

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Mountain Days can still grow

It is hard for us to imagine that it would be possible to make many more improvements in the two-day festival in Meinig Park.

The artists' and food booths, and the music and other performances, are pleasant, well-run affairs.

New ideas and fine tuning can always occur, but in general the festival is a quality event. The Mountain Festival committee is correct in wanting to see the event remain that way without worrying about expansion.

But Sandy Mountain Days, the entire slate of events that accompanies the two-day Mountain Festival, does provide an outlet for continued growth and innovation.

The Sandy Recreation Department does an excellent job with its activities, the Soap Box Derby always runs smoothly and the Health and Survival Fair is off to a good start.

These are examples of activities that capitalize on the high spirits of the Mountain Festival and provide healthy outlets for youngsters, or, in the case of the Health and Survival Fair, gives health care institutes and emergency service groups a chance to educate the community.

It is important, from time to time, to consider the benefits of the Mountain Festival. The food booths generate about \$30,000 in gross revenues.

Ten percent of that goes to the Mountain Festival committee, which hires bands, pays for security, provides telephones, publishes promotional materials, runs the parade, buys awards and meets other expenses associated with the festival.

Rent for artists' booths, and commissions from T-shirt and poster sales, also contribute to the Mountain Festival's budget.

For the civic organizations that run the food booths, this one weekend can raise the money to send youngsters to camp, offer scholarships, provide health care for the terminally ill, and a range of other projects that are good for the community.

The Mountain Festival also has led to the development of Meinig Park over the past 15 years into one of Sandy's leading assets.

Since the two-day event draws so many people to Sandy for the weekend, it is a great opportunity for the town.

And we can look to the example set by the Mountain Festival committee as a way to improve Sandy Mountain Days even more.

The Mountain Festival committee is organized and innovative. It remains innovative because it participates in workshops put on by the Northwest Festivals Association.

People from Sandy will have the opportunity to participate in one of the conventions when the group comes to Rippling River in November 1989.

The Mountain Festival is a great economic contributor to civic groups, and it has allowed Sandy to identify with an enjoyable, successful event.

But it will take continued innovation outside Meinig Park to keep the Sandy Mountain Days a quality operation. We should seize the moment.

Paying for wind an inside joke

by SHARON NESBIT
Staff writer

It's a great joke on us.

You know how they laugh at us living out here in the wind from the Columbia Gorge. How we all list a little from leaning into the wind. How the wind comes whipping down the gorge and swoops across our rooftops and kicks up whitecaps in the water in our toilets. And how the fellow was driving down the gorge at 55 mph and was passed by a paper cup.

But the wind is having the last laugh. These days the breeze blowing through the gorge smells of money. Most of it is blowing in from Hood River and The Dalles where four elements have combined to create the chemistry called profit. Take the surfboard. Put a sail on it. Place it on water, preferably water with a strong current to it. Add wind.

Make that five elements, the last thing you need is a young, urban professional with loads of money and the strength, balance and skill to sail in the gorge.

On any breezy day they are there darting back and forth across the Columbia River. The bright sails make them look like frantic one-winged butterflies. Their presence has changed our view of the river. The great Columbia that carried Lewis and Clark on its back is now giving thrill rides to people in wet suits.

Instead of canoes, they arrive in vans loaded with boards and sails and mountain bikes (for the days the wind refuses to blow). But they don't carry trinkets, mirrors and Jefferson medals. They carry money.

In 1987 they toted \$17.5 million to Hood River. By 1993 experts predict that the board sailing industry will be worth \$107.1 million. There is a traffic counter at the Hood River Marina that tallied up 480,000 people during the three months of summer last year. Not bad for a city of 5,000.

It is harder to tell how the people in the gorge feel about this annual inva-

sion. "Mostly the wind surf people stay down by the river and they don't get up in the heights," said a woman from the Hood River Chamber of Commerce.

If you believe the magazines written on the subject, board sailors say "rad" and "radical" a lot and follow the sport from Maui to the gorge, much like a migrant worker follows the crops.

A recent edition of a wind-surfing magazine that featured the gorge included an article by a young woman who had — horror of horrors — spent the entire winter in Hood River instead of going off to board-sailing mecca in Maui. The winter was only tolerable in Hood River, she said, because of skiing on Mount Hood. The last I heard, most gorge dwellers live there year 'round.

Despite this uneasy feeling I have that board sailors are just using the place, they have brought a breath of fresh prosperity to the gorge. Take a drive some day from Troutdale to The Dalles and back down the Washington side. Four years ago in Hood River we had a hard time finding a nice place for lunch. Today the storefronts are filling up. There are trendy places to eat.

