

- A couple of key **Lane County citizen panels** were eliminated Aug. 3 by the County Commission (see News Briefs). Gone are the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (VMAC) and the Commission for the Advancement of Human Rights (CAHR). The move apparently caught some members of these panels by surprise; they didn't even know their years of hard work and public service were on the line. It was another 3-2 vote that reflects the conservative shift on the board with Commissioners Sorenson and Handy losing to Leiken, Bozievich and Stewart (see our cover story on "Shifty Politics," 7/14).

Local timber barons, who contributed substantially to the election campaigns of the three conservative commissioners, are likely celebrating the end of VMAC, which for more than 25 years served as a sounding board on public health, clean water and species survival. VMAC has been outspoken on private timberland spraying and has helped educate county residents on the hazards of home and garden pesticide use.

One reason given for cutting these panels was "we don't have the money," though the county's administrative costs for VMAC are a fraction of the expense of the Rick Dancer Vimeo series that attacked labor unions. Another stated reason was "they don't have a lot of members and they don't do much," but ironically, conservative commissioners never made their appointments to these panels.

On a related note, the commissioners voted 4-1 at the same meeting on a non-binding resolution in support of the Lane County Summer Food Program, federal money that goes to FOOD for Lane County to provide free lunches for kids in low-income neighborhoods. Lots of volunteers involved. Guess who was the lone, courageous vote against feeding hungry poor kids? Yep. Bozievich. Let them drink tea.

- **We've lost some prominent people** in Lane County lately, and hopefully no more for a while. Longtime arts supporter and innovator Candy Moffett died July 27, businesswoman and philanthropist Carolyn Chambers died Aug. 8, and stone carver and metalwork artist David P. Miller died Aug. 10. All are big losses to our community, and they will be long remembered.

- Is there more to our story last week about accusations of sexual harassment at the **UO Department of Philosophy**? The UO's statement on the results of its investigation can be found in its entirety at <http://wkly.ws/13j> along with a string of strong comments, and some contradict the findings of the UO Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity.

- **New hope for saving Civic Stadium?** We're encouraged by the collaborative plan put forth by Rick Wright and the Civic Community Group that would not only save the historic stadium but also provide a new home for the aging YMCA. The proposal goes before the 4J School Board this week and we hope board members share our enthusiasm.

- Despite noisy opposition and now a state query, LTD is still pursuing the massive and lengthy bureaucratic process for the **West Eugene EmX** project, and more open houses are planned for September. Check out [www.ltd.org](http://www.ltd.org) or find LTD on Facebook. New on the LTD website (<http://wkly.ws/13f>) is a series of "mythbuster" statements worth reading. Here's a sample: "A primary goal of EmX is to control LTD's operating costs by implementing a system that is more efficient to operate than standard bus service." And to combat the "No Buses to Nowhere" signs, the website also cites government projections of growth in both population and employment along the West Eugene EmX corridor, saying "a significant amount of Eugene's higher-density residential population (will be) located within easy walking distance of the West 11th corridor."

To really judge whether the West Eugene EmX is a good idea, we need to look ahead 10 to 50 years at our evolving transportation needs. We don't see that kind of thinking among the opponents of the project.

- Our annual **Best of Eugene ballot** is now running in print when we have space and online 24/7 at [www.bestofeugene.com](http://www.bestofeugene.com) and we have some fun new categories this year. No ballot stuffing, please, but it's OK to use social media to encourage friends and family to vote. These are important community awards and the winners are determined by you, our readers.

*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](mailto:editor@eugeneweekly.com)*

# EXPERIENCE THE PHENOMENON



# BLUE MAN GROUP

**ON SALE TOMORROW!**

**October 4-6 7:30pm**  
**Hult Center**

Tickets at [www.hultcenter.org](http://www.hultcenter.org), (541)682.5000, Hult Center Box Office and U of Oregon Ticket Office(EMU).  
 Groups(15+) Call (541)682.5000.

Visit [BroadwayinEugene.com](http://BroadwayinEugene.com) for more information.



Education • Research • Activism

# WESTONAPRICE.ORG

Priceless  
 Nutrition  
 Information