

people are blithely unaware of this kind of thing going on until too late.”

The commissioners voted unanimously on Nov. 4 to approve amendments to the county code that streamline the process applicants go through for permits and zone changes. For \$3,700, the amount the county has been charging, someone can still request that the commissioners hold a public hearing and make the final county decision on an application. Or, under the new changes to the code, for \$250 the commissioners can simply ratify the hearing official's decision as the final county decision. Either way, the decision whether to hear the appeal lies with the commissioners.

Emmons gave the example of a rural citizen who is worried about a change of zoning on a nearby property that would allow a dwelling to be built on what was previously undeveloped. Under the previous system, that citizen would have had to pay \$3,700 to have a public hearing to appeal the decision to allow development. Now that person can pay \$250 to have the commissioners ratify the decision and the appeal then moves to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA).

The money goes to pay for county staff work and documents surrounding the hearings. County staff was concerned, Emmons says, that the \$250 fee would not be enough to cover county expenses, so Commissioner Bill Fleenor proposed the new fee be reexamined at a later date if the change started to cost the county “an exorbitant amount of money.”

Commissioner Rob Handy says he is excited by the lower fee and the simplification of the appeals process, which he says “serves our community on a lot of

Coyote shot by aerial gunning



PHOTO BY JAMES BABU

levels.” He says the stakeholder process “asked people to come together from different ideologies and with competing goals and work toward common outcomes.”

For example, according to Emmons, the idea for the change to the \$250 fee came from former commissioner and current land use attorney Steve Cornacchia, who represents development interests, but both development consultants and land use advocates were in favor of the fee change. Emmons called the former almost \$4,000 amount a “citizen disengagement fee.”

Handy says the changes simplified the process, which he called “an absolute maze,” and he adds, “Lane County once again is leading the way with some of these reforms that are needed around the state in other counties.” He calls it “another example of what our current board has been doing” and says the stakeholders’ process in the end was “basically Kumbaya.”—*Camilla Mortensen*

GRANT TO GUN COYOTES FROM AIRPLANES

Is increasing mule deer numbers for hunters to shoot worth gunning coyotes from airplanes? Predator and wildlife advocates don't think so, but the Oregon Hunters Association has given federal Wildlife Services a \$12,000 grant to aerially shoot the predators in areas across Oregon. Wildlife advocates say the issue isn't coyotes, it's the lack of grazing for the mule deer.

Wildlife Services is a division of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), a subset of the USDA. The agency conducts gunning in Eastern Oregon and other rural areas to protect livestock and it also benefits big game.

Duane Dungannon of OHA said via

email, “OHA grants funding to APHIS to do flight time for its coyote removal in areas where there are livestock grazing allotments, because OHA recognizes that these efforts — when timed with spring fawning — can be beneficial for wildlife populations, as well. This year we asked that our funds be used in the five wildlife management units that are currently a focus of ODFW's Mule Deer Initiative.”

According to Dungannon, the initiative is “aimed at reviving depressed mule deer populations in Eastern Oregon.” Mule deer populations have dwindled, he said, “due to a number of factors, not the least of which is predation.” Dungannon adds, “Hunting is not a significant factor in overall deer numbers because only mature bucks are harvested.”

Mule deer are native to Oregon but are not threatened or endangered.

Michelle Dennehy of ODFW said “ODFW has not yet proposed any coyote control as part of the Mule Deer Initiative,” and “ODFW is not involved in the grant from OHA to Wildlife Services.”

According to ODFW Director Roy Elicker's message from *2009 Oregon Big Game Regulations*, writing about the Mule Deer Initiative, “the Oregon Hunters Association, and other groups, are excited about taking an active role in partnering with us to move this project forward.”

Dennehy said planning committees have “proposed coyote control in their plans but ODFW has not made final decision on whether plans will include coyote control.” The decision, she said, will be made at the December Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in Salem.

Brooks Fahy of Predator Defense

SLANT

- The police chief this week **fully exonerated fellow officers** for the Taser of Ian Van Ornum a year and a half ago. This is no surprise; EPD issued a press release hours after the Taser with the same bogus justifications for the 50,000-volt attack on the non-violent environmental protester. If the police can't hold themselves accountable with clear video evidence and testimony from a dozen eyewitnesses in this case, it's hard to imagine that they ever will.

