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EW PUBLISHER JODY ROLNICK
AND HER NEW PONY, GOLDIE.
Photo by Wendy Andrews

who to blame

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OPINION

letters
FROM HUNGER TO
TROUBLES AT LCC

This Hurts

This week, over 750,000 Oregonians — including about 210,000 children and 130,000 seniors — will lose access to a program that puts food on their tables.

The suspension of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) comes as Oregon in general — and Lane County, in particular — has seen a surge in hunger (twice as many residents visited FOOD For Lane County food pantries and distribution sites in 2024 as in 2021).

Neither the kid missing a meal or the elder choosing between essential medicine and going to bed hungry could care less whether you think Democrats or Republicans are at fault in D.C.

What matters to them is where their next meal is going to come from. And what should matter to us, as a united community, is that our neighbors have the means to not only survive, but thrive.

In that vein, we've seen an extraordinary outpouring of support to address this crisis over the past several weeks, from businesses like Market of Choice running matching programs at the register and community institutions running food drives, to a record-breaking auction fundraiser in October and the governor sending emergency funds to food banks statewide.

You can do your part to help, whether you've got a can of beans, a spare buck, or an hour to volunteer, we need all hands on deck to help our fellow Oregonians in their time of need.

Andrew Kalloch, chair
FOOD For Lane County
Eugene

rights crisis it is. We do not march for these displaced souls. Where are the cries of injustice? The belief that people experiencing homelessness are inherently criminal is a form of stigma and prejudice. It confuses being unhoused with committing a crime.

It's time to confront these truths and build a compassionate city that values every life, rather than criminalize the heartbeats and humanity of our neighbors.

Sarah Koski
Eugene

Don't Forget This

Our roadless public forests are some of the most valuable and most beautiful lands in Oregon. Millions of acres of roadless areas in our state provide some of our best recreation, our cleanest water, and give homes to Oregon's most endangered fish and wildlife.

For decades, places like Hardesty Mountain and the Waldo Lake area have been protected by the Roadless Rule. Of course, Donald Trump would love nothing more than to sell these places off to loggers and developers. So he's attacking the Roadless Rule.

Of course, our congresswoman, Val Hoyle, will be leading the charge to stop him, right?

Not only is she refusing to join the dozens of co-sponsors of legislation to protect our nation's roadless areas — including all the other Oregon Democrats in the House and Senate — all she could muster in response to my letter on the issue was that she'd "keep your thoughts in mind" when it comes to a vote. And this isn't even the first time she's joined Republicans to sell out our public forests.

Sounds like the thoughts of the timber industry and wealthy donors are taking up a bit too much of her mind.

When she gets primaried next year, let's not forget this.

Tim Ream
Eugene

Troubles at LCC

The faculty union at Lane Community College, LCCEA, has recently called out the college president's executive overreach, which is usurping the power of the democratically elected LCC Board of Education.

Both faculty and students were surprised when the administration unilaterally suspended the 2025-2026 Licensed Practical Nurse program, without the usual board and public input. LCCEA also learned that board leadership asked to add items to their meeting agenda, but the request was denied. At some point LCCEA decided the public needed to know. I attended their online public meeting Monday, Oct. 27.

I am deeply concerned to see our democracy slipping away. I can see authoritarian takeovers happening at all levels of our public institutions. This is apparently a trend in higher education, to shift power from elected bodies to CEOs, sidelining the public process.

I retired from Lane Community College, and I know budgets are tight. In times like these we need to pull together. We need more public input, not less.

Send an email to the college president and board, to demand representational democracy, conformance to open meeting law, the board's authority to set its own agenda and adhere to existing board policy, practice and decades-long precedent of making decisions and voting on program and service cuts, reductions and suspension at President@lanecc.edu and Boecomment@lanecc.edu. Come and express your views during public comment at 6:30 pm the first Wednesday of the month, in person or online.

Patty Hine
Eugene



Illustration by
Jade Wilkerson

Fear Won't Work

It's time to reshape the narrative around homelessness. Sanitizing visibility will not solve our moral or economic challenges, and the city of Eugene cannot sweep its way out of a humanitarian crisis.

For too long, fear has driven policy and public opinion — especially in privileged communities where "risk" is more theoretical than experienced. While fear is a convenient fundraising tool for the politically ambitious, our reluctance to address root causes diverts attention from our shared responsibility to protect the most vulnerable.

Statistically, the unhoused experience far more theft, sexual violence, rape, murder and assault than the public realizes. Yet the narrative still centers on the perceived threat they pose rather than the harm they endure. Making homelessness invisible through sweeps, displacement or design does not solve inequity; it merely hides human suffering.

People are being trafficked, assaulted and disappearing at alarming rates, yet society rarely recognizes this as the human

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE DEMOLITION OF THE EAST WING OF THE WHITE HOUSE?

I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT SECTION OF THE COMPLEX! I'LL HAVE MY STAFF LOOK INTO IT.

WHAT ABOUT THE PRESIDENT POSTING AN A.I. VIDEO OF HIMSELF DUMPING FECES ON AMERICANS?

I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT SPECIFIC VIDEO, NOR OF THIS "A.I." OF WHICH YOU SPEAK. NEXT QUESTION!

DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO THE MILITARY TARGETING CIVILIAN BOATS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS?

I'M NOT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE--ER, I MEAN, WAR. YOU'D HAVE TO ASK SOMEONE WHO IS NOT ME ABOUT THAT!

IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO DEMAND A \$230 MILLION PAYMENT FROM THE D.O.J.?

OBVIOUSLY I CAN'T COMMENT ON SOMETHING I'VE VERY DEFINITELY NEVER HEARD OF! WHERE DO YOU ALL GET THIS STUFF?

DO YOU HAVE ANY INTENTION OF COMPROMISING WITH DEMOCRATS TO END THE SHUTDOWN?

I AM UNABLE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION AT THIS TIME, BECAUSE I HAVE MOMENTARILY FORGOTTEN WHAT WORDS MEAN!

SIR, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT ICE SHOULD RANDOMLY DETAIN PEOPLE BASED ON THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN?

LOOK, WHAT PART OF "I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ANYTHING" DO YOU PEOPLE FAIL TO COMPREHEND?

HAS REPRESENTATIVE GRIJALVA'S SWEARING-IN BEEN DELAYED TO AVOID A VOTE ON THE EPSTEIN FILES?

OF ALL THE THINGS I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT, I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS THE ABSOLUTE MOST!

YOU...DO KNOW THAT YOU'RE THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, RIGHT?

NEWS TO ME! WOW, I'D BETTER RUN! I'VE PROBABLY GOT IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO! WHATEVER THEY ARE.

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