

Corvallis Woman Discovers "Living Large."

Her life actually gets bigger.



Living Large
Weekdays, 12 - 3 p.m.

CONNECT TO CULTURE



NO PERS COLA RAID

Gov. John Kitzhaber's plan to raid the PERS Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to fund education in Oregon is based on a solution that appears appealing on the outside but is not sound reasoning on the inside.

The first problem is that taking money from one bucket and placing it in another does not increase the total volume of anything in either bucket. It is just as likely that both buckets will suffer loss as overhead costs consume the savings of such a cash transfer.

Problem two is that PERS retirees use the money they receive from their pensions to pay the rent, purchase goods and services and buy health insurance from the state. Removing the cash from the retirees will in the end remove the cash from the economy as well. Local business and service providers will suffer economic loss.

The third problem is that this raid on the PERS COLA will be found unlawful by the Oregon Supreme Court. The last time the Legislature attempted to tamper with the PERS COLA they were reversed in the Court. By Kitzhaber's reasoning, if the state can set the PERS COLA rate, then it could set it to zero, just as easily as it could set it to some other number. The court will not agree to this end run around a contractual agreement entered into by the state and PERS retirees.

There are other solutions available; the problem with them is that it will take some real political will to bring any of them to the public notice, much less get them enacted into law. On this issue I encourage Lane County representatives to think again and come up with a better solution to the real problems facing the citizens of the state.

Gerry Merritt
Eugene

WHY NO CHILDCARE?

I want to respectfully recommend to the organizers of the Social Justice, Real Justice conference that childcare be taken into consideration in the future.

The website for SJRJ lists the following goals: Provide a space where students, community organizations, marginalized communities and allies can come together to speak on issues underrepresented groups are facing through current and global topics; to solidify solidarity when trying to dismantle various internalized forms of oppression both on an institutional as well as a personal level; and to become actively engaged in the movement and organize toward social justice by providing space for critical discussion and to put the theories to practice.

By failing to provide childcare at a conference addressing these issues, the conference has already partially failed to address the accessibility of social justice movements to enormous segments of most marginalized communities, both within and outside of the student body.

Resources are likely limited and logistics of hosting a large event are enormously complicated, and I congratulate you on bringing together such a fantastic event, full of high-quality speakers and performances. However, I would encourage the organizers to consider the repercussions of failing to provide access to women and families who are consistently unable to at-

tend such activities due to financial constraints. Being involved in various social and environmental events with extremely limited resources or none at all, I assure you that when it comes to providing childcare, the will to make it happen is all that is necessary. Including parents and families in our movements is mandatory, not optional, if we wish to see change.

Jason Gonzales
Walton

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

When will people stand up to these out-of-control county and city officials who squander and manipulate our money while cynically misusing the legal system to defend their own government crimes? They are now letting thieves, thugs, druggies, perverts and killers back out on the streets in an attempt to scare up some more bond money.

These professional crooks are implementing blackmail by holding public safety hostage, just as police fraternal order leader Willy ("Fall on our Swords Over This") Edeward said they would. Intentional government malfeasance is a serious crime.

The government is becoming a criminal failure now actively assisting and encouraging criminal culture, letting offenses go unpunished and dangerous persons go free. This is felonious endangerment by our own government! These "officials" and "administrators" deserve some prison time!

Abolish these fraudulent out-of-control city manager and county administrator positions. Fire their wasteful retinues of obsequious flunkies. Oust any activist judge and prosecutor accomplices. Power must rest with elected citizens who are completely accountable to their oath to the community.

We cannot let carefully sequestered bureaucrats remain well insulated from consequences for their profitable crimes. They make careers of abusing and usurping our authority, eroding our society and environment. They must be halted in their tracks and brought to justice.

Mike McFadden
Eugene

EWEB'S AVATARS

A lot has been written in recent months about how sensitive the EWEB board is to its customers. While there may be good and necessary reasons for rate increases, it is the small things that reveal how in touch the utility really is with its customer base. Take, for example, the recent changes in EWEB's online billing system.

For security reasons, the payment site requires the customer to select an avatar from a selection of 64 cartoons of people with indicators of their jobs. Of the 64 icons only four are female. None of the females are accompanied by an obvious indicator of a highly skilled profession. Only two of the avatars are not Caucasian and neither the dark-skinned male nor the Asian avatar in the stereotypical coolie hat is accompanied by an indicator of a job.

Fortunately, there is an avatar wearing a clown costume that can be selected to represent the buffoons who offer up this culturally insensitive menu.

Marilyn Hedtke
Eugene



Green Neighbors Faire

First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene
Saturday, February 23, 9:30 am (Doors Open) to 3 pm

Schedule:

10am-Mark Lakeman-Creating a Green Community Culture – Connecting Neighborhood, Economy, Energy, Environment, & Climate
10:30 am - City of Eugene Climate Outreach Program

Free Workshops, Demonstrations & Information on:

- * Gardening, Composting, Pruning, Edible Landscape
- * Energy/Water Conservation, Permaculture, Carbon footprint
- * Climate change information, Neighborhood action
- * Cooking, Food preservation, and Tasting
- * Youth Programs, Bicycle repair, & Greening Our Neighborhoods
- * Urban farming and Front yard garden skill building
- * Urban Design, Voluntary simplicity, Local food, and MORE . . .

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