

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Karinda Hedlund, advertising representative

City Council can make hard choices

It is easy to understand why some Sandy City Council members consider weed abatement a headache.

Last year an angry property owner prepared a makeshift book full of photographs of property not in compliance, and then asked why the council had singled her property out for enforcement.

Most City Councilors probably agreed she had a point.

There have been other times when the city has picked up the bill for mowing — usually assessed against the property owner — because the person hired to do the mowing made some mistakes. In one case, a man hired to do grader work removed survey stakes from adjacent property.

All in all, attempts to accomplish even enforcement of the unruly weed ordinance has been frustrating and time-consuming. The effort has only been made bearable by a string of long running, good natured jokes.

But Monday night the City Council reaffirmed its ability to play hard ball. There was a great deal of tension in the air when Councilor Brad Picking's appeal was considered.

Picking didn't vote on the appeal, but a person would think just the fact that he sits on the council would give him an inside track.

Picking, a developer who helped bring Safeway, McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken to Sandy, is considered by some to be the fox who guards the chicken coop.

That assessment is not fair. Picking is familiar with the sign ordinances and others, putting him on even footing with veteran council members. He asks good, tough questions.

In short, he is a good representative of the business community.

Picking claims the weed ordinance is forcing him to "manicure" a piece of property to standards one would expect of a golf course. In fact, he might argue, the intent of the weed ordinance is to reduce the spread of noxious weeds, reduce the opportunity for fire and eliminate breeding grounds for rats.

But as Picking well knows, this is a board that believes in setting and following precedents. The property in question was once developed, and now it must be maintained to the standards of "developed" property, his fellow councilors ruled.

Regardless of one's feelings about the weed abatement ordinance — we have supported it in past editorials — residents of the city of Sandy can rest assured there are no foxes guarding the chicken coop.

There is merely a tough-minded City Council that isn't afraid to make decisions.

Letters to the editor

Drug programs encourage use

I would like to comment on the article "Early intervention may curb drug use," which appeared in the July 2 Sandy Post.

The writer and apparently the Sandy Elementary school board think a drug program for our children is a good idea. What these people fail to understand is that many children have no interest in alcohol and drugs. Such a program in our schools could introduce more young people to drugs than are already involved.

Alcohol and drugs are a problem for some and something should be done about it but why the schools? Drugs are a social problem and should be handled by Clackamas County social agencies that are already established and have a budget of our tax dollars.

I believe the purpose of the Sandy Elementary school is to provide a

good, basic education. Based on the 1987 achievement test results, Sandy Elementary is barely above the national average and below the national average in spelling.

Because the elementary school is not doing its job, the high school has established special reading and spelling classes to help students master the basics.

In view of the above, why is the elementary school even considering the addition of drug education classes? The issue of children taking drugs is a result of a delinquent parent problem.

To those concerned over the alcohol and drug problem in Sandy, we suggest they start with the cause. We understand minors can buy alcoholic beverages in local stores and drugs are being sold on city streets. Why not get the laws changed so the police can run the undesirables out of town or put them in jail.

C.B. Koenig
Affordable Education Association
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 from area residents.

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



Clouds, crowds gather at Vista House

The heavily laden cloud sails right up the Columbia Gorge, snags itself on the pointy roof of Vista House at Crown Point and spills a bellyful of rain down the windows.

The woman from Palm Springs, her face pruned with golf-course wrinkles, complains bitterly as she stares out into 100 miles of gray. All this way to get to Oregon, she fumes, "and you can't see a thing."

Vista House volunteer Bob Goldsmith comes cruising through the crowd talking about the weather. "It's gonna clear up cloudy with a warm frost," he says. Most people laugh. Not the woman from Palm Springs.

It is a rainy Sunday at Vista House. Dorothy Klock keeps the coffee pots filled. And puts the creamer and sugar packets behind the desk where people have to ask for it.

"It got to disappearing so fast," she explains. "We started watching and saw people gather it up by the handful and haul it to their motor homes."

Dorothy shakes her head. She is too good-hearted a person to wonder aloud why someone with a \$50,000 motor home steals sugar.



Sharon Nesbitt

The cloud pulls free from the copper roof and drifts off up the gorge, taking fleecy friends along. Gradually the view emerges from the gray. Beacon Rock. A shimmer of river. Velvet hills. A railroad track stitching westward. Stray clouds get hung up on the transmission towers at Bonneville and hang there like badly-washed laundry concealing the dam.

