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Letter**'Needle
Little Help'**

Dear Editor,

My son in LA sent me a link (<http://chipperbound.tumblr.com/>) to a former co-worker's series of postcards built around used Christmas trees waiting at the curb for the garbageman. Beside the trees are cardboard signs with messages like, "Lost my job. Need help." And my favorite "Needle little help."

Given the global warming crisis threatening mankind's existence, maybe it's time to quit cutting down all those trees. On the other hand, they'd probably be replaced by artificial trees made of plastic, which comes from, guess where, oil and coal.

Oil and coal need to stay in the ground not spewed in our atmosphere as if it were a garbage dump. That's the message of the world's scientists and Naomi Klein's new book, "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the

Climate Change."

If your readers don't read the book, I suggest this New York Times book review by Rob Nixon: (http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/09/books/review/naomi-klein-this-changes-everything-review.html?_r=0). His summarizing final sentence: "The result (of Klein's book) is the most momentous and contentious environmental book since (Rachel Carson's 1962 exposé about DDT) 'Silent Spring.'"

Gary Dielman,
Baker City

Editor's Note: According to the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association's website <http://www.pnwcta.org/news-events/facts-at-a-glance/>, 2013 data reflects wholesale Christmas Tree sales generated \$110 million into Oregon's economy with 63,000 acres in the production of Christmas trees. Me thinks a lot of people will "needle little" convincing to do away with Christmas trees anytime soon.

**OLCC Asks Oregonians to Share Hopes,
Concerns About Marijuana Regulation**

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission has launched an online community survey at marijuana.oregon.gov asking Oregonians to share their hopes and concerns about the coming legal market for recreational marijuana. The survey, which is open through Monday, Jan. 12, will help the agency plan a statewide listening tour to be announced later this month.

"We need to hear from Oregonians across the state as we implement the law," said OLCC Chairman Rob Patridge. "We need to hear from community members,

parents, law enforcement, people who want to grow or sell recreational marijuana, and local governments. We want to know your priorities. What should marijuana regulation look like in your community?"

Patridge said the survey and listening tour are the first steps in a yearlong rule-making process that will include monthly Commission meetings, rules advisory committee meetings and other opportunities to hear from the public.

"OLCC is committed to a transparent and inclusive public process to help us im-

plement the law in a way that protects children, keeps our communities safe, and brings the recreational marijuana industry into the regulated market," he said.

Under the new law, possession of recreational marijuana becomes legal on July 1, of this year. The OLCC must begin accepting applications for commercial licenses next Jan., with retail stores to open by late 2016.

The survey will be live on the web through Jan. 12, at <http://marijuana.oregon.gov>.

**Hatfield Documentary to
Air on OPB Jan. 19**

A feature-length documentary film highlighting the life and legacy of the late Governor and United States Senator Mark O. Hatfield will be aired on Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) on Monday, Jan. 19, 2015 from 10-11:30 p.m. The film, The Gentleman of the Senate: Oregon's Mark Hatfield, uses extensive interviews with former staff and Senate colleagues of Hatfield to tell the story of his public service career. The Oregon Historical Society was proud to donate footage from its extensive archives to assist in the making of the film.

"Senator Mark Hatfield's legacy as a compassionate leader is considered one of Oregon's greatest gifts to this country and the world," said Rick Dancer, an executive producer of the project and long-time TV journalist from Eugene. "The story of Mark Hatfield is about his approach to leadership, the lives he influenced, and his involvement in iconic moments in history. There are important lessons here for today's leaders and the citizens who elect them. I am thrilled that OPB has chosen to broadcast the film, thereby sharing the Senator's life and legacy with as large an audience as possible."

The film was produced by The Hatfield Project, a 501(c)(3) organization created to chronicle Senator Hatfield's career and legacy. The film has previously been shown at special events at Portland State University, Willamette University, and the Oregon Historical Society. The Hatfield Project also anticipates donating copies of the film to schools and public libraries in Oregon. The film's executive producers are Rick Dancer, Kevin Curry, and Devon Lyon.



Mark O. Hatfield

**State Data Shows La Grande
One of Oregon's High Risk Areas
for Dangerous Radon Levels**

**State program urges home testing during
January's Radon Action Month**

New Oregon radon data show that many regions of the state are at moderate risk of having high radon levels, with several pockets of high-risk areas around the Willamette Valley, and in eastern and southern Oregon.

But people can take steps to reduce their exposure to radon, including testing their homes for the gas and hiring a professional to reduce it to a safe level.

Oregon's areas of highest risk for radon are in Scappoose, Banks and North Plains, as well as Boring, Parkdale, Dundee, Turner and La Grande, according to the data published on the Oregon Radon Program website, www.healthoregon.org/radon. A large swath of Portland, particularly in the north, north-eastern and southeastern parts of the city, also was found to be at high risk.

The Radon Program collects radon test data from test kit manufacturers in an effort to understand which areas of the state have the potential for high radon levels. It allows the program to identify areas where educational outreach efforts need to be focused. The data, initially published two years ago, was recently updated with additional radon test data from around the state.

"The take-home message is that every home needs to be tested, regardless of where it is located," says Brett Sherry, Radon Program coordinator at the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division. "You may have the only house on the block with elevated radon levels."

Radon is odorless, tasteless and invisible. It is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes up from the ground and is drawn into buildings, where it can build up to dangerous levels. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is responsible for more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the United States. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after cigarette smoking, and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

The Radon Program is joining the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in urging Ore-

gonians to take action and test their homes for radon during January as part of National Radon Action Month.

Testing homes for radon is simple and inexpensive. Radon test kits can be purchased at local hardware and home improvement stores, or online from radon test kit supply companies. Many test kits are priced between \$15 and \$25. Radon problems can be fixed by qualified contractors for a cost similar to that of many common home repairs, such as painting or having a new water heater installed. The best time to test for radon is during the heating season, when the windows and doors are closed up tight. This is when you would expect to find the highest radon levels in your home.

"Radon has been detected in homes all across Oregon. The only way to know if your home has high radon levels is to test," Sherry says.

Radon levels vary throughout Oregon depending on the underlying geology. Residents can see what levels have been detected in their neighborhoods by visiting the Radon Program website at www.healthoregon.org/radon, which lists radon test data by city and Zip code.

There are many cities and Zip codes in the state for which the Radon Program has little to no data. In an effort to get a better understanding of the radon potential across the state, the Radon Program is offering a free radon test kit to residents whose homes are in Zip codes with fewer than 20 radon test results. Residents can visit the Radon Program website to see if they are eligible.

Those living in Zip codes where there are fewer than 20 test results can send an email to toradon.program@state.or.us to receive instructions on how to get a free test kit, which will be provided while supplies last.

For more information on radon, radon testing and mitigation, radon-resistant new construction, or to order a test kit online, call the Oregon Radon Program at 971-673-0440 or go to www.healthoregon.org/radon or visit the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/radon/nram.

