to the editor last week.

I feel it is the only responsible way for mature adults of the voting population to react to a very real problem in our schools today.

Currently, there are several private and church sponsored kindergartens operating within the Sandy Elementary District. These are to be commended, but they can reach only a part of those who will be of school age next year.

In general, these children are from homes that are likely to provide preschool enrichment for their children. There are others who need this opportunity the most who are left out and next fall they will all go to the same first grade.

It seems reasonable that the ones with kindergarten experience will soon progress faster than those without. As time goes on the spread will become greater with it being likely that those without the kindergarten experience will also be the ones who drop out of school in later years, or who will be less productive.

It seems the best thing that responsible citizens could do would be to pass this measure and get on with this ahead of what some say is a "mandatory" date to start kindergartens in 1989.

Frank and Joyce Marcy
Sandy

Crime prevention public concern

On May 14 the Sandy Area Block Home program sponsored a safety fair at Sandy High School. This program was presented to the public due to the ever increasing crime problem and the public outcry for something to be done.

There were several different agencies represented including the Sandy police department, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, Sandy Fire District, Alpine Ambulance, Mount Hood Medical Center and the Sandy VFW Post.

Displays and information included fire safety, health care, free blood

pressure checks, alcohol and substance abuse treatment information, home and business burglary prevention (America's number one crime problem) and rape prevention. Other subjects included boat and bicycle safety, drunk driving information and Block Home.

Several of the departments brought informational slide and video programs along with free brochures. The displays included police and fire vehicles, an ambulance and a patrol boat. Many area businesses donated cookies and drinks along with door prizes. Even Sparky, and McGruff the crime dog, made special appearances.

I have been involved in law enforcement for eight years and I will have to say this was one of the best safety fairs that I have been involved with or have seen. The sad part is that there were very few people who showed up to take advantage of what the community has to offer. I think it sad that people complain the police aren't doing anything about crime, and yet when something of the high caliber nature of this program is presented to the public there is very poor turnout. Crime prevention and home fire safety start with the people of the community.

People have to be willing to help themselves in order to reduce crime and protect their homes.

Dave Kennell,
deputy
Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

Senior citizen director overpaid

Thanks to Scott Newton for his "I needed that" article on the budget and its affects on us.

Who can possibly justify paying Sandra Potter Marquardt and her assistant almost \$60,000 a year. For what?

So she can get free tickets to Alaska, Europe, the East Coast and Canada each year? It is free to her but the cost is added to the ticket prices of all those needy seniors who make the trips.

The center is now down to serving meals at noon only four days a week. The food is prepared and cooked in Portland by Loaves and Fishes, not under the direction of the director and her assistant as some think.

Who eats those meals? Seniors who need the companionship and nourishment and who pay for them, and who serve them by setting tables, washing dishes, et cetera. The director and her assistant have nothing to do with this. It's all volunteers.

The director and her assistant

supervise volunteers who staff the office and route the paper work to these paid employees so they can have something to shuffle and look busy without which they would have nothing to do.

It is time someone from the city took a good look at the inflated job descriptions and the bloated description of services rendered.

We need the center and its various services but must we pay through the nose? Sixty thousand dollars for a director and one assistant is unjustified.

Ronald Stone
Sandy

Triangle planting dream come true

The west triangle planting was spearheaded by Morton Spence and myself. Plans were started April 14, 1985, and work started March 7, 1987.

Employees of Gardner Plumbing donated their time to install the sprinkler system. A big thank you to Don Gardner, Mike Martin and Campbell Munn. Thanks also to B and R Rental for the use of the ditchdigger.

Thanks to Pat Tiller for the digging of the ditches and rototilling the triangle three times. Thanks to PGE for picking up the pipe and to Porter Nursery for giving us the discount on the pipe.

Many hours were spent by Arnie Becker, Bob Kallen, Darrell Dempster and Spence to complete the sprinkler system. The city of Sandy installed the pipe and valves to the meter.

Sobella Farms donated some plants and gave us a big discount on other plants. Porter Nursery donated all the rock daphne. I hauled three loads of chicken manure and limed it in the triangle. We hired five young men from Mount Hood Treatment Center to spread manure. Spence and I leveled the ground with Pat Tiller and on April 1 we started the planting.

Spence and Bob Sutherland are my holymen for they dug holes while Martha McGuire, Joyce Orr, Joyce Marcy, Vera Ayers and I, members of the Sandy Garden Club, planted the shrubs. Sutherland, Spence and Andreanne Rode helped me plant the border plants.

On a very rainy day, when we had a hail storm, we worked to get more plants in. A big thanks to Cathy Cook, Barbara Sims, Todd Tracy and Brad Pankalla. Sutherland, Spence and I worked another day. Mike Walker, public works director, gave his time

to haul some good soil from Oral Hull Park to fill the triangle.

On May 5 the lilies were planted along with more plants, such as geraniums, old gold junipers and Oregon grape. Chet Cunningham helped me spell out "Welcome to Sandy" with the boxwood plants.

Total cost was \$1,900, which includes 490 plants, soil and barkdust, hired labor and the sprinkler system. There were 230 hours of donated labor. Thanks again to the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, the Sandy Garden Club, Barbara Sims, the Kiwanis Club of Sandy and Bob Lee.

Thanks to all for the "toot of your horn" as you went by and the nice comments.

P.S. I challenge all 63-year-olds and under to landscape the east triangle.

Marge Jacoby
Sandy

Business owner teaches disrespect

After school one day recently my 13-year-old daughter and her friend patronized a local business. While the girls were there, the proprietor proceeded to inform these young teens about how awful the teachers in public schools were these days.

This owner-operator even used profanity in her opinion of how local teachers did their jobs.

How can we expect our young people to learn from teachers when adults display such disrespect?

I realize that in some homes children hear such disrespect toward teachers on a regular basis. That attitude sabotages education.

However, in our home we teach our children to respect the rights of others. We teach them to appreciate the privilege of education and to respect the folks who are dedicated to their education.

That's why it infuriates me to hear adults spread falsehoods instead of working in positive directions.

Sandy teachers are doing a terrific job! If all families would see to it that their children attend school regularly, act appropriately at school (this includes paying attention) and do their homework, we wouldn't have too many problems to worry about.

Parents must be actively involved in their student's education. Perhaps if parents spent more time with things like homework and school visitations, instead of wasting time with this gibberish about awful teachers, we wouldn't need to blame public schools for all of society's ills.

Remember, parents are the primary teachers — good or bad.

Marcia Brisco
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 in-

clude 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.

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 58, 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

Bobcats



by Adam Kraft

