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news Briefs



process, only to have that taken away by the Lane County hearings official.”

“It’s a legal and procedural error that needs to be fixed,” he says.

— Camilla Mortensen

PETITION SEEKS TO PROLONG OCCUPY PERMIT

A decision on the future status of Occupy Eugene’s camping permit is on the agenda of the City Council Dec. 12, and with that in mind, a petition to the Eugene mayor and councilors is requesting that the city “continue to partner with Occupy Eugene to provide a safe community to the hundreds of homeless who have been forced onto the streets due to the economic injustices of our times and who have now found a safe community at the Washington/Jefferson Park Village.” As of this writing, 186 people have signed the online petition, and the signature goal is 1,000. Print versions of the petition are also being circulated.

The petition effort is being organized by Occupy Eugene with support from Eugene Springfield Solidarity Network and other groups and individuals.

“The citizens of Eugene have donated to Occupy Eugene: tents, sleeping bags, clothing, temporary building materials, kitchen equipment and sufficient food for the Occupation to cook and serve over 1,000 meals a day to the hungry,” reads the

petition. “The Occupy volunteers provide thousands of hours of volunteer work each month. We ask that the city of Eugene continue to make the encampment space available and also provide electricity and water to the site in order to assist the citizens and the volunteers create a more humane existence for the homeless we serve.”

Find a link to the petition, including a pdf of the print version, at occupyeugnemedia.org

— Ted Taylor

FAREWELL TO PLASTIC BAGS?

It’s spreading like wildfire across the West Coast — from San Francisco to Portland, and now to Eugene — cities are adopting policies that prohibit grocery stores from distributing plastic bags. Although the Oregon Legislature rejected a statewide bag ban earlier this year, several Oregon cities are looking to locally impose bag restrictions. Recently Environment Oregon and OSPIRG have brought up the idea of a Eugene ban with the City Council, forcing Eugeneans to examine the costs and benefits of this longstanding shopping staple.

Dave Mathews, a preservation associate for Environment Oregon, says that banning plastic bags is one of the “simplest things we can do” to mitigate the environmental impact of our waste. Not only are bans like this shown to cut

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