The signs are even more apparent on the Washington side of the gorge. Restaurants are springing up. Pots of flowers grow in Stevenson, a town that still rings to the sound of loggers' caulk boots. Bright wind socks fly from little houses that have suddenly gone from shabby to quaint.

The progress is slow. Timber-related economies have had to come up from the cellar.

"But things are happening," marveled a friend. "They haven't painted their houses yet, but they have painted the trim."

Gorge residents are learning that the fabled "ill wind" can do more than blow the shingles off the roof.

It's a great joke and we're laughing all the way to the bank.



LETTERS

Vote yes on levy

I support the Sandy Elementary School District in asking for a one-year operating levy of \$274,145.

It is necessary for us to keep our schools operating and it is also necessary for us to keep them in repair. Delaying repair work only increases the costs at a later date, and ignoring the problem doesn't cause it to go away.

We have more children in the schools and this requires more expense.

The safety net was a temporary move and was not expected to solve the problem of school financing.

Each time we turn down a budget, it only adds to the costs because elections are expensive.

Let's get behind our schools and give them the money necessary for operating properly.

Howard Berger
Sandy

Thanks for beautiful quilt

I would like to thank the people at the Sandy Senior Center for the beautiful quilt I won in the raffle at the Mountain Festival. I'll get lots of good use out of it.

Lillis Hammers
Sandy

News lacking in Sandy Post

Recently, I've noticed a change of priorities in positioning of news in the Sandy Post.

I've been a subscriber for 25 years and news of local interest or import would be given a prominent exposure. But in the last year or so, several items which have had immense local impact or interest have been relegated to an obscure section or page and minuscule print allocated.

For example, Kelly Adovnik's "Police Officer of the Year" award being relegated to a small, insignifi-

cant column headed by "News in the Brief."

Even more pronounced would be Sandy's nationally recognized Art Skipper, who recently set a national mark in the javelin and has won two major meets in Sacramento and Chicago since, received such an infirmed and minuscule write up, most of my acquaintances overlooked it.

In my opinion, the morning after the national mark was made, at least one-third to one-half of the front page should have been allocated to this happening, both in recognition to the individual and for generating interest in the community.

If selling newspapers is the name of the game, I'm saying "sell newspapers." The content of the past year or so will not enhance circulation.

I'm not sure if "out of area" ownership has any bearing on our headlines but I read most of "our" news in the Gresham Outlook.

Hopefully, this inappropriate and inadequate format will change and readership will rise.

Nicholas J. Roth
Boring

Support insures successful derby

Another year, another derby, another successful youth activity has passed — the most successful youth-parent project this community has ever produced.

Thanks to the total community, the industrial park manufacturers (Baert's Metals, U.S. Metal Co., Jim Turin and Sons, Eldridge Construction, and Mitchell R.V.), the civic and service organizations (Optimists, Kiwanians, Lions, VFW and Auxiliary, police department, fire department and officials of the city of Sandy), the area businesses, and parents and other patrons of our community.

Sandy's sixth annual Soap Box Derby was (and is) a perfect blending of efforts from all sectors to help build and stabilize the family unit in

these times.

Several hundred interested patrons enjoyed the finals on Sunday, July 3, where two fine young people — senior division champion Mike Cox and junior division champion Samantha "Sami" Jones — were rewarded for their six-month effort with their parents with an all expense paid trip to Akron, Ohio, for the international competition in August.

Derby week in Akron is comparable to Rose Festival week in Portland in terms of grandeur, size and spectator involvement.

I personally wish to thank all who gave of their energies, talents, time and funds for the effort it took to complete this satisfying task which we undertook for the sixth consecutive year.

Barry Fretz Sr.
director
Sandy Soap Box Derby

Thanks, Sandy for support

The Sandy Ridge Riders 4-H Club would like to thank the citizens of Sandy for supporting the club's car wash.

Heather Chelin
Sandy

10K race best ever

We wish to thank all those who helped make the 1988 (6th annual) Sandy Mountain Festival 10K Run the success it was.

Especially helpful was Chief Fred Punzel and his able and willing crew of patrolmen, reserve officer Sean Burns, and off-duty fireman Tom Rutledge and the use of their equipment in the governing of the busy intersections along the race route.

We haven't forgotten the support of Buck Medical Services, whose presence was essential for a safe and prudent event.

Sandy High School provided starting and finishing facilities along with tables and chairs for registration. Bob and Pat Whitlock and Julia Latimore provided water stations.

Thirty volunteers helped staff the registration tables, provide water and run-through mist, monitoring the finishers' places, bookkeeping, sign making and placing in appropriate locations, and clean up.

Thanks to everyone who participated in any way for making 1988's race the largest and best ever.

Christopher M. Roth
director
Race Committee

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by ADAM KRAFT

