

According to Keith Heath, who is running the program, there are about 69 people on his list for legal camping. Although there currently only 25 legal camp sites, they hope to expand soon. This is a great opportunity for the local citizens who live out of their cars to save for real housing, focus on jobs and worry about their families instead of stressing about where they can park for the night, while keeping our environment safe and clean.

I fully support the idea and hope everything goes as planned to keep Eugene green!

Dominic Ambriz
Eugene

SO GOOD TOGETHER

Five days ago [9/27] you were stolen from me. I was shocked that even a U-lock wasn't strong enough to keep us together. This is a goodbye I was not expecting to have to say, but I suppose when things are going well, the loss is always blindsiding.

Bicycle, I understand that this was not a betrayal on your part, but an unfortunate fact of the community I choose to live in. Even if you are now in pieces, or squirreled away in some tweeker's garage, I filed a police report and have my eyes peeled, for what it's worth.

I will say we looked damn good together. When I met you a year and half ago, it was transformative. A road bike! Speedy! Elegant! A frame that fit these long legs! I was a goner. Together, we realized joy and freedom of motion. You shaped me — not only my ass and my calves, but my outlook on transportation and personal mobility. We had some memorable times. How about that fabulously ill-planned coast ride that was our first tour-date? Or just you and I, cruising out Lorane for a quickie in the afternoon? At certain speeds, moving with you was heart-pounding.

I know I will find another, but bicycle, you were the catalyst of this particular education. I learned from being with you, and what we had will be the foundation for future love affairs. Now I know to be more attentive to high-theft areas, the condition of my U-lock, and note serial numbers.

It was good while it lasted.

Nicole Gautier
Eugene

BLIND PROGRESS

An open letter to EPUD board member Chappel: Would you kill your grandmother? This is what EPUD plans on doing: Our electric company wants to cut down Grandmother Oak, a tree perhaps 200 years old, and one of the oldest trees in Veneta.

And the reason? "It might fall on the new fiber optic line." Why not bury the new fiber optic line? Underground lines are not only safer, but require less maintenance than above-ground lines. Certainly, there must be an alternative to destroying this stately old oak.

Very few of the original old oaks remain in Lane County, precisely because of this attitude: "Why save it? It's only a tree."

True, it is "only" a tree — a tree which stood when the pioneers arrived, and witnessed the birth of the town, watching silently as generations of residents have lived and died, a tree that has seen much of the history of this county.

Ms. Chappel, I am asking that you oppose the destruction of Grandmother Oak, because it is not merely a tree, but a symbol of our shared history, culture, and respect for all that is ancient and beautiful. To cut down this historic and ancient tree would be akin to destroying the Sistine Chapel or the *Mona Lisa*, icons that have value to all people, and they are all irreplaceable, as part of our history and our children's heritage.

I am not against fiber optic lines or progress. I am opposed to ignorance and the mindless destruction of our natural heritage.

As John Muir once said, "God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools ... Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress."

I am hoping that EPUD is guided by men and women who are not fools, and who can see the value of preserving this mighty giant, rather than pursuing "blind progress." Or as Thoreau once wisely intoned, "A man is rich in proportion to the number of things which he can afford to let alone."

Jeffrey Zekas
Veneta

STICKING TO NETFLIX

Who's unbrilliant idea was it to announce Bijou's coming to downtown with that utterly ridiculous cover shot [9/27] of movie theater seating with idiots' legs and feet up over the backs of the rows in front of them? Juvenile? In the extreme.

I was looking forward to Bijou's plan; a movie theater close to my downtown dwelling. After seeing that cover I am staying with Netflix and its streaming entertainment at my fingertips.

Doug Brinkman
Eugene

FOUL FIELD BURNING

Your article about air quality problems in west Eugene [9/20] was a sad comment on the treatment of people who live in that area. Your list of polluters is incomplete, however. Where is the outrage over the field burning that continues inside Eugene city limits? Field burning is a luxury bought by the few who cannot be bothered to use modern methods to manage our environment.

The state of Oregon finally said "enough" and outlawed the foul, outdated practice. But the city of Eugene continues to allow unnecessary field burning — and the fires continue to foul our air and kill every creature in its path. After reading your article, it is interesting to note such field burning occurs in west Eugene.

F. Verrijt
Eugene

EMBRACE THE DUST

While I am opposed to transporting coal through Eugene (or anywhere else for that matter), I think we should make some proverbial lemonade. The city of Eugene has been burning large swaths of wetlands in west Eugene. Consider how much more efficiently the vegetation will burn if it is covered with a patina of coal dust.

Tom Arnold
Eugene

NONE OF THE ABOVE

The Peter DeFazio campaign owes an apology to Art Robinson for claiming in 2010 that only Robinson would bring us more clearcuts and nukes.

DeFazio's so-called forest "trust" would privatize much of our BLM federal forests, a gift to timber barons who turned their forests into tree farms. Privatization of public resources used to be solely a Republican goal; now, it's bipartisan.

Last year, DeFazio praised the NuScale company in Corvallis which is seeking an Obama administration grant to build prototype modular nuclear power reactors (45 megawatts). Future generations won't care about Democrats and Republicans, but they will curse us for the nuclear waste we leave for them. See <http://wkly.ws/1d4> for DeFazio's promotion of NuScale.

I gave up on DeFazio years ago when he told a town hall meeting that the U.S. invasion of Iraq was "legal" because Congress endorsed it. I guess he never heard of the Nuremberg trials. DeFazio is a reason I support term limits.

I'm disappointed that Corvallis City Councilor Mike Beilstein won't be on our ballot this time as the Green candidate for Congress. From his website newmenu.org/mikebeilstein: "Resource limits will not allow us to return to the economy we knew before 2008. ... the earth cannot continue giving resources at an ever increasing rate. The work of national leaders should be to start imagining how we can meet human needs in an era of diminishing resources."

My vote will be "none of the above," an honorable choice.

Mark Robinowitz
SustainEugene.org

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Inaugural McKenzie Cider & Craft Beer Festival is seeking volunteers. Volunteers receive FREE t-shirt, event admission, souvenir glass, and drink tokens.

Register to volunteer Online at MCCBF.com Must be 21 and over to volunteer

CONTEMPORARY COMFORT



FOLLOW YOUR FEET TO FOOTWISE FOR BOOTS

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