

Pop Quiz!

TEST YOUR WILLAMETTE GREENWAY KNOWLEDGE

Step right up folks! Time for some high-stakes testing!

- (1) WRG is an acronym for:
A. Woefully Rotten Greed
B. Willamette River Giveaway
C. Willamette River Greenway
D. Wild River Grazing

Answer: (C) The Willamette River is the 13th-largest river by volume within the U.S. and claims the second largest waterfall by volume in Oregon City (second only to Niagra Falls!). Go to the Willamette Riverkeepers website for more incredible facts about our gem of a river.

- (2) Those who may be compromising the integrity of the WRG are:
A. Some local land-use attorneys representing homebuilders
B. Out-of-state, pave-and-run developers
C. Lane County Housing Authority's land acquisition and disposable policy
D. All of the above

Answer: (D) Sad but true.

- (3) The Willamette River Greenway, protecting nearly 200 miles of riparian habitat, is vital to:
A. Tourism and local economy
B. Numerous species of flora and fauna
C. Recreation and community wellbeing
D. All of the above

Answer: (D) It is an Oregon treasure!

- (4) True or False? The Willamette River Greenway is Goal 15 of Oregon State-wide Planning Goals.

Answer: True! It is No. 15 out of Oregon's 19 statewide planning goals.

- (5) The late Mel Jackson took soon-to-be Oregon Governor Bob Straub out on the Willamette River in the 1960s to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and issues facing the river in a:
A. Submarine
B. Inner tube
C. Canoe
D. Jet boat

Answer: (C) Mel Jackson taught many Lane County residents their outdoor skills and reverence for our local natural wonders. Straub, a Pleasant Hill farmer and former Lane County commissioner, campaigned throughout the state with a canoe on top of his vehicle!

- (6) Former Oregon gubernatorial candidates Tom McCall (a Republican) and Straub (a Democrat) agreed about the importance of:
A. Nuclear weapons
B. The Willamette River Greenway
C. Tater tots
D. Putting a man on the moon

Answer: (B) Both McCall and Straub went on to become Oregon governors who worked to preserve the precious Willamette River Greenway.

- (7) Evergreen Housing Development Group (an out-of-state developer) built the market-rate ECCO apartment complex on River Road for \$17 million and sold it to out-of-state investors for:
A. \$20 million
B. \$23 million
C. \$27 million
D. \$31 million

Answer: (D) Amazing but true! (Reported in The Register Guard in August 2016). What a loss to our local economy.

- (8) True or False? Lane County has a severe housing shortage.

Answer: True and False! Lane County has a glut of market-rate (expensive) housing and an acute shortage of affordable housing.

- (9) Homes for Good (formerly HACSA) needs a Good Neighbor Policy. A Good Neighbor Policy is based upon:
A. Strong fences and tall hedges
B. Graft and corruption
C. Collaboration and transparency
D. Us-and-them mentality

Answer: (C) Public lands need a public process!

Concerned? Curious? Confounded? To get clarity, please visit the Greenway Guardians website at greenwayguardians.org for more information about how our precious Willamette River Greenway is being compromised by an out-of-state developer's proposal instead of allowing a public process for our public lands.

Julie Hulme and former Lane County Commissioner Rob Handy are Greenway Guardians, a local advocacy group committed to protecting the Willamette River Greenway.

LETTERS

SEX TRAFFICKING

When talking about sex trafficking, what usually pops into people's heads are big cities like Seattle, Portland, New York and L.A., not small towns like the ones we have here in Lane County.

I'm writing in regards to the article "Breaking the Silence" by Dan Buckwalter (Jan. 10).

As the oldest child in my family, it is my job to protect my siblings from not just school bullies but also other forms of danger. I agree that sex trafficking here in Lane County is a topic that is not often talked about or seen in the news. This clearly needs to change.

We as a community need to do a better job of getting resources out there to those who need them. We definitely need to be supporting the victims in their process of healing as well.

