

TITLE TO CAPSTONE

This [7/12 EW] article states that Capstone is going to start a proposed project without having title to all of the land. Looks as if bumps are starting to happen.

Capstone has a local history that is less than sterling. University Commons apartment buildings west of Garden Way and just south of I-105 is an example.

Due diligence by the city of Eugene planning/permitting department among other responsible government, private and business interests could have figured this out.

Eugene does not have to hop on the first turnip truck to come along. If it is a good location someone with capital, vision and maybe integrity will show up.

Also, what sort of long-range management agreement is part of this mix? University Commons has had more than its share of problems.

*Chris M. Percival
Prior Capstone sub-contractor
Eugene*

HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEXTER

I attended the July 12 land use hearing on Lost Creek Rock Products' mining of Parvin butte. For nearly three hours, neighbors of the Butte offered compelling, often heartbreaking testimony about the impacts the mining has already had on their lives, and the much greater impact the mining and transport of Parvin Butte rock would have over the next 20 years.

At stake is the health and wellbeing, the economic and even physical survival, of a large number of Dexter residents — not to mention the viability of salmon and other wildlife in the area. Not only livelihoods, but lives may be destroyed if the blasting and transport of Parvin butte are allowed to continue.

Multiple neighbors of the Butte testified that they had moved to Dexter specifically because they not only wanted, but *needed*, a quiet area in which to live, having suffered noise-related trauma and hearing loss that

make living in close proximity to active blasting not only an annoyance, but literally a health- and life-threatening proposition. A nearby home houses 11 Vietnam-era veterans suffering from PTSD; those men have been re-traumatized by recent blasting. Another resident with an already-compromised immune system suffered major health setbacks as a result of the April 10 blasting, and needed to testify *in absentia*. Add dust from the gravel mining into the equation, and the health threats are even greater.

Residents' animals, crops and home businesses are all endangered by the mining. One massage therapist needed to cancel a week's worth of appointments because of mining operations earlier this year. Many of the mine's neighbors have put their life savings into their homes and properties there, believing they'd be able to work from home, support themselves and age healthily there. These plans are now on hold.

Testimony also made it clear that the transport of the rock (one large gravel truck every five minutes, 11 hours a day, six days a week, for 20 years) over the already dangerous Rattlesnake Road (with its blind curves, blind pullouts, frequently stopping vehicles and no shoulder) is a recipe for traffic deaths.

The plan to mine Parvin Butte violates basic human rights — the rights of Dexter residents to health, to safety, to the pursuit of their livelihoods. Only a heartless system of governance would allow this plan to continue. If the codes are poorly written, rewrite them. Meanwhile, when lives are at stake, the code should be simple: Protect them.

*Chris Roth
Dexter*

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Saturday, October 13 at 7:30 PM

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