"Smart clouds," says Judy Lehl, watching. "They know enough to cover up the ugly parts."

Lehl and her husband, Steve, are at Vista House sharing their postcard collection with the tourists. The day before, the Wy'East Mountain Men had been skylarking in their fringed buckskins and snaring female tourists to pose startled for snapshots.

The tourists don't know it, but there is a lot of giving going on at Vista House. Klock is paid a small amount to work and so are the clerks in the gift shop. But volunteers like the Lehls, the mountain men and Goldsmith work there for nothing but the joy of welcoming people. Twenty thousand cars stopped in June. Some days, when nine tour buses belch in within 90 minutes, the rock walls have to stretch to accommodate them.

The tourists want to know where the restroom is. (It's downstairs.) Where the waterfalls are. (Just follow the old highway.) Where to get help. (What do you mean, you locked your keys in the car?)

Goldsmith spent two hours one Sunday fiddling with the electric locks on a buttoned-up Cadillac driven by a group of Australians.

"When I finally got it open they

said thank you and I told them there was a donation box inside. They just drove off," says Goldsmith. A retired salesman, he's seen it all.

But there are folks from Ohio who poke through books until they identify the red elderberry. And Texans who gaze down the misted gorge and rec—on that it's a far cry from Dallas. And a fellow from Cleveland who brags that he looks like Bud Clark though he has yet to flash any nude statues.

"But I'm willing to try," he says eagerly.

There are motorcyclists in space-age suits. And dogs in striped sweaters. "California dogs," Judy Lehl sniffs. Bridal Veil dogs don't wear sweaters, even when the East Wind blows.

As if sensing that the Palm Springs woman is gone, the clouds skitter on toward Hood River lifting the curtain on a view we know better than anyone. Yet it is still beautiful.

"To think," says Klock, "that they pay me to be here."

A visitor gazes out the windows and quotes a line of poetry written by Edna St. Vincent Millay: "God's world, I cannot hold thee close enough."

According to Oregon governor

Legislative changes should create jobs

by GOV. NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT
Special to The Post

I campaigned for Governor on the premise that there are steps we can take at the state and local levels to help create work for Oregonians. And when I came to Salem in January, I said that by the end of this legislative session we would have in place the tools that will allow state government to produce results.

The Legislature responded by approving a major reorganization of the Economic Development Department (EDD) and by appropriating funds for regional economic development strategies and tourism promotion. The two are closely related.

Prior to this session, Oregon's spending on tourism activities ranked 42nd in the nation. But with \$2 million in lottery funds and \$2.5 million in general funds allocated to tourism promotion, our national ranking has risen to 31st — not great,

but a definite improvement.

Potentially, our ranking could climb much higher. The Legislature has allocated \$25 million for regional strategies, which should all be in place or under development in every region of Oregon within 24 months.

Using the resources of the EDD and other agencies, the state of Oregon will help each region plan and execute a strategy to capitalize on its economic assets, to expand jobs, and put more money in the pockets of Oregonians.

And about 50 percent of the regional strategies are looking at tourism.

For example, the northwest counties of Oregon and the Portland metropolitan area are examining a tourism strategy linked to the Oregon Convention Center. And the Central Oregon region consisting of Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties is emphasizing destination resorts, skiing, camping, boating and sightsee-

ing. These strategies are mutually beneficial, with one region's success reinforcing another.

The New York Times published an article with the headline, "Oregonians Sell Fruits of an Agricultural Eden."

When tourism is booming in Central Oregon, the benefits spill over to the coast, to southern Oregon and to Portland. And of the Oregon Convention Center's expected 100,000 annual visitors, at least 10 percent are expected to stay and experience Oregon — rafting the Rogue River, deep sea fishing, skiing, or touring the wine country.

There was a time when Oregon was the best kept secret in the country. But now the word is out — Oregon is a great place to visit.

The Washington Post Sunday Travel Section recently ran a special feature on Oregon. Post writers drove down the coast, toured Portland, climbed mountains and traveled the length of the Gorge. They came back with some of the most evocative prose I have ever read, describing the variety of experiences to be found in this state.

And just this month the New York Times published an article with the headline, "Oregonians Sell Fruits of an Agricultural Eden." It extolls the virtues of Oregon's specialty foods industry, and claims that this is a state that embraces hospitality as a way of life.

With testimonials like these, it's no wonder that when we look to the future of tourism in Oregon, we like what we see.

by Adam Kraft

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 68, 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

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