

letters

SAVE TV BUTTE

If you take a drive out to Oakridge, you may notice lawn signs posted around town and many local residents wearing hats that say, "Oakridge Strong... Save TV Butte."

This refers to an investor group that has been seeking to establish a rock quarry on land immediately adjacent to Oakridge city limits. It is a universal feeling amongst the folks who live in (and around) Oakridge that this quarry will not be a good thing. In fact, it will be extremely harmful to Oakridge for environmental and economic reasons.

And yet, the powerful forces of corporate profit are about to carry out what will certainly be a catastrophe for Oakridge. The proposed rock quarry will hurt our mountain-bike tourism as well as other visitor attractions (such as our growing disc golf courses as well as hiking and camping). Moreover, there will be extremely harmful environmental consequences.

By the time you read this the Lane County Planning Commission will have formulated a recommendation for the Lane County Board of County Commissioners. The board is not required to follow the Planning Commission recommendation. Thus, county commissioners who have no constituents in Oakridge will decide whether to allow the blasting away of TV Butte and the economic harm to this small rural town. The Hazeldell Rock Quarry will hurt the entire Oakridge community.

Gary Carl
Oakridge

SEEKING A POSITIVE RESOLVE

I want to give two thumbs up to Sarah Koski's letter (*EW*, 7/11). You sure have this person's attention, in a positive way.

I agree with what you stated about equipping ourselves and working together and in a positive mindset no matter your status or who you are. Even just to say hello, and how are you today, will be a good start. In my opinion, if we work together as a whole, including with unhoused citizens, we can minimize criminalization within our community. The unhoused society of American citizens all over needs some reassurances there are those out there that do care.

Thank you also to the executive director of the Oregon Housing and Community Services, Andrea Bell, for sharing this: "To the people of Oregon struggling to get by, we see you, we value your life. We will work tirelessly on your behalf."

In my opinion, these types of positive statements by our community leaders are crucial to reassure everyone involved that help is coming, and with God's will, plus everyone's cooperation and input, it will lead to a positive resolve.

James Yahr
Eugene

THE GODZILLA OF DANDELIONS

There is a noxious invasive species that has invaded Springfield and possibly Eugene as well.

Russian thistle is a spiny thistle that starts small but gradually increases in size and is a rapid and very efficient self-pollinator. It has a spiny thin stem that can be seen in Dorris Ranch trail environs with a blue flower. As it spreads, the spines get larger and the blue flower when ripe sends out the type of floating seeds like dandelions.

Russian thistle is the Godzilla of dandelions. I tried calling the Lane County Invasive Species "hotline" that has apparently cooled off because the number is disconnected. I've also notified Willamalane but have not received any feedback. When I lived on the Marin County coast in the 1970s through the '90s, this invasive species destroyed pasturelands normally home to cattle and goats and did so rapidly.

This is one Russian invader without nukes but lots of dandelion-like seeds ready to float all over our lovely green environment.

Rene Thista
Springfield

MAKE OREGON THE BEST

Many of the speakers at the GOP convention had previously condemned Donald Trump. J.D. Vance once warned that Trump might become the new American Hitler. They have all prostituted their ethical and moral concerns for greed and power.

The GOP is now owned by the billionaires lusting for more tax cuts and mega corporations wanting the elimination of all regulations protecting the people. The 2025 Project is the roadmap to total Christian Sharia fascism. It plans on eliminating mail-in voting because they want to suppress minority and youth voters who trend Democratic. It plans on eliminating any climate change action and banning abortion nationwide.

All of our social problems, like violence, crime and drugs, are tied to economic inequality. America was greatest after WW II, with a 90 percent top tax rate and little economic inequality. We had the Marshall Plan as well as the GI



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