- Last week in this column we broke the news that a new **local citizen group** was forming to attempt something positive about public safety in Lane County. Since then the Citizen Advocates for Public Safety group, co-chaired by Jean Tate and Dave Frohnmayer, has gone public. County officials have failed more than a dozen times to pass tax increases for more jails, prosecutors and cops, and have even lost when prevention and treatment funds were included. This time around, forget bucks for jail beds and squad cars. What might fly is a modest progressive income tax for those making more than \$100,000 to fund grants for nonprofits to work on drug, alcohol and mental health treatment, child abuse prevention, early childhood education, prison transition programs, domestic violence and drunk/distracted driving prevention. Such a cost-effective tax would do far more in the long run to actually increase public safety.

- Who's behind **Eugene Advocates** for a Clean City? Harold (“Hal”) Reed sent the first set of photos to city officials Sept. 24, with a follow-up note sent by Mary Dax using the same mailing list. The photos, likely taken early in the morning, show homeless people sleeping in downtown doorways and piles of dog crap on sidewalks. After the first emails, all correspondence came from “Eugene Advocates.” We emailed the “group” Oct. 28 to ask if Reed and Dax are involved and got no response. Reed is a retired Eugene dentist and longtime financial

supporter of the Oregon Republican Party, donating many checks, ranging from \$250 to \$1,100, to the GOP and conservative candidates over the years.

We think it's interesting the group is using the same tactics as the Earth Liberation Front: remaining anonymous and using a spokesperson. Did the ELF have it right all along?

The Eugene Advocates wrote in an email to *EW* that “Who we are and why we are doing this is immaterial.” Not so. An organization demanding a crackdown on “vagrants” is a political campaign, for better or worse, and campaigns in a democracy call for face-to-face dialogue. So far, all we're seeing are complaints and unsophisticated “solutions” that ignore the causes and complexities of being homeless in Eugene. With an open discussion, maybe we can all learn something and even craft some reasonable remedies.

- Good to hear **Richard LaRiviere**, new president of the UO, emphasize “no separation between the UO and the city.” Speaking to the Eugene City Club Nov. 6, he said the largest employer in Lane County, on its “space-bound campus,” should find ways to “enhance and grow its presence downtown.” Vitality in downtown can't be sustained by commercial enterprises alone, LaRiviere said; it needs housing and attractions at night. His promising forecast: “I'm pretty confident we'll be able to find those solutions.”

- The new mayor of Seattle is **Mike McGinn**, a Democrat who worked for Oregon Congressman Jim Weaver in Washington, D.C., after graduating from college in 1982, and then moved to Eugene to work for the state insurance commissioner. He headed north from Eugene to the UW Law School, practiced law in Seattle, volunteered with the Sierra Club and his neighborhood organization, finally formed and headed a nonprofit called Great City. McGinn ran for mayor against a moderate businessman who raised

three times more money than he did; McGinn was opposed by the Democratic governor, the Democratic Party and most of the business and labor communities, and he was blasted by *The Seattle Times*, the city's remaining daily. More than 300 volunteers working for months out of McGinn's house won the race for him. *The Stranger*, Seattle's best alternative weekly, endorsed him.

- As Congress and the Obama administration debate **surge vs. exit in Afghanistan**, a gaggle of Lane County peace workers is marching into Congressman Peter DeFazio's office this week. Pete's not in town, but his aide Karmen Fore has agreed to meet with them. (Hopefully she'll leave her *Reno-911* Halloween costume at home.) A group led by Betsy Steffensen will be handing in a packet of letters about Afghanistan. A second group led by CALC will be turning in petitions with at least 325 names and thanking DeFazio for opposing a troop surge in Afghanistan and supporting an exit plan. The group will also be urging DeFazio to take a stronger position by supporting Rep. Barbara Lee's bill (HR 3699) that would cut off funding for any increase in U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Numerous websites have email and snail mail addresses for members of Congress, including <http://capwiz.com/fconl/dbq/officials>

- Just when we athletic agnostics at *EW* start slanting about the **Duck footballers**, they grind to a halt in Palo Alto. Did Stanford just publish the blueprint for how to beat the UO or can Chip Kelly and company figure out how to stop a power running game? Too bad LeGarrette Blount doesn't play defense! Arizona State may not have the power to test the Ducks in Autzen Saturday night, but next week's trip to Tucson looks more challenging. Arizona outscored Stanford.

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