

PROGRESSIVE VOTE KILLED COUNTY TAX

Eugene's progressive vote killed the county cops and jails tax Measure 20-114 last month, according to an analysis of precinct voting results.

While Eugene progressives voted heavily in favor of increasing their taxes to support parks, they voted heavily against the county law enforcement tax measure. The parks measure 20-110 passed in Eugene with 59 percent voting yes. The county tax measure — criticized as favoring jails over treatment and for giving tax breaks to corporations — got only a 49 percent yes vote in Eugene, the same percentage by which it

failed countywide.

If the county tax measure had received the same pro-tax vote in Eugene as the city parks measure had, the county measure would have passed with a countywide total of 53 percent voting yes.

In half of Eugene's precincts, mostly in south Eugene, the discrepancy was big: The parks yes vote was more than 10 percentage points higher than the jails no vote. In one Whiteaker neighborhood just north of West 11th, 83 percent voted for parks, but only 38 percent voted for the county jails measure.

Money measures have traditionally relied on strong support from pro-government progressives in south Eugene to push them over the top. But funding measures for law enforcement have struggled in the face of south Eugene voters' skepticism of their po-

lice emphasis. Eugene has passed two parks bond measures and a library measure in the same time that three police station measures have failed.

The voting pattern could point to a new strategy for the county passing its tax measure by changing it to put more money into prevention and treatment rather than incarceration and by shifting more of the burden to corporations and the wealthy. But while such a strategy might play well with south Eugene progressives, it might not be popular with the current conservative majority on the Lane County Commission. However, in January a new west county commissioner, Bill Fleenor, is expected to shift the balance to the left. — Alan Pittman



remained untouched.

Whether the thieves were protesting "Peace" itself or the rainbow colors that could symbolize gay pride, they "violated our neighborhood," Schauerma says, "our freedom of speech and our right to be different."

Members of Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC) printed up cautionary flyers for McKinley Street residents about the incident. CALC's Michael Carrigan says the thefts constitute a hate crime because they targeted people's beliefs.

At press time, EPD has no new leads. EPD Public Information Director Melinda Kletzok says the crimes are considered misdemeanors based on the stolen items' low economic value.

But Schauerma rejects EPD's perception of value. "[The flag] stands for what we believe," she says. "You can't put a price on feeling safe and comfortable in your home."

Schauerma has since funded the flags' redistribution, as she did originally. While peace flags show their colors once again on McKinley Street, many are now displayed from inside. — Nicole Fancher

SHREDDED SPEECH

Jeanie Schauerma regularly brings her large, rainbow-striped "Peace" flag to local rallies. So one day, when it wasn't on her porch, no alarms went off — until Schauerma noticed that her McKinley Street neighbors' flags were also missing.

Residents soon learned that sometime between Nov. 28 and Nov. 30, thieves had stolen four peace flags and left one torn at the base of its pole. Neighbors first thought the culprits were kids playing a joke, but to Abby Sliwinski, who owned the ripped flag, the thefts felt too "mean-spirited" to be done by kids.

McKinley Street runs parallel to City View Street and curves north from 18th Avenue to 14th Avenue, a quiet four blocks with no cross streets. Resident Jennifer Rowan says the stolen flags came from the street's north end. Five or six flags from the south end and several political yards signs

FINDING ROOM AT THE INN

In Mexico at this time of year, many people are preparing to celebrate La Posada Navideña, also known as Las Posadas. Just

Happening people

BY PAUL NEEVEL

JONATHAN LIVINGSTON

In 2001, on his way to a bachelor's degree in sociology at the UO, Jonathan Livingston started as a volunteer with HIV Alliance, in the gay-bi outreach program.

"We would go to places where gay men gather," he says. "I'd give a talk about safer sex practices." As a high-school student in Tualatin, Livingston had come out at age 15. "I stopped being harassed," he notes. At 17 he started a gay-straight alliance at the school. After six months as a volunteer with HIV Alliance, Livingston was hired as a staff outreach worker. "I also did HIV counseling and testing," he says. "The work was more satisfying than school." Still, he did graduate, and since 2002, Livingston has served the alliance as a case manager for people living with AIDS. "I like the idea of an ongoing conversation, getting to know people better," he says. "Our mission is to help people stabilize and maintain their health." Three full-time case managers attend to 190 clients for the alliance. "Jonathan is so caring and generous," says co-worker Erin Ehly. "For some clients he's the only person they've got. I don't know if he knows that."



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