

• **Another editorial flip-flop** at the R-G Sunday, but this one makes sense. Last month the R-G editorial board opposed quickly passing new rules to implement the police auditor charter amendment overwhelmingly passed by voters. But now the R-G is saying "Don't delay" and backing Councilor Bonny Bettman's call to nail down the rules in the next few weeks.

Bettman this week was turned down when she asked the council to hire an outside attorney to review this matter and provide a legal framework for the committee. Our own city attorney Glenn Klein has been dodging the issue and even refused to answer questions in a bizarre open council session last month.

What's not being discussed in this lengthy process is the cost to taxpayers of a dragged-out, four-month committee process. An attorney from Harrang Long will be on the committee, charging maybe \$250 an hour. The police chief's time is worth more than \$80 an hour, and the two police union reps will likely be on the clock, along with the auditor herself, and probably a city staffer to take notes. We figure it will cost at least \$600 an hour to debate some basic, common-sense rules that could be vetted in a couple of public hearings.

• Notice the new writer on the editorial page of *The Sunday Oregonian*. For at least the last three Sundays, **Jack Roberts** has written the column succeeding long-time conservative Portland columnist David Reinhard, who recently retired. Maybe it's just provincialism, because Roberts is director of the Lane Metro Partnership in Eugene and a leading local Republican, but we think he writes better than Reinhard, and there's no way he can be as loftily conservative as Reinhard.

• **Three little girls**, age 9, and a mom went to a City Council meeting last week to beg the city of Eugene for safety. Sixteen months ago, Josefina Vaclav's brother, age 10, died crossing Bailey Hill Road, a broad and busy street the city built next to a park and school. The devastated parents and neighborhood begged for a crosswalk. The city said it wouldn't paint the lines without a \$1.6 million repaving project. The city used the tragedy to help pass a tax increase for street repairs but didn't paint the lines. So Josefina and her friends sold lemonade and cookies and gave the city, which has \$30 million squirreled away for new offices, \$160 towards a crosswalk. But the city says it will take at least two years before they provide a safe way to cross the street. A few concrete barriers, a blinking light and a bucket of paint could provide a temporary fix, but the city hasn't done it. Maybe it will take another dead child?

Meanwhile, developers and sprawl projects get speedy attention from city staff. Brian Obie will get same-day permit service for his new hotel downtown. City staff slam-dunked the basketball arena. *The Register-Guard* got smooth Chad Drive repaved and connected to the Gateway interchange for its business park. Kids and other less influential people risk their lives daily on Bailey Hill, South Willamette, West 11th, Franklin Boulevard and the countless other mean streets of Eugene. Imagine if the developers had to beg and sell the lemonade.

• **Doctor, doctor, give me the news!** Last week in this column we asked if any local health care providers allow email with patients. One medical transcriptionist-editor tell us he knows one doctor who "gets so many emails that he doesn't take any from patients because he is afraid that communication critical to patient safety will get lost in the shuffle." Another reader, a patient, tells us she emails her doctor on occasion and is not charged.

Searching around, we've found doctor's offices in other cities where the process is formal, structured and efficient. Patients go to a password-protected website where they fill out a form and post questions. A clerk checks the site several times a day, prints out messages and attaches them to patient files. Doctors then dictate a response. Tidy, efficient and well-documented. Some doctors charge extra for the service; others see it as simply part of their patient care protocols to optimize care.

The typical business model for medical offices is to cram in as many patients per day as possible, but with today's soaring costs of medical care, providing email access to patients is a logical step toward cost-efficiency and improved patient care.

• Want to have a voice in the **Obama transition to power**? You don't have to be a Democratic Party leader, elected mucky-muck or big donor to weigh in on potentially one of the biggest political transformations in generations. The Obama transition team has set up a website where anybody can contact the team and leave comments on a variety of topics, from the transition process to cabinet picks to jobs with the new administration. Check out change.gov/page/s/contact (or just get there from change.gov).

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com

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Proposed School Boundary Changes

Public Meeting Schedule

Mon., Dec. 8, 5:30 pm

ATA at Jefferson,
1650 West 22nd Ave.,
in the Library.

Tues., Dec. 9, 5:30 pm

Churchill High School,
1850 Bailey Hill Road,
in the Library.

Wed., Dec. 10, 5:30 pm

South Eugene High
School, 400 East 19th Ave.,
in the Library.

Thurs., Dec. 11, 5:30 pm

North Eugene High
School, 200 Silver Lane,
in the Library.

Tues., Dec. 16, 5:30 pm

Kelly Middle School,
850 Howard Ave., in the
Library.

Thurs., Dec. 18, 5:30 pm

Roosevelt Middle School,
680 East 24th St., in the
Library.

*Traducción simultanea en
Español será disponible en
todas las juntas.*

For more information, call
the 4J Communications
Office at **687-3309** or visit
www.4j.lane.edu

The Eugene School District is considering some changes to school boundaries. Your comments and suggestions are invited.

Boundary Proposal #1

Laurel Hill Valley Change elementary school from Harris to Edison.

Boundary Proposal #2

Vicinity East of Morse Ranch to Hilyard
Change elementary school from Adams to Parker.

Boundary Proposal #3

Hawkins/Blacktail Drive Vicinity Change elementary school from César Chávez to Crest Drive.

Boundary Proposal #4

East Skinner Butte Historic District Area
Change elementary school from River Road to Edison; middle school from Kelly to Roosevelt; high school from North Eugene to South Eugene.

Boundary Proposal #5

West Downtown Area
Change elementary school from River Road to Adams; middle school from Kelly to Roosevelt; high school from North Eugene to South Eugene.

Boundary Proposal #6

West College Hill Area
Change middle school from Arts & Technology Academy to Roosevelt; high school from Churchill to South Eugene.



Eugene School
District 4J

An online survey
is available at
www.4j.lane.edu