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news Briefs

drawing as therapy

by harvey dickson



toast2850@yahoo.com

ing on possible code amendment strategies.”

In response to Prichard, Art Farley, a former Eugene Planning Commission member, wrote a letter to the *R-G* pointing out that rather than removing code provisions downtown to level the playing field with suburban development, the city could expand the density requirements to sprawling development. “I’d rather raise our expectations regarding development elsewhere than lower our hopes for downtown.”

— Alan Pittman

RACIAL WAGE DISPARITIES

Fifty-five percent of current jobs in the Oregon economy do not pay a living wage for a family of four with both parents working, and for people of color the situation is even worse, according to the latest report from the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations. “The Race for Wages: Jobs in the Current Economy” was released this week by Oregon Action.

“This holiday season is not a merry time for many families in Oregon,” said Clayborn Collins, a businessman and board member of Oregon Action. “Families forced to make trade-offs between basic needs all year round face even greater burdens at this time when heating costs are high and things like presents under the tree need to be traded off, too, because the money just isn’t there.”

While all workers and family sizes are chal-

lenged to making a living wage, it’s even more difficult for people of color, according to the report. While 40 percent of white workers’ earnings fall below the living wage share for each parent in a dual income family of four, for Latino workers that number is 77 percent. On household income, while 65 percent of white households have incomes below the living wage for a family of four with both parents working, this number is 83 percent for African American households and 82 percent for Native American households. A liv-

ing wage is defined as a wage that allows a family to meet basic needs without public assistance while providing some ability to save for emergencies.

“This report highlights a fact that many of us already knew — that people of color are disproportionately trapped in low-wage work,” said Oregon Action Organizer Geri Washington.

Solutions to closing the gap include the creation of living wage jobs, expanding education and training opportunities and investing in programs that meet basic needs, according to the report. “If we’re serious about closing the job gap, then it’s time for decision makers to create and enact race conscious policies to raise the wages for all Oregon’s workers,” said Connie Ashbrook, executive director of the Oregon Tradeswomen Inc. The report is available online (www.nwfc.org).

A CASE FOR HEARINGS

The U.S. House of Representatives voted Nov. 7 to send a resolution of impeachment of Vice President Cheney to the Judiciary Committee, and several members of the House Judiciary Committee are pushing for the hearings to go forward. The impeachment language in HR 333 was written by Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio).

“The issues at hand are too serious to ignore, including credible allegations of abuse of power that if proven may well constitute high crimes

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