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LETTERS

concept assessments. Would the convening of a rapid response team, to pursue Promise Zone resources, and composed of the team members that developed the Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network program and the best elements of the Lane Metro Partnership and Travel Lane County, provide such a tool? Importantly, impermissibly discounting rural voices and input from smaller municipalities will rob it of the support it needs to succeed.

Attaching time-lined performance metrics will allow the Lane County Commons' members to judge its success or lack thereof. If so, what should be measured and what will meeting performance expectations look like?

Is May 1 a reasonable first report date?

Jose Ortal
Blue River

THE USUAL BULLSHIT

The EW cover story Jan. 2 is already provoking a spate of kill-shelter apologist letters with the usual drivel about Greenhill Humane Society management doing the best they can, casting blame elsewhere, not enough homes for all the animals, etc. To this I respond: bullshit.

Nevada Humane Society (NHS), under the dynamic leadership of no-kill Director Bonney Brown, accomplished (in part) the following in 2011: a 93 percent save rate; 9,340 pet adoptions; 7,541 active volunteers and 2,456 foster homes; 8,824 spay/neuter surgeries.

Greenhill Humane Society in 2011: 1,806 pet adoptions; less than 400 active volunteers; approximately 4,000 spay/neuter surgeries.

The entire list of NHS 2012 accomplishments is posted on our website to demonstrate what a skilled shelter manager can accomplish. Five years after implementing the no-kill equation business plan at NHS, Washoe County is now able to provide a comprehensive safety net for its homeless pets.

This is our goal for Lane County. Such success is clearly attainable.

The half-million taxpayer dollar question is: How did Bonney Brown create such astounding success and why is Greenhill Director Cary Lieberman miserably failing? Read Greenhill employee and volunteer testimony on NoKillLaneCounty.org.

It's time for a no-kill director at Greenhill.

Debi McNamara
No Kill Lane County

STOP FIGHTING!

Regarding the letter by Jaye and Stephen Dibos Jan. 16, "Fighting Over Animals," I say, "Yes!" I totally agree. All of us who are concerned about animal welfare need to stop fighting with each other over who is right. It's like divorced parents fighting while forgetting about the welfare of the children. Bottom line is there are just too many dogs and cats to care for. The real enemy is overpopulation followed by people not spaying and neutering, breeding more and then abandonment. There are low-income resources available for spaying and neutering.

Those of us who care must come together to find realistic solutions. There

are not enough homes nor enough resources to shelter all animals and oftentimes these poor beings get into the "wrong hands" — bad situations.

Linda Kanter
Deadwood

LOST MESSAGE

"Who am I to judge?" asked Pope Francis when confronted with the question about who is and who is not called to service. These five words could have as much impact in the way in which we can relate to each other and how we perceive each other as any constitution, parliament or dictator. When the pope let it be known that the mind of God is revealed to those who seek it, he provided a way for all humans to divest ourselves of the biases and prejudices that cloud our minds with terrible distractions.

A member of the first-century Christian church, Paul once advised the faithful not to become too involved in controversy over every jot and title of church canon. The point of his lecture was that such a useless focus can lead to injury because the message of love may get lost in the search for perfection. In our age of grievance stacked upon grievance, some founded and some not, it is refreshing to think that such a tersely phrased idea could in fact be the most useful tool to come our way in a very long time. Let's take advantage of the gift and see how far it can take us.

Gerry Merritt
Eugene

VITAL FACTS OMITTED

The big box stores are attempting to repeat what happened in the state of Washington: control liquor distribution and drive the small businesses out of the market.

In regard to the article that appeared in *The Register-Guard* Jan. 13, giving favorable press to privatization, some vital facts were omitted.

As in Washington state, the state will still get its revenue, regardless of who retails. The article states "consumers probably would pay the same prices for alcohol." This was not the case in Washington state, and these five privatization initiatives are the same formula.

Big box stores are going to extremely limit the number of items available to the consumer, without offering any level of customer service.

Grocery giants aren't going to allow shelf space for the many small craft distillers, thus crushing thousands of jobs. Oregon is noted for its craft distillers and it would be a shame to fall for the lure of these greedy proposals.

Privatization in Washington should be a powerful lesson to Oregon. Higher prices, limited selection, rampant theft, illegal importation, thousands unemployed and much less convenience. We haven't encountered a single Washington consumer who would agree prices have come back down there.

Oregonians should be leery about any initiative that proposes a "sales tax and fees." Too general. It's a bad idea for Oregon.

Jaine Tipple
Florence



hear ye,
hear ye !!

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