

letters

NEW ZONE STAYS VIBRANT

Last week's visual arts story by Ester Barkai, "A Glass Half Full: Eugene and Springfield art venues look for opportunities in uncertain times," left out the successes of the New Zone Gallery. For over the past 20 months, the gallery has thrived with the cup brimming full of excitement with ongoing and vibrant shows, well attended First Friday openings, and a new beautiful location dedicated for bringing the arts alive to downtown Eugene.

We are also open every day of the week for the public to visit at their convenience. Also, we want to thank St. Vincent de Paul for giving us a lease for the first time in our 38-year history in the beautiful Aurora Building located at 110 E. 11th Avenue, and the arts community for their continued support during these unprecedented times.

Steve La Riccia
New Zone Gallery Coordinator

HUMANITY IS KILLING THE EARTH

I applaud Ramona Wise's letter of Jan. 6 explaining why she didn't have kids. I, too, made a conscious decision not to have children and don't regret it. I was once accused by a former high school classmate when we were both grandparent age, that my not having children proved I was "selfish." My classmate insisted that I was put on this Earth to procreate.

"That's your purpose for living," he insisted vehemently. My response was to point out that since his children were all grown and on their own, by his logic, he no longer had a purpose for living, so why didn't he commit suicide? Of course he disagreed with my view but offered no cogent rebuttal other than repeating his absurd assertion.

Our species, Homo sapiens, has been wearing out its welcome on the planet for a long time. Despite our current admiration for Indigenous peoples and their reverence for nature, their ancestors in a brief amount of evolutionary time killed off thousands of megafauna we now find frozen and fossilized. With our population as the world's most efficient killers now approaching eight billion, we are on the threshold of mass suicide by nuclear war or heating our planet to the boiling point. I have con-

fidence that our brilliance as a species will certainly find a way to kill us all off. Mother Earth will simply shrug and wait for the next infestation.

Rene Tihista
Springfield

KRISTOF'S DOMICILE IS NOT HIS RESIDENCE

The Oregon Secretary of State's office recently confirmed that Nicholas Kristof will not have been a resident of Oregon for three years prior to May 2022, as required by our state Constitution. He is therefore ineligible to run for governor.

Residency requires the physical presence of the person in the state. A person can own property in three states but can only reside in one of them at any given time. For instance, in Nevada a person can become a resident and file for a divorce by actually living in the state for six weeks before filing.

Kristof clearly has not lived in Oregon for three years prior to our May election. He has been admittedly working and living in New York. (Oregon does allow for at least one exception to the continued residency of three years requirement, which is how Congresspeople can serve at the Capitol).

Kristof argues that his intent matters in that he has always considered Oregon his true home. Kristof's intent is irrelevant to the question of residency. Domicile, however, considers intent and is where a person's true, fixed and permanent home, to where he will return after residing somewhere else, is located. Our Constitution requires that Kristof actually live in the state for three years prior to the election, not just claim Oregon as his home. Kristof's domicile is not his residence. The secretary of state understood this, and I have no doubt the courts will, too.

Edward Gerdes
Eugene

NO SHRINKAGE

We just wanted to thank the community for showing us the joy that a snow sculpture can bring. Who would have thought? Also, we would like to give a shout out to the Eugene Police Department, who tweeted, "Yes, there's a giant snow penis at 15th and Oak. No, it is not illegal."