

Some businesses deserve an award

Some businesses downtown deserve an award because of improved appearances and a sense of humor.

A good example is the real estate office on the east end of Sandy. With its new coat of blue paint, it just looks nice.

Of course, if we mentioned the name of that business, then we would have to name the two other real estate offices downtown that have also maintained nice offices.

And, of course, no list would be complete without naming the plumbing business with the cute, frowning T-joint that serves as a logo, the restaurant with the new paint and brick front, and the flowers in front of the bank.

And we wouldn't dare not mention the doctor's office with the banner that reads, "It's a girl! It's a girl! It's a girl!"

There is that well manicured blue building, and the certified public accountant/antique store owner who has the magnificent display of flowers.

There is the lot at the corner of Highway 26 and Bluff Road that is well maintained, and the restaurant with the lights that continues to serve as a landmark.

And then there is the nursery business owner who is landscaping and maintaining the triangle. What an outstanding example of community service she is setting.

There is that new church, still under construction, at the corner of Pioneer Boulevard and Beers Avenue, the floral business with the great window displays and the grocery store that flies the American flag.

Of course, downtown is not all it could be. The sidewalks don't connect all the way around, a few parking lots could use repaving, and there are still some vacant buildings.

But all in all, if we were to name names, there would be a lot of businesses that would deserve awards for brightening up the town.

Letters to the editor

Citizen thanks City Council

I wish to express my most sincere thanks to Mayor Deane Wesselink and members of the Sandy City Council for having granted to me, and other Sandy citizens, the privilege and opportunity to address the council meeting of Aug. 17.

You are to be commended for having an open mind and for being willing to hear, at the 11th hour, the sincere concerns of citizens over the proposed adoption of a conditional use amendment that would have permitted the introduction of certain industrial activities into Sandy's central core commercial area.

Dale Nicholls
Sandy

President thanks Sandy community

The Sandy Volunteer Firefighters would like to thank all the people who helped make our recent Firemen's Muster such a success.

We would like to thank the local businesses for their advertisements in our program, the organizations and businesses who operated concession booths at the muster site, but most of all, the local patrons who took time to come and enjoy our celebration.

Sandy can be proud of its community. This muster helps to show the rest of the Pacific Northwest our community pride and spirit.

Thank you, Sandy.
Chuck Chaffin, president
Sandy Volunteer Firefighters

Taxpayers should stay with 'net'

Taxpayers should be grateful the 1987 Legislature recognized the mood of its citizens by passing a safety net measure that states:

"When a school district budget is rejected at the polls the schools shall remain open and function within the budget approved for the preceding year."

For the 1987-88 year, the Sandy Elementary District is asking for \$175,000 more on the Sept. 15 election. This assessment is an increase over and above the "safety net" budget allowed by law.

According to Superintendent Leland Chapman's rationale before the school board July 16, the following savings could be effected without depriving students of quality education:

1. Library staff could be reduced;
2. Existing sabbatical leave policy

could be altered for a savings of \$24,000. Sabbatical leave is a negotiated benefit and not mandated by the state; 3. An \$8,000 savings could be realized by closing the Sandy Aquatic Center on Sundays. The Aquatic Center is little used on Sunday and having it open is not necessary; and 4. A reduction in the contingency fund, which was higher than necessary, could save \$28,000.

Additional unnecessary expenses could be made if special interest group programs were eliminated. For example, the Aquatic Center's financial subsidy of many thousands of dollars would provide more than enough money to begin kindergarten.

Superintendent Chapman seems to be using prudent judgment by eliminating certain programs and personnel that are not necessary. Had this been done before his tenure began, your taxes would be much less and perhaps the safety net would be more funding than needed.

For the benefit of all property taxpayers, I hope I am reading Superintendent Chapman's administrative expertise correctly. That is, to throttle the spendy habits of the school board he inherited and re-establish our elementary school into a first class basic education institution rather than continue with the present concept that our schools are becoming a more and more recreation and job factory enterprise.

If the request is voted in, it means home assessments will increase. It is time we take advantage of the safety net legislation and implement some economy in the school system. Vote no on the Sept. 15 election.

Cliff 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.



"OH, LOOK, CHILDREN - DEAR OLD UNCLE RONALD LEFT YOU THIS BOX IN HIS WILL. WHY DON'T WE OPEN IT, AND SEE WHAT'S INSIDE ..."

Sandy High class of 1957 growing up

The class of '57 doesn't dance anymore.

We danced our socks off at our 10-year reunion. Stomped at our 15th. Did some slower steps at our 20th. Mostly stood around the edge of the dance floor and watched on our 25th.

