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Mat Beecher  
Eugene

## SEXUAL IDENTITY

There is all this talk about homosexual, bisexual, heterosexual, but there is a large group that is being ignored. It is time to come out of the closet. I'm monosexual and proud of it!

Vince Loving  
Eugene

## MORE TAX INCREASES

Florence residents were promised that merging the city into the rural fire district would not cause higher taxes. A written agreement limited the increases. In 2011, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) staff gave notice to the Florence City Council they removed this restrictive/offensive section. To the annual 3 percent tax increase due to 3 percent increase of property appraised values, fire staff is adding 6 percent this year to its district rate; 0.8891 to 0.9391. I say "staff" since monthly board meetings average 30 minutes; staff provides the issues, supporting research and singular decision choice; and the board votes unanimously. Just because the fire district provides a decent service is no excuse for us and our elected board to give the staff a

blank check and invite into a candy store.

The proposed and last year's tax increases can be eliminated by one decision. The receptionist/ secretary/ office worker received consecutive 10 percent pay increases, becoming the second highest salary on the fire staff. She will cost roughly \$48 per actual work-hour. Together with her full-time assistant, they provide office support for the huge staff of six full-time workers. This largess may be since both she and her boss are retiring this year and PERS retirement is based on 1.67 percent times years in PERS times final salary.

The solution is to simply retire her position, saving \$62,370 salary plus \$6,600 medical (with dental vision) plus \$6,000 PERS (estimated) plus 8.6 weeks paid days off plus her other compensations. Most

local businesses would agree one competent office staff worker fulfills the support needs of an equivalent service shop. The assistant is already trained, so let her assume the lead position at her current compensation.

Supporting documents can be viewed on the [siuslawcounty.org](http://siuslawcounty.org) website. The proposed budget's single public hearing was June 19.

Keith Stanton  
Florence

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 200 words, keep submissions to once a month, and include your address and phone number for our files. Email to [letters@eugeneweekly.com](mailto:letters@eugeneweekly.com) fax to 484-4044, or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.

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