

the excessive cost of public workers and reductions in revenue. I propose our public media adopt the same practice.

Most publish selected non-solicited letters, press releases and, to a lesser extent, articles. All have vastly reduced their reporting and eliminated investigative journalism at great loss to our society's health and vitality.

We pay vast sums to tax districts, are expected to elect good citizens to boards and accept their services and regulatory edicts without complaint. But, we no longer have reporters assigned to write up their meetings and activities, keeping the public informed and involved. And do you trust media coverage written by agencies about themselves?

The Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue tax district has eight paid staff and 60 volunteers (I was one). The Oregon Coast Aquarium has 75 paid staff and 400 volunteers (I am one). The city police and county sheriff utilize in-house volunteers (I was asked). I would welcome volunteering some for the local newspaper and know others with the free-time and interest.

All volunteers are trained, certified and directed by the agency involved. The community benefits from the vast improvement in the quality and extent of coverage. The local media benefits by remaining relevant and sustainable. I challenge the local print, radio and television media to consider having and expanding volunteer reporters in their operations.

Keith Stanton
Florence

EDITOR'S NOTE: We do "citizen journalism" to a degree through letters and guest columns, and we encourage comments on our website, blogs and Facebook page. The biggest obstacle to expanding citizen journalism, for EW and other newspapers, is limited space in print.

SACRED VOW

Weyerhaeuser defends spraying herbicides on its Triangle Lake property saying they "religiously" follow EPA's "stringent chemical labeling laws." Unfortunately if you are poisoned you can't view the labels unless the Department of Forestry says you can, and you can't sue because of the Oregon Right to Farm and Forest Act. As the old saying goes when visiting Mexico or Los Angeles: "Don't drink the water and don't breathe the air."

Vince Loving
Eugene

LIBS CREATE JOBS

David Piccioni (Letters, 12/19) points out the dismal jobs picture in the U.S. and implies that "liberal Democrats" aren't doing enough to address the problem.

Liberal Democrats are doing plenty to find jobs — jobs for foreign workers, legal and illegal. Both über-liberal Oregon senators voted for SB 744 which would allow millions more foreign workers to come to the U.S. for work. Corporate America, ever in search of the cheapest labor, is solidly behind them.

In Oregon, Gov. Kitzhaber and his Democratic allies in the Legislature — including all Lane County Democratic legislators — made in-state college tuition available to undocumented immigrants so

they can get an education and good jobs. They also restored driving privileges to undocumented immigrants so they can get to their jobs. The latter action was quickly referred by petition to the voters and will be on the November 2014 ballot.

So don't accuse liberal Democrats of not doing much about jobs — it just ain't so!

Jerry Ritter
Springfield

RECLAIM OUR RIGHTS

As folks grow increasingly weary of big corporate incursion into our daily lives, the sense of powerlessness continues its march as well. Our communities reflect the corporatization of our local institutions. School gymnasiums sport corporate sponsorship on scoreboards. Nike "owns" our university. Local businesses move out as big box stores take the market share. Wages stagnate, jobs are lost to the lowest-paid workers on the international market and capital is driven to the top of the corporate ladder.

Lane County: Take heart! Community Rights Lane County (communityrightslanecounty.org) has teamed up with Support Local Food Rights (localfoodrights.com), authors of the Local Food System Ordinance of Lane County. We are emboldened by more than 160 communities across the nation who have already passed rights-based initiatives to protect their communities by elevating community rights above corporate power and privilege.

And hey, why do corporate entities, who don't even reside in our county, enjoy more legal protections than we, the people?! Join us in "Community Rights Conversations," a free monthly discussion series aimed at understanding the challenges and opportunities involved in confronting corporate power.

Mark your calendars and be a part of our first conversation from 3 to 4 pm Saturday, Jan. 11, at Holy Cow Restaurant, 2621 Willamette St. Together, we will reclaim our rights.

Michelle Holman
Deadwood

UO VS. EUGENE HRB

Several weeks ago the city of Eugene Historic Review Board (HRB) discussed structures UO is now seeking to move or demolish near East 19th and Columbia Street. The HRB requested that city staff person Steve Ochs gather background information about the structures. UO is now stonewalling and ignoring staff requests for information.

UO could lose federal funds if it is shown that they are degrading or demolishing structures that have potential to be designated as historic. EW should be asking UO what is going to be developed on all of the 10 or so historic blocks that UO owns. They should be asking UO what happens if UO is blocked and delayed by the important work of the HRB.

Vast areas of empty UO land now exist along East 15th Avenue. UO planners claim the empty area is "fully developed" as surface parking lots. Why should UO be allowed to pursue high-impact dense development far away from the campus

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A Tribute to Sonny Boy Williamson II
Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout 2014
Friday, January 17

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- 1.17 Blues Harmonica Blowout 2014
- 1.18 Woideck: Stormy Weather w/ Loren
- 1.25 Moombah! It Could Always Be Worse!
- 2.1 Mamo: N. Aweau & J. Peterson
- 2.7 Ken Peplowski: Bix & Hoagy
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- 2.13-20 The Jazz Kings: Give Me A Song
- 2.19 Brian Blade Fellowship
- 2.20 Keb' Mo'
- 2.21 Cécile McLorin Salvant
- 2.22 Dan Tepfer
- 2.25 Grace Kelly
- 2.27 Mike Marshall & Chris Thile
- 3.1 Pat Metheny Unity Group
- 3.4 Väsen
- 3.5 Wynton Marsalis & JLCO (Hult)
- 3.8 Moombah! Tina's Latin Cantina!
- 3.13 Manis & Vik: You Are Too Beautiful
- 3.19 Hanneke Cassel
- 3.27 Solas
- 4.4-6 Siri Mix (Shedd cabaret)
- 4.26 The Ungar-Mason Family Band
- 5.7-11 The Jazz Kings: Besame Mucho
- 5.7 Carol Burnett (Hult)
- 5.9 Steve Martin w/ Edie Brickell (Hult)
- 5.19 CMA: An Evening with Guy Few
- 5.31 Moombah! Skyscraper Caper!
- 6.11 CM: Looking Back Lane County
- 6.12 Dave Douglas Quintet
- 6.19-29 Musical: Oh, Kay! (1924, Gershwins)

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