

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Again, ESSN urges you to vote yes on Measures 66 and 67.

*John Evans, co-chair
Eugene-Springfield Solidarity
Network/Jobs with Justice*

NO TO COYOTE DERBY

As conservationist and biologist, I stand with people opposed to predator-killing contests, like the "coyote derby" described in "Whack off Ears for New Year" (News Briefs, 1/14). There's nothing emotional about countless documented studies showing that the response of coyotes to human persecution is to quickly recover and increase — not decrease — their populations with youngsters who are more likely to kill livestock. So it is the hunters of predators like coyotes (and derbies like these), with their fear and deep hatred of predators, that create problems.

Obviously, though, participants in these hunts are not driven by tears over the death of a ewe. Coyotes are mostly scapegoats, responsible for an insignificant number of livestock deaths (especially when their numbers aren't artificially increased by hunters) when compared to domestic dogs, weather or disease. The intense, ancestral hostility to coyotes and other predators is based on absolutely nothing — coyotes can't even be considered competition for "game" species, since they are mainly scavengers who help keep rodent populations down. Coyotes don't kill people, and there are federal and state programs designed specifically to compensate ranchers for any losses.

Besides there being no scientific basis for predator hunts, the exchange of bloody ears or paws for prizes strikes most civilized folks as backward and barbaric. Slaughters like these ought to be outlawed.

*Eileen Stark
Portland*

GET THE FACTS

A wonderful improvement to the Eugene community should soon be realized. A piece of Willamette riverfront property that has been inaccessible to the public for 70 years will become the home to one of Oregon's premier employers, Oregon Research Institute. In place of an old gravel quarry and utility storage lot and broken asphalt bike path will stand a beautiful environmentally green building that employees and the public will appreciate and enjoy. Please visit www.ori.org and get the facts, because the facts matter!

*Dawn Branham
Eugene*

YES TO SAVING SCHOOLS

Yes, Oregon needs to keep our children's schools funded. We do not want to lose more teachers. Let's keep what few services we have left from earlier budget cuts. Save education and our teachers' jobs.

Yes, Oregon's colleges and universities need more funding from the state. Let's not burden students with even higher tuition. Save the affordability of higher education to the middle class.

Yes, Oregon's human services provide

jobs for thousands of people. These service providers help many families, children and older folks in distress. Save the quality of life in our communities for everyone.

Yes, Oregon needs to maintain genuine public safety. We need adequate funding for our courts, police and prisons. Let's not release criminals prematurely, because of too few public safety jobs.

Yes, Oregon voters, vote yes on Measures 66 and 67.

*Jane Renfro Smith
Eugene*

PREVENT JOB LOSS

Measures 66 and 67 will not cost jobs. In fact, they will help prevent job cuts that directly effect our most vulnerable citizens. In an open letter to Oregonians, 36 Oregon economists, including Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz, agree that during a recession, a targeted tax on the wealthy will help keep dollars in the state and prevent job losses.

According to the Council on State Taxation, Oregon has the third lowest business tax burden in the country. If Ballot Measure 67 passes, we will have the fifth lowest business tax burden. If Measure 67 does not pass, our education and public safety institutions will suffer. Businesses will be unlikely to move to a state that does not have a highly educated workforce.

During a recession state spending increases because more people need unemployment benefits, public health care and other vital services the state provides.

Join me in preserving Oregon's economy, schools and public services. Vote yes on Measures 66 and 67.

*Brett Moser
Eugene*

DUCKS IN A ROW

What to do with the old eyesore — avoid greatness while shooting for perfect?

As a lifetime resident of Eugene and a graduate of the UO, I have seen many projects come and go here, some nice, some not. What bothers me about current events regarding the Riverfront Research Park is that there is a chance to bring in a bundle of government money to develop something beautiful in place of what has been an eyesore for a long time, and will continue to be so for years to come if the UO's conditional use permit is successfully blocked.

Let's face it, no one else has anything lined up. EWEB's attention and money is focused elsewhere. After a long, fits-and-starts process, ORI and EPIC have all ducks in a row to build a very nice LEED Silver or Gold certified building and grounds, minimal parking lot space with lots of trees and an upgrade to the bike path system. All this in place of a gravel and blackberry-filled dump with no lighting, an awful section of bike path and people sleeping in it. Maybe the ORI/EPIC project will even give EWEB a little push forward on cleaning up their dump.

The plan espoused by Connecting Eugene looks OK on paper, if a bit grandiose, but where's the funding?

Shall we keep the existing eyesore for another 10 years while we fight it out? I

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Start the New Year with Clarity, Perception & Direction.

Let me help you make the changes you've been hoping for.

As George Elliot said:
"It is never too late to become what you might have been."

ISBEL INGHAM - Therapist

New office location: Smeed Hotel Bldg.
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isbel@engagingchange.net

4300461.JOB
541-868-6077 Website: <http://www.engagingchange.net>



Lane County Public Health Wants You to Know ...



It's still flu season and it's never been easier to get the H1N1 vaccine.

DON'T DELAY! GET YOUR H1N1 FLU SHOT TODAY!

Contact your health care provider, a pharmacy near you, or one of these community sites:

In Eugene/Springfield:

- Lane County Public Health, 541-682-4041 (FREE!)
- Eugene Urgent Care, 541-636-3473
- The Travel Clinic, 541-343-6028
- Peace Health RiverBend Hospital - Urgent Care, 541-222-6005
- Cascade Health, 541-228-3095
- UO Health Center (students, faculty & staff only), 541-346-4444

In Cottage Grove:

- Cottage Grove Community Hospital, 541-942-6614
- Prime Med Medical Clinic, 541-942-7000

In Junction City:

- Junction City Medical Clinic, 541-998-6750

In Florence:

- Peace Health Siuslaw locations, 541-907-6057

In Blue River:

- McKenzie River Clinic, 541-822-3341

For a complete list of providers visit:

www.lanecounty.org

To find the site nearest you visit:

www.google.com/flushot
or call 1-800-978-3040

