

KEEP DOGS IN CABS

Saturday (12/6) I saw a shocking and disturbing accident involving a lovely old golden retriever. His careless owner had left the tailgate of his pickup down, and his dog was sitting right on the edge. We were next to him at a stop and before I could jump out to warn the driver he took off and sure enough his dog fell out of the truck. It gets worse so don't read on if you're squeamish ... The poor thing was on a long chain and was dragged for several yards. It happened right in front of the emergency animal hospital, so he was cared for immediately. I don't know if he lived; the vet can't tell me anything. Just please, if you don't want your dog in the cab of your truck, leave him home.

Tina Ellison
Springfield

END OF THE ROAD

Are you being denied by Lane County the maintenance of your community's roads? Is it based on law or its disregard by Lane County? Our community discovered that the End County Maintenance sign had been moved without notice from the end of our 1.25 mile dead end road to its beginning.

Lane County replaced the old road with a new one in 2006, stating this would reduce maintenance and liability. In spite of the community's desires and warnings, the \$3,000,000 road was constructed, and the dire predictions came true. So, Lane County attempted to dump the maintenance and liability onto the community. They emailed that our road "was, and will continue to be a Local Access Road (LAR). All LAR's throughout Lane County (over 50 miles) are not maintained by the county, and continue to be the responsibility of the residents who utilize the roads. ... The best you could hope for is your community would form a Local Improvement District (LID) to help maintain the road over its lifetime."

In 1934, Lane County created Bernhardt Heights County Road #1112 and has maintained it since. It took five minutes with Lane county code 15.010(35) to find a County Road is not an LAR returning maintenance and liability to Lane County. We prevailed, and the ECM sign has been returned. You may find the answers in the law available via the Internet in defending your family and community from the multitude of Lane County's abuses. We fortunately prevailed quickly without resorting to the class action lawsuit being prepared. Maybe your road is a similar cause!

Keith Stanton
Florence

TO THE DEMS

I am writing to tell you why I am endorsing Laura Gillpatrick and Matt Keating for chair and vice-chair of the Democratic Party of Lane County.

I support Laura Gillpatrick because she has been with the organization for several years and she's familiar with how the DPLC works. I have seen her build committees from the ground up, initiate new programs and build relationships that result in positive growth for the party.

Laura brings with her experience and continuity of the past two administrations, and she knows the priorities of the DPLC. She has a clear vision of what our party can be and has the ability to build the infrastructure the party



needs on day one.

I have worked with Matt Keating on the Eugene for Obama steering committee and helped mentor him as an Obama Organizing Fellow and 4th Congressional District Delegate to the 2008 DNC.

Matt's volunteer recruitment and voter registration skills are very good. His promotional, people and organizational skills are even better. I have seen Matt regularly reach out to local businesses to benefit our volunteer teams. He is bridging the gap between grassroots groups and growing businesses.

Above all, Laura and Matt are good listeners who welcome everyone into our fold. The DPLC is strongest when we're open to all and give everyone a voice and vested interest in our success. Laura Gillpatrick and Matt Keating understand this. They have my full support for the office of DPLC chair and vice-chair.

John Cuff
Eugene

STILL HACKABLE

Dan Robinson's Nov. 26 letter missed that the 2004 presidential election was stolen, especially through electronic ballot tampering. All or nearly all of the electronic voting machine companies, such as Elections Systems and Software and Diebold, are controlled by, thus programmed by, the extreme right wing. Vote totals could have been changed in the machines themselves, in the tabulators, in the wires from the machines to the tabulators, remotely from a laptop and from mobile equipment generating a stronger signal than the intended receiving tower.

Oregon's e-voting at least keeps the paper ballots for any recount. For the last election, I helped transport ballots for storage. These seem vulnerable; the ones I worked with are simply stored in a warehouse. More pertinent is the impossibility of securing e-voting. The only solution is hand-counted paper ballots.

Please read *Black Box Voting* by Bev Harris and *What Happened in Ohio*, coauthored by Harvey Wasserman. There is also *What Went Wrong in Ohio*, by the House Judiciary Committee's John Conyers, as well as *Federal Efforts to Improve Security and Reliability of Electronic Voting are Underway; but Key Activities Need to be Completed*, by the Government Accountability Office. The Democratic victory may have been much larger than we know of.

Kevin Russell
Eugene

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