

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Karinda Hedlund, advertising representative

Christmas lights add holiday spirit

For an interesting drive — or better yet, a brisk walk — it is hard to beat the Gary Street and Barker Court residential area in southeast Sandy.

From Barker Court, and along a section of Gary Street ending approximately at Reed Circle, the display of Christmas lights is excellent.

The bells, candles and "Happy Holidays" decorations, purchased by the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, add to downtown, especially with the window displays, decorated trees and strings of lights put up by individual merchants.

And, of course, there are a number of individual homes that are well decorated.

But for a splash of color, the southeast Sandy residents have done a great job. Driving through that section of town kind of lifts a person's spirits. Thanks a lot.

Letters

School accident information sought

On Oct. 26, 1987, my son fell at recess (he attends Sandy Elementary) and broke his elbow. While accidents do happen, it is what happened afterward that has me concerned.

I was never notified, and he was sent home on the bus (with an elbow broken in two places). He went for over two hours of medical treatment.

I had intended on letting this drop, but now I find out my child is not the first, or the last child, this has happened to.

So, what I am asking is for parents who have had similar experiences with sick and/or injured children in the Sandy Elementary District to write me a detailed letter of what happened to their children.

After what my son went through, it is obvious that the district (or at the very least Sandy Elementary School) policy needs to be changed. But, in order to do this, I need letters that I may present to the school board at the January or February meeting.

I believe this needs to be pursued. I don't want to see another child have to endure what mine did.

Please send your letters to Mrs. J.D. Pitts, 17655 S.E. Bluff Road, No. 56, Sandy, Ore., 97055.

Mrs. J.D. Pitts
Sandy

Discipline went too far

As a parent in the Sandy Union High School District, I am concerned about the discipline policy of the school following an altercation in the school between a student and an adult hall monitor/security person.

The security person slugged the student (as stated in his own statement) in the chest with his fist. When they got to the office the student wanted to call home and he was refused that opportunity. When the student insisted he be allowed to call home, he was thrown into the filing cabinets, knocking them over. The police were called and we were called.

The student and I had a hearing

with the superintendent and other faculty of the school that resulted in the student's suspension for disobeying the security person. When I questioned the use of excessive physical force, I was told by the superintendent that this man has every right to use whatever force he deems necessary to maintain discipline in the school.

I agree that order must be maintained in our school, but I question the amount of excess physical force being allowed and condoned by this administration.

I went to the Sandy police department and asked to file a complaint against the security person and I was told I couldn't, even though this student is a minor.

I was told the student would have to make the complaint. The student was with me and he told the officer he wanted to file a complaint.

The officer grew agitated but reluctantly agreed to file the report. Though he said he would fill out the report, he said he could not do anything about it.

By the way, this was the same officer that had been called to the school in the first place. He told me the security person had every right to do what he did to the student.

Somewhere in all of this I feel there is a great injustice. We do have child abuse laws, but apparently they exclude the students at Sandy High School.

Evelyn Dempsey
Boring

Sentry employee thanks customers

I would just like to take a moment during this holiday season to thank each and every one of "my" customers and co-workers for the warmth of your friendship.

I am indeed a rich person to have so many friends and I thank you all for the opportunity of knowing you and serving you.

May the spirit of Christmas brighten your whole year, and may good health and happiness be yours forever.

God bless you, dear friends.

Debby Schneider
Sandy Sentry

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.



Giving is the true gift of Christmas

Good gift-giving is a true gift.

Not many Christmases go by without remembering my little brother and his first solo attempt at shopping for Christmas presents.

Vic was probably 5, a quiet little dark-headed kid who spent most of his preschool years bugging me to read the comics to him. Because he always treated words like gems — to be handed out one at a time — you did not often know what was going through his head. Mostly he and I fought over the dishes. Whose turn it was to wash. Who was supposed to dry.

One Christmas my father gave us \$5 each and dropped us off in downtown Madras to buy presents for each other, our parents, four grandparents and maybe a cousin or two. That, of course, meant shopping at the dime store, the only place in town within our budget.

I don't remember now if I witnessed him in the act of disgracing himself. I must have seen him. It was a small store. If I tried to stop him, he probably told me, his busybody sister, to mind my own business. But I am sure that when we got home I tattled. I was a reporter even then.



Sharon Nesbitt

My brother had bought a 25-cent chenille Santa Claus pin for my mother and blew the rest of his \$5 on John Deere tractor toys for himself.

Vic never got any better with money. But he learned a lot about gift giving that year. A few years later, I watched him lose all his money at a cheap carnival, throwing rings at a gaudy necklace displayed in a satin heart-shaped box. He wanted to win it for our mother.