And Saturday night at our 30-year reunion, we congregated out in the hall where we didn't have to yell at each other over the music.

Some people think we are getting older. We think we are getting smarter. It is not the dancing that draws us. It turns out that it is the talking that is music to our ears.

Most of us are not that many miles from Sandy Union High School where we graduated. But life's centrifugal force has spun us off in different directions, each whirling in our own circles of friends and family. Occasionally we collide in an accidental meeting at the grocery store. Mostly, though, we see each other every five years.

Our reunions are important because they are a way of touching base. Together we shared the funny, awful process of growing up. It is a



Sharon Nesbitt

process we are still going through and our reunions are a way of measuring how far we've come.

We do goofy stuff. The prize to the gal who has been married the most (five times) was a lottery ticket. We praise each other for looking young, or if the hair is gray, for looking distinguished. And somehow or other before the night is over, we shed about 30 years.

That is not easy to do. At work you mention that you were in the class of '57 and some whippersnapper at the next desk says, "That's the year I was born."

"Never mind," says a co-worker closer to my advanced age, "I won't tell you how old I was in 1957 but I'd already seen 'The King and I.'"

It takes a pretty good reunion to overcome a buffeting like that. And we had a good one.

Early Sunday morning after the party was over, we did what we used to do in high school. Ten of us jammed into a booth at an all-night restaurant and talked about our past together. Of how dumb we were back then.

Chickie remembered a dialogue she shared one day on the way home from school with her childhood friend, Dick:

Dick: "Wasn't that awful in biology II today, all that stuff about sex?"

Chickie: "Sex? What talk about sex?"

Dick: "All that stuff about men and women and babies — and me, the on-

ly boy in the class. I was so embarrassed."

Chickie: "Was that about sex? I thought it was biology."

Dick: "Do you mean I was the only one who got it?"

Chickie: "I guess so. If we'd known it was about sex us girls would have talked about it at lunch."

The talk turned to parents and what they did and did not tell us. And the laughter swelled out of the booth and pealed through the restaurant. For a little while we were like we used to be — noisy and raucous and laughing at our parents' expense. And maybe secretly priding ourselves on how far we have come.

And then Ilona said it. "You know, what scares you is that our kids probably sit around and talk about us just like this."

A sobering thought, especially for people already sober on decaffeinated coffee and boysenberry pie.

We left soon after that and most of the way home I thought about what my kids would say about me at their reunions.

Maybe, all they will do is dance.

State plan to help ease dropout crisis

by NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT
Oregon Governor

Labor Day is just around the corner, and for many of us that means another school year is about to begin. For most children, the first day of school is an exciting time of renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. It's a time for anticipating the new skills and knowledge to be learned over the next nine months.

But for too many of Oregon's youth, the first day of school is no different than any other day.

In Oregon, one out of every four high school students drops out. For those who drop out and never return, the cost to themselves and to all Oregonians is enormous.

The loss of human potential alone is an expense that Oregonians cannot afford and must never accept. But there are other, more measurable costs. Students who leave school before graduation lack the basic skills needed by today's employers. In many cases, that means the state's taxpayers must support dropouts through welfare or other public services.

Worse yet, many of those who drop out either have, or will develop, drug or alcohol problems. Crime often

becomes their only option, and the state's correction system often becomes their home.

Whether it is unemployment, underemployment or crime, we all pay for the dropout problem. It's expensive but it is preventable.

We must reverse this situation. That is why I asked the Legislature to approve a far-reaching Student Retention Initiative. Legislators responded with enthusiasm, and you will see the evidence in many of your local schools this fall. The Initiative begins by early identification of youth (those with problems that lead to dropping out). Then we work to help them overcome the problems that contribute to their leaving school.

Some Oregon communities already have effective programs to help youth deal with these problems before they drop out. In some cases, programs are available to help those, who already have dropped, return to school or to alternative community programs. Experience has shown many of these programs work — they keep kids in school.

What these efforts have also shown is that the earlier we help the student, the better. If we can help at-risk youth in elementary school versus

high school, we are less likely to see them drop out.

The Initiative is designed to help school districts and communities throughout Oregon start programs for at-risk youth. To accomplish this, it offers local areas a partnership with the state. The state provides technical assistance, information about model programs, strategies for developing adequate local funding,

and seed money to help school districts and communities start programs for at-risk youth.

More and more Oregonians are recognizing that school dropouts are a drain on society — because of missed opportunities for earnings and paying taxes, and because dropouts need financial support through welfare, corrections or other tax-supported public services.

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Bobcats



by Adam Kraft