

etarium and do something unique this weekend...it's only offered until the end of the month and I promise this is worth the 10 bucks!

*Pamela Corvid
Elmira*

RISE UP AND RALLY

Weary and wary of the "Fire and Fury" inside the Trump White House? #MeToo! Then rise up and rally with friends and family outside the Eugene Federal Courthouse on Saturday, Jan. 20 at 1 pm to March for Action for women's rights and progress against sexism, racism and other forms of injustice.

In 2016, Gretchen Carlson sued Roger Ailes, the Fox News network founder and former GOP strategist and informal advisor to Trump's campaign, for sexual harassment and won a \$22 million settlement (and an apology from her employer, 20th Century Fox).

"Courage is contagious," Carlson affirmed recently in a NPR News Hour interview. "Men need to stop being bystanders and turn into allies," she added. On Jan. 20, millions of men and women around the world will be practicing what Carlson preaches as they march for peaceful change, civility and decency.

And it doesn't take a genius to realize that "Time's Up" for "Fire and Fury," the sordid and sorry Trump soap opera, that, I believe, won't be renewed for a second season. Poor ratings. Bad actors. Sad.

*Karen D. Myers
Eugene*

ELECTED AUDITOR = RED HERRING

Some City Council members worry that Eugene's "elected independent auditor will be the highest-paid elected official" in Oregon. So what! Topnotch candidates need a competitive salary — otherwise you lose them — and that's why Eugene pays department heads and managers more than any elected official. There are issues with that too, but we want the best-qualified

candidates to apply, right? Most elected officials don't need a high school diploma, but the elected auditor must meet tough professional qualifications in order to even be considered.

Eugene's appointed city manager makes approximately \$225,000 plus benefits, and the appointed city attorney receives \$169,187 plus benefits. Elected state and circuit court judges average between \$135,775 and \$150,571 plus benefits, and elected district attorneys make up to \$170,000. So, why is the Eugene City Council singling out the "elected" city auditor to complain about salaries?

I see no correlation with elected and non-elected salaries and the value we citizen's receive, or don't receive, for our money. Auditing what the city does is where the real value comes in! City Accountability's Measure 20-283 includes regular, outside professional auditing of the auditor — which is more accountability than either city councilors or the city manager receives.

As to how we exercise citizen oversight, it is we, the electors, who have the ultimate oversight, using recall, or voting for someone else in four years!

Our councilors have the authority to make good decisions, but lack the clear information necessary to do it. The auditor is the missing tool.

*Robin Bloomgarden
Eugene*

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

In EW Letters Dec. 28, 2017, Ben Torres joins the well-connected defenders of the city status quo by mimicking their favorite talking point, which complains that the estimated (can go up or down) \$153,000 salary of the proposed elected independent city auditor would be "the highest paid elected official in Oregon" — which is not true, and a matter of public record.

Many Oregon elected officials make more than the proposed elected independent Eugene city auditor's compensation as prescribed in Ballot Measure 20-283,

to be voted on in May. The Lane County district attorney, as well as the Clackamas County district attorney and Sheriff, make more, for example.

Opponents seek to confuse and weaponize the salary issue by using the "elected" distinction. The more relevant comparison is with city department heads and top administrators, over which the auditor will have oversight responsibilities, like the city manager (\$220,313), EWEB general manager (\$265,460), Eugene city attorney (\$169,187), assistant city manager (\$146,515), and executive directors of central services, fire/EMS services, library recreation and cultural services, planning and development, police services and public works, all of whose salaries are in the \$147,000 range and who all have guaranteed raises and do not have to run for election every four years.

The residents of Eugene are at the very least baffled, and at worst disgusted, with how the Eugene government spends tax dollars. We need an elected independent city auditor who is a public representative and has the authority to follow the money.

*Ronald Bevirt
Eugene*

TRUMP TERRITORY

For generations people have noted that Eugene is a remarkably contentious and argumentative town. The debate about the public auditor is no exception.

However, Richard Guske's letter ("Political Manipulation," 1/4) has crossed the line beyond the usual rancor and ventured deep into Trump territory.

I had some difficulty parsing the logical chain of Guske's argument, but apparently he took two 2015 quotes from Bonny Betman McCornack and Emily Semple to insinuate that they don't like libraries or the homeless and want to raise our taxes and take over the city government.

Guske has done everything except start chanting "lock them up!" (I can't help noting that Betty Taylor and mayors Piercy and Vinis have also gotten their share of

personal abuse from various critics. I cannot recall any male politicians so consistently vilified in this manner. Odd for a "progressive" community.)

It is, however, interesting that Guske broached the topics of the 2015 Library Levy. Passing the Library Levy was surprisingly difficult because of the lack of trust in the city government. Any possible measures to help the homeless will also face difficulties because of this lack of trust. The auditor initiative is designed to rebuild trust in the city government.

And Guske's claim that the initiative will raise taxes is just "fake news," to quote Guske's rhetorical role model.

*Art Bollmann
Eugene*

LOVE FOR ANGER

In response to Lola Bravo's letter (Letters, 9/21/17) responding to my letter (9/14/17): Every accusation you made is wrong and false. I challenge you to find examples of bigotry coming from my years of public output on YouTube and social media. My views are liberal (liberty and equality).

Although we are not victims, you are clearly using blame-the-victim tactics in your letter. Also, your response to my letter, in which I explain that we are both part Native American, was to say that we are not welcome here.

The feeling is not mutual, Lola. We return your anger with love. In fact, I welcome you to talk with me in real time.

Antifa can be seen in many videos physically attacking members of almost any marginalized group one can think of. Local Antifa are mad because we sent them links to these videos in attempt to reason with them. Their hostile reaction (doxing, threats and leaving racist stickers on our door) show they don't actually care about marginalized groups. They want power. Those who want power should not be trusted.

Love, don't hate.

*Justin Antitheist
Eugene*

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