

NOTHING NATURAL ABOUT NW NATURAL

NW “Natural” (methane, *et al.*) gas has a business dilemma of remaining a fossil fuel provider yet phasing off fossil fuels due to state mandates of greenhouse gas emission reduction, and producing toxic indoor air pollution from the use of gas stoves. Methane is a gas 80 times more warming than carbon dioxide.

The Oregon Public Utilities Commission (PUC) stated NW Natural, in its integrated resource plan, relied on the state of Oregon to develop hydrogen-based fuels to replace methane rather than the utility to meet the Climate Protection Plan goals of 90 percent clean energy by 2050. According to their newsletter, NW Natural claims it is “committed to addressing climate change by supporting sound energy policy” and has carbon reduction plans in place through hydrogen fuels and renewable natural gas, yet it has sued the PUC over carbon dioxide reduction goals mandated by the state.

It has spent more than \$1 million trying to overturn the city of Eugene’s electrification ordinance.

NW Natural is upgrading and expanding infrastructure with customers covering the costs of a system that may become stranded assets in the next 10 to 15 years. Fossil gas costs continue to increase. It costs less to build and operate an all-electric home in Eugene than one with fossil gas and electricity. Utility bills are lower

by \$389 per year for an all-electric home and gives off lower lifetime emissions compared to a mixed fuel home.

NW Natural’s future business plan is hypocritical to say the least.

Mary Addams
Eugene

TRUMP’S TACKY THEATER OF THE ABSURD

I guess Trump is too busy defending his right to have classified documents dumped all over his Mar-a-Lago ranchero to realize how ridiculously embarrassing his tacky digs look to most people. A gaudy chandelier in a guest bathroom to catch your eye and another over the cheapo low-rise toilet to bonk your head on if you’re a tall guy taking a whizz, or older and struggling to get up.

It’s all about the faux opulence to impress struggling people with no interest in what they need. And the banker’s boxes on the ballroom stage — who is performing there? Maybe they are for guest actors to dig through and perform comedy sketches about our weapon capabilities and our plans and strategies with allies throughout the world where our special forces are.

In that giant compound was there no place for at least one secure storage room to stack it all? Or did you just want it displayed like a pathetic little kid bringing something exciting and forbidden to school for show and tell?

DT, I could easily fit every banker’s box in my little 8x10 shed even with five

large totes of Halloween stuff. And mine has a lock.

Carole Biondello
Eugene

A FEW REFLECTIONS

How about a maximum wage law of 40 times the minimum hourly wage? If you can’t live on 40 times what you pay your workers, perhaps you should pay your workers more.

Show liberals a glass that’s half full and they’ll say, “It’s half full.” Show conservatives a glass that’s 98 percent full, and they’ll want to know who stole all their water. Show a MAGAT a glass that’s 100 percent full, and he’ll tip it over and blame the fact that they’re thirsty on Hunter Biden’s laptop.

They (you know who they are) claim to be Christian, but hate and irrational viciousness flows from their mouths like stench from an abattoir. Christ never snarled, spit, cursed or bullied. His face never turned scarlet with rage, the veins in his forehead never bulged, spittle never flew from his mouth. Can the same things be said about the enemies of Christ who preach hatred and speak foulness in the name of Christ?

Remember the scene in *It’s a Wonderful Life* where young George Bailey is yelling to Mr. Gower, “It’s poison I tell ya. It’s poison!”

That’s what the non-crazy America is yelling to Fox listeners.

Jamie Selko
Eugene

WELCOME TO EUGENE. DON’T DRIVE.

Dear new members of our Eugene community:

We want to welcome you to our lovely city in the valley; our quality of life is no doubt why you moved here. Our clean air, green trees, clean water and wildlands have all been a priority to those of us who have been living here for most of our lives. Many members of our community past and present work hard to keep bicycle paths extensive and practical, parks clean and pesticide-free, transportation options open and available to all so we can continue to have clean air by decreasing the number of vehicles on the roads. Sharing resources is something we also know how to do. Tool and vehicle/ride sharing, for example, making changes for the climate and appreciating diversity and inclusion.

So as you settle into your new town, please keep these things in mind and help us preserve the quality of life that brought you here. Ride your bike, ride the bus, borrow a bike, share rides, walk and WALK! All the new highrise buildings going up around town are bringing in more people, and that translates to more cars driving around. Don’t increase our pollution. Please be considerate.

Robin Winfree-Andrew
Eugene

Local and Vocal

VIEWPOINT BY RACHEL BITECOFER

A New Civic Stadium

A NEW EUGENE EMERALDS STADIUM IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Eugene is known for its vibrant, quirky community, beautiful scenery and a deep passion for sports. As the home of the Eugene Emeralds for nearly 70 years, our city has enjoyed a rich baseball tradition once embodied by historic Civic Stadium, now the site of south Eugene’s Kidsports Complex.

Now, due to their own success in both winning games and building a loyal fan base, our Eugene Emeralds face an existential crisis: They must get the city of Eugene and Lane County to help finance construction of a new stadium or they will be forced to move to a new city that will meet the facility requirements for having a High-A affiliate minor league team.

The city of Eugene should embrace this opportunity and build a new stadium for the Eugene Emeralds.

New infrastructure projects such as stadiums come with sometimes shocking price tags, and asking the city to find millions in additional funding at a time when parts of the city’s budget is facing budget cuts is a tough sell. But infrastructure investments not only take revenue, they make revenue.

A new stadium will provide a significant boost to the local economy and will help revitalize West 13th Avenue, which has fallen into disrepair over the past few decades. The construction phase alone would generate jobs and stimulate the local labor market.

Additionally, a modern stadium will attract more visitors to the heart of Eugene, providing a much-needed lifeline to other ongoing efforts to revitalize the city center. Restaurants, hotels and retail establishments near the stadium will flourish, leading to higher revenue and job creation and, most importantly, less crime.

Sports have a unique ability to unite communities and create a sense of belonging — especially minor league baseball, which remains one of the only family friendly budget options left in town. While a game at Autzen Stadium for a Ducks football game requires a family of four to spend hundreds of dollars, a pleasant night at the ballpark with refreshments is less than \$100 total.

The Emeralds community serves as a gathering space for people from all walks of life, fostering a strong sense of community. Families, friends and neighbors come together to support the Emeralds, forging new friendships and strengthening social bonds. Moreover, the stadium could host other events such as concerts, community fairs and youth sports tournaments, ensuring it remains a hub of activity year-round. By building a new stadium, Eugene would be investing long term in the social fabric of our community.

A new stadium for the Emeralds would have a profound impact on the local youth. In minor league call, aspiring baseball players from Babe Ruth programs get the opportunity to witness professional baseball up close and be inspired to pursue their dreams. The Emeralds collaborate with local schools and community organizations to offer educational programs, mentorship opportunities and youth leagues. Minor league baseball provides a beacon of hope for at-risk youth by fostering a love for sports and promoting healthy lifestyles among the next generation.

Building a new stadium for the Eugene Emeralds is an investment in the future of the city, its residents and the baseball community. It would invigorate the local economy, strengthen the social fabric of the community, enhance the fan experience and promote youth development. By seizing this opportunity, Eugene can solidify its status as a sports destination and create a legacy for generations to come. Let us unite behind this vision and embrace the exciting potential a new stadium holds for our city.

If you want the Emeralds to stay here in Eugene, write, call or, better yet, visit your local city councilor and tell them you are counting on them to Save the Ems. ■

Rachel Bitecofer is an elections analyst and political strategist from Eugene. Her book Hit ‘em Where It Hurts – How to Save Democracy, debuts in 2024 from Crown.