

letters

IN THE HOMELESSNESS CRISIS, EUGENE OFFERS THE BARE MINIMUM

I am a street outreach worker in Eugene. I just read your article about the state law that Eugene has not been following ("City of Eugene Ignores State Law on Camping," *Eugene Weekly*, June 15).

I cackle at "Eugene officials say they don't follow state law because they fund ongoing outreach services to unhoused people whether or not they have received a notice to pack up and move their camp," because all outreach teams in Eugene are extremely underfunded. We are hanging on by a thread. The city gives us the bare minimum. We get the short end of the stick, while officials claim they praise us and fund us adequately. Yeah, right.

I have never once heard a client tell me that cops gave them a full 72 hours to move — only ever within the hour (after giving a 24-hour notice), and I have never heard of a cop giving a homeless person a list of resources.

If the city wants to stop seeing homeless people, stop building new parks they can't safely camp at and house our community members already. We clearly have the money. So do something like I do on a daily basis already.

Sierra Carpenito
Eugene

FOSSIL FUELS ARE SO OVER

A couple of weeks ago a grandmother wrote in who was concerned about her grandson's health ("What If It's The Gas Stove?" Letters, June 8). She questioned the safety of the family's gas stove. Good question now that research is showing gas stoves emit — among other toxins — benzene. Benzene has been proven to cause cancer. Beyond Toxics, a local nonprofit, is currently going into folks' homes and helping them see for themselves whether or not their stoves are leaking. Call them if you want a free test of gas stove leakage in your home.

The era of fossil fuels is ending — and none too soon for our health and safety!

Deb McGee
Eugene

HOLVEY KNOWS THAT DEMOCRACY IS ABOUT BUILDING A MAJORITY

My state representative, Paul Holvey, understands that democracy isn't about "my way or the highway." To get anything done, you need to work with people with different priorities to build a majority. I first had the pleasure of working with Holvey in the mid 2000s when I was part of the West Eugene Collaborative, looking to bring people together around transportation solu-

tions. After hearing concerns from his constituents further to the west along Highway 126, Holvey enlisted the WEC to support state funding for safety.

Later, after hearing from elected officials across Lane County that critical transportation issues needed the attention of more than just the county commissioners, Holvey sponsored a bill to establish the Lane Area Commission on Transportation. Today, I have the pleasure of serving as the vice-chair of Lane-ACT, a diverse group of 30 elected officials and other stakeholders who advise the Oregon Department of Transportation on funding priorities. We don't always agree, but we understand we can be more successful when we come together.

Alas, some don't appear to understand that democracy is about majorities and elections, not just catering to their special interests. Rather than waiting for the next election in 2024 to provide voters with a choice in candidates, they are taking the extraordinary step of asking for a special election this year.

Please join me in opposing the recall campaign against our state representative, Paul Holvey.

Rob Zako
Eugene

WHERE DID LOCAL NEWS GO?

Reporting the news can be a bit of a challenge. Recently, I watched a report on our local news about goose poop being a problem at a park in Massachusetts, a cute story about a kindergarten teacher in the Midwest, and I can't even remember the third story.

Even though these stories made an OK filler for a 30-minute slow news broadcast, I can't help but wonder what happened to local news. How about the goose poop at Drake Park in Bend, and there has to be something a teacher, somewhere in Lane County, did that was noteworthy. I read yesterday that we still have ferries working on the Willamette River. I would love to see one and see how they work. My grandson is getting ready for his fifth grade graduation; I bet the teachers have some interesting information on the end of the school year. Is there any summer school this year or lunches at the parks? What is the current status of the Emeralds' plan for a new ballpark?

We have a lot happening in Lane County and Oregon. We should fill up delightfully slow news days with local news. Since we no longer have a daily newspaper it would be nice for daily news programs to be more local.

Maureen McClain
Eugene



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