

I think EWEB's management needs to be more creative with their budgeting instead of just lazily proposing across-the-board rate hikes as a solution.

Perry Blakeley
Eugene

SMOKE KILLS KIDS

One of my Eugene friends just sent me a copy of EW's Aug. 30 edition with the cover story about the two Eugene organizations, StoveTeam International and Aprovecho Research Center, that develop stoves for use in developing countries. She knows of my interest in such stoves because I am a Peace Corps volunteer in rural South Africa.

Here the problem is not so much the open fires of Central America or African refugee camps as it is ordinary wood-burning cook stoves, much like your grandmother probably used in the '30s to cook family dinners. Here it's common for a kitchen to be set up in a separate building — a mud hut or perhaps a yurt-like structure called a *rondaval* that is usually made of mud or cinderblocks and has a grass roof. And very poor ventilation.

Just as it is in America, rural African kitchens often are gathering places for families to socialize and get caught up on the day's events while mom makes dinner. All the while, all in the room are sucking down large quantities of cook smoke from the stove. The women and children are most affected because they spend the most time there — many hours a day. According to StoveTeam, more children under the age of 5 die of respiratory illnesses than die of malaria and AIDS combined. It's the leading cause of death in young children in developing countries. People spend 20 hours a week gathering firewood for cookstoves and fires — and depleting the forests.

I'm exploring the possibility of bringing a stove project to villages in my part of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, but building a stove factory from the ground up in a rural area in a developing country is a monumental project, as StoveTeam and

Aprovecho can attest. They deserve well-earned recognition and support for their efforts.

Gary Cornelius
Peace Corps Volunteer
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

LEGAL SLEEPING

I agree that the new county park caretaker program is a wonderful step in the right direction. Helping make our parks safer for everyone is a great goal, and a way to provide a legal place to sleep for a few people. However, as anyone in any social service agency in town will tell you, it is simply not enough to meet the immediate and dire need for legal places to sleep for people who have no homes. Many don't even have a car to sleep in.

Even if we were to expand this program to include all the city parks that could benefit from a caretaker (and wouldn't it be nice to have clean open restrooms in the parks all the time?), it would still be a drop in the bucket. While over 2,000 were counted as homeless during the one night count last year, over 10,000 who accessed social services indicated that they were or had been homeless at some point during the year. Over 700 homeless children attended 4J schools last year. Without safe places to sleep, people can do nothing else to better their lives.

If we cannot provide a safe, dry place to sleep for everyone who needs it, then we must find ways of getting out of the way of people providing for themselves. No more police and court time wasted levying fines that don't get paid. No more citations for life-sustaining activities!

Sabra Marcroft
Eugene

RENAME OUR COUNTY

Lane County is named after Joseph Lane, vice-presidential candidate for the pro-slavery South, the Confederacy, back in the mid-1800s. He and many of his like-spirited friends later moved to this area; many more racists migrated here during

The Shedd Institute
www.theshedd.org - 541-434-7000

The Eye Center
John H. Haines, MD
Kent A. Karren, MD

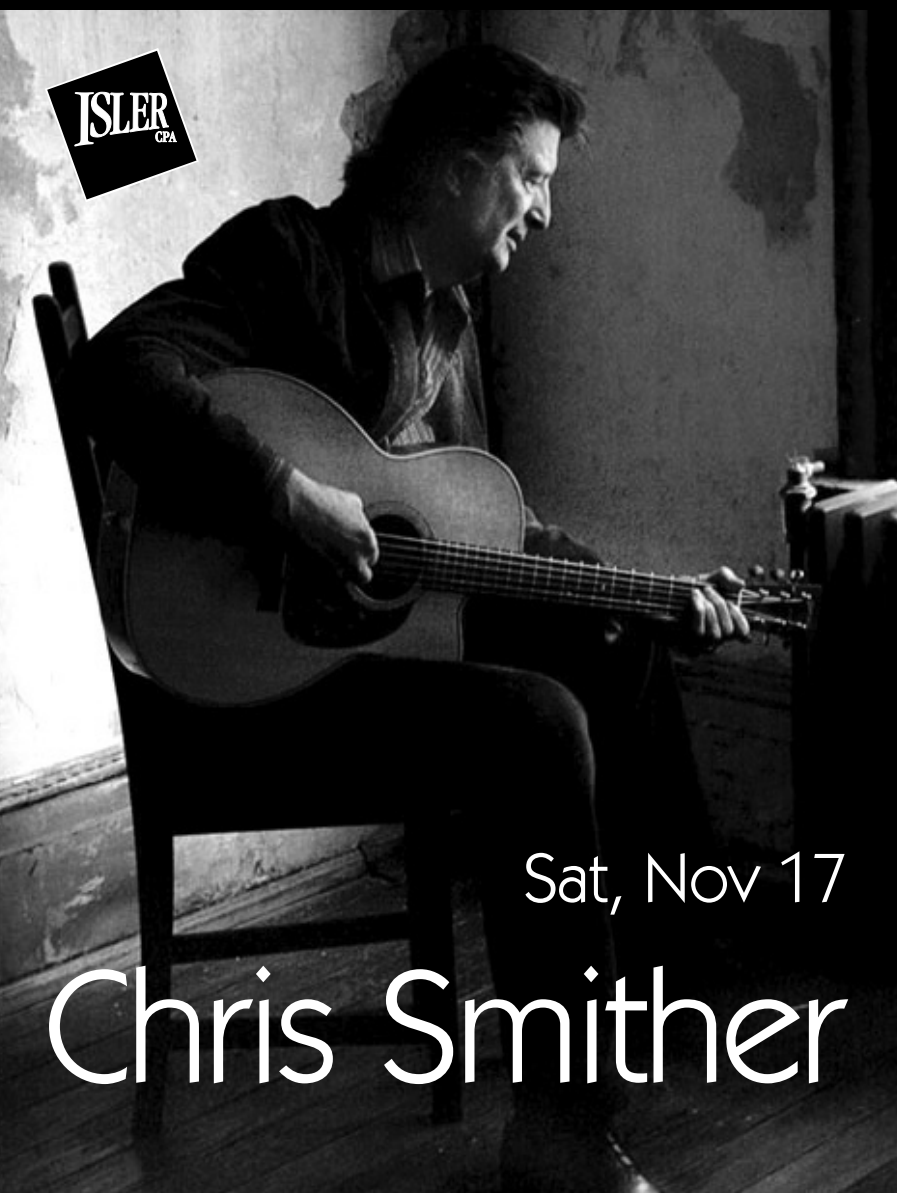


Le Vent du Nord
Friday, Nov 9



Sat, Nov 10

Dick Hyman
Lindsay Deutsch
Fritz Gearhart - Leslie Straka
Steven Pologe - Tyler Abbott



Sat, Nov 17

Chris Smither

Spirit of Christmas
Holiday Sale & Celebration
November 15-17
Thurs, Fri, Sat.
10am-8pm

- *Live entertainment
- *Free homemade cookies
- *Meet & greet the artist
- *Custom orders & personalized gifts
- *Amazing 2D & 3D miniature art, ornaments
- *Custom Christmas Cards

Directions
*Note there are parked trucks for sale by the entrance of the driveway. Drive in and go to the back behind the gate. Thank You.

PACIFIC RIM ART GALLERY

Pacific Rim Art Guild
Christian Artists Network