In my opinion, there should be more ways for people to help protect the community through volunteer opportunities.

The children of Lane County deserve better.

*Jesus Ramirez Escalante
Springfield*

BETWEEN THE LINES

Eric Harris (Letters, Jan. 17) complains that our Eugene Public Library is frequented by smelly, loud, indecently clad low-lives who sometimes listen to (horrors!) rap music. The chairs on which some patrons have reclined (Harris suggests) reek of grease and urine.

In my frequent trips to the library I have yet to witness such offenses. Nonetheless, I must caution my fellow citizens about visiting our library. They may encounter bigoted jerks like Harris.

*Bruce Schennum
Eugene*

BLACK AND WHITE

To answer the question you posed in the Jan. 17 Slant column: "If Landeros had been a white man, not a person of mixed Mexican and Filipino heritage, would anyone be asking why they had a gun, or would instead there be praise for standing up for gun rights?"

If a white man pulled his gun and pointed it at a police officer as Landeros is reported to have done, he would not have benefited from "white privilege." He would have been shot as well.

Lesson: Don't point a gun at a police officer.

*Mark Fiser
Eugene*

AVANTE GARDE

Re: "A Return to Beauty" (Jan. 17): Our area is full of many good artists who have worked here for decades, but either they didn't seek fame or have been forgotten.

The curator of the "Visual Magic" show at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum could have done a little more research, say, over at the Maude Kerns Art Center (which was the Eugene area art hot spot of the '60s and '70s), and names such as Madeline Liepe, Ron Tore Janson, Dennis Hepner, Tom Blodgett, Ron Wiggington, Calvin Johnson, Gil Harrison, Charlie Hoy, John Haugse, Bruce Wild and Ed Koch, just to

name a few, would have appeared.

These artists set the pace and influenced many who studied with them at Maude Kerns and later at Lane Community College. Those times were "bewildering" and lots of fun.

Some of these artists have passed; some are still around. There are examples of their work online and on YouTube, if one cares to look ... and be prepared to be transfixed and see "art you have never seen before."

*Annie Kayner
Eugene*

RACE BAITING?

In the Jan. 17 Slant column, you ask the question: If Landeros had been white, would anyone be asking why he had a gun?

The answer is yes. We are talking about a middle school campus, and bringing a gun there is inappropriate for anyone. What is EW's agenda in trying to put a racial slant on the issue? I think you would find few who wouldn't say "no guns at school," and skin color would not be a factor in their decision.

*Don French
Eugene*

WHY INDEED

Regarding Jack Dresser and "War All the Time" letter (Jan. 17):

America has been at war 93 percent of the time — 222 out of 239 years — since 1776; i.e., the U.S. has only been at peace for less than 20 years total since its birth.

You, Jack, live in an economy based on war — we are the largest arms producer and seller on the planet. If you knew this, why are you still living in the U.S?

*Jan Gardner
Eugene*

TESTING MADNESS

OKA, easyCBM, iReady, OAKS, etc. — these are part of more than 100 standardized tests our kids have to take, including kindergartners. Here's the thing: There can never be enough tests or enough data.

Gov. Kate Brown's new budget wants \$3.5 million for new "improved" elementary tests and new science tests.

It didn't use to be like this. Just one generation ago, schools weren't testing factories. Teachers got to teach. Kids learned. So what's going on?

For testing corporations, the more tests your kids take, the more money they make. For federal, state and local testocrats, it's about a paycheck and a religious belief in The Church of Data.

Many politicians drank the Kool-Aid or are afraid to question the Data Church. For the kids, it's about "sit down and take the next test." And teachers are told to keep quiet in the back seat of the car, with the kids, while the "adults" drive out-of-control.

Yes, the testers are out of control. They can't stop themselves. Somebody's got to take their keys away. Support Rep. John Lively's "Too Young to Test" bill, which would prohibit mandatory testing from pre-kindergarten through grade two.

Put classroom teachers back in the driver's seat.

*Roscoe Caron
Eugene*