Mom was both exasperated and flattered. I know she kept the chenille pin for years. After all, she was the only one he remembered in the year

our house. My parents let my brother know he had made a bad and selfish decision and he had to live with it. As he had already played with the toys, he was not able to take them back.

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that I still think of as "The John Deere Christmas."

Vic never failed in gift giving again. I remember one Christmas years later when I, all fat and pregnant, met him at the Portland airport coming home on leave from the Navy. He walked self-consciously through the crowd carrying a teddy bear. It was not trendy in those days to bear bears in public places. And later that week, wearing his uniform, he ventured into a maternity shop and bought me a dress, estimating the size by holding his hands out wide.

Vic's lesson in gift giving was my lesson, too. I will never understand mothers who do their children's Christmas shopping for them. When No. 1 Kid was only 2, I took her to the dime store to pick out her gifts. The little ceramic tiger — Made in Taiwan — that she selected for my mother still sits in a place of honor on grandma's knick-knack shelf along with the golf trophies and the hole-in-one balls.

I wonder, sometimes, if mom still has the little chenille Santa pin. I'd like to think so.

Just the other day

Voters elect 'non-candidate' in 1917

by SHARON NESBITT
Staff writer

Though he was not a candidate, George Kenney was elected mayor of Gresham in 1917.

A scuffle in the city political scene, one that The Outlook editor was too polite to describe in detail, had resulted in Kenney withdrawing his candidacy several weeks before the election because he did not want the support of a "certain faction" in Gresham.

Other Kenney supporters rallied and decided to write his name in on the ballot. As a result he won his election 107 to 65 over avowed candidate Benjamin Cameron. Upon his election Kenney said, "Since the people gave me such a handsome majority, I cannot refuse to serve."

There was no word on how Cameron felt losing to an undeclared candidate.

East Multnomah County residents were terrified in 1927 over a threatened epidemic of infantile paralysis (polio). Health authorities first played down the risk, saying more people died of measles. The following week Ruth Wallin, a Gresham High School girl, was stricken by the disease and died within four days. Hers was the first polio case within the Gresham city limits. As a result all the schools were closed, Gresham children were made to stay home and no public funeral was held for the dead girl.

Crowds were no problem in 1937 when Elvis Stockton opened his new cafe in Gresham. Some 400 persons pushed in and there wasn't a vacant seat in the restaurant from 5 p.m. Saturday until 5 a.m. the next morning. Two traffic officers directed traffic to the new restaurant, which was decorated in black and white and served Chinese and American food.

The H.W. Strong holly farm on

Powell Boulevard was in the middle of its busiest season at Christmas 1947. Strong grew his holly on the land where W.W. Cotton first grew raspberries in Gresham. That year local holly growers would ship 15 to 20 tons of holly.

Dave Woodford was named Gresham's most inspirational football player in 1957.

Christmas shoppers paid only \$6.99 for the most expensive pair of bedroom slippers Gordon Stone

advertised in 1967. Other gifts included \$11 sweaters and \$5 blouses. At W.R. Hicks, a shopper could buy mens' Levi cords for \$5.98 or three pairs of dress sheer nylon stockings for \$5.15.

Gresham was growing at such a rapid clip in 1977 that the telephone company was predicting that a 661 telephone prefix would be necessary in 1978 or 1979. The 665, 666 and 667 prefixes were nearly full, they said.

Researched and compiled from The Outlook files.

Where to write and call

State Representative Bob Shiprack, D-Dist. 23, 22610 Forest Park Rd., Beavercreek, Ore., 97004. 631-3817. Or: State Capitol, Room H288, Salem, Ore., 97310. 1-800-332-2313.

State Senator Bob Kintigh, D-Dist. 14, 38865 E. Cedar Flat Road, Spr-

ingfield, 97478. 746-1842. Or: State Capitol, Room S310, Salem, Ore., 97310. 1-800-327-7389.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Oregon, 711 Hart Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. 202-224-3753. Portland office phone 221-3386.

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(USPS 481-180)

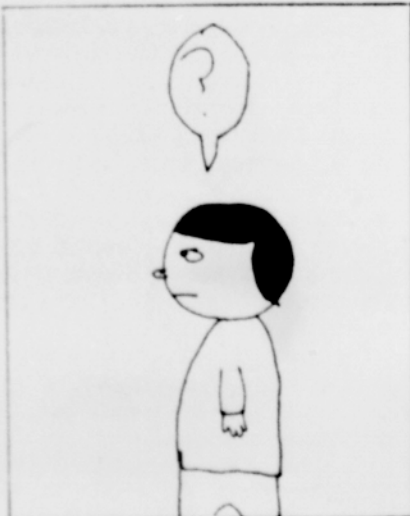
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Bobcats



Adam Kraft